

Shirenewton Parish Magazine



September 2022

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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**

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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 the October issue is
9:00 a.m. Monday 26th September 2022**

FROM THE VICARAGE

Julian E LI White

The formation of the new Severn-Wye Ministry Area (which includes our churches with those of the Chepstow, Mathern and St. Arvans groups) continues to develop.

As reported earlier, this is scheduled for November 27th.

The churches have had a number of discussion meetings with Ministry Area representatives at which concerns and other points of view have been raised. The parishes have been requested to vote and to indicate their willingness, or otherwise, on whether to accept the Ministry Area proposals.

I understand that the formation of the Ministry Area will advance whatever the outcome of the vote but, I believe, it is important to place on record the decision reached by each church in respect of such proposals.

To this end, Shirenewton Church will hold a meeting in the Saysell Rooms on the 24th August at 7.30pm.

It is good to see, no matter potential concerns among some, the level of interest this issue has generated. Whilst differing views have been expressed over the course of the debate, it is encouraging to witness genuine passion held by all parties concerning the present position and future development of their parish.

There is a worry, voiced by some, that the creation of the Ministry Area might result in standardisation of worship throughout the group in the future. I have, for example, argued for the retention of the 1662 rite at St. Pierre and the 1984 order of the Holy Eucharist in Mathern and Mounton along with a more contemporary setting as offered in Shirenewton. I was pleased to receive clarification from the Archdeacon recently: *"I totally agree that standardisation of services would actually be against the ethos of the ministry area which we hope will encourage diverse worship catering for different traditions."*

Over recent weeks, and planned for the future, it is hoped to introduce something of a diversity among those officiating on a Sunday. Already members of the congregation have extended a welcome to Revd. Stephen Lodwick (introduced by Warden Andrew Baker) and Revd. John Waters who have agreed to 'come on board' in this respect. I am also pleased to announce that Revd. Alan Tyler (Chaplain at the Royal Gwent Hospital, along with other health establishments) will be among us in the near future. I am especially pleased to welcome Alan as I conducted his marriage in St. Pierre church a couple of years ago.

As you will appreciate, these are significant times in the life of our parish. I trust that the future will bring a degree of stability and the opportunity to face the time ahead with confidence and vision.

With every blessing; Julian White

Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in July:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Hugh James | 2. Alex Baker |
| 3. Janet Horton | 4. Terry Hicks |

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC) GRANTS TO THE PCC

The PCC is delighted to report that Shirenewton Community Council (SCC) approved the following grants at their meeting on Monday 8th August 202:

£500 contribution to the Parish Magazine printing costs

£800 contribution to grass cutting and maintenance of the churchyard and grounds

£80 contribution to the Christmas Event

The PCC is very grateful to the SCC for these grants.

Shirenewton Community Council

Includes updates from the July and August Community Council Meetings

Shirenewton Community Council welcomes one new Councillor who was co-opted to Shirenewton Community Council in the 8th August meeting.

Gary Mitchell has now joined the existing list of councillors.

Philip Butterworth

Keith Dunn

Ian Martin

Andy Williamson

Elizabeth Wixcey

Planning Applications Considered in July

DM/2022/00768 Little Folly, Bluebell Road, Earlswood

Conversion, alteration and extension of outbuildings to dwelling, installation of sewage treatment plant and creation of visibility splay.

Recommendation: Unanimous no objection but would suggest that the following points be considered:

That there should be no further structures or extensions without full planning consent taking account of policy H4

Exterior lighting shall not permit light spill to distract bats or disturb the night sky or be visible across the Catroggi Valley which is an area of special landscape.

DM/2022/00916 Tyr Ywen, Weyloed Lane, Mynyddbach

Construction of a single storey extension to kitchen, and annex comprised of double garage with ancillary accommodation above.

Recommendation: Unanimous Objection on the below grounds (please note one Council member "disclosed an interest" with regards to this application and did not partake in the discussion or vote)

Adverse impact in size and colouring of the front facing elevation

Need for a restriction coupling the use of the annex with the house in single family occupational.

Planning Applications Considered in August

DM/2022/00524 Bluebell Farm, Blackbird Farm Road, Earlswood

Demolition of existing pool house and storage and construct replacement pool house and storage.

...continued page 9



HARVEST CELEBRATION

Sunday 2nd October at 10:00

***Watch out for more details in
next month's magazine!***

FROM THE REGISTERS BAPTISM

Alice Merryn Connolly was baptised on 19th June 2022. The Reverend John Waters officiated.

FUNERAL

Peter Williamson was buried on 5th August 2022. The Reverend John Waters officiated.

FOOD BANK

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) would like to remind everyone in the Parish that they operate a food bank from the Church.

Donations can be left in the Church when it is open, or in the porch when it is locked. This important facility is a lifesaver for those who depend on it, so please give generously.

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From page 6... Recommendation : Unanimous No objection but SCC requests conditions requiring a lighting scheme for the whole site to prevent light spillage from inside and out, with particular regard to the bat population.

