

Shirenewton Parish Magazine March 2021



Price £1:50

FROM THE VICARAGE
Julian E LI White

Dear People of the Parish,

The way I greet you (as above) will change as from January 2022.

It will read "*Dear People of The Ministry Area*". Yes, diocesan driven changes are afoot.

As from that date we shall be part of a team comprising of the existing Chepstow and St Arvans group of parishes to form a Ministry Area, the name of which is presently undecided. It will be headed by Rev. Philip Averay (Vicar of Chepstow), and include Rev. Michael Gollop (Vicar of the St Arvans group) and myself. Further to a distanced meeting with these clerics, I understand that the following is proposed:

There will be one Treasurer for the Ministry Area who will operate the account and set budgets for the Ministry Area.

There is to be one central bank account except for those monies that parishes have ring-fenced.

There will be one Ministry Area PCC made up of two delegates from each parish.

Individual PCCs will continue to exist but will not have any 'legal' power.

The intention is to appoint a Ministry Area Administrator, who will be salaried.

Zoom meetings were held with the four churches of this group in order for discussion and viewpoints to be aired.

Shirenewton views (*taken from the Secretary's report*):

There was general consensus that the arrangement was a 'done deal' and that it was better to cooperate with the Ministry Area to ensure that the outcome worked for the Shirenewton community. There was a minority view that the move could be contested.

Questions to clarify:

How do we ensure the Saysell Centre remains a community asset?
Will legacies, donated monies, fund-raising proceeds raised

specifically for Shirenewton Church be added to our ring-fenced funds in the future?

As a PCC, should we be supporting the Church in Wales and Monmouth Diocese generally or just Shirenewton Church?

Who will be responsible for ensuring there is a service in Shirenewton Church every Sunday morning?

Julian asked for all questions and comments to be sent direct to Philip Averay so that the views of individuals could be represented unadulterated.

Mathern views:

All involved in the Zoom meeting were of the opinion that the proposals, as understood, should be challenged. There was concern that if the administration of finances lay largely in the hands of the Area Ministry this would result in possible demands on funds hitherto exclusively in Mathern's control.

The majority of concerns expressed by Shirenewton were shared by Mathern,

Mounton views:

Mounton representatives were in general agreement with the concerns raised by Shirenewton. In particular they wanted clarification on where they stood in respect of financial considerations and ring-fenced projects.

St Pierre views:

Again, members were exercised by many of the same questions as posed by Shirenewton including financial implications and the possibility of being regarded as a lesser component of any Area Ministry projection. Particular concern was expressed in respect of weddings which this particular church conducts in a significantly greater number than others in the anticipated Ministry Area. Would such fees, long since used to the benefit of parish funds, be 'siphoned off' in favour of the Ministry Area?

It is to be stressed that this process is not limited to 'church members' only. We are talking of YOUR church and, as a parishioner, you are welcome to attend and to make comments and observations. To this end, please feel free to contact myself or the

Ministry Area leader. The latter has arranged a series of Information Sessions, in which you are urged to participate, details are as follows:

Tuesday, 2nd March, Thursday 11th March at 7.00pm via Zoom. Also, there is a session available on Thursday, 18th March @ 1.00pm. To book your place on one of these dates and receive the Zoom link please contact:

Rev. Philip Averay on revphilipaveray@gmail.com or telephone 01291 620980. See page 9 for the details.

Julian E L White (Rector & Vicar)

FROM THE PCC

Shirenewton's move to the new Chepstow Ministry Area (MA) in January 2022 has been discussed for several years, and in January 2018 the PCC spoke to the Archdeacon about their concerns and the implications of the change, before the date for implementation was clear. The new Ministry area will combine the current Mathern Group (Mathern, Mounton, St Pierre and Shirenewton) with Chepstow, St Arvan's, Devauden, Itton, Kilgwrrwg, Tintern and Newchurch. The PCC can remain (as a "Church committee") but with limited powers (focusing on local maintenance of buildings and churchyard, flower arranging rotas, coffee rotas, cleaning rotas, sides people and readers). There will be one Treasurer for the MA, but the PCC can retain a financial lead to manage ring-fenced funds. The PCC will have up to two members on the MA Council.

Julian has covered the questions the PCC still seek to clarify. The PCC will nominate two representatives for the MA Council and set up a transition team. People from the community who are not on the PCC are most welcome to become involved. Bishop Cherry Vann will also host a meeting on Thursday 22nd April between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. If you wish to be included in the six lay places allocated to Shirenewton Church for this meeting, please contact Bill Clark by 14th April on williamjhclark@btinternet.com.

See also <https://monmouth.churchinwales.org.uk/en/clergy-and-members/ministry-areas/> for information and FAQs.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

If you would like to be part of these changes to the organisational structure of the Church in Wales, please contact Bill Clark (details on previous page). It is important that we engage with the process of change so that the needs and views of everyone living in Shirenewton are considered, not just those currently on the PCC. We have a rare opportunity to shape our Church arrangements for the future, and we will take advantage of it.

Calling all 200 Club Members!

200 Club subscriptions for this year are now due in March. Many people have already set up standing orders (thank you!), but for those of you who prefer to pay by cash or cheque ***please contact Aileen Doggett at Church House, Shirenewton, Chepstow, NP16 6RL, 01291 641459, aileendoggett@btinternet.com, as soon as possible.*** If paying by cheque, please make the cheque payable to "Shirenewton PCC 200 Club".

If you're new to the area and are wondering what the 200 Club is all about, then read on...

For each £10 subscribed you are allocated a unique number which is entered into the monthly draw. You can sponsor as many membership numbers as you like in your own name, on behalf of family members or even a pet! There are 10 draws per year, August and January being the exceptions, and each draw pays out prizes of £40, £30, £20 and £10. The draws take place on the third Sunday of the month. The four lucky winners are announced in church and are notified in the Parish Magazine.

Where does the money go? Two thirds of the money goes to you as prize winners and the other third goes towards the upkeep of the church.

We value your continued support. Many thanks, Aileen.

Shirenewton Community Council

Extracts from the minutes of the February meeting

There is currently one vacancy for a co-opted Councillor in the Shirenewton ward. If you have an interest in the local community and wish to apply for the vacancy, please contact the Clerk to the Council (details below).

The following planning application was considered:

DM/2020/01866 Pond Cottage, Usk Road, Shirenewton
Garden room with separate storage for tools.

