

# Shirenewton Parish Magazine

## July/August 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](mailto: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](http://www.shirenewtonchurch.info).

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

#### **Advertising Rates for Commercial organisations**

Full designated page for 12 months £150

Full page 12 months 10 issues £100

Half Page 12 months 10 issues £50

Quarter Page 12 months 10 issues £25

#### **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 September issue is  
9:00 a.m. Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022**

## **FROM THE VICARAGE**

Julian E LI White

Dear People of the Parish,

As mentioned previously, you will soon be addressed as *Dear People of the Ministry Area* as the amalgamation of ourselves, Chepstow Parish and the St. Arvans group is at hand.

Come November 27<sup>th</sup> it is anticipated that we shall become the Severn-Wye Ministry Area.

Just recently I hosted a meeting of the clergy designated to serve in this new formation – Revd. Philip Averay, Revd. John Waters, Revd. Michael Gollop and myself – in the sun-drenched garden of Matherne Vicarage. Revd. Philip Averay dispatched the invitations to attend.

Coffee and strawberries were served (sadly, it was thought that the timing was a little too early to imbibe anything stronger) and it could be assumed that a *Barchester Chronicles* atmosphere pervaded. Disappointingly, it did not.

Frequency of Sunday services in the proposed grouping were discussed as were occasional services such as those associated with Easter and Christmas, for example. I understand that the various ministers within the present parishes could be scheduled to officiate around the new Ministry Area when it is established.

I further understand that the proposal is to use the same lectionary throughout the Ministry Area, which – on a personal note – I find rather sad as I enjoy the challenge of basing the sermon, delivered on a regular Sunday occasion, drawing upon diverse scriptural readings currently in use.

Anyway, more information will seep through to you in due course and we eagerly await the new opportunities proffered.

A substantial number of mourners attended the funeral of Sylvia Cullimore at Shirenewton Church on 13<sup>th</sup> June. Sylvia was a respected member of Earlswood Methodist Church and their minister, Andrew Webster, shared the service with me prior to her internment in the churchyard where her husband lies at rest.

A warm welcome is extended to John Montague as he joins us as Parochial Church Council Secretary. He undertakes this significant position as the parish will soon move into a new era as part of the newly created Area Ministry with a variety of changes to be considered. We wish him every success in this post as he represents, in no small part, this church in their deliberations.

At the time of composing this article, Shirenewton Church has just held their annual Fayre after two years of 'lock-down'. A report will feature elsewhere in this magazine which I look forward to reading as I was occupied in Mathern officiating at a marriage service at the same time.

It is good to hear that Church life, God willing, is now returning to normal following the difficulties of the past couple of years. Many of you, I know, have planned a holiday – home or abroad – during July or August, and I wish you relaxation and refreshment over this period.

With all good wishes and every blessing.

Julian White (Rector)

## COSTS OF THE MAGAZINE

Over the last few years, we have endeavoured to keep a lid on subscription and advertising rates for the magazine. However, in the current higher inflationary environment, printing costs have increased by about 15% since last year and some printing stocks have increased three-fold. As a result of this we will need to increase the subscription rate next year, probably to £15 (or more, depending on economic conditions). Advertising costs need to increase immediately, so as advertisers renew their arrangements their fees will increase to £100 a page (£50 a half page, £25 a quarter page). Free advertising will continue for charities and local organisations, but they may have to settle for black and white advertisements which will reduce costs of printing. To date we have been fortunate in being able to print whatever we receive, but it may be necessary in future to limit the page count which will mean that we would ask contributors to limit their articles to a set number of pages. We thank you for your understanding and support in these challenging times.



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## **CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY 2022**

*After 2-plus years of lockdown and disruption due to a pandemic which was a disaster for all communal and choral singing, the good news is that CCS now has a forthcoming concert on*

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## VILLAGE PUBS UPDATE



### NEW LANDLORD AT THE TA ...

Matthew Dawkins (Matt) is the new landlord at the Tredegar Arms. He comes to Shirenewton after nine years at the Castle Inn, Usk, and before that he was head chef at the Star at Llansoy. Google "Matthew Dawkins chef" for his CV—he has won awards for his food. The TA opens on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June.

### ... AND AT THE CARPENTERS ARMS ...

Following Colin's retirement, Angie has taken over The Carpenters Arms and re-opened the pub on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June providing a bar service only.

### ... AND AT THE HUNTSMAN

Many thanks to Phil who has supported the local area throughout the pandemic and lockdowns, and continues to provide support with the beer garden and tin shed bar at The Huntsman.

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## **Shirenewton Community Council**

### **Includes updates from the May and June Community Council Meetings**

**Following the election process the Councillors for Shirenewton Community Council are confirmed as follows:**

**Philip Butterworth (Re-elected as Chair in the annual meeting on 23 May 2022)**

**Keith Dunn (Elected as Vice Chair in the annual meeting on 23 May 2022)**

**Ian Martin**

**Andy Williamson**

**Elizabeth Wixcey**

**The two remaining Councillor vacancies were advertised with a deadline for applications of 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022.**

**Suzi Squires and Nick Vincent addressed the Council on 23 May 2022**

Suzi Squires and Nick Vincent addressed the Community Council and requested that the Council note and minute the accident and fatality on the B4325 on the 8 May and the actions of the community. In particular, acknowledging the role local residents played in helping the victims prior to the arrival of emergency services arriving at the scene and beyond. Suzi and Nick shared theirs and local resident concerns about the safety of the road and feedback/questions from drivers/bikers about what can be done to improve safety.