Recreation Field Improvement Project Update

In the Community Council meeting on the 8th August, the Community Council acknowledged the status of the project having met with Shirenewton Recreation Association on the 28th July 2022 and put out the following communications:

“Councillors have now met with the Recreation Association and discussed the Recreation Field Improvement Project proposals. It was agreed that the current Community Council plan would be paused awaiting a further meeting with the Recreation Association in September.

The Recreation Association Committee Members are proposing to conduct a new public survey of the villages in due course to get a better understanding of what people want to see at the Recreation field to ensure it is better utilised and provides for future generations.

Councillors wish to record their thanks to those residents who have made contact with the clerk with their views, both for and against. We will send out further updates in due course.”

“We haven’t withdrawn the application as yet, as an MCC planning officer has requested a call with Councillor Andy Williamson to discuss the project. The resulting advice will dictate the best way forward.”

The Council noted that at this moment in time, the longer the pause in the project continues the more likely that the funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund will be withdrawn.

The Community Council have approved the following applications for Grants to Local Organisations

The Council approved local donations to the value of £1680 (one thousand, six hundred and eighty pounds) and agreed that payments would be made in September.

The Council also agreed £100 funding for Monmouthshire County Citizens Advice having considered the data provided on local people who have been helped.

Organisation	Amount requested	Project total	Project details
Shirenewton PCC	£500	Est £3300 pa	Contribution towards the printing costs of the Parish Magazine
Shirenewton PCC	£800	£3,000	Grass cutting and maintenance of churchyard and grounds, income lower due to current COVID-19 pandemic
Shirenewton PCC	£80		Donation towards Christmas event 'Carols around the Tree'
Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial Hall	£200	£1266	Replace Fire Door at side of the hall from the bar area, with a fit for purpose door. The original wooden one has swollen and is difficult to open and secure properly.
Shirenewton and Mynydd Bach iLlumination Extravaganza (ShAMBLE) LATE APPLICATION 28 July 2022	£100	£271	The Shirenewton and MynyddBach iLlumination Extravaganza (ShAMBLE) is a community window art project where residents of the village are asked to decorate their windows over a weekend in October, turning the village into an art gallery that people can wander round whilst meeting their neighbours.
Total	£1680		

Community Council Noticeboards

The Council have taken delivery of a new noticeboard from Earth Anchors on the 30th May 2022. However, following a failure of the Community Council noticeboard at Gaerllwyd Junction, requiring an urgent, temporary fix, the Council agreed in the August meeting, that the new noticeboard should be used to replace this damaged noticeboard and that an additional noticeboard would be ordered for Earlswood Village Hall location.

County Councillor Report July 2022 County Councillor Brown advised:

County Council Meeting on the 23rd of June 2022 Religion, Values and Ethics

The above County Council meeting approved the new agreed syllabus for RVE (Religion, Values and Ethics) with the caveat that the Cabinet member would write to the Heads of schools to explain that the EQIA (Equality Impact Assessment) was more

applicable to another part of the curriculum. It has been agreed to review the EQIA at the next SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on RE) meeting.

Abergavenny School

The County Council meeting also approved the new 3-19 Abergavenny school and considered various motions and questions including one on High Beech roundabout, which I put forward and was supported by the Council.

High Beech Roundabout Motion to County Council

The motion said as follows

Submitted by County Councillor Louise Brown

This Council:

Notes the Welsh Government has decided not to progress the WelTAG 2 study on the options for improvement of the High Beech roundabout in Chepstow this year.

Calls on the Welsh Government to urgently commit and financially support all five stages of this study and implement High Beech roundabout studies and improvements as a priority, as the well-known daily traffic congestion and travel delays at this pinch point are having a detrimental impact on the lives of local residents in all areas of life including travelling for school, work, shopping and leisure purposes.

I was informed after the election that the WelTAG2 study on the improvements to High Beech roundabout which was due to be consulted upon in late Spring/Early Summer was not going ahead and being postponed until consideration next year due to funding and priorities elsewhere in Wales.

Hence the reason for the above motion. The WelTAG1 study had 11 options for improvement including 2 at High Beech roundabout itself, one with no more land and one with extra land. The options were due to be narrowed down and further consulted on. Hopefully some more funding may be found this year.

Water Quality in the Rivers Usk and Wye

There was another motion on the water quality concerns in relation to the Wye and Usk Rivers which was supported with a slight amendment to the wording.

The reports to Council can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MIId=4959>

Place Scrutiny Committee on the 30 June 2022

Wye Valley Villages Future Plan

The Place Committee considered various reports including one on the Wye Valley Villages Future Plan. The reports can be found at the following link: <https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=303&MIId=5296>

RLDP

Member's Seminars

The Revised Local Development Plan was due to have a member's seminar on this on the 28th of June, but this has been postponed. There is a new Council administration and the direction of the new RLDP may potentially change but this is unknown yet but may have an affordable housing emphasis.