Council noted that whilst described in the application as a garden room with separate tool storage, the plans show the inside to be divided into two, the main section being a study and gym space, and the far end section being bike and tool storage. There was no external lighting proposed.

There had been no adverse comments by neighbours on the Mon CC planning portal.

Councillors had concerns over the appearance as to both external colour and being entirely uncharacteristic of our landscape. The supplier website suggested the basic redwood material to be a bright yellow/orange hue that would not fade at all over time. The supplier can provide similar finishes which are designed to fade, one in particular to a silver grey akin to weathered wood. Whilst able to accept the structure, Council was unable to accept the visually intrusive colour and recommended a condition to change the colour of the building material to one that fades to silver grey to make the proposal less intrusive.

Monthly police report

Notable arrests for November/December 2020

Four arrested in the area over December/January.

Operations

Officers carried out mobile patrols concentrating on rural areas due to recent break ins to farms and outbuildings in November/December. The evenings were mainly taken up with patrols of hotspot areas, gathering intelligence, looking for drug offences,

carrying out stop searches and roadside stops as part of the operational order. Special Constables also took part in the drink/drive campaign which was force wide.

The team have also carried out two drugs warrants on residential properties this month and drugs were located, persons responsible are being dealt with and we urge the public to report any suspicious drug activity to Gwent Police via 101 or control@gwent.pnn.police.uk.

Any other information

There is a lot of information out there at the moment on social media about Covid 19, of course it's only natural you would want to share it! But how do you know it's been verified/from an official source and is in fact true/accurate? If you're not sure don't send it on, check on the Government website first to ensure the information you are passing on is genuine.

Latest Covid 19 scam – Scammers are trying to trick people into paying for the Covid Vaccine, the NHS doesn't need your bank details and won't ask for them.

Our Cyber department would like to remind the public the importance of strong passwords to safeguard our accounts and personal data as we enter into a new year. The best way to do that is to set up a two-factor authentication, which will offer the most security even if your account is hacked. Follow the National Cyber Security Centre link below for information on 2FA. Setting up two-factor authentication (2FA) - [NCSC.GOV.UK](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk)
[Setting up two-factor authentication \(2FA\) - NCSC.GOV.UK](https://www.ncsc.gov.uk)

Our Cyber Security Team have recently tweeted about a free 8 week online Cyber Course. run by the Open University. The link is attached below for anyone who would be interested in expanding their knowledge.
[Introduction to Cyber Security - Online Course - FutureLearn](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/introduction-to-cyber-security)

Other items of interest

Update on 20 is plenty Road Safety Campaign –

The petition to Monmouthshire County Council for mandatory 20mph speed limits through Shirenewton and Mynyddbach is now online, if you are concerned about the speed of traffic through the villages please sign up here:

https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/introduce-a-20mph-speed-limit-in-the-residential-areas-of-shirenewton-and-mynyddbach?share=7012f469-956b-4e22-98db-2ecd3cbdad14&source=email-share-button&utm_medium=socialshare&utm_source=email

Please continue to support the road safety campaign by being conscious of your speed limits and driving at 20mph through our villages.

Council website competition – the website has been modified to be more easily accessible to users. The Council is holding a **competition** for residents to enter photographs of the local area to be displayed on the home page of the Council website and changed regularly, in order to encourage people to visit the website. **Please forward your entries to philip.b@shirenewtoncc.org.uk**

Bus shelter at Earlswood – the front of the bus shelter partially collapsed on 15.12.20. Reported to Mon CC on 16.12.20 and shelter cordoned off with high fencing. Mon CC has advised that repairs should take place before the end of February.

Message from the Clerk - Books in kiosk. If you put books in the kiosk, please do not leave them if the kiosk is full, or leave yours and take some others away – both Tesco and Wilko will take books for their second hand book stalls. Please don't put carrier bags of magazines on the floor of the kiosk as this needs to be kept clear for people to access the recycling bags.

Dates of next meetings - Monday 1st March and Monday 12th April 2021 at 7.00 pm, by public meeting in Shirenewton Recreation Hall, if possible, or by a remote meeting if government coronavirus restrictions still apply.

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

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

NEW MINISTRY AREA

INFORMATION SESSIONS

DATES

MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY

TUESDAY 2ND MARCH

THURSDAY 11TH MARCH

@ 7PM VIA ZOOM

&

THURSDAY 18TH MARCH

@1PM

**TO BOOK YOUR PLACE ON ONE OF THESE DATES AND RECIEVE
THE ZOOM LINK PLEASE CONTACT**

REV PHILIP AVERAY

revphilipaveray@gmail.com or 01291620980

Gardening Corner

Despite wearing all of the necessary safety equipment, nearly fifty years of using power tools, especially chainsaws, strimmers and hedge-cutters, has taken a toll on the hearing department. It could of course just be down to old age, but of course you have to blame something as the cause, and most days I still feel young in mind if not in body. And, I can't possibly be getting that old! I did go to the doctors many years ago and had a single hearing aid fitted after numerous tests, but I could never get on with it and it certainly didn't improve my ability to hear. I gave up after a short period of time, and the hearing aid was condemned to sit in my bedside drawer, where it has remained to this day. After years of being told that I should go back, I recently gave in – it was obvious my ability to hear 'advice' was deteriorating badly, and when the kids and then the grandkids start picking on you, you know the time has long since gone when you should have plucked up the courage to go and be tested! So off I went for my free hearing assessment, only to be told that my ability to hear all of the high pitch sounds like t's and s's was badly affected – no wonder I only heard half a conversation – or with background noise, no conversation at all! What's this got to do with a gardening page – not a lot really, but after having my new super, duper digital hearing aids fitted I walked back to the car and for the first time in I don't know how many years, I heard a blackbird singing. It was only then that I realised that I haven't listened to the sound of the dawn chorus for as long as I can remember, and now I can't wait. If only the weather would improve and put the birds in the right mood for love!

