



Shirenewton Parish
Magazine October 2021

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SHIRENEWTON PARISH MAGAZINE EDITORIAL INFORMATION

Published: by The Church of St. Thomas à Becket Shirenewton

Editor: Bill Clark 01291 641783 email: parishmagshirenewton@gmail.com

The cost of the Magazine is £1.50 per issue/10 issues for £12.

Copies are delivered free by local distributors to those who have pre-paid.

Monthly copies are available at the Church.

Previous editions of the magazine are available online on the Church website at www.shirenewtonchurch.info.

**To order your regular copy, contact Aileen Doggett
01291 641459**

Advertising Rates for Commercial organisations

Full designated page for 12 months £120

Full page 12 months 10 issues £80

Half Page 12 months 10 issues £40

Quarter Page 12 months 10 issues £20

Advertising for Local and Charity organisations is free.

Editorial policy is to print what you provide, space and technology permitting. The views expressed are those of the contributor.

Preferred Document format is an MS Word document attached to an email. Preferred Advert and Photograph format is JPEG attached to an email

**Deadline for November 2021 issue is
9:00 a.m. Monday 25th October 2021**

**MANY THANKS TO TERRY WALTERS FOR THE PHOTO ON THE
COVER OF THIS MONTH'S MAGAZINE**

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE PARABLE OF THE LAMP FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST MARK

The Gospel of Mark Chapter 4 vs 21-25

²¹ Then Jesus asked them, "Would anyone light a lamp and then put it under a basket or under a bed? Of course not! A lamp is placed on a stand, where its light will shine. ²² For everything that is hidden will eventually be brought into the open, and every secret will be brought to light. ²³ Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand." ²⁴ Then he added, "Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given and you will receive even more. ²⁵ To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them."

I like the story of the nine-year-old boy who went with his parents on holiday around Europe one summer. Part of their tour included visits to many great cathedrals. As he visited these places, he saw the massive stained-glass portraits of the disciples and the other saints. He was very impressed as he stood in these great buildings looking through the beautiful stained-glass windows. He was later asked by his Sunday School teacher about the great cathedrals he had seen and what he liked the most. He thought for a moment and said, "God seemed huge and awesome to me." "And what is a saint?" his teacher asked next. Thinking about those big beautiful windows he said, "A saint is a person the light shines through."

That sounds like a good picture of what God is calling us to be. We have no spiritual light of our own, but like the moon, we are to reflect the light of Jesus to our world. In this passage, Jesus gives us some insight into light and the place it is to occupy in spiritual things.

In John Chapter 8 Jesus spoke to the people and said, "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." What he was saying is that his light penetrates even the darkest of places and the blackest of hearts. Here are a few thoughts about light according to Jesus.

LIGHT HAS A PURPOSE – Verse 21.

Jesus uses the common image of a candle to teach a profound spiritual truth. In that day, it would have been an oil lamp. Every house had at least one which was used to provide light in houses that were naturally dark. Houses in that day had notches cut into the wall so that a lamp could be placed there. When a lamp was lit, it was not hidden. The lamp was lit to be placed in a high location so that everyone in the house could receive light. Jesus is using the example of the lamp to illustrate the purpose of spiritual light. When Jesus shared the Word of God, He was giving light to the world. His words will give light to you if you are trapped in spiritual darkness and show you that there is a way to be saved. Jesus was the 'Light of the World' and John 1 v 18 tells us that His light is designed to reveal the Heavenly Father to fallen mankind. "No one has ever seen God. But the unique One (Jesus), who is himself God, is near to

the Father's heart. He has revealed God to us."

Jesus' light was not designed to be hidden away. He came to this world to reveal God's truth to those in darkness. When He saves us from our sins and gives us the gift of eternal life, He places His light within us in the form of the Holy Spirit but He does not want us to hide the light away. If you have faith, He wants us to allow (yes, we can stop it) His light to shine through our lives so that others can see the way to God. As it says in the Book of Ephesians 5 v 8 "For once you were full of darkness, but now you have light from the Lord. So, live as people of light" ⁹ For this light within you produces only what is good and right and true."

God's light is an amazing gift. If you feel that your life has dark places without any hope then reach out to God. He wants that darkness and any difficulties in your past to be shattered by Jesus' presence in your life.
LIGHT IS POWERFUL – Verse 22.

Jesus reminds us that light has the power to make hidden things plain. The light that Jesus came into this world to display not only reveals the hidden things of God to us; it also reveals the hidden things within us! The Gospel is a message of salvation, but it is also a message of confrontation. It is a message that reveals how dark the human heart can be. People can be like creatures of the night; they flee light when it shines upon them. Why? Jesus said it was because "their deeds are evil". Here is John 3 vs 16-21 the Bible tells us "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son. And the judgement is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants."

When the Gospel speaks into someone's heart, it can reveal lots of unhappiness. That can be a painful experience, yet the good news is that Jesus has the power to save us if we place our faith in him.

LIGHT HAS ITS PRIVILEGES – verse 24

There are many influences competing for our attention and decision-making but the right ones will always concur with the Bible and point us to Jesus. If we have faith, God has called us to share the truth we have received. This is a great privilege, to share that faith and the things God has shown us with others. We are called to be "rivers of living water", to let the truth flow out from us if we know it.

