

Shirenewton Parish Magazine



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November 2022

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SHIRENEWTON CHURCH

Julian E LI White

A little piece of history will be made later this month.

Shirenewton will become part of the Severn Wye Ministry Area.

This will be marked, in common with churches in the Chepstow and St. Arvans groups, by a special service in Chepstow Priory Church on 27th November at 4pm. The Inauguration Service will be held, at which Bishop Cherry will formally commission the Ministry Area.

Please note: This will be the only service in the Ministry Area churches that day.

Please do feel free to attend this significant event. We are reminded that this is an important and historic occasion signalling a new era in the life of all our churches and congregations.

If that is not enough excitement for you, there is more to follow! In line with the Constitution of the Church in Wales, the first Annual Vestry Meeting must be held within eight days. So, this will take place on Wednesday, November 30th at 7pm in the Saysell Centre. At the AVM we will seek to elect: a Lay Co-chair of the Council; a People's Warden; a Secretary and a Treasurer.

The above are designated roles for the Severn Wye Ministry Area.

If anyone from our church would be willing and able to take on one of these roles, please contact me for nomination forms.

It is at times like this that we are reminded of the significant contribution made by the (unpaid) members of the laity towards the functioning of the Church. Often this involves tedious and dry considerations but, more often than not, effort is unstintingly given in order to present a Church that is fit for purpose. Sincere thanks to you all.

On another matter, it is good to report that a Safeguarding Session was held recently in Mathern church with the diocesan approved officer chairing the meeting. Representatives from Mathern, Mounton, St. Pierre and Chepstow were present. Those who attended received, shortly afterwards, a certificate issued by the Church in Wales to confirm that they had duly completed an *Understanding Safeguarding in the Church* course.

A word or two of appreciation to Hazel Thorpe and Paula Rimmer for organizing the ShAMBLE event at the weekend and to Jane Smith-Haddon for organizing the event in the church. The Art Club

were asked to display various works in the porch and this was enjoyed by a good number of community residents.

As we enter a new era in the life of our local church I hope that newfound confidence becomes apparent and that growth of membership results.

With every good wish and blessing.

Julian White
(Rector)

FOR THE REGISTERS

Jack Reid and Anna Broughton were married on 1st October. The Reverend Julian White 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.

To advertise in this magazine contact

Bill Clark: 01291 641783; parishmagshirenewton@gmail.com

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The Severn Wye Ministry Area

Inauguration Service

led by the Right Reverend Cherry Vann

Bishop of Monmouth

at St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow

on Sunday 27 November at 4pm

All are welcome!

Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in October:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Brian Harper | 2. Beth Baker |
| 3. Rebecca Halliday | 4. Susan Williams |

SHIRENEWTON W.I.—ORIGAMI MEETING

We were delighted to welcome some new faces to our October Open Evening, which was spent trying out Origami, the Japanese art of paper folding.

The Origami activity was gallantly led by our fellow member, Angela Gray. Her skill and patience came to the fore that evening as I, for one, discovered that origami does not come naturally to someone who has difficulty telling her right from her left. Fortunately many of our members are a lot more talented in craft than me, and it proved to be a very sociable meeting, with lots of laughs. We learned a new skill and I think that we were all thrilled to take home our origami cranes at the end of the evening.



Our November meeting is on Thursday 10th November, 7.15pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall, when we will be having a go at Line Dancing, so bring along your dancing shoes. Although our October meeting was called an Open Meeting, visitors or potential new members are, of course, always very welcome at any of our meetings.

Please contact Jane Butterworth at janeb247@gmail.com or Diane Ashton Smith (01291 628838) for more details.

Jackie Broughton

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.

COST OF THE PARISH MAGAZINE

At a recent PCC meeting it was agreed that we will need to increase the annual subscription for the parish magazine from £12 to £14 in 2023.

The reason for this is that the various costs incurred in producing the magazine have increased. This increase in the annual subscription for the magazine is in line with that, so that we continue to cover our costs.

CLOVELLY MAGAZINE

Apologies to anyone who received a copy of Clovelly parish magazine within the covers of Shirenewton magazine last month. It is thought that this was due to a compilation error at the printers.