Chepstow Transport Hub

Public Consultation

There is an online Chepstow Transport Hub public consultation with a deadline of 11.59pm on the 12 July 2022 which can be found at the following link:

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2022/06/your-chance-to-have-your-say-on-the-chepstow-transport-hub-consultation/>

County Councillor Report August 2022

County Councillor Brown advised:

People Scrutiny Committee on the 20th of July 2022

The Committee considered a report on the proposal for assessing the suitability of Council owned land for the potential purpose of addressing the Council's statutory obligation, to meet the identified need to Gypsy and Traveller Sites.

The link to the committee report can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=304&MIId=5357>

County Council on the 21st of July 2022

The County Council received a report on the timing of meetings, together with several motions and questions.

Motion Submitted by Councillor Richard John

Opposes any proposals from the Welsh Ambulance Services Trust to downgrade the ambulance stations in Monmouth and Chepstow by removing the Rapid Response Vehicles.

Calls on WAST executives to attend the appropriate select committee for pre-decision scrutiny of their national roster review

proposals prior to Welsh Government approval and implementation.

The above Motion was approved by the Council.

Clr Richard John, Leader of the Conservative group, also asked the question:

From County Councillor Richard John to County Councillor Rachel Garrick, Cabinet Member for Resources

What assessment has the administration made regarding the impact of the Welsh Government's planned council tax revaluation on Monmouthshire residents?

This question relates to phase one of the Welsh Government consultation on:

"A Fairer Council Tax "which is open until the 4th of October.

The County Council meeting and the reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=143&MIId=4960>

A Fairer Council Tax Consultation:

<https://gov.wales/fairer-council-tax>

It is worth reading the linked in documents to this important Welsh Government "Fairer Tax consultation" by the 2 Institute of Fiscal Studies reports and the University of Sheffield study to consider the potential disproportionate impact on Monmouthshire Council Tax. Monmouthshire is likely to be a net loser if these proposals go ahead potentially pushing hard-pressed families into much higher council tax bands, making it even more expensive and for some local people unaffordable to live here at a time when many are struggling with the cost of living. Phase 2 of the consultation is expected to provide more granular details.

Chepstow High Street

Monmouthshire County Council consulted the people of Chepstow in Spring 2022 about whether the High Street should be re-opened to traffic. A clear majority expressed their preference for the High Street to be re-opened to traffic. On 27th July the Council's Cabinet voted on the recommendation to support the view of the clear majority who responded to the consultation.

The link to the Cabinet reports can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MIId=5038>

Local Resident report of recent accidents on the B4235

Unfortunately, the emergency services do not record all accidents on the Shirenewton to Chepstow B4235, so the following are a note to record these reports in the minutes:

-Accident on the 9th of July 2022 at about 9.15 am, another motorbike and car accident, just by the small cottage called Wellhead on the bend with the stone wall that is frequently knocked down. Fire and paramedics attended and it appeared no-one was seriously injured, with the public again directing traffic.

-Accident on the 4th or 5th of August 2022, with a vehicle coming from Chepstow hit the bank just past the entrance to Coppice Mawri (the small picnic area just inside the 40mph zone coming from Chepstow), glass and car pieces at the side of the road and evidence of impact on the bank.

Dates of next meetings - Monday 5th September 2022 and Monday 3rd October 2022 both at 7.00 pm, by public meeting in Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

Find more information in a draft copy of 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 Natasha Jones

Tel: 01291 650133

E-mail: shirenewtoncc@gmail.com



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Community Council

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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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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>



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

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

Any questions or queries, please contact enquiries@gwentarchives.gov.uk. More information on submitting the diaries will follow.



Eileen O' Dwyer



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SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

We were out and about for our July meeting, we spent the morning at Nantgarw China Works. We were greeted at the door of the cottage and shown into the house where we were given coffee and Welsh cakes and a very interesting illustrated history of the china works. We had the run of the building as we were the only group there on that day. There were examples of the various pieces of china that had been produced in the mid 19th century on display, with one plate valued at £40,000 (yes, I have the right amount of noughts). They are still producing high quality china, often one off dinner services, presentation plates and many more items. The china works is run as a trust, with volunteers manning our visit.

In the afternoon we went ten minutes down the road to the National Collection, which is housed in a very large warehouse on the industrial estate, not open to the general public. Again, we were warmly welcomed and ushered in to a large room, where we given a detailed explanation of the collection housed in the building, (outside in the yard, they had Raglan Station awaiting to be rebuilt in St Fagans.) other items were helicopters, horse drawn trams you name it they had it.

We only saw a very small part of the collection, and are hoping they will allow us to visit it again.

We are planning our 2022/2023 year of talks, our first one will take place on

Tuesday, 20th September, meeting at the Church Room at 7.30 pm. The speaker for the evening will be **Peter Bonvoison** who will give us a talk on the recent archaeological dig down at the outpost of **Llanmelin Iron Age Fort.**

This will be the first meeting of our 2022/2023 year, membership is now due, we are always looking for new members to join of friendly group, please come along and join us.