By the way, the God I know in the Bible specialises in giving us "*more*". God doesn't just pardon, "He will forgive generously". God doesn't just give mercy, He "delights in mercy", God doesn't just save, He saves "to the uttermost", When God saves you

and forgives your sins, He adopts you into His family. He gives you peace, joy, hope and blessing. He gives you absolute assurance and eternal security. This is because Jesus is the Saviour who gives not "of" His riches, but "according to His riches", (Phil. 4:19). What does this mean? Well, when a millionaire gives a pound out "of" his wealth they haven't given much. When a millionaire gives "according to his riches" they can do great good.

To conclude, a candle holds tremendous power when it's lit. It has the ability to dispel darkness. It gives its light at great cost to itself. As the candle gives away its precious light, its very life is consumed. This is what Jesus did for us on the cross when he paid a high price to bring His light to us. He died on the cross so that we might have life and light. When He saves us, He kindles that light within us so that we can let that inner light shine so that the world around us might see the way to know who God is and how to know Him.

The truth is, God loves you, He died on a cross for you and rose again. He will save you if you will come to Him. You can't hide from the light. If you reject Him as Saviour in this life, you will face Him as Judge in eternity. Don't let that happen.

Best Wishes
Paul Morcombe

THE REVEREND JULIAN WHITE, IS ON HOLIDAY UNTIL 2nd OCTOBER



All-age Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Sunday 3rd October at 10:00

Harvest offerings will be donated to the Chepstow Food Bank – suggested items:

- Tinned tomatoes
- Tinned fish
- Jam
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Shirenewton Community Council

Extracts from the minutes of the September meeting

The Community Council has one vacancy for a co-opted member in the Shirenewton ward. If you have an interest in the community and wish to join the Council, please contact the Clerk (details below)

Planning applications considered:

DM/2021/01140 Little Grondra Farm, Shirenewton

Erection of a wooden stable block alongside existing barns.

Recommendation: No objection.

DM/2021/01270 Two Oaks, Ditch Hill Lane, Shirenewton

New dormer window to front elevation.

Recommendation: No objection.

DM/2021/01301 Green Acres, Usk Road, Mynyddbach

Single storey rear extension. Replacement windows and alterations and conversion of existing garage with new pitched roof.

Recommendation: No objection.

DM/2021/01431 Red Barn Farm, Crick Road, Shirenewton

Double garage

Council objected to this application as it would contravene both Condition 3 of planning application DM/2020/01157 and planning policy H5:

Application DM/2020/01157 was for the construction of a new dwelling in the open countryside. At the time, this Council objected to the size of the dwelling. Condition 3 of Mon CC's Decision Notice for this application reads as follows:

"Notwithstanding the provisions of Article 3, Schedule 2, Part 1 Classes A B C D E F & H of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2013 (or any Order revoking and re-enacting that Order with or without modification) no enlargements, improvements or other alterations to the dwelling house or any outbuildings shall be erected or constructed. REASON: If substantial extensions or alterations were necessary this development would not normally be favourably considered and would be contrary to policy H5 of the LDP.

Other items of interest

20 is Plenty Road Safety Campaign

Good news - Council had received confirmation from M Hand at Mon CC that the mandatory 20mph speed restrictions through Shirenewton and Mynyddbach were planned to be installed in January 2022.

Issues raised by members of the public

- status of 'green wedge' between Shirenewton and Mynyddbach.

Residents who attended the meeting were concerned about the future of the designated 'green wedge'. The Chair explained that he had attended a Mon CC meeting on 16.8.21 on the Replacement Local Development Plan (RDLP). The preferred plan is currently out for consultation and proposed housing for the Chepstow area is on green belt. Mr Hand, Head of Placemaking, Regeneration, Highways and Flooding at Mon CC confirmed that green belt/wedge status (LC6) would be reviewed under the RDLP by next summer, when further information would be provided.

Residents explained their concerns regarding building on this area of protection –

- Maintaining village identity and sense of place;
- Keeping clear boundaries;
- Containing development and preserving open and green character of the landscape;
- Benefit for wildlife.

They further said they were not against development, but in the right place.

County Councillor Brown had also expressed concern to the Planning Policy Manager that policy LC6 (green wedges) had not been included in the RLDP at this stage. Mon CC is currently considering major sites, rural sites are likely to be considered at a later stage.

The Chair confirmed that the Community Council is committed to protecting the current green wedge and will keep residents informed when developments occur. It was also suggested that this Council, as well as residents, write in to Mon CC, their AM and MP, to express their concerns at an early stage.

Relocation of substation at Clearview.

Several residents had expressed concern over Western Power's (WP) proposal to relocate the substation from a resident's garden to the grass verge at Clearview. This would entail WP purchasing a piece of grass verge from Mon CC and was their preferred option, however residents felt this location on public open space would be intrusive. WP stated that other options had been considered but were not viable. The lease of the current substation would end in March 2022, and as the new substation would be significantly larger than the current one (3m x 2.1m x 2.65m) to allow for potential future housing development and electric charging points, a new location was being sought.

Both the Council and residents felt that the other options available to WP had not been fully examined. Council had responded to Mon CC's consultation on the sale of the grass verge requesting that the decision be postponed until WP responded with more detailed information on other options.