So, with it being either too cold and frozen solid, to now being soaking wet again, I haven't managed to do very much at all in getting the ground sorted for the coming growing season. I had such big plans, but as it always seems these days, the weather has had other ideas. I did order all my seeds in plenty of time so I'm ready to go. I'm thinking that I need to turn the electricity back on in the greenhouses, and get the hot-bench on warming up ready for sowing the first seeds. This usually starts with the salad crops that take some time to reach maturity, such as tomatoes and peppers. I'll also put in early broad beans and sugar snap peas, lettuce and the first greens, so that we can enjoy calabrese and cauliflowers two or three weeks earlier than 'normal'. We achieve this by planting under cover. We find this is the best way as you then beat even the earliest of the various pests and can enjoy caterpillar free produce! We always end up with a glut at the start of the season, but this is when we cook loads of broccoli gratin and cauliflower cheese, all of which build up the stock in the deep freeze. We still have plenty of the latter to get through, but the broccoli gratin is almost at an end. Fortunately, we are still enjoying fresh dug parsnips, leeks and celeriac, as well as Brussels sprouts and the last of the winter cabbage out of the garden. The purple sprouting needs a few warmer days, and hopefully the first heads will be ready to pick. The

potatoes in storage are coming to an end, but onions, garlic and shallots have a few weeks left in them yet. I never did get around to clearing the red-hot chilli pepper plants in the large tunnel, and remarkably, even with the cold weather, I have managed to rescue a few peppers to add to the top of the Thai green curry meals – boy are they hot now!

In the autumn I took quite a few cuttings of some of our perennial plants, mainly scabious, hardy osteospermum, a daisy thing (sorry I can't remember what it's called, so daisy thing it is!) and various penstemons. All these have done well, with only the odd one or two rotting off. They have been neglected somewhat, but think this is why most have survived as it has meant they haven't been over-watered – my usual problem during the winter. I did also take a lot of cottage pink cuttings, but everyone has failed. I never do any good with these but thought I'd try one more time – I won't bother again. Instead, I'll do what the propagating books tell you to do, which is to lay the stems down so they touch the soil and peg them down. This allows the stems to take root whilst still attached to the mother plant, so as soon as things warm up, I will be giving this a go. At the same time as taking the cuttings, I planted up this year's garlic crop and also shallots, all in small pots. The idea being that they would shoot out and get growing, and I could then plant them out in the ground when conditions allowed. Well, I'm still waiting for the soil to dry enough, so they remain in the pots. The garlic are looking OK at the moment, but the shallots were affected by the bad weather, with the green shoots suffering badly from the hard frosts. I'll see how these go with a few milder days forecast, but I'm thinking that I may have to start again with the shallots. There is still plenty of time. I'll also be rummaging through the last of the potatoes in the sacks, and pick out the suitable sized ones for this year's crop. The ones the size of a hen's egg, are my usual 'go to' choice. Sometimes I will put these in trays and let them 'chit' for a couple of weeks or so, but usually if they have already started showing signs of growth, I plant them straight into large (6 – 8 inches across) pots, which are then stored under the bench. These will then be planted straight out into the garden when things improve, but I always keep an eye on the weather so that the top growth can be covered up if frost might be a problem. Potatoes hate even a sniff of a cold night!

In the flower garden probably half of the dahlia tubers and all of the gladioli corms are still in the ground. The really wet autumn put an end to digging these up for storage over the winter. I don't want any of these growing in the same place, so, assuming they have survived the winter I now have a dilemma – do I dig them up and plant elsewhere or do I leave them where they are. For now, they can stay as it is too wet again to even think about getting onto the ground. If nothing else I have managed to get around the garden and prune most of the roses. This job ideally should be finished in February, but can still be done in March if you haven't got around to it. We have all David Austin English shrub roses and pruning couldn't be simpler. They are all under five years old, so you simply have to reduce them by cutting in half. It doesn't even matter where you cut them – now that's my kind of pruning! The climbing roses are also easy to prune as well, just cut the flowering shoots from last year back to 2 or 3 inches.

One mild afternoon this last week I did manage to have a quick look at the bees. With the weather being as it has, I was concerned that they might run out of food, so it was going to be a quick dive in clean out anything that needed cleaning, and then placing a pack of fondant icing on the top, so that they had something to work with. Fondant icing or an equivalent feed is so much better than using sugar syrup, which is the food of choice during the summer or autumn if you are trying to give the bees a boost. This is because neither the bees or the hive generally can shift the water volume away from the hive, especially if you get a lot of wet weather. So, the bees can neither go outside to the toilet, nor can they evaporate excess water from the food stores, which ends up in dead bees or mouldy frames. I did find two hives that had died out which was not unexpected, they were weak towards the end of the season and really would have been better combined together. I have tried this several times but never had any success which is why I'd sooner give them the benefit of the doubt. I'm not Henry VIII – by that I mean that, when combining hives, you have to select one of the queens – and kill her! This always seems wrong, but if you don't kill one, then when the hives are joined together, the queens will find each other and fight to the death anyway – worst case scenario you could lose both. Other than that, it is easy to combine hives, you simply place newspaper over the top of one hive, then put the other on top. By the time the worker bees have chewed through the paper they have had time to introduce themselves to the neighbours, hopefully find they get on well together, and just carry on as if nothing had happened – at least that is the theory! A few of the mouse guards were a bit clogged up with dead bees, but these were just ones that had served their time. In the summer, worker bees on average live for around 3 weeks, but during late autumn through to spring, they will generally last for around 6 months. I never can decide which bees have the best life, those that work hard and die of exhaustion – but enjoy the freedom of flying and the attraction of flowers, or those that spend 6 months huddled up together to keep warm, and get to eat everything in the larder along with like-minded individuals, but only really get to go out to see the real world when they need the toilet! The one hive that I mentioned last month was a bit of a mess. The mouse had built a lovely dry nest and had completely emptied the bottom frame of the hive of all food and wax. There were still some bees alive, so I quickly cleaned all of the bottom of the hive out, so the bees could access the outside world, given them some food and the benefit of the doubt for now. Hopefully the weather will warm up soon and flowers will start to open, giving all the bees that survive the boost they need.

As always, happy gardening until next month. *Steve and Felicity Hunt.*



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REGULAR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHURCH

A number of people have recently asked how they can make regular contributions to the church when perhaps they are unable to attend e.g. because they are shielding, or because they prefer not to use cash or cheques. There are two easy ways in which you can make a regular financial contribution to the church:

1: The Church in Wales runs a "Gift Direct" scheme which collects your contribution by direct debit on a monthly basis. The scheme also allows you to Gift Aid your donation so that the church can claim a basic rate tax refund, making your money go even further. Details of the scheme can be found here: <https://churchinwales.contentfiles.net/media/documents/1798-Gift-Direct-English.pdf>. Alternatively please contact me and I will email the leaflet to you.

2: You can set up a standing order with your bank. Please contact me and I will let you have the bank details. You then need to contact your bank to set up the standing order.