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CCS NEW SEASON 2022/2023

First Rehearsal – WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 7th, 7.30pm
CHEPSTOW LEISURE CENTRE Arts Hall

THE SEASON'S CONCERT PROGRAMME ---

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14th –Carols, Seasonal Music, traditional items both sacred and secular -with light refreshments. Chepstow LC Arts Hall

SATURDAY MARCH 25th 2023 –a beautiful Passiontide Concert, including Haydn's *Insanae et Vanae Curae*, Mozart's *Coronation Mass* and Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* –with professional orchestra and soloists –St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow

WEDNESDAY JULY 5th 2023—An entertaining *Summer Celebration Concert* including Horowitz's *Captain Noah*, and other popular choral items –with light refreshments included – Chepstow Leisure Centre Arts Hall.

A Choir can only be a "living thing" – without singers and people it ceases to exist! Societies have different chapters of their lives – and CCS is now approaching a new chapter. In our fifth decade, we now need to move forward, rebuild a choir for different times and, in the phrase of current times, "move on" and look ahead, seek new members –with fresh approaches. Nothing thrives by staying the same, but that does not mean we cancel everything from the past or forget our choral roots –but we will be adding lovely new choral music –examples recently being "Jazz Songs of Innocence" by Bob Chilcott, "Sprig of Thyme" selections by John Rutter, and two movements from Will Todd's "Mass In Blue". all performed at our Celebration Concert in July 2022 to a highly enthusiastic audience.

View our website, follow us on Twitter to find out about us and PLEASE come and join us to look towards the next chapter of Chepstow Choral Society!

For more information about how to join CCS as a singing member, please contact Marjorie Duerden tel. (01291) 623310 or view our website. We have no formal audition policy. Like other Choral Societies at this time, we particularly welcome tenors and basses, but equally love to see sopranos and altos! We also will be delighted to enlist new patrons – and supporters!

Come and share the party with us – this is YOUR local Choral Society – let's keep it!

Thank you –Marjorie Duerden

EARLSWOOD & NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL



Macmillan's Coffee Morning

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Tuesday 4th October 2022
10am - 12pm



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SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

Well, apologies to my avid readers for missing last edition's entry. No excuse, I simply didn't get around to it. I note that there were no complaints that publication went ahead without my wise words – oh well.

Firstly, a follow-up on my last (June) piece regarding Clearview AI. I first reported on Clearview in April when I explained: that 'Ukraine's defence ministry has begun using Clearview AI's facial recognition technology to uncover Russian assailants, combat misinformation and identify the dead.' I also reported that 'Clearview is the subject of numerous lawsuits' and, in June added that: 'the ICO (UK Information Commissioners Office) announced in November 2021 its intention to impose a £17 million fine on Clearview AI and had issued a notice to stop Clearview AI further processing the personal data of people in the UK and to delete it following alleged serious breaches of the UK's data protection laws.' I also explained that, following Clearview's representations, the ICO expected 'to make a final decision by mid-2022'. Well you guess it, the day after I submitted the piece to our distinguished editor, the ICO confirmed their decision.

The ICO found that Clearview AI had breached UK data protection laws and it ordered the company to 'stop obtaining and using the personal data of UK residents that is publicly available on the internet, and to delete the data of UK residents from its systems'. The final fine was somewhat less than the £17m initially suggested in the provisional notice, at £7,552,800 - still one of the largest fines issued under the UK GDPR regulations.

We all know that a good security suite is a must for PCs. Some may be using the Kaspersky Anti-Virus suite. If you are, you may wish to re-consider. Germany's BSI federal cybersecurity agency has warned the country's citizens not to install Russian-owned Kaspersky antivirus, saying it has "doubts about the reliability of the manufacturer". Cybernews goes further, saying that 'Let's not beat around the bush here – Kaspersky is in bad company.'. They further note: 'The Russian-owned company has been reported to be in communication with Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) and is responsible for providing them with real-time intelligence and identifying data of customers' computers. Plus, the domain of the Russian Ministry of Defense is hosted in Kaspersky's infrastructure, and Eugene Kaspersky, the owner of the company, has recently refused to condemn the Russian army's cruel and unlawful military actions in Ukraine.'. They also suggest that, even in a standard non-biased evaluation, technically, it's not that good. For the full article visit: <https://tinyurl.com/y2ek97bt> You have been warned.

Moving onto that other pressing (though thankfully apparently receding matter), COVID19. There is an interesting article looking at the success (and otherwise) of the various COVID apps with 'lessons for the future'. The Register article is here: <https://tinyurl.com/kdn9f3cc>. The final chapter of the article (Lessons for the next pandemic) notes: (i) The Australian App was never fit for purpose; (ii) In the UK the future is

uncertain, and (iii) in Singapore, it's continued use suggests that it will simply become another state surveillance tool and that there is speculation 'that technology-enabled virus surveillance – like the virus – is going to be in Singapore forever'.