Updating of play equipment in Shirenewton - Following agreement to install a bank of swings in the play area at last month's meeting, final costs were agreed as follows:

Purchase of swings - £3590

Removal of safety surfacing £450

Installation of swings and new safety surfacing £1580 – **Total £5620.**

If climbing frame needs to be moved, a further £720 - **Total £6340.**

Dates of next meetings: Monday 4th October and Monday 1st November 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



Contact Rebecca on
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Here are some of the exciting learning tasks that our learners have enjoyed during their first month back in school ...

PEOPLE WHO HELP US



Our new Reception children have quickly settled happily into school life and are enjoying learning about "people who help us". They have some exciting visitors coming to see them in the forthcoming weeks to teach them about their jobs.

SPONSORED DANCE



Tîm Coed Coch (Redwood Team - Reception & Year 1) have completed a sponsored dance to raise money for their forthcoming Delve and Discover day where they will enjoy a special day with the "Clever Cogz" company role playing in a hospital, vet surgery, hairdressers, police station, post office and building site.

ROUND THE WORLD

Tîm Helyg (Willow Team - Year 2 and Year 3) have already visited Australia and India so far this term in their 'round the world' studies. They have made boomerangs, aboriginal art, rangoli patterns, chapattis and learned an Indian dance.

PHOTOGRAPHY



Fantastic creativity and collaboration with Tîm Derwen's (Oak Team - Year 4 and Year 5) forced perspective photography - the end results were very impressive!

WWII



Tîm Collen (Hazel Team - Year 6) are studying the Second World War; some of their learning activities so far include - employing freeze frame techniques to represent propaganda posters, using a range of musical instruments to create a WWII soundscape and making Anderson shelters.

HEALTH & WELLBEING



To further promote Health & Wellbeing the older classes have started their "Amser ffit Hwyl" where they participate in the daily mile and can choose to practise circus skills, mindfulness colouring, ping pong and karaoke during this special pupil-led chill-out session.

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Gardening Corner

It pains me to say it but after some 30 years of bee-keeping I am beginning to lose interest in these industrious little critters. Apart from the one fateful year when I lost all of my hives (I think I had around 7 or 8 at the time) due to the explosion of wasps that year. They mounted ceaseless attacks to rob the honey from the bees, rapidly weakening the strength of the hives as they did so. It takes some ten or twelve bees dying to kill a single wasp, whereas of course a wasp can just keep on stinging. This year has been one of self-destruction as the bees have been robbing each other, which does happen occasionally, but not at the level seen this year. They have been finding any small crack or space to gain entry into the chosen hives, even though I have tried to reduce entrances, and make sure any gaps are too small for a bee to gain entry where it shouldn't. So, I am now down to eight hives, which is the lowest number I have had for some years. They now seem content, and the robbing at long last appears to have stopped. The hives that are left appear to be strong, and assuming they survive the coming Winter, they should start off well next year. I will then have a battle on my hands to try to stop them swarming, which will not be easy.

It is clear that gardening has had a resurgence as a result of Covid, one shining light out of months of pain and distress for so many families. Those of you that have were keen gardeners before the outbreak already knew the delight of growing your own food. The taste that is so much better than anything you can buy from the supermarkets, not to mention the health benefits that the exercise, and being out in the fresh air also provide. We are fortunate in that we have a large garden, and have enjoyed the benefits that this has brought for several decades. My only hope is that, having discovered the delights of gardening this year, newbies stick with it and continue to enjoy the delights of their hard work. This year has been a challenge, as the weather hasn't always played ball. For some it has been one of the best growing years, whilst for others, it has not been so kind. For us it has been a mixed bag. Obviously, the bees haven't helped! Potatoes were in early and we managed to protect them from the late frosts, but the dry weather didn't help and we were hit by blight, which meant that they had to be dug up probably a month before they should have been. We had the number, but just not necessarily the size that we would like to see. As a result, the number of meals with baked potatoes, will be limited! We grow tomatoes in the tunnel or greenhouse so blight generally is not a problem. Unless one variety does exceptionally well, I tend to change the selection at seed buying time. The varieties for cooking are now well established Gigantomo and Big or Super Mama (apologies, but I don't name them!) always provide a good crop, and are meaty and flavoursome. They are ideal for making passata sauce (along with our own garlic, onions, bay leaves and basil) as well as being superb chopped up fresh with basil, topped off with grated parmesan and grilled on top of ciabatta rolls. Mmmm, I can taste it now! Unfortunately, eating wise (with salads etc., has not been so successful. We always used to grow cherry tomatoes, but these days we need a variety that not only tastes good, but is also top for appearances. This is because we usually try to submit vegetables and flowers into one of the local horticultural shows. This is proving to be a bit more of a challenge and this year has been no exception. The one variety, was a small black cherry. The tomatoes formed but many remained the size of a pea for the entire summer. The other was sold as a top show variety but was excellent to eat as well. Although this grew better than the first, it still wasn't as successful as I would have hoped. All of the different

bean crops started off well, but ran into the very brief spell of very hot weather, and the fact that we had received very little rain for some time, along with the heat did them no favours. The soil was turning to dust and I could do little about it as watering (being on a meter) was out of the question. What we need is a good supply of well-rotted manure to help maintain the moisture and fertility in the soil, but this seems to be like hen's teeth to find (hens don't have teeth so assume it's impossible!). We do have six large compost bins where we try to make as much of our own compost as possible, but with a garden the size we have, this goes nowhere.