The Council offered thanks to Suzi and Nick for their campaigning to raise awareness of safety issues to date and offered to write to local residents to thank them for their actions and public service if their contact details could be shared. The Council advised that they are committed to their role as part of a team of people to improve road safety and cited a recent meeting feeding into new road sign installation and a forthcoming meeting with Gwent police. The Council advised that they have been petitioning MCC for the 20mph speed restrictions to be implemented as soon as possible and responded to the suggestion that the fete on the 18<sup>th</sup> June raised an opportunity to raise awareness, advising that school children will be present and giving out "20 is plenty" stickers. The matter of Weyloed Lane being used as a short cut off the B4325 to the school in the mornings by parents and the speed of cars was also raised by Suzi and Nick. They requested that the SCC use their links with the school to re-enforce the message and keep the pressure on. The Council advised that information would be included in packs for new parents in September to raise awareness of this

issue and that new speed signage will be going in imminently.

The Council re-stated that they would continue to work with Monmouthshire County Council, Gwent Police and the School to do everything that could be done to improve road safety.

### **Planning Applications Considered in May**

#### **DM/2022/00089 Azalea Cottage, Old School Hill, Mynyddbach**

Erection of a new detached dwelling.

#### **DM/2022/00494 Azalea Cottage, Old School Hill,**

#### **Mynyddbach**

New dwelling.

Recommendation: SCC objects to the current applications in the following respects and supports our County Councillor's request that these two applications be considered together.

One half of the joint access and of the visibility splay lie within plot 1 and the other half of the access and visibility splay in plot 2. Inevitably one of the plot developments will be built before the other and possibly the development of one or other plot will be delayed for want of finance, or design changes or not proceeded with at all, meaning that the shared access may never be fully available nor would there be a safe exit onto the highway as only one half of the visibility splay would have been completed. The road onto which the plots front is School Hill and is the main route for our primary school children to reach the school. The road is very narrow where the plots are, so the ability to turn to exit forward from the plots and to have a clear view along the road are essential.

We would ask, if MCC were minded to grant consent, that Highway's proposed conditions also provide (subject to the comment below) that neither dwelling shall be occupied until both halves of the shared access and both halves of the visibility splay have been formed.

We note there is no Construction Method Statement for either plot. Given that the road is narrow and there is no off-road parking other than the plots themselves which shelf steeply down from the road, any machinery or materials delivery should take place off the road. This means that the shared access should be formed before any other construction or delivery of supplies takes place and that the visibility splay be laid out so that those lorries can offload on site and exit forwards. Also, there should be restrictions on deliveries so that they fall outside the beginning and end of the school day. In order to minimise disturbance to our residents no work should take place outside normal working week

hours and not at weekends or on bank and public holidays. The amended details submitted by the applicants do not meet our previous comments and objections (save as to the cladding on plot 2) which we reiterate:

- evidence of reciprocal rights for a shared drive
- exclusion of the general planning order
- clarity for the colouring of the external timber cladding
- clarity for the status of the s106 Agreement and contribution to affordable housing
- the obtaining of an ecology report detailing mitigation
- a design statement demonstrating how the house makes a positive contribution to the creation of distinctive communities, places and spaces and responds to the context and character of the area.
- proposals for the repair and restitution of the roadside hedging and stone wall.

## Jubilee Celebrations

On behalf of Shirenewton Community Council, thank you to all of the Community who supported the Beacon Lighting to Celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. A special thank you to the WI for kindly serving refreshments and the TA for providing glassware, to Huw Adams for lighting the beacon and Chris Jones for being on standby with medical support. In the Community Council meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> June, the Chair offered his thanks to everyone for the event and noted the feedback received by the Community that it was nice that the event was marked.



## 20mph Speed Restriction Implementation

Councillors have been liaising with key stakeholders in the implementation of the 20mph restrictions and have noted in the May and June Community Council meetings positive and negative

community feedback, in particular the need for the new speed limits to be enforced. Some of the issues raised by Councillors fell outside MCC plans and it was agreed that SCC would put these issues in writing to the relevant parties.

These issues included: enforcement of hedge cutting where road signs are covered by vegetation, road surface marking e.g. give way, slow etc, new poles for signage, bilingual signs and replacement of very old signage.



### **New Noticeboard for Earlswood**

The Council approved the purchase of a new noticeboard for Earlswood from Earth Anchors on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and is due to be dispatched in approximately 5-6 weeks.

### **Recreation Field proposals – public meeting scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> July 7pm at the Recreation Hall**

Councillor Andy Williamson and fellow councillors will be available for residents to view the proposed plans, ask questions and give any suggestions/ideas.

### **Shirenewton Post Office**

The Clerk requested further information and on 31 May were advised that:

"We have started discussions with Morrisons to learn more about their plans for the McColl's estate, including the existing Post Offices within that estate. Post Offices that are located within What were previously McColl's owned stores, such as Caldicot, continue to operate as normal. However, as you will appreciate we're not in a position to make any changes to the current provision whilst these discussions continue. I can reassure you that once we have a clearer understanding of the future provision of services at these sites, we will review service provision in the area again."