Finally, as avid readers of this column know only too well, the Cornwell household does not have a smart speaker, mainly because it doesn't want the various manufacturers constantly listening in on them. Earlier this year it was reported that 'Amazon and third-party services have been using smart speaker interaction data for ad targeting, in violation of privacy commitments, according to researchers at four US universities.' The academics claimed 'Amazon processes voice data to infer user interests and uses it to serve targeted ads on-platform (Echo devices) as well as off-platform (web)'. They further claimed that Echo interaction data is collected both by Amazon and third-parties and that Amazon shares user data with as many as 41 ad partners.

They have subsequently clarified their research saying: 'we did not state that Amazon shared raw voice recordings/transcripts with advertisers, but we did find evidence that Amazon processes voice recordings from skill interactions to infer user interests and uses those interests to target ads' and further stated that 'Amazon's inference of advertising interests from users' voice is potentially inconsistent with their public statements, but not their privacy policy.' The Register's article on this subject is here:

<https://tinyurl.com/bdfrc4yc>

Clearly, Amazon only know who you are if you are logged onto your Amazon account. As a matter of principle, I log off most websites and regularly clear my browsing data to minimise tracking. You can also use 'private mode' which doesn't save cookies.

On that happy note, safe browsing.

drc
webmaster



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September

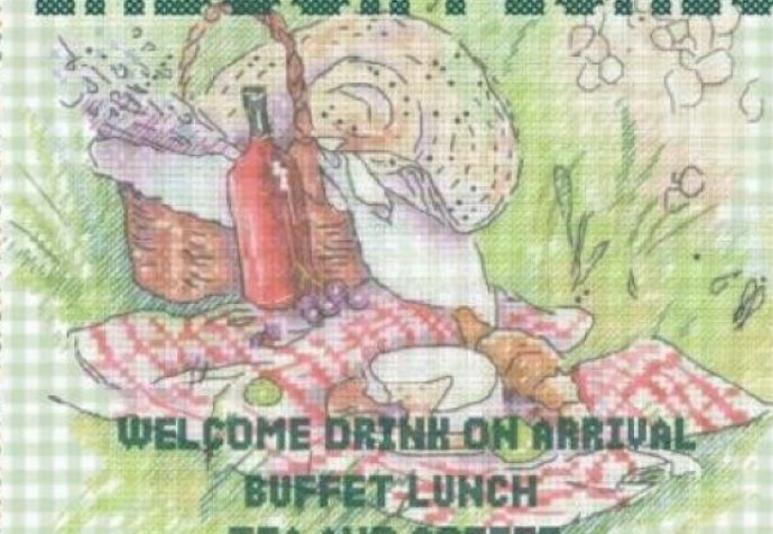
Monday 5 th 7.00 p.m.	SCC Meeting Recreation Hall
Wednesday 7 th 7.30 p.m.	Chepstow Choral Society Rehearsal Chepstow Leisure Centre
Thursday 8 th 1.45 to 3.00 p.m.	Country Dancing Church Hall
Monday 12 th 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Sunday 18 th 12.00 to 2.00 p.m.	Indoor Picnic Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial Hall
Tuesday 20 th 7.30 p.m.	History Society: Peter Bonvoison Llanmellin Fort dig, Church Room
Monday 26 th 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Monday 26 th 9.00 a.m.	Parish magazine copy deadline
October	
Monday 3 rd 7.00 p.m.	SCC Meeting Recreation Hall
Tuesday 4 th 10.00 to 12.00	Macmillan's coffee morning Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial Hall
Sunday 8 th 7.30 p.m.	Royal Forest of Dean Orchestra concert St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow
Sat 15 th /Sun 16 th about 6 p.m. onwards	ShAMBLES Shirenewton and Mynyddbach

Please let the editor know about any events you are aware of that may be of interest to the readers of this magazine

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CHEPSTOW SHOW 2022

Well what a way to start back after the Pandemic, a very hot day welcomed members of the public to the centre of Chepstow Racecourse for Chepstow Show on Saturday 13th August. This annual event, put on by volunteers, has been held in and around the Chepstow area for many years and is a chance for people to meet up with each other, enjoy the various sections and maybe take part in the various competitions held across the show field. Livestock such as sheep and cattle are judged and rosettes are won, beautiful floral displays are to be found in the homecraft section and the longest runner bean is to be seen in the horticulture section. Main ring attractions this year were the Equestrienne Wild West Stunt Show and the RPM Bike Trials display team. The Rowan Working Horse display and a display of vintage tractors and cars plus the Curre Pony Club and the Llangibby Pony Club running their mounted games competition added to the acts in the main ring. The food court and craft marquee were full of traders keen to sell their goods and together with the outside traders, there was something for everyone. The member's marquee was full of people enjoying the hospitality with catering provided by The Huntsman Hotel, Shirenewton. Chepstow Agricultural Society who stage the show is always looking for new members, vice presidents and volunteers to help the show continue.