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC) GRANTS TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (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.

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Shirenewton Community Council

Includes updates from the October Community Council Meeting

Planning Application Considered in October

Tyr Ywen, Weyloed Lane, Mynyddbach

Demolition of existing conservatory. Single storey extension to the rear (north) and side (east) elevation.

Recommendation: Unanimous no objection.

New Dog Bin on Mynyddbach Green

There has now been a new post mounted dog bin installed on Mynyddbach Green. After a slight initial delay due Monmouthshire County Council not advising the Community Council that the installation had been completed, this new bin has now been added to the collection schedule.

Shirenewton Local History Society Grant Application

The Council approved an application for a donation from Shirenewton Local History Society for £250 (two hundred and fifty pounds) to create new storage and approved a further donation of £25 (twenty five pounds) in lieu of membership to retain access to the Society's invaluable community resources. Payments will be made in November.

Remembrance Sunday

The Community Council agreed that the Chair Councillor Butterworth would lay a wreath on Remembrance Sunday on behalf of Shirenewton Community Council.

Autumn planting

The Community Council approved the budget to purchase bulbs and topsoil for village planting, to provide some growth in the Spring. Many thanks again to the willing group of local volunteers who continue to support with this planting and maintenance around the village.

New Play Area Equipment Consultation

Councillor Dunn advised the Council in the meeting that he and Councillor Butterworth were meeting with the School Council at Shirenewton Primary School on Thursday 6th October, to consult over new play equipment for younger children. The Council noted

that the village survey would also provide information for potential play equipment for older children.

Minister for Transport village visit.

Councillor Dunn confirmed that the Transport minister Lee Waters was keen to visit Shirenewton and the Council agreed that the date would be best confirmed when the implementation of the 20mph speed restrictions was complete. Councillor Dunn has contacted Monmouthshire County Council to follow up with photos/updates of the outstanding work and notifying that the Minister would like to visit. The Council noted that the police have confirmed that they are out enforcing speeding and residents need to complain to MCC Highways, Go Safe if they have specific concerns to raise re: speeding.

County Councillor Report October 2022

County Councillor Brown advised:

People Scrutiny Committee on the 27th of September 2022

Two main topics were discussed at the above committee. Firstly, the change in policy for Home to School Transport which will mean that a MCC road safety officer will determine if a road is hazardous. Secondly, the CEO of Welsh Ambulance Trust attended the meeting to give a presentation and to answer questions. Unfortunately, there was a limited time to ask questions and there was a lack of detail in relation to Monmouthshire itself. However, at the end of the meeting, I asked if the CEO would come again to the Committee in 3 to 6 months, which he agreed to do so.

The link to the People committee reports and to watch the meeting itself, can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=304&MId=5314>

Place Committee on the 26th of September 2022

Forest of Dean RLDP

The Place Committee considered a report on the Forest of Dean RLDP which is recommending 7440 houses with 600 at the Barracks in Sedbury Chepstow with Lydney being the centre for development with its population increasing from about 11K to 15-16K. The response from MCC indicated that they would not be able to support the plan without the infrastructure and active Travel measures.

Monmouthshire RLDP

The Place Committee also discussed the RLDP preferred strategy which changes the previous one as described below at point 3.18 of the report:

“The proposed revised preferred strategy would reduce the level of growth proposed and would amend the spatial distribution of new growth to avoid the upper Wye catchment. The revised Preferred Strategy would:

- Provide for approximately 5,400 - 5,940 homes over the Plan period 2018- 2033. This includes the provision of approximately 1,500 - 1,770 affordable homes. As there are currently approximately 3,940 homes in the housing landbank, the RLDP would need to allocate land for approximately 1,460 - 2,000 new homes, including 730 - 1,000 new affordable homes. The Council’s current data on affordable housing contained in the 2020 Local Housing Market Assessment indicates that 68% of the affordable housing provided needs to be social housing for rent, 7% intermediate rent and 25% low cost home ownership. This assessment is being updated based on a new WG template but given increased property prices and the cost of living crisis, social rented affordable housing is expected to remain the greatest proportion of need.*
- Set out the planning policy framework to support/enable the provision of approx. 6,240 additional jobs by allocating sufficient employment land in the right places in the County to meet the needs of new and existing businesses. The Plan will also include policies to facilitate growth in retail, leisure and tourism sectors. The RLDP will be supported by an economic development strategy.*
- Locate growth proportionately across the County’s most sustainable settlements, including Abergavenny, Chepstow and Severnside, as well as some growth in our rural settlements to deliver much needed affordable homes and to address rural inequality and rural isolation in these areas. Due to the lack of an identified strategic solution to the treatment of phosphates at the Monmouth WWTW within the Plan period, no new site allocations can be considered in settlements within the upper River Wye catchment area north of Bigsweir Bridge, including the primary settlement of Monmouth.*
- Identify preferred strategic sites in our primary settlements of Abergavenny and Chepstow and in Severnside.*

- *Set out strategic policies on a range of topic areas, reflecting the four placemaking themes in Planning Policy Wales (PPW). “*

The link to the Place committee reports and to watch the meeting itself, can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=303&Mid=5373>

County Council on the 27th of September 2022

The County Council considered various reports including the approval of the above RLDP, a motion on rivers and oceans, Mon Life tackling poverty and inequality summer programmes 2022 and MCC Self -assessment report 2021/22.

RLDP

The RLDP preferred strategy consultation next steps (as the County Council did endorse the proposal):

“Next Steps 3.22 If Council endorses this proposal for progressing the RLDP, a revised Preferred Strategy based on this strategy option will be reported to Council in December 2022 for endorsement to be issued for statutory consultation/engagement in December 2022 to January 2023. The responses received will inform the next key stage of the RLDP process, the Deposit Plan. The Report will also seek Council’s agreement of the RLDP Revised Delivery Agreement, which will amend the project timetable for Plan preparation, for submission to the Welsh Government for Ministerial approval.”

The link to the County Council reports and to watch itself, can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=143&Mid=5010>

Dates of next meetings - Monday 7th November 2022 and 5th December 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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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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GWENT ARCHIVES NEEDS YOU

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

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

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

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



Eileen O' Dwyer



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SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

We started our new year off with a talk by Peter Bonvoison who gave us an account of the archaeological dig at the Outpost at Llanmelin Iron Age Hill Fort. Peter was the lead at the dig, he explained that it had taken almost three years to organise, members of Caerwent Historic Trust, Shirenewton Local History Society and eighty school children from Shirenewton Primary School took part. There were over two hundred shards of pottery found and as many animal bones so we were able to date the outpost as late Iron Age. Everyone was very pleased with the outcome and agreed that it was a very worthwhile result for all the hard work involved.

Please find below the society's programme for the coming year:

Date	Title of Talk	Speaker
Tues 20 th September	The Outpost at Llanmelin Hill Fort	Peter Bonvoison
Tues 25 th October	Commonwealth War Graves	Richard Hoyle
Tues 29 th November	The Role of the Japanese Consul for Wales	Keith Dunn
Tues 20 th December	John Upton, Rogue & Genius	Dr Naylor Firth
Tues 31 st January	Nelson's State Funeral	Susan Amis
Tues 28 th February	Annual Dinner	
Tues 28 th March	Henry VII	Prof Ronald Hutton
Tues 25 th April	Paddle Steamers of thr Bristol Channel	Richard Clammer
Tues 30 th May	Tour of Churchyard, St Mary's	Susan Amis
Afternoon Visit	Chepstow	
Sat 17 th June	The Tombs in Abergavenny	Prof Maddy
Afternoon visit	Priory	Gray
Tues 25 th July	Raglan, Troy & Badminton	Dr Ann Benson

Meeting at the Church Room, St Thomas a Becket Church at 7.30pm, unless indicated otherwise.
Everyone is very welcome

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***Lounge Bar / Dining Area**

***Sunday Lunch, Parties or Functions only**

with food available on our established takeaway evenings plus Saturday & Sunday lunchtime or pre-booked parties etc

**Christmas Takeaway Ready Meals to collect
Christmas Eve @ £30 adult £15 child**

Dessert selection from £5

ooOoo

**Opening times Monday to Friday 5pm to 9.00pm,
Saturday 12 noon until 2pm & 5pm until
9.00pm, Sunday 12 noon to 7pm**

ooOoo

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Chepstow Choral Society

Musical Director – Graham Bull

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION Wednesday December 14th, 7.00pm

Arts Hall, Chepstow Leisure Centre

CCS looks forward now to full resumption of our annual Christmas Music – this will be a programme of Christmas choral items, seasonal readings, traditional carols and including some secular items.