## **County Councillor Report from May County Councillor Brown advised:**

### **Election on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2022**

- Thank you to the residents for their support in re-electing me as a County Councillor for Shirenewton Ward and putting their trust in me. I will continue to work with the community council to represent residents in the Shirenewton Ward.
- There are now 46 County Councillors in Monmouthshire County Council (MCC). The County Councillors in the political parties because of the election in May 2022 are now 22 Labour, 18 Conservative, 5 Independent and 1 Green.

As the largest party, there is now a Labour Leader and Cabinet Members for MCC, prior to the election the Leader for MCC was conservative.

### **County Council**

The current time at the County Council is being spent on induction and training sessions for the newly elected or re-elected councillors and sorting out appointments to the various MCC committees.

### **County Councillor Report from June**

### **County Councillor Brown advised:**

Training—New and Existing County Councillors are still undergoing training for the various council committees.

Road Safety—Louise pushed for a multi-agency Team's meeting which took place on the 25th of May with Gwent police and MCC Highways attended by Cllr Keith Dunn, Vice Chairman of the community council and a representative from Go Safe. Various actions were agreed in principle to try to improve road safety on the B4235 following the recent fatality and other ways of raising road safety concerns at events such as the village fete were discussed (subject to the approval of the fete organisers and availability of the agencies). A follow-up meeting has been agreed for the end of June to discuss how far there has been any practical progress on the implementation of these actions.

**Dates of next meetings - Monday 4th July 2022 and Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 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](http://www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk)**

**Contact the Clerk to the Community Council –**

**Mrs Natasha Jones Tel: 01291 650133**

**E-mail: [Shirenewtoncc@gmail.com](mailto:Shirenewtoncc@gmail.com)**

## **Gardening Corner**

I had a feeling at the start of the growing year that this season was going to be difficult. The mild Winter suggested that many of the usual pests would have survived unchecked. As things started to warm up, the first queen wasps started to appear, first the odd one or two, but this gave way to a sudden rise and they seemed to be everywhere. Then we had three nights of frost out of the blue, and the numbers seen afterwards seemed to dwindle. Wasp nests in their early days are a big boon to gardeners, as the nest expands and the numbers of grubs inside increases, they are fed with thousands of insects, especially small caterpillars. For a bee keeper they are not such good news as the workers, once they have finished their job of raising enough workers, and then eventually new queens for the following year, no longer have work on their minds and their diet turns to sweet sugary things – hence them appearing, seemingly from nowhere, as soon as you sit down with a picnic, or a glass of ‘pop’. At this stage they start to attack the bee hives and raid them of their honey. If numbers are high, they can eventually over-whelm the bees and can destroy the hive. One particularly bad year, some years ago now, I lost all 11 of my hives, as I tried everything I could to help the bees to fight off the wasps, but numbers of wasp nests in the same locality were just too high. I was fearing the same thing this year, especially as I have lost a lot of my hives (more of that later) in recent months, so I’m keeping my fingers crossed, that those late frosts did me a good turn. Unfortunately, they also did a huge amount of damage with the top fruit in our orchard. The trees had been in blossom for a week or more and the bees were doing a good job. I thought that we were in for a bumper crop, but sadly the frost ended all hopes of this. Some trees are now completely fruitless, whilst others might, quite literally, have a dozen or so fruits left on the branches. No doubt these will be completely battered by the squirrels and jays long before they are any use for picking. The only ones that have survived in what I call decent numbers are the cooking apples.

In the vegetable garden things have been going a little bit better, although lack of rain was starting to have a severe impact. As I write this, we have just had the first, what I would call ‘proper rain’ since April. I just hope that it has been enough to actually do some good. We had been watering as much as we could just to keep plants alive, but things weren’t thriving as they should. I try to resist watering, if at all possible, not just because of the cost, but also, I’m convinced that it isn’t the same as rain! Sounds ridiculous, but that is just my impression, the ground tends to go hard and crusty on the top when watering with a hose, and it is then more difficult to get water in, yet the weeds still thrive!

But apart from not appearing to grow well, generally things haven't been too bad in the vegetable department, although it has been an ongoing battle to protest everything against the slugs and snails, which obviously did enjoy the mild winter, as populations have definitely exploded. We are just about to pick our first tomato and small cucumber in the big tunnel, but have been picking lettuce and spring onions since the end of April. Our winter vegetables in the ground continued to provide until the middle of May, and for the first time ever, we were still eating stored potatoes, onions and shallots. We are now digging new potatoes in the large greenhouse, which with mint from the garden are sublime. There were literally, just two weeks when we needed to buy a few tatties to keep us going. The first calabrese and cauliflowers are now heading up, and we have been enjoying our own stir fries with fresh mangetout peas, cabbage leaves and courgettes, combined with some of last year's sweet peppers from the freezer and the last of the shallots. The main seed sowing is over for this year, but not ended. We will continue to sow small numbers of beans, mostly runners and French (climbing and dwarf), as these will fill gaps in the garden and continue to provide beans later on in the season. Although the main winter 'greens' are in the ground already, there is still time to sow them, or to buy the plants, if you haven't got this far yet, but they really need to be in the ground in the next week or two in order to mature in time for the colder weather. I will shortly be sowing more cauliflowers, cabbage and calabrese but these will be destined for planting in the large tunnel, so will get protection, and will also grow much faster. Currently the tunnel is full, but you might remember that we planted all of our 'normal' garlic, the elephant garlic and about half of our shallots and onions along one side of the tunnel, which is some 18 metres long, by just under two metres wide. These crops are now fast maturing, and will probably be removed in about three weeks-time. By which time the replacement crops will be about ready to go in.