The advertisement features a light pink background. At the top center is a dark purple rectangle containing a logo of four circles of varying sizes and the text "DREAM CLEAN TEAM" in a bold, pink, sans-serif font, with "RELIABLE HOME CLEANING SERVICE" in a smaller, white font below it. The main headline "COME HOME TO A CLEAN HOUSE" is written in large, bold, blue, sans-serif capital letters. Below this, the text "WE OPERATE A RELIABLE HOME CLEANING SERVICE IN CHEPSTOW & IT'S SURROUNDING VILLAGES" is in a smaller, bold, blue, sans-serif font. Further down, contact information is provided: "FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL: DREAMCLEANTEAM16@BTINTERNET.COM OR CALL 07789 071298." in bold, blue, sans-serif font. At the bottom left is a simple line-art icon of a house with a chimney and cleaning tools (a bucket and a mop) inside. At the bottom right, the text "REGISTERED NAME: DREAM CLEAN TEAM MONMOUTHSHIRE & WYE VALLEY" is in a small, blue, sans-serif font.

Thank you, to the walking Orange Fairy!



I have made 10 jars of excellent, organic, wholesome marmalade to spread on anyone's toast of a morning.

Glynis the Marmalade and Fruitcake Queen



Meanwhile the Fruitcake Queen has been challenged by Wadders, our Marvellous Music Man who plays for SODS to plan a Post Pandemic Performance Event, (a PPPE?) or a Rave Review or even a 'Midsummer Night's Scheme'. It's going to be a celebratory community Get Together with live music and skits and songs and maybe some jokes.... Only of course when we are allowed to, what with safety in mind.

So, with little rehearsal it will be a Pop-Up PPPE. I was thinking maybe up at Earlswood Hall, sometime in the summer, with audience participation in the sing-along department as in Mama Mia and it would be café style, where you bring your own pic-nic and your own grog. More details later...tickets etc...



So... is there anyone out there with a song in their heart, or a dance in their feet? Or have you got a little ditty? Don't worry, your secret is safe with me I won't tell anyone. Anyway, if you'd like to be involved give me a bell, on 641 818 or email:

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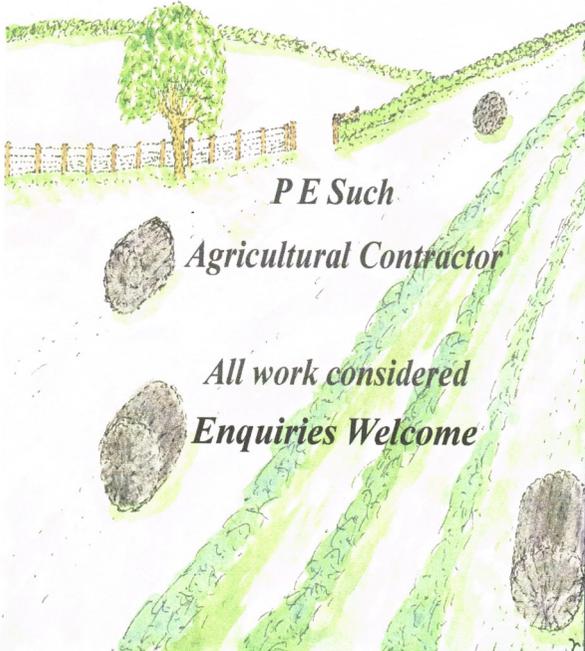
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FAIRTRADE NEWS February 2021



Climate change deniers are, fortunately, a diminishing breed, at least on this side of the Atlantic. President Biden has made the first step by re-joining the Paris Agreement but there are huge obstacles for him and all other governments to actually enact the legislation the world needs so desperately. The poorest 50% of the world's population is responsible for just 7% of the world's carbon emissions. In contrast the richest 10% is responsible for over 50%.

Just 20 fossil fuel companies are responsible for 35% of all human carbon emissions since the mid 1960s when the industry became aware of the risks, and many, as in the tobacco industry, actively tried to hide the facts. Yes, they knew. **60 years** ago they knew. As Bill McKibben says in his horrifically frightening book 'Falter' 'There should be a word for when you commit treason against an entire planet'.

Currently there seems a general consensus that things need to be done, but speaking frankly, relatively little sign that much real action has been taken. Since 2015 (the Paris agreement) the world's top banks have injected \$1.9 TRILLION into fossil fuel financing. The UK government funds the fossil fuel industry with subsidies worth £10.5 billion a year. Currently the green light has been given to the first underground coal mine in 30 years, in Cumbria. I had understood that one of the reasons was that otherwise we would have to import this special coal for our steel industry. In fact 85% will be for export. The 1.5 billion green home grants scheme has been scrapped, having reached 4% of the homes intended. The Environment Bill, first begun in July 2018 has just been delayed for the 3rd time. Again, there has been chat in general terms about good intentions, but . . .

No wonder climate activist groups feel they have to resort to less peaceful measures!

The UK is hosting COP26 – the UN’s climate negotiations in November this year. I suppose we must hope for the best!

Traidcraft has taken an active role in helping farmers and producers cope with the serious difficulties climate change has already caused. Clearly the situation will continue to deteriorate, drastically, even if proper legislation is enacted in the future. One of the key criteria for the award of the Fairtrade mark is care for the environment, above all sustainability. If you buy FT you are contributing to the idea of climate justice. That is one thing we can all do in this time of Covid. As ever the poor bear the brunt of the world’s injustices and disasters.

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316gmail.com

I feel concerned that the new garden waste wheelie bins are going to end up living on the pavements/lanes of our pretty village and become an eyesore. I do understand that the very nature of our village is that it is hilly, and most people have steps and ramps to negotiate, which with a full bin may be difficult.

So I just wanted to say that if anyone in Mynyddbach would like me to help put their bin out on collection day, to give me a call.
Carole Waite 07929 869681



REMINDER: Shirenewton still has an open booking with Mark Smith from the Antiques Roadshow to come and give us a talk on the Victoria Cross when we are all able to mix socially again.

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

A brief follow-up to last month's discussion on the privacy changes to WhatsApp, the press are now reporting that WhatsApp will provide an in-app banner for users to review and agree to the privacy policy update before May 15th after which, if you don't agree to the new terms, you'll need to stop using WhatsApp. As a reminder, WhatsApp has been having a tough time of it after announcing that they were going to change their privacy settings to share information with Facebook – their parent company. This prompted scary headlines in the MSM and consequently WhatsApp to delay the introduction of the new policy while it got it's messaging correct. I'm sure more information on this will emerge in time for April's magazine (and therefore before the May 15th deadline), but it does currently seem that the proposed changes are the same as previously proposed in that: (i) there is no change for end users who message each other – there is still end to end encryption and the messages are stored on your device; (ii) the change is when you message a business. In this case the message is no longer encrypted and the information in the message and associated with your phone (such as location) can be used for ad targeting in FB.