Further details will be available from November and early December (01291 623310 or website)

Please come and join us for this Christmas Music --we look forward to seeing you there!

Marjorie Duerden, on behalf of CCS

**Please view our website (www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk) for further information (contact details available). Chepstow Choral Society is affiliated



to Ty Cerdd – Music Centre Wales and Making Music – The National Federation of Music Societies. Registered charity no. 1127098



SHIRENEWTON CHRISTMAS MARKET

**THE DATE'S BEEN SET –
IT'S OFFICIAL**

DATE: SATURDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

TIME: 10.30am – 12.30pm

***FREE ENTRY WITH A CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE JUST
BY ATTENDING!***

**PUT IT IN YOUR DIARY/CALENDAR/PHONE –
YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT!**

**IF YOU'D LIKE A STALL OR HAVE SOME FREE TIME
TO HELP OUT ON THE DAY, PLEASE CONTACT
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November

Monday 7 th 7.00 p.m.	SCC Meeting Recreation Hall
Sunday 13 th 11.00 a.m.	Remembrance Sunday service St Thomas à Becket Church, Shirenewton
Monday 14 th 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Saturday 26 th 10.30 a.m. to 12.30	Shirenewton Market Shirenewton Recreation Hall
Sunday 27 th 4.00 p.m.	Severn Wye Ministry Area Inauguration Service, St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow
Monday 28 th 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Tuesday 29 th 7.30 p.m.	Shirenewton Local History Society The Role of the Japanese Consul for Wales Shirenewton Church Hall
Wednesday 30 th 7.00 p.m.	Ministry Area annual vestry meeting Church Hall, Shirenewton

December

Sunday 4 th 11.00 to 12.00	Advent Fair Shirenewton Church Room
Monday 5 th 7.00 p.m.	SCC meeting Recreation Hall
Sunday 11 th 6.30 p.m.	Carols round the Christmas Tree Tredegar Arms car park
Monday 12 th 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Wednesday 14 th 7.00 p.m.	Chepstow Choral Society Christmas Celebration, Arts Centre, Chepstow Leisure Centre
Saturday 17 th 7.00 p.m.	St Woolos Sinfonia Christmas concert St Deiniols' Church, Itton
Sunday 18 th 10.00 a.m.	Christmas Praise service St Thomas a Becket Church
Tuesday 20 th 7.30 p.m.	Shirenewton Local History Society John Upton – Rogue and Genius Shirenewton Church Hall
Saturday 24 th 4.00 to 5.00 p.m.	Christingle Shirenewton Church room

Country Dancing

I'm Callin. You Dancin?

Shirenewton Church Room

Thursdays 1:45 - 3:00

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You just need to know your
Right from your Left



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The Bells.

A busy ringing schedule followed the Queen's death on September 8th. This had been planned for nationally several years in advance under the code name "Operation London Bridge" which had included all aspects of the procedures to follow the monarch's death including the ringing of church bells.

Almost all current ringers, except the most elderly, had not experienced what would be expected of them and the code laid this out. During the period of national mourning bells were to be rung fully muffled except for the tenor (heaviest bell of the set) which would be rung half-muffled. Until 2020 Shirenewton only possessed a set of half-muffles so the opportunity was taken then to purchase another set of half-muffles thus allowing full muffling of the bells. The Covid restriction at the time and the absence of church services in the early part of 2020 permitted the removal of the bell clappers which had to be painted in special rubberised paint so that the more modern muffles would not rotate.

So what does half-muffled and fully muffled mean I hear you clamour?