Please join us if you would like to. Similarly, we are always pleased to talk to businesses or individuals who would like to sponsor the show. The show society hold farm classes throughout the year and an annual dinner and dance in the spring. Please look at our website www.chepstowshow.co.uk or follow us on Facebook and Twitter to keep up to date with our activities and for further information.





I'm Callin. You Dancing?

I'm thinking of doing some country dancing in the Church Room in Shirenewton Church on Thursdays from 1:45 to 3 o'clock - six weeks from Thursday 8th | September. So, it would amount to about an hour of dancing? I'll call some really simple dances - you won't need to bring a partner - but maybe it would be useful to know your left from your right. Already got 3 people signed up! And it sure does help to keep you fit! If you want more details, give me a bell on 641 818 or email me at: glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com . Glynis



Time for Some Ecumenism



The Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrel infestation. After much prayer they concluded that the squirrels were predestined to be there and that they should not interfere with God's divine will.

At the Baptist church the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistry. The deacons decided to put a water slide down into the baptistry and let the squirrels drown themselves. But the squirrels liked the slide and instinctively knew how to swim. Twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Lutheran church decided they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures so they humanely trapped the squirrels and set them free, near the Baptist church. Two weeks later the squirrels were back after the Baptists had removed their water slide. The Episcopalians thought outside the box. They set out pans of whiskey around their church in an effort to kill the squirrels with alcohol poisoning. They sadly learned how much damage a band of drunk squirrels can do.

The Catholic church decided to baptise all the squirrels and made them members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter

The members of the Jewish synagogue had the most successful idea. They took the first squirrel and circumcised him. They haven't seen a squirrel since.

Here Endeth the Lesson

"Time for some Écureuil-ism" maybe ??? Glynis

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STARGAZING



The seven stars of the Plough can be seen in the northern evening sky whilst the “W” of the constellation Cassiopeia lies to the northeast. The constellation Pegasus includes a large square that lies to the south. The Summer Triangle made up of the bright stars Deneb, Vega and Altair continues to dominate the night sky to the South. Deneb forms the tail of the constellation Cygnus, the Swan which lies pretty much overhead. Its brightest stars form a cross against the background of the Milky Way. The head of the Swan is a beautiful double star called Albireo. Viewed through a small telescope it can be seen to be a striking pair of stars, one coloured blue the other gold.

In the evening sky the bright planet Jupiter can be seen in the south-east and is joined by the almost full Moon on 11th September. Orange-coloured Mars is near the bright star Aldebaran in the east later in the evening and the Moon is close-by on the 16th. The planet Saturn is slightly yellow in colour and is to the south. It is near the almost full Moon on 16th September.

James Bradley was vicar of the parish of Bridstow, near Ross-on-Wye in Monmouthshire until 1721, when he changed vocation and became a full-time astronomer. Isaac Newton considered him to be the “best astronomer in Europe” and he was eventually made Astronomer Royal. Bradley carried out measurements that proved the Earth orbits the Sun, and that led to the first estimates of the distances of stars.

The Autumnal Equinox occurs on the 23rd, when day and night are both 12 hours long.



CHURCH SERVICES

Please note that all Church services start at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the church of St Thomas à Becket, Shirenewton. Times may vary for the periods over Easter, Christmas and New Year, but they will be reported in this magazine.

CHURCH SERVICES ON ZOOM

Some services will be available to join via Zoom, if you cannot attend in person. Please contact Gilly Lambert (see contact list) if you would like to be included on the distribution for Zoom service invitations.

A large, bold, black quotation mark icon consisting of two curved shapes facing each other, positioned at the top center of a white circular area.

Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.

ANONYMOUS



Shirenewton And Mynydd Bach iLlumination Extravaganza 2022 – the latest

What is this 'ShAMBLE' thing again?

Shirenewton and Mynydd Bach iLlumination Extravaganza (or ShAMBLE to its friends) is an annual event in which the residents of the village are invited to decorate their windows at dusk over one weekend in October, with the aim of creating a spectacular outdoor gallery for everyone to enjoy. 2022 will be its fifth glorious year!

When is ShAMBLE 2022?

The evenings of **Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th October** – starting around 6.30pm. Get it in your diary!

How do I take part?

If you'd like to decorate your window, that's great. So that we can include you on our map please follow this link and complete the very simple form:

www.shirenewtonshamble.org.uk

Please, please, please register by 30th September as this gives us time to get the maps printed.



Will there be a craft afternoon or a party at the Rec this year? YES! 'Craft, cake and conversation' will be on 25th September 2.30-4.30pm and the party will be on Saturday 15th October from 5.30pm - 8.30pm

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 the week before (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.