With this season rapidly coming to an end, the harvesting of remaining crops continues and the small greenhouse is now almost full with garlic, onions, and shallots. All nicely dried ready for the Winter. There are numerous trays as well, full of different varieties of beans and pea pods. These are drying and will soon be podded – providing the seed for next year and saving money in the process. The greenhouse crops that are coming to an end are being removed. Rather than leaving the ground empty, we are trying to replace with either an over wintering crop, or are experimenting this year with annual flowers for cutting. So courgettes and melons are being replaced with cauliflowers and calabrese, or stocks, cosmos, gypsophylla and scabious. The stocks are biennials, so hopefully will give us some early flowers next year, whereas the other being true annuals will start flowering shortly. Whether we get much success will depend on when the first frost arrives and whether we can protect the plants for a couple of weeks with horticultural fleece. It may work or it might not, but worth a try. The cauliflowers and calabrese will be the same, but nothing ventured, nothing gained. Outside in the raised beds, again some of the crops have come to an end and we are removing them and cleaning the ground of weeds and crop remains. What little compost we have is then spread on the individual bed, covered with black ground cover and then

left for the winter. Hopefully the worms in the soil will drag the compost down, improving conditions for next year. This year has been reasonably successful for many of the 'greens' and at long last I am getting the hang of sowing 'little and often', so instead of half a packet of seeds at the same time, I'm sowing around ten seeds at a time and when ready, planting these in their designated bed. Just before I'm ready to plant, I then sow the next ten seeds and so on. If you have a small garden or limited sowing space like a windowsill, this method is ideal. It certainly reduces the amount of waste produce as well. The deputy head gardener also benefits as well in that the size of the crop fits in perfectly with the freezing / pickling / chutney making cycle! Because of a strict protection regime, we are managing to get many crops to the



end of their cycle without too much attention from the various caterpillars and bugs that enjoy the crops more than us. This year even our carrots have mostly survived without too much attention from carrot root fly which in a bad year renders the crop inedible. The same pest can do serious damage to other root crops such as parsnips and celeriac, so these get the same protection. The biggest pest by far for us this year has been slugs, but for the first time for many years, we have noted that a hedgehog has been visiting us. Hopefully next year we will have several, as they are the best protection from slugs and snails.

So it hasn't been all doom and gloom in the garden this year. As well as a reasonable crop of veg to keep us going, we have grown many more flowers. The garden as a result has looked great, and the house has benefitted, from the sight and scent of numerous vases of flowers. We have even managed to start selling some as well, which if nothing else, helps us to buy the seed for next year. Agricultural shows have also been like the proverbial hen's teeth (again!) this year, although as you may be aware, the organisers of Usk show bit the bullet and went for it, becoming the only show in the calendar for this year. Although not the best year for growing, we decided to enter. The show committee much be congratulated for what they achieved on the day. It was a fantastic effort and any praise they get was well deserved. Shame that there were problems with traffic and as a result the committee, but show secretary in particular, got some completely uncalled for criticism from some individuals who clearly need to get a life. Anyone who heads off to a show which is well advertised as ticket only (but without any tickets), or leave home at 12.00 noon or later, for a show that started at 9.00, clearly need to get a lesson or two on self-discipline or whatever it is that they need to organise themselves! As for us, we have never entered the show competitions, although have gone every year to the show itself. In the end we went for it, and entered more classes than originally intended. The level of competition is high, so we weren't holding out much hope. But we did OK. I won a number of first, second and thirds (as well as many 'not placed'!) and won two cups for garden dahlias, so was well pleased in the end. The deputy head gardener managed a first (resulting in a cup for best pedestal) and second in flower arranging (out of three entries), a first for her pear, date and walnut chutney and a second for Damson gin. It was very hard work over three days preparation, and we fell into our armchairs Saturday night, totally exhausted. Inevitably, the Damson gin took a hit, so was no more – but the good news is that there are more bottles where that came from! As always, happy gardening until next month. *Steve and Felicity Hunt.*



SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

Our first meeting will be in our new venue on Tuesday 28th September at 7.30pm at the Church Room, Shirenewton.

The title of the talk will be '*Prince & Pauper*' given by Graham Watkins. Graham, will tell us all about the life of Owain Glyndwr, the Welsh prince, who spent time in Monmouthshire during the Welsh revolt, who disappeared and was never seen again. There are many theories into his disappearance and I am sure we will be fascinated to hear a few of these tales.

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday, 26th October

The Jenkins Vase, given by Chris Dale

Tuesday, 30th November

The Great and Good, given by Bill Clark

Both these talks will be held in the Church Room and are not to be missed, look forward to seeing everyone.

We still have a few historic walks left, '*Beating the Bounds of the Parish of Saint Thomas a Becket, Shirenewton*'. The front cover shows the Tredegar Arms in better times.

Everyone will be warmly welcomed to these meetings.

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FRIDAY, 29th OCTOBER 2021 AT 7.30 p.m.



Mark Smith, the medals and militaria expert from the Antiques Roadshow, will talk about the Victoria Cross in the Church Room.