I mentioned at the time that I'd downloaded Signal (a WhatsApp alternative) on my phone and my wife's phone and had a fiddle. It was more-or-less exactly the same as WhatsApp. I haven't got any further but have noted that there are an increasing number of articles on how to export data from WhatsApp into the alternatives. I'll keep you informed if any more information on the privacy policy itself or associated information emerges.

Likewise, following up on the crackly phone line issue. The Cornwell family's home phone is still crackly and Openreach are on their 5th (?) attempt to solve the problem. They fix it and then it re-appears a couple of days later. I report it and so the cycle continues.

Seeing as we started discussing privacy, I've recently download and install a browser extension which prevents me being tracked around the internet. The extension I installed is Privacy Badger which will highlight all the tracking on various sites you visit and allow you to block them. For example, on the Daily Mail home page (www.dailymail.co.uk), Privacy Badger identifies 33 potential trackers which it has blocked and this doesn't include Google Analytics which I have expressly permitted. The

Telegraph website has 27 trackers and The Times 24. It's quite interesting seeing which websites have which trackers and I was quite surprised that the Church website home page had a couple of trackers which I wasn't aware of - in addition to the Google Analytics I knew about. However, I was less concerned when I understood that these related to java script and fonts libraries which are accessed by the website to provide said resources.

In essence these libraries mean that the website simply calls these resources from the open public resource libraries for efficiency. If all these resources were stored in the webpages themselves there would be a high overhead and longer load times, poorer performance, etc. There is some debate whether these resources do qualify as trackers is that they do not explicitly track you but serve up the requested fonts, etc. There is a danger that, if such resources are blocked completely, the website will cease to function correctly. In fact, Privacy Badger (by default) simply blocks the cookies from these library sites rather than the sites themselves as it recognises that blocking the site completely would cause the host website (in this case the Church website) to display incorrectly.

Privacy Badger is not the only option - just search for alternatives. Be aware that, to a certain extent, the options depend on your browser and platform. Most are free and some have optional cost extras. I chose Privacy Badger as it is entirely free and from the EFF (Electronic Frontier Foundation) which is, I feel, a trustworthy source.

Finally, if you are a resident of Mynyddbach you will be very used to lost delivery drivers. In fact, yesterday (from the time of writing) we had a lost policeman turn up on our drive seeking a particular house name. I'd direct your attention to What3Words. W3W has divided the whole world into 3m squares and identified each with three words. For example, the Church porch is (to use the phraseology) ///making.laugh.opinion and the entrance to the TA car park is ///birds.finds.eclipses. You can download the W3W app (or use the website – 4 trackers) and input the three words and you will identify the precise location – to within three meters. So, if you are particularly difficult to find maybe adding your house's W3W location to the delivery notes may save everyone a lot of time and bother.

Safe browsing
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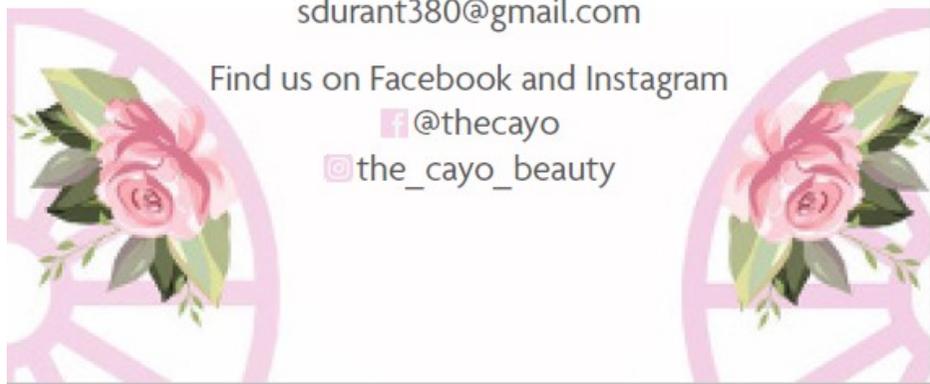
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Shirenewton W.I.



Angela Gray, one of our own W.I. members, gave us a most fascinating talk via Zoom on the lives of the ancient Egyptian tomb builders.

Angela has been studying Egyptology for 12 years through Exeter and Manchester Universities. Her talk was based on the everyday lives of the workers who built the tombs in the Valley of the Kings between 1550-1069 B.C.

The talk gave us an insightful view on the lives of the tomb builders, their families and their village – the sort of things that I never learnt in history lessons. These builders were paid by the Egyptian state in food rations and were relatively well looked after. Women were seen as equal in the eyes of ancient Egyptian law. We even learnt that their Kohl eye make-up was not just for decoration but to reflect away the strong sunlight.

Archaeological evidence excavated from the village rubbish dump not only provided artefacts such as pottery and furniture, but also written records including court, medical and employment records and even laundry lists and love letters.

The talk was beautifully illustrated with photographs and diagrams – the use of colour in the tomb decoration was really surprising. Angela was also able to speak from personal experience as she visited the Valley of the Kings in 2018.

We were very grateful to Angela for giving us such an interesting and entertaining talk.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 11th March at 7.15pm on Zoom when we will be celebrating Shirenewton W.I.'s birthday. Jeni Harper will also be speaking to us about her experiences as a gardener at Tredegar House and her gardening work as a Dementia Friend. If you would like to join us, then please contact Jane Butterworth at janeb247@gmail.com or Diane Ashton Smith (01291 628838)

Jackie Broughton

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

There were over 30 members attending our February virtual meeting. The topic of the talk was 'Lord Raglan'. We had a detailed account of the sale of his collection of medals, art works and of course his collection of cars. The speaker was Jonathan Stephens who gave a first-hand account as he was Lord Raglan's solicitor.

I thought you would be interested, I've taken snippets from our archive again this month. I've included the sale particulars for Shirenewton Hall in 1901, when the Lowe Family put the hall on the market.

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday, 30th March at 7.00 pm
7.30 pm

The society's Annual General Meeting
A talk entitled 'Chepstow in the 2nd
World War' given by Naylor Firth

If anyone would like to join us for our virtual meetings they are very welcome, just get in touch with me and I will send you the relevant details.