These will be raised in the small greenhouse, which we use for propagating, and when these are removed for planting, the staging will be empty – just in time to lay all of the onions and garlic out for ripening off. We have grown a lot more in the way of flowers for cutting this year, as the assistant head gardener is trying to sell more home grown cut flowers to help keep the garden self-sufficient. The cost of seeds, but especially 'sundry items' such as bamboos, string, compost and fertilisers has gone through the roof this year as has everything else. Ultimately, this makes the results of 'growing your own' even more rewarding, as the weekly costs of the food shopping are reaching excessive levels. If some of this hike in prices actually reached the grower I wouldn't worry quite so much, but if petrol and diesel prices are anything to go by, I can't help but think that there are a lot of the 'middle men' seizing the opportunity to secure huge profits on the back of the public. I have to admit that I have grown more flowers than we probably need, but at present, any gap that results from the removal of weeds, is quickly filled with a suitable young flower plant! Although I say so myself, the flower beds are starting to look

fantastic, as the summer flowers are beginning to make an impact. Although our roses are a permanent feature in the beds, they seem to be full of flowers this year and the overall scent in the garden is sublime – especially alongside the sweet peas. I note that I need to get the sprayer out though as the inevitable black spot has crept in unnoticed.

I haven't mentioned the bees for some months. In truth, these have been a major problem since last Autumn and I had almost reached the point of despair and seriously consider 'throwing the towel in'. From 17 hives the numbers started to reduce as hives died out, one by one. I suspected disease at first, as European Foul Brood was in the area, and other keepers were being badly impacted. This disease infects the whole hive and the grubs become infected and die. Unlike American Foul Brood (which requires the destruction of the whole hive through incineration – bees as well as the hive itself), the European version can be combatted by shaking the bees off the existing frames and transferring them into a new clean hive with all new frames and foundation wax. The bees can then carry on.

However, there was no clear evidence of any infection, but there was a lot of 'robbing' going on. This is where the larger more successful hives decide to start stealing the honey from those hives that are not so strong. I don't think anyone knows what really triggers this behaviour, but no matter what I did to try and stop it, it continued unabated. Hives ended up empty, where either the bees under attack died, or just cleared off to somewhere else – probably to only perish anyway. There were never any hives with more than a few dead bees in, which suggests that they may have cleared off. With some, it appeared that the queen had just died and the hive was unable to grow a replacement. To end with I went into Winter with just five hives remaining, and I vowed that if these were lost because of a bad Winter, I would just give up. Not an easy decision after over 30 years of beekeeping. Spring came along and all five hives came through Winter. Two of these were very big, and I knew that these were likely to swarm, so I had everything ready just in case. Every warm, sunny day I would check on the bees each afternoon to see if a swarm was out. They usually just land in one of the fruit trees that surround the hives. One day, a large swarm was out, so I shot back home got all of the gear I needed and drove back up to the field ready to collect the swarm – only to find that they had already gone. This was not how it was meant to be! I kept monitoring for further swarms until eventually another, smaller swarm was noted and this time, successfully gathered in. It was an easy one to collect on a low branch, and it was a case of delicately cutting the branch

off, and carrying it over to a hive which was ready and waiting. After several weeks I discovered that this swarm had no active queen. To make it worse the hive which I thought they had left, also had no active queen laying. I couldn't believe it! What I tried to do will have to wait until next month! Happy gardening until next month.

*Steve and Felicity Hunt.*

“

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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](mailto:enquiries@gwentarchives.gov.uk). More information on submitting the diaries will follow.



### Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in June:

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Angharad Thomas | 2. Mike Penney  |
| 3. Lisa Valiant    | 4. Cheryl Lloyd |



Eileen O' Dwyer



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# **SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Registered Charity No. 1090167**

Our May meeting was a great success, the speaker for the evening was John Burrows, who gave an excellent talk entitled 'Chepstow Castle and the greatest knight William Marshall'. It was very local history, but of the greatest relevance to our country's history.

The June meeting will take place on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> June, the venue will be the Church Room and the title of the talk will be 'Our Coast-guards', given by the Chepstow Station Officer, Richard Hoyle.

Our members are looking forward to our visit to the Nantgarw China Works and the National Collection on Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> July. We will visit the china works in the morning and then in the afternoon on to the National Collection. The National Collection houses artefacts that are not on display at the National Museum of Wales and are stored in a large warehouse, it is not usually open to the public, so who knows what we will find there.

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Pimms on arrival – the perfect start  
Smiling faces that warm the heart  
Neighbours together, the first time in ages  
Having fun, release from their cages  
New friends and old, and a royal guest  
Not sure which bit I enjoyed the best  
Oh, and what about the fabulous spread  
Happy tummies, everyone fed  
It could have gone on all afternoon  
Tell you what – let's do it again soon

.....watch this space!

(see Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall  
Facebook page for more Photos)

On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June the residents of Earlswood came together to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. As Earlswood is such a dispersed community, it was great to see so many people getting together and catching up. We were also privileged to have a visit from 'the queen' herself, along with her very handsome Equerry.





Many thanks to Earlswood Hall Committee for the splendid Buffet and welcome on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> of June at the hall for us all in celebration of the Queens Jubilee. Minetta & Derek Morris



## SHIRENEWTON W.I. – MAY MEETING

The ladies of Shirenewton WI were entertained by our guest speaker Mr Les Ashton-Smith this month.