I have attached two photographs to demonstrate:



Photo 1



Photo 2

Photo 1 shows a clapper (the ball hammer like structure within the bell) with one strike surface covered in a thick leather pad. Fitted in this way when the bell swing through its 360 degree circle the clapper surface which is muffled strikes the bell resulting in a muted or muffled sound – a sort of soft "dung" Rung in the opposite direction the un-muffled side of the clapper produces the normal sharp sound of the bell – a definite "ding".

Photo 2 shows the clapper fully muffled – both strike surfaces are covered – producing the soft “dung” sound throughout.

The effect on ring the diatonic scale at Shirenewton (6 bells) is as follows:

dung, dung, dung, dung, dung, dung
dung, dung, dung, dung, dung, DING!

So armed with this knowledge what happened. Well on Friday September 9th at 12.00 noon the available ringers assembled to ring as above – fully muffled except for the tenor which was half-muffled.

On Saturday 10th September Charles was proclaimed King which required the bells to be stripped of their muffles and rung open in celebration. Muffles were then hastily replaced as mourning continued. On Thursday 15th September a memorial service was held at the church preceded by a quarter peal of mixed doubles. Finally on Monday 19th September ringing was held to mark the completion of the Queen’s funeral service at Westminster Abbey, which had been preceded by tolling of the tenor bell at St Thomas a Becket. Shirenewton exactly 96 times performed by Glynis MacDonald.

Now there is a national plan to ensure every ringable church bell is sounded for the coronation of King Charles III. The plan is code named

Ring for the King

This corresponds with our recruitment drive to train more ringers at Shirenewton , so if you are interest in participating please contact Pip Penney on 01291 650653 or email pippenney@hotmail.com.

M.D.Penney.





**Carols Around the Village
Christmas Tree**

With the *Chepstow Town Band!*

Sunday 11th December @ 6.30
Tredegar Arms Car Park.

The Collection will go to
'Medicins sans Frontieres'

 Bring a torch. And some gloves.
A warm hat And loud voices!





Advent Fair

In the Church Room

Sunday 4th December

11:00 - 12:00

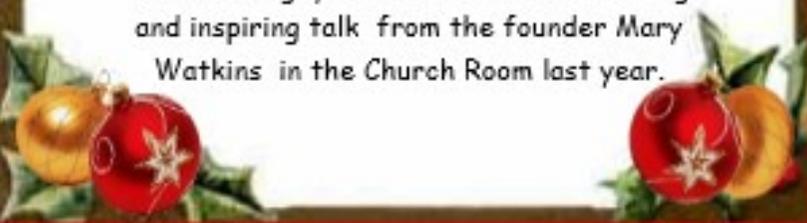
Hand crafted Christmas goodies

Cakes, Biscuits, Mincemeat, Jams,
Jellies and Marmalades

And of course, a raffle

Coffee and mince pies.

The money raised will go to 'The Friends of
Rwandan Rugby' after we heard an amazing
and inspiring talk from the founder Mary
Watkins in the Church Room last year.



ShAMBLE 2022: MYTHS & LEGENDS

Saturday 15th October 2022 was the grand opening night of the 5th annual Shirenewton and Mynyddbach iLlumination extravaganza. The main aim of ShAMBLE has always been to bring our community together to have fun. This year it was so wonderful to be able to invite you all to the Recreation hall for some of the very finest refreshments and home made cakes! The last time we were able to do this was of course way back in 2019. Wasn't it fantastic to come together and mingle with friends and neighbours in the Rec Hall?

I am really happy to report that we saw many people out and about, enjoying the window trail and also enjoying refreshments at The Rec. Beaulieu House and Rock House deserve a special mention for their incredible hospitality too! Sunday night sadly brought some heavy rain, but it didn't stop many of you ShAMBLE-ing and socialising. Although, it played havoc with photo opportunities!

The good news is that the profit we made from selling refreshments goes into the bank so that we can do it all over again next year! We have **already** ordered a much wider variety of hi-vis vest sizes for children and adults.

Finally, a big thank you to all of you who decorated windows, Shirenewton Community Council for our small grant and also to our many volunteers who helped make the magic happen this weekend.

(Pictures on this page and pages 29, 30, 31, 36 and 37)





THE "LEGENDARY"
SHIRENEWTON MARKET
RETURNS SAT 26th NOV
10.30-12.30
AT THE REC WALL



Shirenewton Toddlers
Monday 1.15-3.15



Hand-drawn illustration of a stick figure holding a staff, with text: "The Dufftrucks" and "The Dufftrucks".