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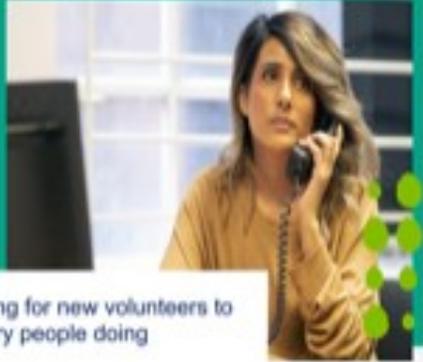
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- Will Sharma

Soloist (pictured right) - Caron de Burgh

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Ralph Vaughan Williams – Rhosymedre
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Marcello – Oboe Concerto in D minor
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AEDs (AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS) IN THE VILLAGE

The location of all the defibrillators in the village is given in every edition of this magazine, this month on page 49. The defibrillator on the wall of the Tredegar Arms is now back up and running thanks to Phil Moles.

These defibrillators were purchased when Laura Spiers (née Saysell) started a sponsored run to raise money to buy one for the school; Alexis Frances Lang raised money for one in Earlswood; and Phil Moles also began fundraising and persuaded local voluntary organisations (including the Lions and Freemasons) to pay for another four and the boxes to put them in. The PCC also paid for one.

The two AEDs at The Tredegar Arms and The Carpenters Arms have had new (in date) pads purchased, fitted, checked and in the case of the Carpenters Arms replaced back in the boxes, all by Phil Moles who is qualified to undertake this work.

It should be noted that the boxes simply provide a warming element (a few watts) to assist the battery function, they DO NOT trickle charge the battery. Therefore, if a box is not connected to an electricity supply the AED will still work even in the depths of winter! When the batteries run down, they require replacing. Currently all the AEDs have plenty of charge left in them, enough for a few more uses each. If you need to use a defibrillator, please notify Phil Moles at the Huntsman promptly afterwards so he can maintain or refurbish the device and reinstate it.

It has been suggested that another one should be purchased to provide cover when each one in turn is returned for a firm-ware upgrade.

Gardening Corner

I have started writing my September Parish Mag 'bit', earlier in August than is usual for me. It is sweltering hot outside and there is nothing we can do but sit inside in the (relatively) cooler surroundings of the cottage. As well as struggling to cope with the heat we are both recovering from the efforts of staging our entries for the Chepstow show, which was yesterday. The day started at 5.00 a.m., with essential watering duties in the greenhouses and tunnels, followed with packing the car up and getting everything down to the showground by 8.00 a.m. Everything must be staged by 9.30 and fortunately we made it with around 5 minutes to spare. Next job on the agenda was to find a coffee and a bacon bap before settling into a more relaxed frame of mind. Staging entries for agricultural shows can be very hard work, and each year we wonder why we put ourselves through the stress. But without people entering the various competitions, the shows would soon disappear, and with it a very important part of our rural heritage. It all becomes worthwhile when you wander around after judging has finished, you see the fruits of all your hard work being admired by the visitors, and if you are lucky a card that signifies you have won a prize – especially if that card happens to be red. Even more special is a large white one that signifies a cup is heading in your direction. Numbers of entries in the flower arranging, and the horticultural section seemed to be down from the last time, but with the weather and pests that we have experienced, not to mention the extreme heat at the time, this was hardly surprising. A challenging year would be a complete understatement. Anyone new to gardening either this year or in recent years, must be wondering why they have bothered. You have our full sympathies. All I can say is, don't give up. Easy to say when, several times this year, I have had my head in my hands asking what was going to be the next failure!

Long before the first hint of hot weather on the horizon we were struggling. The very mild winter had meant that slugs and snails were attacking anything and everything, even flowers such as *Astrantia*, a cottage garden staple and which are meant to be bomb proof, were being grazed to the ground. I had to resort to slug pellets, but the new ones are rubbish compared to those that had in recent years been banned (and reading why this was necessary, I can see there was no real argument on that given the damage they were doing to our wildlife in general). I understand that the new ones take three days of munching to actually kill the slugs, but by then everything else has been eaten too. We do everything we can for wildlife in the garden, but this year there were just too many of the enemy. Seed sowing was also hit, as some crops like parsnips, carrots and celery didn't even bother showing themselves. We are now on our third sowing of carrots, and at long last we are getting some results! Fortunately, although I know many will disapprove, I had my annual campaign against queen wasps. I've seen no wasp nests around since, although have discovered a very large one in a bank on our garden boundary. There have been others, but the local badger population has made sure that they didn't survive long. The tell-tale holes in our field, with the remains of their paper nest in the bottom,

are testimony to the badger's love of wasp grubs. This last week the National Bee Unit based in Fera has issued a severe warning to all beekeepers to take measures against wasps as they have started robbing bee hives. As you may remember, my annual war against wasps stems from having lost all 11 beehives one year, due to wasp attacks at this time of year. Looking at the six hives I have at present, there was hardly a wasp to be seen, although I will be putting guards on the entrance to each hive in order to reduce the width, and give the guarding bees a better chance to repel intruders.