He had prepared a talk especially for the evening having been asked, by the president (Diane Ashton-Smith), to speak about a pioneering woman!

He cleverly combined his interest in science with his hobby of philately and gave a fascinating presentation about Marie Curie.

We learnt about her early life in Poland, the struggles she had to overcome in Paris and her steely determination which led to her pioneering research on radioactivity.



Using some images from his personal stamp collection combined with photographs and pictures of Marie, Les demonstrated his knowledge and passion for the subject and we were thoroughly entertained and inspired by information about this first woman Nobel Prize winner.

## SHIRENEWTON W.I.—JUNE MEETING



June has been a very busy month for the W.I. Firstly, members rallied round to serve glasses of prosecco and nibbles to the crowds of villagers who came to watch the lighting of the beacon on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Shirenewton Recreation Ground to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Shirenewton Fete on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June was the next event where the W.I.'s hospitality was much appreciated. It was a hectic afternoon as we served approximately 170 cream teas /tea and cake to people who were glad of a warm welcome away from the rain and windy weather.



After all of this hard work, it seemed only right that our members have some rest and relaxation on our Summer Outing. This year we had a meal out together at Una Vita in Chepstow, followed by a wonderful musical evening, listening to Chepstow Male Voice Choir rehearse at St Mary's Church for their upcoming concert on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June. The programme for the rehearsal was very varied and included traditional songs and hymns, songs from the Musicals and Eric Clapton. We finished with audience participation of a Ukrainian folk song. We are so lucky to have such a talented local choir.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 7.15 p.m. at Shirenewton Recreation Hall, when Naylor Firth will be talking to us about World Scenery and Geography. If you would like to join us, then please contact Jane Butterworth at [janeb247@gmail.com](mailto:janeb247@gmail.com) or Diane Ashton Smith (01291 628838)

Jackie Broughton

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Tredegar Arms plans to re-open
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> June 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> June 7.30 p.m.	Shirenewton Local History Society Church Hall—"Coastguards" by Station Officer Richard Hoyle
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2.00 p.m.	Gig In The Garden, The Chantry St Woolas Symphonia and Something Sultry
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> July 7.15 p.m.	W.I. talk by Naylor Firth—World Scenery and Geography, Recreation Hall
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> July 7.30 p.m.	Chepstow Choral Society concert St Mary's Priory Church "Best of British"
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> July 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> July 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Tues 26th July 10.30 a.m./2 p.m.	Shirenewton Local History Society Nantgarw China Works/National Collection (booking required)
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> August 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> August 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> August	Chepstow Agricultural Show, Chepstow Race Course
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Severn-Wye Ministry Area forms

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

## SHIRENEWTON FETE

With grey skies and thunderous clouds and the occasional squall of rain the prospects for Shirenewton's fete on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June did not look promising. Undaunted, the Carnival King and Queen (complete with body-guard in a snazzy red jacket and military beret) set off with the parade for the Recreation field. Jack Tottem, the cox of the Oxford boat rowing eight that won this year's boat race (a former pupil at Shirenewton School and Monmouth School, who grew up in Devauden) opened the fete. More important, the weather did not deter people from coming to the fete and listening to half of the Chepstow School Quartet (reduced by illness) and Far Out Mate (featuring our own Garry Davies). There was food (burgers and ice cream), drink (beer bar, Pimms, Mocktails, WI teas), bouncy castle, bottle stall, cake stall, plant stall, coconut shy, skittles, book stall and toy stall. First aid, the coast guard and Gwent police were on hand and there was welly-wanging and axe throwing, Amazing Alpacas, Water Tattoos, Teddy tombola, Lucky Dip, Mystery Bags, Tuck Shop and a cupcake competition.



Four Janes and a Pimms

Other stalls included Shirenewton local History Society, the U3A Art Group, Fair Trade, Honey Stall, Class Enterprises, Gwent Wildlife, Chepstow Lions and Parents stalls. The ever-popular dog show attracted lots of dog-owners. There were wonderful raffle prizes for the grand draw, generously donated by individuals and local businesses. Wifi on the field was provided by Countryside Connections so stall holders were able to use card readers for the first time at the fete, which was useful for people who had got out of the habit of carrying cash.

This was Shirenewton's first fete since 2019, so it was great to see so many people turn out for it. And in the end the weather, on the whole wasn't too bad.

*There are three pages of photographs of the fete on pages 26-28  
(with thanks to Terry Walters)*







## **SHIRENEWTON FETE – THANK YOU**

The Fete team would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped out in any way.

And thank you to everyone for coming along and supporting the fete on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June, even if the weather felt more like October than June at times! We hope you all enjoyed it and hope you will be happy to come along and support it next year, too. If you have any ideas for things you would like to suggest for next time, please do let us know.

And if you are prepared to help in any way next time, we would love to hear from you. You don't need to come to meetings, or give more time than you are prepared to offer, but we would really love to hear from you if you think you could help.

Particularly we would love to hear from a few people with vans or trailers who could help by fetching items and returning them. Or help with fetching and carrying on the field as part of set up and take down, or perhaps to help with putting up and/or taking down tents and gazebos, or putting tables out or away, or managing car parking, or helping to put up signs and banners in the weeks before the Fete. An hour – or a whole day – or anything in between. All help is very gratefully welcomed. Contact Janet on 641783.

Seirian, Jane, Sarah, Sarah, Andrew and Janet.