In order to comply with current COVID restrictions as they apply to Church premises as of 1st September 2021, **PLEASE BOOK IN BEFOREHAND** with Bill Clark by Monday 25th October 2021 by email at marksbillclark@gmail.com or by phone on 01291641783.

Please enter by the main door and leave by the fire doors and wear a mask when entering and leaving the Church Hall. Masks are not required when seated or eating and drinking, or for the speaker, or when you ask questions. Please bring your own food and drink, plates and glasses.

Please arrive at 7 p.m. and Mark will be introduced and when everyone has something to eat and drink he will begin his talk at about 7.30. There will be a short break and then Mark will take questions.

SO PLEASE LET BILL KNOW IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THIS FASCINATING TALK BY A LEADING EXPERT IN MEDALS AND MILITARIA BY MONDAY 25th OCTOBER.

Please do not attend if you do not feel well or have tested positive for Covid in the last ten days

SHIRENEWTON W.I. LATE SUMMER OUTING

There were 19 of us who gathered together for our annual summer outing, which this year, took the form of a lovely evening meal at Panevino, Chepstow. Smiles all round as you can see. We were celebrating that we had managed to continue our W.I. meetings in one form or another throughout the last 18 months of Covid. We are also delighted that we are now able to return to meeting at Shirenewton Recreation Hall. Although Zoom has served us well throughout the pandemic, we are all so grateful to be meeting up again in person and this will also give us greater scope in the activities we can offer in our programme.



Our next meeting is on **Thursday 14th Oct at 7.15 at Shirenewton Recreation Hall**. Our speaker will be Jeni Harper talking about her involvement in Hedgehog Rescue. Jeni has lots of tips on how you can support hedgehogs should you be so lucky as to have one visit your garden. If you would like to join us, then please contact either Jane Butterworth—janeb247@gmail.com or Diane Ashton Smith (01291 628838) or just come along and join us.

Jackie Broughton

THE BURGEONING HEDGEHOG POPULATION

Numbers of hedgehogs seem to be heading in the right direction with lots of sightings over the summer and early autumn. As a result, we need people to spread the word about driving carefully after dark because hedgehogs are on the move and have been spotted on several roads in Shirenewton and Mynyddbach; along the main road past the TA, on Red House Lane and on Old School Hill. There are still small ones around so they can look like a small pile of leaves/horse poop so please steer around just in case. Also, if anyone would be happy to be a release garden for rehabilitated hedgehogs, please drop me a line: jeni.harper@cantab.net

The requirements for a release garden are:

- Shrubs/wild areas in the garden

- A nesting box (can be purchased from Hedgehog helpline cymru or most garden centres)

- Willing to provide food every evening (wet/dry cat/dog food)

- Provide fresh water

- Any ponds to have shallow areas to allow escape if a hog fell in

- Have a safe garden with access to neighbouring gardens/wild space

If anyone has a completely enclosed garden, we would also be keen to hear from them for a new project.

Many thanks!

Jeni




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STARGAZING

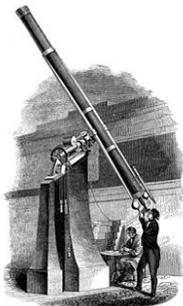


Stargazing in October 2019

As it is now getting darker earlier there are more opportunities for stargazing. This is particularly true after the clocks go back on 31st October, giving extra darkness in the evening. The bright planet Jupiter can be seen to the south in the evening sky with the planet Saturn to its right. On the 14th October, the Waxing Gibbous Moon forms a triangle with Jupiter and Saturn (Waxing Gibbous: the Moon is between half and full illumination).

The constellation of Cygnus the Swan lies pretty much directly above. It is in the shape of a cross – in fact it is sometimes called the Northern Cross. According to legend, Jupiter the king of the Gods changed himself into a swan when he wanted to visit Leda, the wife of the King of Sparta. In memory of the episode, he placed a swan in the sky. Deneb, the brightest star in the constellation, is at the tail of the swan, whilst Albireo forms the "head" of the Swan. Albireo is worth looking at through a small telescope. It consists of 2 separate stars, one gold in colour the other blue.

Looking at Jupiter with binoculars or small telescope should give a good view of Jupiter's four largest moons: Io, Europa, Ganymede and Callisto – they form a line with the planet. In 1610 the Italian scientist Galileo used a telescope for the first time and discovered the moons of Jupiter. The four moons have been called the Galilean Moons ever since.





MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL
CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd & Making Music, and is a
Registered Charity (no. 112798)
www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk/S/

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY 2021 – MOVING FORWARD.

Like every other choral society or singing group, CCS has inevitably been out of action singing-wise since mid- March 2020.

For ALL choral groups and active music makers, the last 18 months have presented major challenges, and this is particularly the case for "small-town" groups. Committees have not been idle –far from it! – much has been attempted – for obvious reasons choral singing has not been a priority for many-- but we are now in a position to at least start to look ahead.

Chepstow Choral Society's last Concert was for Christmas 2019. We now very much hope that, with a re-start of rehearsals underway, at Chepstow Leisure Centre, Wednesday evenings, 7.30pm, we will be able to undertake a Christmas Music presentation this year. Anyone intending to come to rehearsals must notify CCS at present by phone, please (number below) – sorry, this is to comply with our own safety protocol and also the Leisure Centre protocol and entrance arrangements.