So back to the garden 'proper' there have been mixed results. We have had some good 'greens', when we have been able to keep the slugs at bay. For some reason they have mainly left the calabrese alone, although we have lost a lot of the cauliflowers. They seem to prefer sliding over the tops of cauliflowers grazing (and ruining) as they go, but don't do the same with calabrese. On a similar vein, they seem to have mainly left the Brussels sprouts alone, but attacked the summer cabbages instead. Root crops generally have not done well, although I am hopeful that the late carrots will provide an autumn and winter crop. As a result of this year, I am going to completely change how I grow carrots which tend to be a staple for us. In future I'm going to sow some fast-maturing varieties in the large growbags that we have in the tunnel. This is because we have more control over them, not to mention that we can achieve results much earlier in the year when vegetables are expensive in the shops. I will then sow later maturing varieties that stand well in cold weather (assuming that we ever get any!) and so can stay in the ground all Winter if needs be. Parsnips I am forgetting as probably 4 out of every 5 years I just can't get any seed to germinate. The only other root crops I will bother with will be beetroot and celeriac, which we generally get reasonable results with. To help with the carrots, I have decided that the nectarine tree in the tunnel has got to go. It has been there for probably 20 years plus, but results in recent years have been extremely poor. This isn't just down to the weather. They are constantly attacked by red spider mites, and despite using all of the measures possible, infestations get so bad, that the tree loses all its leaves, and any fruit are tiny as a result. The mites then attack anything else in the tunnel that takes their fancy, so reduces what we can grow successfully. Fortunately, they don't seem to impact the tomatoes. To make matters worse the fruits also get attacked by a moth grub that covers itself with a leaf and then eats the fruit underneath, so spraying to kill them is almost impossible as most of the systemic insecticides that used to be available have now been removed from the market. These ruin the fruits and as a result we now get very little to eat for ourselves. This will be a shame as nectarines, mixed with other fruits such as apple make a lovely putting stewed with custard!

This year has therefore given us a huge kick in the backside, and rather than suffer too many failures next year, we are looking at how best to adapt if this is the pattern for weather in years to come. It is a huge pity that we didn't instal a water harvesting system right at the start when we moved to Barn Farm, but the cost would be too great to now, some 34 years later.

The flower garden generally hasn't done too bad, until recent weeks when the lack of rain and the extreme heat, really has started to have an impact. We can't water everything, and as a result, even some of our well-established plants looked sick and I mean really sick. Only time will tell if they are going to survive and come back next year. Not rocket science, but what we do need is more manure, that will help keep moisture in the soil, so if anyone has a supply that they are keen to get rid of, then please let me know.

You might remember from July that I was struggling with a lack of queens in two hives. Why, we will never know. I had considered buying two new queens from a supplier in Devon, but even then, there is no guarantee of success as the bees in the hive, even after a 'getting used to' period where you keep the queen and her little support staff in a small cage in the hive, may decide that they don't like her and end up killing her. Not ideal when you have paid some £35 for each queen. Instead, I used the little trick, which had been successful in previous years. This involves seeking out a frame of very young brood and eggs from another hive. The eggs have to be around three days old or less. Knowing that there is no queen in the hive (there are no pheromones wafting around), the worker bees make at least one of the eggs into a queen cell, feed the grub royal jelly, and a queen is created, which then hatches and life begins again for the hive. Some days after introducing the frames to the hives the result I wanted was clearly there to be seen. Some time later the queens hatched, but only for one did life begin, as newly laid brood were evident in the hive. For the other there was nothing. Either the queen had died – again, or hadn't mated for some reason. A bit frustrating to say the least. But luck was around the corner, as the same day I discovered there was no queen, one of my other hives swarmed. This meant that their hive would contain at least one queen cell, and hopefully more. On checking there were several cells spread over three frames, so I simply removed one frame, with the necessary queen cell, shook all the home bees off and put the frame into the hive still missing the queen. This then hatched and thankfully we are back to normal!

How did we get on at the show? Let's just say that we had a modicum of success!

Happy gardening until next month,

Steve and Felicity Hunt.



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- Huntsman Hotel (on the Usk road)
- Recreation Hall (Shirenewton village)
- Tredegar Arms (The Square, centre of Shirenewton)
- Earlswood Hall (Erlswood)



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Parish Priest	Revd Nansi Davies CBE	01633 400 519
Lay Eucharistic Minister	Gilly Lambert	07821 725 690
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PCC Secretary	John Montague	01291 329 481
PCC Treasurer	Graham Lambert	01291 641 175
PCC Members	Janet Horton James Leney Wendy Montague John Burrows	01291 641 783 01291 641 271 01291 329 481 01291 641 845
Gift Aid Secretary	Vacant	01291 641 411
Organists	Karen Millar James Leney	01291 650 521 01291 641 271
Sunday Club	Lynn Morcombe	01291 641 671
Tower Captain	Mike Penney	01291 650 653
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Ministry Area Transition Team

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	Ian Martin 01291 650014	ian.m@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
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