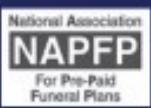
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## STARGAZING



Later in the evening the Summer Triangle is overhead. This is a prominent triangle formed by the bright stars Altair, to the South of the triangle, Vega, closest to the Western horizon, and Deneb, to the East. Deneb forms the tail of the cross-shaped constellation Cygnus, the Swan. From our perspective the three stars have similar brightness. However they lie at different distances from Earth. Deneb is an extremely luminous star at 1400 light years from Earth whilst Vega and Altair are less luminous and are both much closer to Earth at a distance of about 20 light years.

The familiar seven stars of Ursa Major, the Great Bear or Plough, are to be seen in the north-west, with the "W" of Cassiopeia climbing into the north-eastern sky.

Two planets are visible in the late evening sky in July, with bright Jupiter in the east and dimmer and slightly yellow Saturn in the south-east. By mid-August they are joined by the orange-coloured planet Mars, with Mars in the east, Jupiter in the south-east and Saturn in the south. The Moon is a handy pointer to the planets: on 15<sup>th</sup> July the nearly Full Moon is below Saturn; on 18<sup>th</sup> July the Moon is close to Jupiter; on 11<sup>th</sup> August the Full Moon is once again below Saturn and the Moon is close to Jupiter on 14<sup>th</sup> August.

Fifty three years ago, on July 20, 1969, the Apollo 11 Lunar Lander descended to the surface of the Moon and Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on its surface.

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.



## **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.

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

The Funeral of Sylvia Cullimore (1931—2022) was held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The officiants were Andrew Webster and the Reverend Julian White.

## **CHEPSTOW MALE VOICE CHOIR SINGS FOR THE RNLI!**

Chepstow's brilliant Male Voice Choir gave a splendid concert in Shirenewton Church on 20 May, in aid of the RNLI. This was their first live concert since the pandemic began, and it was wonderful to hear them again.

The church was packed, the evening was fun, and a good time was had by all. Ticket sales and donations raised nearly £700, every penny of which will go to the Lifeboats.

The choir is recruiting, so if any of you gentlemen reading this fancy enhancing your lives and your health - singing is very good for your health - please contact Alf, the secretary, at [secretary@chepstowmvc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@chepstowmvc.co.uk). If you can sing in the bath, you can sing in the choir!

RNLI Chepstow Branch, which holds events through the year to raise funds for the boats, the equipment and the lifeboat stations, will welcome new members too. If you would like to join us, please contact Keith Arnold at [w.k.arnold@btinternet.com](mailto:w.k.arnold@btinternet.com).

A big thank you to the choir for giving a lovely concert in our aid, and to Shirenewton Parish Church Council for allowing us to stage it in beautiful and historic St Thomas a Becket Church.

## Nerys's Natty Nosh



### Chicken Satay with brown rice and green salad.

**Serves 4**

#### Ingredients

500g pack skinless chicken breast fillets  
2 preserved gingers in syrup  
2 garlic cloves  
zest and juice of 1 lime  
1 tsp Agave  
1 tbsp soy sauce  
1 tbsp mild curry powder  
2 tbsp smooth peanut butter

#### Sauce

165ml can coconut milk/marinade  
cooked rice  
and lime wedges, to serve

#### Method

Place the chicken in a plastic bag and beat gently with a rolling pin.

Blitz the marinade. That is all the ingredients except for the coconut milk.

Place the chicken in a bowl and cover with marinade. Ensure all the chicken is coated.

Leave for several hours to marinade or overnight.

Grill the chicken until cooked through.

Heat the coconut in a saucepan with the remaining marinade.

Ensure the sauce is cooked all the way through before serving.

Serve with rice, green salad, and a lime wedge.



### Raspberry tiramisu

**This was made by a friend.**

#### Ingredients

8 sponge fingers soaked in 100 ml black coffee  
Mix 500g natural Greek yogurt with sweetener to taste and 1tsp vanilla essence  
Punnet of raspberries  
Dark chocolate

## **Method**

Divide sponge between four sundae dishes, cover with half yogurt mix then add punnet of raspberries halved, top with remaining yogurt and chill for couple of hours. Grate dark chocolate over just before serving.



## **Clafoutis served with soya cream and freeze-dried sour cherries.**

I wanted to make a very light pudding using fresh fruit I had in the fridge, so I chose to make Clafoutis. The addition of crunchy freeze-dried sour cherries gave the dish another dimension.

It was tasty and so easy. 

## **Serves 4**

### **Ingredients**

250g soft fruits; I used strawberries, blueberries, and blackberries  
50g ground almonds or wholemeal spelt flour  
1 egg beaten  
100ml milk (oat, dairy or soya)  
50ml single cream (soya or dairy)  
75ml maple syrup