*Shirenewton Local
History Society.*

*Walks in and
around Shirenewton*

*£3.00 Contact
641376*

Six Historical Walks around Shirenewton



Shirenewton Local History Society

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Geo. Nichols, Howes, Young, Alder & Co.

SHIRENEWTON HALL is built in the ITALIAN STYLE with Ornamental Veranda on the south side, and the Accommodation comprises:—Enclosed Portico Entrance, small Vestibule leading to a Corridor 62 feet in length which opens on to the Lawn, and communicates with the Reception Rooms. **On the Ground Floor**—Central Hall, 21ft. x 16ft. (with Gallery and lofty lantern light), a capital Dining-room (28ft. 9in. x 15ft.), with Sienna Marble Mantelpiece and deep recessed Window (11ft. x 6ft.), and French Windows, Drawing-room (28ft. x 19ft.) with Statuary Marble Chimney-piece, and having three pairs of French Windows opening on to the Veranda, Library (18ft. 2in. x 15ft.) with French Window opening on to the Pleasure Grounds, Study (16ft. 4in. x 15ft.) with French Window, and Morning-room (15ft. 10in. x 13ft. 8in.), with French Windows opening to Pleasure Grounds; the Domestic Offices on this floor include Kitchen with large range, Back Kitchen with hot and cold water supply and soft water pump, and oven, Housekeeper's Sitting-room, Servants' Hall, Butlers' Pantry, 2 Bedrooms, Gun-room, Store-rooms, Pantries, Larder, &c., with paved Yard. **On the First Floor**—(which is approached by the principal Staircase of Stone with handsome Iron Balustrade)—Corridor leading to 3 Bed-rooms, Dressing-room and w.c.; a Picture Gallery, opening on to which are Bedroom (20ft. 6in. x 19ft. 3in.) with Dressing-room adjoining; another Bedroom (23ft. 6in. x 19ft. 9in.), including Recess and Dressing-room adjoining, also a small Bedroom. **In the Domestic Wing** are 2 Bed-rooms, fitted Bathroom with w.c., 3 Servants' Bed-rooms, Housemaid's Closet with sink and hot water supply, with approach by secondary Staircase; in the Basement are capital arched Wine and Beer Cellar, Coal and Wood ditto, Dairy, and Furnace for heating the Mansion.

There is an abundant supply of water from a spring in the Park, and there are several tanks for storing soft water.

The STABLING AND OUTBUILDINGS consist of two 3-stall Stables, Fodder House with Granary over, 2 Coach Houses for four carriages, and Loose Box, 2 Harness-rooms with two Sleeping-rooms over, Laundry, and Wash House.

Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in December:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Frances Gray | 2. Bob Millar |
| 3. Cheryl Lloyd | 4. David Ward |

Nerys's Natty Nosh



Cooking with Mother

It is never too late, (or too early), to get your children helping in the kitchen. Although it requires time, patience, and some extra clean-up, especially when the children are younger, the benefits of cooking with children are totally worth it.

1 Life skill, learning how to cook. 🧑🍳

2 Teaches children to be adventurous. 👩🍳

One of the greatest benefits of cooking with children is that it can help them develop an adventurous and varied taste palette. Those who have been involved in the cooking process are generally keener to try new foods.

3 Health. 🧑🍳

One of the best things you can do for your health is to cook at home. Research shows that people who eat home-cooked meals, on a regular basis, tend to be happier and healthier and consume less sugar and processed foods.

4 Stirring, measuring, rolling, squeezing, and spreading are just a few of the kitchen tasks that allow young children to develop their fine motor and hand-eye coordination skills. 👩🍳

5 Children learn by touching, tasting, feeling, smelling, observing, reading, and listening. Therefore the kitchen is a perfect environment for learning – it hits a range of senses and a range of learning styles.     



6 Cooking offers a great opportunity to help with language development. Talking and describing what you are doing can expose young children to new words and terms. 

7 Cooking can create a bonding session.

kitchen is a great place for parents to spend quality time with their children. It can be a place to talk about family traditions, through passed down family recipes, or it can simply be a place just to catch up with day-to-day life.



8 Builds confidence.

The kitchen can be a place to nurture your child's self-esteem, confidence, and sense of self-worth. Teaching children to cook provides many opportunities to encourage and celebrate their work.

Children feel a great sense of pride when they feel they've successfully prepared a dish for themselves or their family. 

9  Fun.       

Ingredients.

110g softened butter

110g golden caster sugar

2 large eggs

½ tsp vanilla extract

110g self-raising flour

For the buttercream

150g softened butter

300g icing sugar.

1 tsp vanilla extract

3 tbs milk

food colouring paste of your choice (optional)

1 Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4 and fill a 12-cupcake tray with cases.

2 Using an electric whisk beat 110g softened butter and 110g golden caster sugar together until pale and fluffy then whisk in 2 large eggs, one at a time, scraping down the sides of the bowl after each addition.

3 Add ½ tsp vanilla extract, 110g self-raising flour and a pinch of salt, whisk until just combined then spoon the mixture into the cupcake cases.
4 Bake for 15 mins until golden brown and a skewer inserted into the middle of each cake comes out clean. Leave to cool completely on a wire rack.

To make the buttercream, whisk 150g softened butter until super soft then add 300g icing sugar, 1 tsp vanilla extract and a pinch of salt.

Whisk together until smooth (start off slowly to avoid an icing sugar cloud) then beat in 3 tbsp milk.

If wanting to colour, stir in the food colouring now. Spoon or pipe onto the cooled cupcakes.

Tips

This is the recipe I used. Obviously adapted by using soya margarine (vitalite) for cake and icing. Only made half the icing. After cutting the top section out for the butterfly wings, I put some jam at the bottom (worth putting one that

is not too sweet) then icing on top, then wings. 😊

Thank you

Caryl Nagrani

Why not join us on Facebook "Happy Recipes to share"

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**SHIRENEWTON RECREATIONAL
ASSOCIATION
AGM**

**Thursday 18th March 2021 at
7.30pm
Virtual meeting on Zoom**

**Invites will be sent closer to the date to
existing members.**

Anyone wishing to join please contact:

Shirley Ayres

01291 641161

ayresandgraces@yahoo.com

Are you putting your online shopping to good use?

The **Lions Club of Chepstow and Caldicot** are raising funds for the local community even during these lockdowns. With us all being confined to home for work and play, most of us have had to utilise online shopping, and this is looking set to continue as the new normal.