The Dufftrucks
Hand-drawn illustration of a stick figure holding a staff, with text: "The Dufftrucks" and "The Dufftrucks".



England Euro 22







Welcome to Our Candle Lit
'Christmas Praise' Service

in Shirenewton Church
on

Sunday 18th December
at 10 o'clock



A 'Light' Service with poems,
readings,
and 'Recollections',



And of course plenty of carol
singing for all!

Mince pies and coffee afterwards
in the Church Room



**Come and join our
Walkabout Christingle!
Christmas Eve
Saturday 24th December.
Between 4 and 5 pm**



What a lovely way to start Christmas!
Make your own Christingle as you walk the
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Meet the kings in Shirenewton Church Room
and collect your orange.
Talk to the Shepherds in the Church porch
and pick up your candle.
See the angels under The Chantry veranda
and choose your sweets.
And finally visit Mary and Joseph and the
baby Jesus in the garage watched over by two
lovely real donkeys!



Nerys's Natty Nosh

I posted this article in the Chepstow U3A last month and thought I would share it with you.



The Queen traditionally hosted three annual Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace, and one at the Palace of Holyrood house in Scotland. On the day of the Garden Party, the Palace gates opened from around 3pm. The Party officially began when The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh arrived, accompanied by other Members of the Royal Family. While the bands continued to play a selection of music, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh circulated among the guests through 'lanes'. Each took a different route and random presentations were made

so that everyone had an equal chance of speaking to Her Majesty and other Members of the Royal Family. The Queen then arrived at the Royal Tea Tent, where she met further guests. Guests were free to eat, drink and stroll around the beautiful Palace gardens.

The menu would include: -

Sandwiches

Egg Mayonnaise with cress

Cucumber with fresh mint & black pepper

Gammon Ham, tomato & wholegrain mustard

Coronation chicken wrap with baby spinach

Smoked salmon bagel, black pepper, and Crème fraiche

Cakes

Carrot Cake, Dundee cake, Coffee eclair, Strawberry tart, Victoria Sponge, Passion fruit tart,

Raspberry shortbread, Scones with blackcurrant jam

As scone's are traditionally served at afternoon tea events, I thought I would share my Mother In Law's recipe with you. It never fails.

Eirwen's Scones



8 oz (225g) self-raising flour
2 oz (50g) margarine or butter,
chilled
1 tsp baking powder
2 oz (50g) caster sugar
¼ pint 150 ml of milk or soya milk

Optional
2 oz (50g) chopped cherries/ sul-
tanans or walnuts.

1 Pre heat the oven to
220C/425F/Gas 7.

- 2 Sift the flour and baking powder into a bowl.
- 3 Add the chilled butter/margarine and rub into the flour until it resembles breadcrumbs.
- 4 Add a little milk until a smooth dough is made.
- 5 Rest for 15 minutes.
- 6 Roll the dough on a lightly floured surface until $\frac{3}{4}$ inch/ 2cm thick.
- 7 Using a 2in/5cm pastry cutter, cut the dough into even sized rounds. Place on a lightly greased baking sheet.
- 8 Brush the tops of the scones with milk.
- 9 Bake in the oven for 10- 12 minutes until well risen and golden.
- 10 Cool on a wire rack and serve with butter or whipped cream and jam.

Eirwen's top tips

- 1 Make sure the margarine and milk are cold. Cold hands are the best for perfect scones.
- 2 Always lightly dust the surface with flour and treat the dough gently. Never overwork the mixture.
- 3 Never turn the dough over, always roll the same side.
- 4 Scones need to go into a preheated hot oven, the cooking time is short, and they need to start cooking straight away.
- 5 Scones have a short self-life, so I always freeze mine on the baking day, bringing what I need from the freezer when required.

(continued from previous page)

Deliciously crumbly Almond shortbread. 😊 My grandchildren loved them.