An ACTIVE RECRUITMENT DRIVE will also soon be underway. Choral Societies need singers! Come along and join us at CCS as we now move forward! Male voices will be particularly welcomed!

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS WILL BE AVAILBLE VIA CCS WEBSITE and please contact 01291 623310 if you intend to join with us –as said, this is to comply with protocol and organisation at the Centre

Please also be aware that the situation remains ever-changing, often at short notice!

Thank You.

Marjorie Duerden Asst MD, CCS – 01291 623310



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SODS are Reconvening!

Oh yes, we are.

Something got in the way last year - can't remember what - but hey we're not perfect, and sometimes we forget the plot.

But we are going to give it a bash this year - so if you fancy treading the boards, being backstage, stitching a few costumes, making props, pouring out the wine or anything really, please, please get in touch!

And if small fry are interested in being little SODS, please let me know.

It will be a week later this year (next year?) to hopefully avoid any.... unpleasantness.

So, bookmark these dates:

Thurs 4th, Fri 5th and Sat 6th Feb 2022.

Contact: Glynis 641 818 or
glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

PS: and the panto is....?

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FAIRTRADE NEWS September 2021



For two weeks, starting from the 31st October, the UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference, otherwise known as COP 26, 'the Glasgow COP'. In 2015, COP 21 yielded the Paris Agreement, which has been formally endorsed by 191 of the 197 countries involved in the discussion. As you probably know Trump withdrew the USA, but Biden reversed this. It set out a broad plan to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, considered to be the highest relatively 'safe' rise. Globally current policies would plunge us into 2.9 degrees C of global warming. Increased desertification, drought, agricultural collapse, flooding and the desperate migration of peoples will result in major conflicts; not to mention the collapse of many species.

As the host of COP 26 the UK is facing huge international scrutiny. Greenpeace's thorough audit has found that the UK has currently imposed less than a quarter of policies needed. Eye-catching omissions include the proposed vast new **Cambo oil and gas field**, plans to approve the **first deep coal mine** in the UK for 30 years in Cumbria, withdrawal of the plan to **insulate** homes (currently causing XR protesters to block the M25), and perhaps the most insidious of all the decision to cut the foreign aid budget by **£4 billion**. And this after Boris urged developed countries to help the developing countries cope with the climate catastrophe that they have hardly contributed to.

Listening to Boris' address to the UN on climate is an unreal experience. For me it was a treat. Clever-clever idea to equate our point in homo sapiens development with a human's adolescence : the assumption of immortality, narcissism, the idea that someone will clear up the mess, because of course they have always done that before.

The idea of Boris lecturing the world on its immaturity and selfishness, its lack of responsibility is, for me, an absolute hoot! (Though I appreciate that this is not everyone's view!) He likes a classical allusion, so I tried to find a Greek god of Irony who could have looked down in astonished disbelief at his utter brass neck! (I found 'Momus'). Incidentally as recently as 2015 Boris was still questioning the idea of human-induced climate change (along with several high ranking members of the government eg Anne-Marie Trevelyan (Secretary of State for International Trade). It's interesting to remember that Tory hero Margaret Thatcher actually took climate change very seriously and tried to encourage world leaders to implement change.

As I have explained before, environmental sustainability is a key criterion for the award of the Fairtrade mark. There seems to be a general consensus that we need to buy less, but buy better. Cheap stuff is paid for somewhere along the line. Growers, producers, manufacturers and the environment suffer. Buy Fairtrade – the world is worth it!

Marion McAdam 641316 msm316gmail.com
Don't forget Ethical Superstore! - as well as Traidcraft, of course!

The Bells

The bells are now rung for Sunday Service and a regular Friday night practice takes place between 7.30 and 8.00 pm – we have yet to revert to our normal practice of 90 minutes. The bells are still only rung from the nave so that those not ringing can maintain social distancing by using the space within the body of the church. We have also been able to ring the bells for a recent wedding so things are very slowly coming towards a pre-pandemic normal.

When ringing bells the simplest form is to ring down a diatonic scale. So on six bells this would be 123456, 123456 repeat.... Each repeat is known as a "row". This repeating of this scale is known as "rounds". However, what fascinates ringers is the ringing of changes. These start and end with "rounds" but the conductor of the bells will command a set of changes known as a "method". The rules for method ringing dictate that anyone bell can only change one place within the row, and that each row must be unique and not repeat the sequence of any previous row – that is to explore the sequence permutations.

So a simple demonstration of a "method" on 3 bells can be denoted as follows:

123
213
231
321
312
132
123

So this method on 3 (known as "plain hunt singles") fulfils the rules in that for each row the sequence is unique and that each bell does not move more than one place within the row. It is also of note that the number of changes is 6, which is the maximum number of permutations on 3. This can be calculated as factorial 3: i.e. $3 \times 2 \times 1 = 6$.