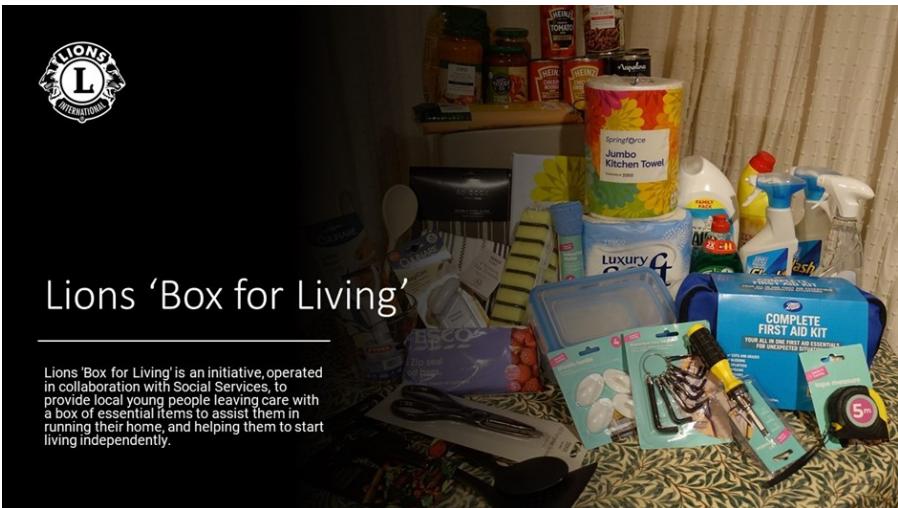
## **Method**

Preheat the oven 180C/160C Fan/ Gas 4  
Place the fruit in a shallow ovenproof dish. If using frozen fruit, defrost first.  
In a blender, whizz the egg, cream, and milk for a few seconds. Add the rest of the ingredients, blitz for a few seconds.  
Pour the batter over the fruit.  
Place the dish on top of an ovenproof tray and bake in the oven for 25/30 minutes or until the batter is set and slightly brown.



## Lions 'Box for Living'

Lions 'Box for Living' is an initiative, operated in collaboration with Social Services, to provide local young people leaving care with a box of essential items to assist them in running their home, and helping them to start living independently.



### 'Box for Living' appeal

Every year at the run up to the festive season we run our main appeal. Last year we donated £3,000 to two food banks in our area. This year we are focusing on young people who are leaving care at the age of 18. Lions 'Box for Living' is an initiative, operated in collaboration with Social Services, to provide local young people leaving care with a box of essential items to assist them in running their home, and helping them to start living independently.

This is a terrifying experience for many youngsters who have no experience of living in the wider world. They have no family to support them and no frame of reference for how to embark on setting up and running their own home. It can be a desperately lonely and scary experience.

Please help us in this effort. We aim to provide around 20 'Box for Living' at an estimated cost of £100 each. It has been a difficult couple of years for many of us but whatever you can donate to this appeal will help enormously.

**DONATE HERE >** <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/boxforliving>

**Alternatively**, cheques made payable to **Chepstow and Caldicot Lions Club**, can be sent to The Lion Secretary, Chepstow and Caldicot Lions, Box for Living Appeal 31 Edmond Locard Court, Chepstow, NP16 6FA



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Longest day tomorrow – can scarcely believe it! And the weather at the Fete yesterday scarcely fitted the season. But it seemed a great success after a huge effort by the Committee and all the helpers. Thank you everyone!

Thank you to all the people who supported Fairtrade at my somewhat bedraggled stall. I apologise to anyone on the receiving end of my over emphatic championing of the benefits of Fairtrade. Reading my harangues is one thing, but having to hear them face to face can be above and beyond the call of duty! It's just that FT is a cause I have felt so passionately about, for more than 30 years and uptake, although it is growing, is painfully and to me incomprehensibly slow. As consumers we can effect momentous change for the good – the good of the workers who produce so much of what we take for granted, and for the good of the environment, as environmental sustainability is a key criterion for the award of the Fairtrade mark. 30+ years ago I was naïve enough to presume that once consumers understood FT's world changing advantages they would simply switch to the FT alternative.

With the developing climate catastrophe and the repercussions of Covid, farmers everywhere, but particularly in less developed countries, are having to cope with worsening conditions. The current worldwide economic crises are clearly also having a detrimental effect. Last year's UK government aid cut has also had a negative impact on the sort of programmes that Traidcraft has been able to roll out. Some programmes have been pared back or even stopped.

Giving poorer farmers and producers support to help them begin to live a more sustainable life enables them to stay on the land and not to migrate to overcrowded cities. Traidcraft's programmes help farmers like Ann Ntinyari in Meru County Kenya develop their techniques to move from Kilimo Tumbo (farming

for the tummy) to Kilimo Biashara (farming as a business). Crop rotation, soil testing, increasing biodiversity, table banking, group training are some of the techniques she has learnt. From subsistence farming to a thriving business. And of course she can now pass on her skills and knowledge to others. A virtuous circle.

One of the new products developed by Traidcraft is a direct response to the long periods of drought now suffered by smallholder farmers in Tunisia. The fruits of their date palms are becoming increasingly dry so to minimize waste they are grinding their dates into a sweet powder which has been used to sweeten Traidcraft's new chocolate bar (dark chocolate 55% cocoa, with no added sugar). The additional fair trade income the farmers earn allows them to invest in sustainable measures for the future such as solar pumps for watering their date palms.

It is wonderful to hear of such positive developments when news is generally so dire. Do, please consider the impacts your purchases can have. It is so easy to feel that, as an individual one can have little impact. A drop in the ocean. But the ocean is simply lots of drops!

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com.

Do contact me for a catalogue or info.