The Lions Club of Chepstow and Caldicot serve local communities including our own, and like everyone else have had to modernise through the use of technology. Some of their fundraising used to take place in supermarket doorways, but now a number of online mechanisms support their fundraising efforts.

One such fundraising tool is **Amazon Smile**. Every time you shop online at **smile.amazon.co.uk** Amazon will donate a percentage of the purchase to The Lions Club of Chepstow and Caldicot.

To find out more about this and other ways to support The Lions Club of Chepstow and Caldicot including **Amazon Smile**, **Easyfundraising** and **Just Giving**, please go to: www.chepstowcaldicotlions.org.uk/page-8.php



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

amazonsmile
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When you shop online at **smile.amazon.co.uk**, Amazon donates to the **Lions Club of Chepstow and Caldicot**.

Type the URL below into your internet browser, or scan this QR code with the camera of your mobile device.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1182562-0>



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.

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:

<input type="checkbox"/> Picking up shopping	<input type="checkbox"/> Posting mail
<input type="checkbox"/> A friendly phone call	<input type="checkbox"/> 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



Contacting wards to enquire about relatives or friends who have been admitted to hospital

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board is aware of the significant difficulties the public are experiencing when trying to contact our wards during these very challenging times. We sincerely apologise for the distress this is causing. We wish to reassure you that we are recruiting additional staff to support the ward areas. Whilst we recruit, we have secured additional telephony support at each of our main hospital sites, 7 days a week.

The Telephonists will act as a link between callers and the wards. If the Telephonist can answer your query there and then, they will do so. Whilst they will be unable to discuss clinical information, they will be able to pass messages to the wards and inform callers of when the ward will ring callers back.

Please see below the numbers to call for the hospital where the ward is located. When enquiring about your relative or friend, please continue to ring the ward first. If you are unable to get through to the ward, you can ring these dedicated lines between the hours of 8am - 10am, 12 midday - 2 pm and 4pm - 6pm.

This will go live on 13th January 2021

PLEASE NOTE: This service will operate from 13th January 2021 for a period of 3 months (only).



Please note: these numbers are only to be used to enquire about someone who has been admitted to hospital.

-  **For the Royal Gwent Hospital (RGH), St Woolos Hospital and Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr (YYF):**
Please phone 01633 234748
-  **For Nevill Hall Hospital (NHH) and Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan (YAB):**
Please phone 01873 733016
-  **For The Grange University Hospital (GUH), County Community Hospital and Chepstow Community Hospital:**
Please phone 01633 493626
-  **For general enquiries to determine which hospital and ward your relative has been admitted to:**
Please phone Switchboard on 01633 234234 or 01873 732732



Cysylltu â wardiau i holi am berthnasau neu ffrindiau sydd wedi'u derbyn i'r ysbyty

Mae Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan yn ymwybodol o'r anawsterau sylweddol y mae'r cyhoedd yn eu hwynebu wrth geisio cysylltu â'n wardiau yn ystod y cyfnod heriol iawn hwn. Ymddiheurwn yn ddiffuant am y gofid y mae hyn yn ei achosi. Hoffem eich sicrhau ein bod yn recriwtio staff ychwanegol i gefnogi'r wardiau. Wrth i ni recriwtio, rydym wedi sicrhau cymorth telefoni ychwanegol ym mhob un o'n prif safleoedd ysbyty, **7 diwrnod yr wythnos**.

Bydd y Teleffonwyr yn gweithredu fel cyswllt rhwng galwyr a'r wardiau. Os gall y Teleffonydd ateb eich ymholiad yn y fan a'r lle, byddant yn gwneud hynny. Er na fyddant yn gallu trafod gwybodaeth glinigol, byddant yn gallu trosglwyddo negeseuon i'r wardiau a rhoi gwybod i alwyr pryd y bydd y ward yn ffonio galwyr yn ôl.

Gweler isod y rhifau i ffonio'r ysbyty lle mae'r ward wedi'i lleoli. Wrth holi am eich perthynas neu ffrind, **parhewch I ffonio'r ward yn gyntaf**. Os na lwyddwch i gysylltu â'r ward, gallwch ffonio'r llinellau pwrpasol hyn rhwng 8am a 10am, 12 hanner dydd - 2pm a 4pm - 6pm.

Bydd hyn yn fyw ar 13 Ionawr 2021

NODER: Bydd y gwasanaeth hwn yn gweithredu o 13 Ionawr 2021 am gyfnod o 3 mis (yn unig).



Sylwer: dylid ond defnyddio'r rhifau ffôn hyn i holi am rywun sydd wedi'i dderbyn i'r ysbyty.

-  **Ar gyfer Ysbyty Brenhinol Gwent (RGH), Ysbyty Gwynllyw ac Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr (YYF):**
Ffoniwch 01633 234748
-  **Ar gyfer Ysbyty Nevill Hall (NHH) ac Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan (YAB):**
Ffoniwch 01873 733016
-  **Ar gyfer Ysbyty Athrofaol y Faenor (GUH), Ysbyty'r Sir ac Ysbyty Cymunedol Cas-gwent:**
Ffoniwch 01633 493626
-  **Ar gyfer ymholiadau cyffredinol i weld i ba ysbyty a ward y derbyniwyd eich perthynas:**
Ffoniwch Switsfwrdd ar 01633 234234 neu 01873 732732

What to do if your child has an illness or injury



When The Grange University Hospital opens (scheduled for 17th November 2020), our hospital services for children will change.

Children who require emergency treatment will go to The Grange University Hospital, where Specialist Children's Doctors and Nurses will be centralised. All children's hospital beds and the Children's Emergency Assessment Unit will also be at The Grange University Hospital.

The Royal Gwent Hospital, Nevill Hall Hospital and Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr will continue to provide a wide range of routine outpatient appointments for children and certain Elective Day Case Surgeries.

Local **Minor Injury Units** for children (aged over 1 year) will remain at the Royal Gwent Hospital or Nevill Hall Hospital, Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr, and Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan. All children aged under 1 year old will need to be seen at The Grange University Hospital.

What will be available for children at our main hospitals:

	The Grange University Hospital	Royal Gwent Hospital	Nevill Hall Hospital	Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr	Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan
Inpatient wards	✓	X	X	X	X
Child Assessment Unit	✓	X	X	X	X
Minor Injuries	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Children's Emergencies	✓	X	X	X	X
Outpatients	X	✓ St Woolos	✓	✓	✓

Maternity Services: Antenatal clinics, Midwifery-led routine births and Postnatal clinics will all take place at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Nevill Hall Hospital, Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr and Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan. All Consultant-led births will take place within The Grange University Hospital, with an additional centre for Midwifery-led births.



Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board

Cut out and keep →

NHS SERVICES IN GWENT ARE CHANGING

when The Grange University Hospital opens



**CALL 999 OR GO TO
THE GRANGE UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**

if you have a **LIFE-THREATENING ILLNESS** or **SERIOUS INJURY**



GO TO A MINOR INJURY UNIT

at Nevill Hall, the Royal Gwent, Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr or
Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan Hospitals, if you have a **minor Injury**
(Children under 1 year will need to go to The Grange University Hospital).



CONTACT YOUR GP

if you have an illness or concern that is
not immediately life-threatening.



CALL NHS 111

if you are unwell, unsure what to do and need help.
You can also call 111 for urgent GP care
when your own Surgery is closed.



TREAT AT HOME or CONTACT YOUR PHARMACIST

if you have a minor illness or ailment such as a
sore throat, cough, skin irritation or common mild illness.

For more information, visit abuhb.nhs.wales.

Keep up to date and ask us questions by following us:

@AneurinBevanUHB AneurinBevanHealthBoard

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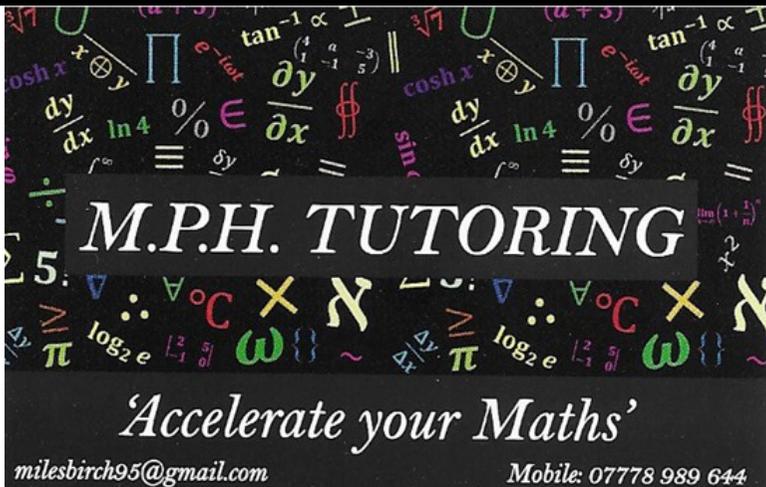
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STARGAZING

At around 10pm mid-March, the Constellation of Leo the Lion can be seen to the South. It is one of the few constellations that looks like its namesake. It commemorates the giant lion that Hercules slaughtered as the first of his labours. Leo is dominated by his head, which looks like a back-to-front question mark. The bright blue-white star Regulus is at the base of the question mark.



Mars has been in the news recently with the successful arrival of the "Perseverance" rover on its surface. The slightly orange-coloured planet lies to the West in the evening sky. Its to the right of the star called Aldebaran. At the beginning of March, Mars is close to the star cluster called the Pleiades. On 19th March the crescent Moob and Mars are close neighbours.

In March 1781, William Herschel of Bath was observing stars in the constellation Gemini when he discovered a new planet. This was the first new planet to be seen since the beginning of history and resulted in Herschel being knighted and given a royal pension. In gratitude to the king he wanted to call the planet George! However good sense prevailed and it was finally named after the god Uranus, conforming to the tradition of naming the planets after characters in classical mythology. Incidentally, Herschel's house in Bath is open to the public, and well worth a visit.

The Vernal Equinox occurs on 20th March, when day and night are equal, with exactly 12 hours between sunrise and sunset. This is a useful day for getting your bearings right as the sun rises due east and sets due west wherever you may be.



ADVERTORIAL

Inheritance tax – Are you making the most of your allowances?

I recently visited a widow who lived just outside Usk. She didn't consider herself to be wealthy, but like many of us had worked hard throughout life to pay off a mortgage. She is now retired and in a comfortable financial position. She has three children and you could probably understand her disbelief to be informed that when she passes away the tax man will receive a higher amount in tax than the share of her estate left to each of her three children! The continued rise in house prices in this area means that these days you don't have to be hugely wealthy to be affected by Inheritance tax (IHT). According to HMRC inheritance tax receipts 2019, a record £5.38 billion was collected in inheritance tax in the 2018/19 tax year and this is set to rise. There are many things you can do to reduce your inheritance tax liability and keep more of your wealth within the family.

The current IHT nil-rate threshold is £325,000 for individuals and £650,000 for a married couple or civil partners. Beyond these thresholds, IHT is usually payable at a rate of 40%. In order to help with aforementioned increasing house prices we recently saw the introduction of the main residence nil-rate band, which applies if you want to pass your main residence to a direct descendant, this now provides an additional £175,000 for individuals and £350,000 for a married couple or civil partners. However, it is important to be aware that for larger estates this extra relief is tapered when the estate is over £2m.

There is a range of options to help mitigate your potential inheritance tax bill, but as a starting point, you should consider the following allowances:

- Annual gifting allowance – each year you and your spouse can each gift up to £3,000 in total. You can also carry this forward for one year. Furthermore, gifts of up to £250 to any number of people are exempt.

- Wedding gifts – Parents can give up to £5,000 to a bride or groom, for grandparents this reduces to £2,500. Other well-wishers can give up to £1,000 before it becomes liable to IHT.

- Gifts to registered charities and political parties are exempt

- Gifts can also be made out of surplus income, however a number of conditions apply to this allowance and so I would suggest you seek advice in relation to this.

- Assets left to your UK based spouse or civil partner are also exempt.

Remember planning pays and there are several routes which can help with such taxes. If you would like to come along to my free inheritance tax seminars just drop me a line. (info@iscawealth.com) Isca Wealth Management Limited is an Appointed Representative of Vision Independent Financial Planning Ltd which is Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Firm reference number 487395. Please note that the FCA does not regulate inheritance tax advice.



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The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) do not regulate Inheritance Tax Planning, Tax and Trusts.

The benefits to the treatment of tax will depend on your individual circumstances and may be subject to change in the future.

LOCAL CONTACTS

*If you know of any changes or omissions please contact the Editor Bill Clark
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– People’s	Andrew Baker	01291 641 925
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PCC Members	Aileen Doggett	01291 641 459
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	Frances Gray	01291 622 465
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	Kevin Bounds	01291 641 648
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Organists	Karen Millar	01291 650 521
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Tower Captain	Mike Penney	01291 650 653
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