Things get slightly more complicated on 4 bells for which a maximum number of permutations is factorial 4 = 24, and if the method "plain hunt" shown above is applied to 4 bells only 8 of these permutations can be achieved – as shown in column 1. So to achieve the 24 changes a more complex method is required – as continued in columns 2 and 3 by not reverting to "rounds" at the bottom of column 1. This method is known as "plain bob minimus"

1234	1342	1423
2143	3124	4132
2413	3214	4312
4231	2341	3421
4321	2431	3241
3412	4213	2314
3142	4123	2134
<u>1324</u>	1432	<u>1243</u>
1234		1234

St Thomas a Becket, Shirenewton has 6 bells with a maximum number of changes of factorial 6 = 720. To see how this achieved you will have to wait until the next thrilling instalment of "The Bells". Keep safe.

Mike Penney.

Nerys's Natty Nosh

We first sampled this dish in a Mexican Restaurant on the Grand Princess ship whilst visiting the Caribbean. I have recreated the dish as I enjoyed it so much. This time I used white rum as I did not have any Tequila. Hope this brings a little sunshine into your lives today.



Tequila Prawns

Ingredients

1 tablespoon olive oil
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon paprika
250g of raw peeled and deveined prawns
1 onion chopped fine
2 cloves garlic, minced
1/2 small cup tequila
1 small cup chicken stock
2 teaspoons lemon juice
1 tsp tomato purée
1/4 tsp fresh grated ginger
1 tbsp soya cream/ or dairy single cream
1 tsp maple syrup
Garnish with

chopped coriander and finely diced sweet pepper
Season to taste

Serve with

2 bundles of brown rice noodles/ or rice

Avocado Garnish:

- 1 avocado sliced
- Sweet dipping sauce
- Chopped chives

Method

Cook the rice noodles/rice according to instruction.
Heat olive oil in a frying pan over medium-high heat.
Cook the shrimp until they turn pink. Remove from the pan.

Fry the onions, garlic, and ginger until the onions are soft.
Add cumin and paprika. Stir.
Add the tequila, stock, tomato purée, lemon, maple syrup and cream to the pan.
When heated add the prawns. Cook for a couple of minutes.
Season to taste
Garnish with the chopped coriander.
Make the avocado garnish. Assemble and enjoy.

Poached Pears.

Serves 2

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Poached Pear

Ingredients

2 pears, peeled
1 tablespoon ginger jam
2 gingers in syrup
1 star anise
1 tablespoon dry port
1/4 ginger ale.
Few dry roasted almonds
Black currant powder.

Method.

Add everything except the almonds and blackcurrant powder into a microwave dish. Cover with cling film and microwave for 4 minutes.

Leave the pears to sit in the liquid for several hours.

When ready to serve either blitz the sauce as it is or add a little single cream to it. I used dairy free soya cream.

Serve decorated with roasted almonds and blackcurrant powder (optional). Enjoy!

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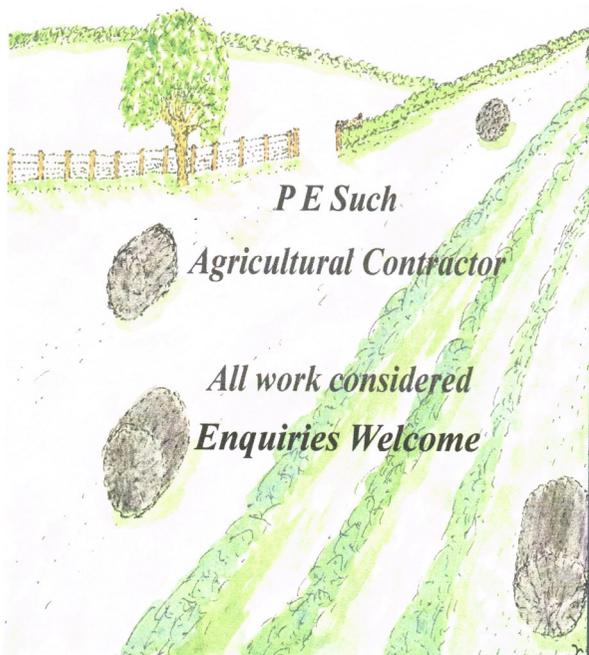


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SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

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This month my 3-year subscription to Avast Professional ran out. 3 years ago, I paid £40 for the three years – not bad at £13.33 per year. Avast started asking me to renew about 3 months ago. A mere £50 would allow me to renew – not for three years but for a single year! I ignored it confident that as the deadline approached the offers would get better. They did – marginally. The best offer I got was £109 for three years. So I deleted it and purchase Bitdefender Internet Security which costs £20 for 3 devices for a year.

Why did Avast not make me a sensible offer – I have no idea – but they didn't and that has cost them my business. I don't have any particular axe to grind with the various internet security suites available and simply googled "best internet security suite 2021 UK". Sensible tech sites like techradar, pcmag and so on all rated bitdefender and, at £20 for the year for 3 devices, it was a slam dunk.

So the moral of the story is, just like everything in life, shop around when it comes time to renew. Read the reviews (make sure that the reviews are current as some years some brands fall behind) and then make a decision. Simple really.

An article in the Telegraph caught my eye (<https://tinyurl.com/5y94vt79>). In essence a long term Paypal customer ran a lottery syndicate of eight people (at work) and whereas most paid her in cash, a couple paid her via paypal with a note saying 'lottery'. This led to the account being frozen and, only with the interjection of the Telegraph's 'Consumer Champion' was the account re-open with strict instructions never to accept lottery-related payments from anyone again. Paypal said: "We do not allow customers to use PayPal to run any form of gambling activity, including raffles and lotteries, without our prior written approval". You have been warned.