## **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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*This is a fair share scheme where we share our seasonal produce and place a minimum of 8 items in the medium boxes (suitable for 2)*



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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 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](http://www.chepstowcaldicotlions.org.uk/page-8.php)



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Carpenters Arms (on the Usk road)

Huntsman Hotel (on the Usk road)

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(House half way between Blethyn Close and the School in Mynyddbach)  
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## **LOCAL CONTACTS**

*If you know of any changes or omissions please contact the Editor Bill Clark  
Telephone 01291 641783 or email parishmagshirenewton@gmail.com*

### **Church of St Thomas à Becket, Shirenewton**

Ministry Area Leader (designate)	Revd Philip Averay <a href="mailto:revphilipaveray@gmail.com">revphilipaveray@gmail.com</a>	01291 620980
Rector	Revd Julian White <a href="mailto:jel.white@btinternet.com">jel.white@btinternet.com</a>	01291 622317
Parish Priest	Revd Nansi Davies CBE	01633 400 519
Lay Eucharistic Minister	Gilly Lambert	07821 725 690
Church Wardens – Rector's – People's	Sally Saysell	01291 641 369
PCC Secretary	Andrew Baker	01291 641 925
PCC Treasurer	John Montague	01291 329 481
PCC Members	Graham Lambert	01291 641 175
	Janet Horton	01291 641 783
	James Leney	01291 641 271
	Frances Gray	01291 622 465
	Paul Morcombe	01291 641 671
	Wendy Montague	01291 329 481
	John Burrows	01291 641 845
Gift Aid Secretary	Vacant	01291 641 411
Organists	Karen Millar	01291 650 521
Sunday Club	James Leney	01291 641 271
Tower Captain	Lynn Morcombe	01291 641 671
Saysell Centre Booking	Mike Penney	01291 650 653
Safeguarding Officer	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641 818
Church Flowers	Andrew Baker	01291 641 925
Parish Magazine Editor	Maureen Moody	01291 641 524
200 Club	Bill Clark	01291 641 783
	Aileen Doggett	01291 641 459

### **Church of St Tewdrics's Mathern**

Secretary	Jen Marendaz	01291 329 422
Church Warden	Elisbeth Morlan	01291 627 538
	Peter Pope	01291 624 453

### **Ministry Area Transition Team**

(Mathern Group)	Graham Lambert	01291 641 175
	James Leney	01291 641 271
	Ros Downs	

### **MP/Monmouth CC & Community Council Representatives**

Community Council Clerk	Natasha Jones	01291 650133	shirenewtoncc@gmail.com
Shirenewton Ward:	Hannah Adams		hannah.a@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
Chair	Philip Butterworth	01291 641704	philip.b@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
	Keith M Dunn OBE	01291 641152	keith.d@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
	Vacancy		
	Elizabeth Wixey	01291641216	elizabeth.w@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
Mynyddbach Ward	Louise Brown	07598979719	louisebrown@monmouthshire.gov.uk
	Vacancy		
Earlswood Ward	Jayne McKenna	01291 691774	jayne.m@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
	Andy Williamson	01291641451	andy.w@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
Newchurch West	Ian Martin	01291 650014	ian.m@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
MCC for Shirenewton	Louise Brown	07598 97971	louisebrown@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Member of Parliament	David Davies	020 7219 8360	daviesd@parliament.uk

## **Police Neighbourhood Watch Contacts**

**Neighbourhood Police Officer** Matt Scree matthew.screen@gwent.pnn.police.uk  
**Neighbourhood CSO** Andrew Jones Andrew.jones@gwent.pnn.police.uk

## **Other Local Organisations**

<b>Beavers</b>	Julie Hitchcock	01291 650548
<b>Church Fete</b>		
<b>Earlswood Hope</b>	Mr Raymond Jeremiah	01291 641726
<b>Earlswood &amp; Newchurch West Memorial Hall</b>	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641818
	glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com	
<b>Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel</b>	Avril Smith	01291 627677
<b>Gaerllwyd Baptist</b>	Mrs E Remnant	Brooklands, Usk Road NP16 6SA
<b>Ranger Guides</b>	Helen Cann	01291 6628534 cannhelen@gmail.com
<b>Recreation Association</b>	Beverly Lyndsay	07798 780971 beverlylyndsay@btinternet.com
<b>Recreation Hall booking</b>	Beryl Saysell	01291 641637 saysellberyl@gmail.com
<b>St Peters Church Newchurch</b>	Enid Heritage	01291 622708
	enidheritage@gmail.com	
<b>Shirenewton Local History Society</b>	Dorothy Brabon	01291 641376 brabonn1@hotmail.com
<b>Gwent Wildlife Trust Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Meadows (previously SAMFAL)</b>		01600 740600
<b>Caerwent Group Mothers Union</b>	Rosemary Carey	01291 425010 crcandkili@tiscali.co.uk
Treasurer	BrIDGET Evans	01291 408125 bridget.caldicot@gmail.com
<b>Shirenewton Operatic and Dramatic Society (SODS)</b>	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641818
	glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com	
<b>Shirenewton Play Group</b>	Beverly Lindsay	Shirenewtonplaygroup@gmail.com
<b>Shirenewton Primary School</b>	Mrs Jill Mitchell, Associate Head Teacher	01291 641774
	email jillianmitchell@monmouthshire.gov.uk	
	Jayne Edwards	01291 641774
	jayneedwards@monmouthshire.gov.uk	
<b>Shirenewton Toddler Group</b>	Jude Langdon	07981 368213
	Paula Rimmer	rimmerpaula@mac.com
<b>Shirenewton Tennis Association</b>	Andy Orrell	07974187458
<b>Fairtrade/Traidcraft</b>	Marion McAdam	01291 641316
<b>Womens Institute (WI)</b>	Diane Ashton Smith (President)	01291 628838
	Jane Butterworth (Secretary)	01291 641704.

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