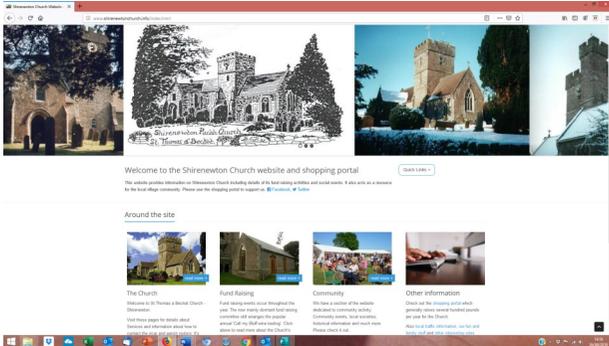
Finally, not really a techie thing but something which has been all over the news. If your passport is coming up to its expiry date, be aware that the EU is only recognising passports are being valid if they have more than 6 months left ***10 years from the date of issue***. This is a subtle point as many UK passports last for long than 10 years as the unexpired time is added onto the standard 10-year duration. Therefore, say your passport was issued on 1st October 2011 and, when you renewed it, you had three months validity left. The new passport would be valid from 1st October 2011 through to 31st December 2021 (rather than 30th Sept 2021) because the unexpired three months would be added to the expiry date.

The problem is that the EU doesn't recognise the unexpired three months and therefore, as far as they are concerned, the passport can no longer be used after 31st March 2021. This is because you need 6 months validity on your passport and a passport's validity is counted as being 10 years from the date of issue – regardless of what the actual passport itself says with respect to expiry dates!

I suspect the government isn't unhappy about that as it means that passports will be renewed more often and that means more revenue for the government! So check those passport expiry dates.

Safe browsing

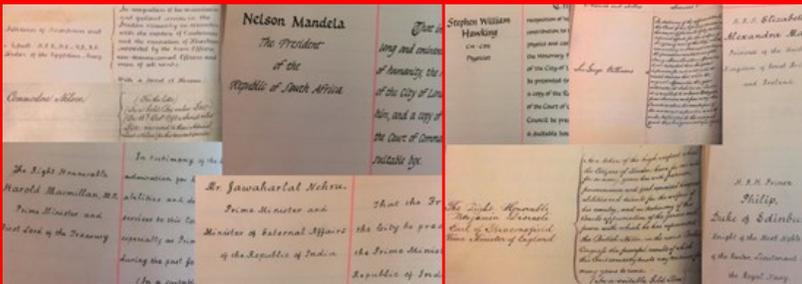
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For more details email wcgandg@gmail.com



SHIRENEWTON VILLAGE MARKET UPDATE

Things are getting back to normal – the Recreational Hall is open again, but we're not ready to start back with the Village Market just yet.....

We will return in the New Year!

We'd like to thank our previous stallholders & customers for their past support & look forward to their continued support in the future.





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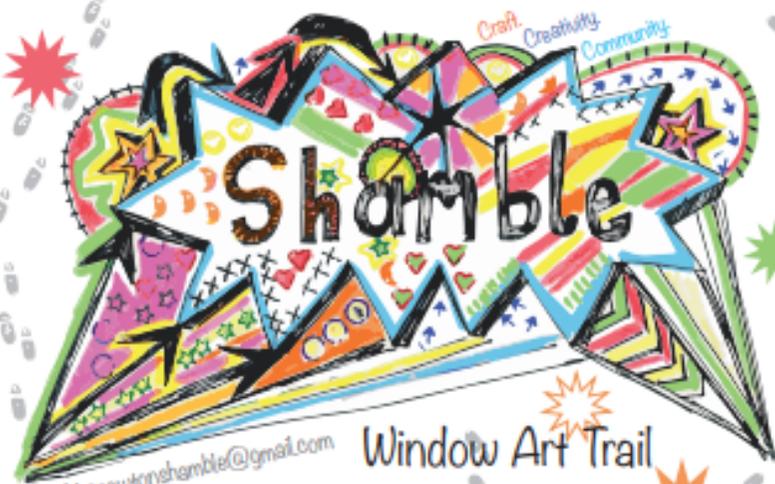
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From Saturday afternoon you can pick up a map from the old telephone box in Shirenewton and then 'shamble' around the village with friends, neighbours & family. You can also borrow our hi-vis jackets for the night which will also be in the old telephone box.

Make sure you can see and be seen on the night, bring a torch and wear hi-vis!

This is a family friendly community event. All welcome!

 @ShireSHAMBLE

 shirenewton_shamble

 Shirenewton, Mynydd Bach and Earlswood Community group

SHAMBLE: Shirenewton And Mynydd Bach Illumination Extravaganza!

Will there be craft afternoons or a party at the Rec this year? We're not planning craft afternoons or a party due to the changing nature of Government Covid-19 rules.

Where can I get a map? There will be copies of the map and also lots of high-vis jackets in the phone box near the Tredegar Arms on the evenings of 16th and 17th October (please return the jackets when you've used them so we can use them again next year). We will also make the map available online.



Follow us on social media

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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



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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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