Ingredients

125g Butter/Margarine
55g Caster Sugar
180g Plain Flour/ brown rice flour
60g Ground Almond

Method

Pre-heat oven to 180C (Gas Mark 4)
Rub in the Flour and Margarine/ butter in a bowl until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.
Add the sugar.
Add the Ground Almond.
Press to mixture to form a ball.
Gently roll out the mixture and cut into desired shapes.
Bake in the preheated oven for about 20 minutes or until firm to the touch and very lightly brown. Cool in the tin. **Enjoy!**





Due to the weather on Saturday night, it was not possible to photograph all the windows, and some photos were out of focus, but the selection of photos printed on pages 28, 29, 30, 31, 36 and 37 give a good flavour for the high standard of window displays achieved this year.

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

In October's parish mag entry, I discussed the fact that Google dominates internet search accounting for over 92% of searches. I also noted that Neeva was trying to re-imagine the search industry with a tracking and advert free experience for a monthly fee. That was written in September and should have hit your doorsteps in early October. The MSM finally caught up and on 5th October the BBC and The Telegraph (there may well have been others) both had a piece on Neeva. So, once again, the Parish Magazine is ahead of the game!

While we are on the subject of search engines

I recently read an article covering the history of WiFi (I do this so you don't have to). One of the questions was 'What does WiFi stand for?'. I have to say that I didn't have a clue. If you search Google for 'What does WiFi stand for?', you will see the top result is an extract from Wikipedia with the text, "The name is often written as WiFi, Wifi, or wifi, but these are not approved by the Wi-Fi Alliance. IEEE is a separate, but related, organization and their website has stated "WiFi is a short name for Wireless Fidelity"". So that seems pretty definitive doesn't it. You'd show this to someone and rest your case.

However, you don't have to go far to find that this is disputed, not least by Wikipedia itself. There are multiple articles on the subject but the most succinct explanation is from the New Scientist which says: "You may have read, or made an educated guess, that Wi-Fi stands for "wireless fidelity" just as Hi-Fi stands for "high fidelity". It would make sense but you'd be wrong." It goes on to explain: "Phil Belanger, a founding member of the Wi-Fi Alliance, has comprehensively dispelled the idea: "Wi-Fi doesn't stand for anything. It is not an acronym. There is no meaning." The simple truth is that the organisation needed a name for their standard that would be easier to remember than "IEEE 802.11b Direct Sequence". So they hired the marketing agency Interbrand to name it and were given the choice of 10 options. Belanger does concede that the organisation did, in the early days of Wi-Fi, include the tag line "The Standard for Wireless Fidelity". This was because board members found it hard to imagine having a name that didn't mean anything and wanted to subsequently explain the name that had been invented for them, but Belanger says it was a mistake to do it, and the line was quickly dropped."

If you click through to the Wikipedia article itself, it does include the above information and states, presumably factually, the above quoted extract used by Google. So, I would argue, this is Google's search engine being somewhat misleading. Quoting a fact out of context and making it seem the correct answer to the question.

Lesson: always click through to articles and read them. Don't rely on the Google summary/extract.

I have in the past covered some of the technical aspects of the Ukrainian war and another interesting fact in this respect came in via the techie feeds I read. The Register reports that "The failure rate of semiconductors shipped from China to Russia has increased by 1,900 percent in recent months, according to Russian national business daily Коммерсантъ (Kommersant)".

It seems that before Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, the defect rate in Chinese supplied semiconductors was circa 2% - still fairly high by industry standards. However, now the defect rate is approaching 40%. As the article speculates: "Perhaps they're dumping dud product on Russian buyers, knowing that they can't easily access alternatives." Apparently that's what you get when you do a "friendship without limits" deal with the Chinese government! Couldn't happen to a nicer bunch!

Another The Register article which made me smile was titled: "AI detects 20,000 hidden taxable swimming pools in France, netting €10m". So, in summary, if you improve your house in France by, for example, adding a pool, you pay more property tax. For some reason, home owners don't always declare such enhancements leaving the poor French Government short of a bob or two. The AI software is programmed to scan ariel images looking for tell-tale signs of swimming pools. For example, a blue rectangle may indicate such a presence. The software flags the address and this is cross referenced against a database. So far over 20,000 undeclared pools have been identified - hence the €10m.

There are false positives. Apparently an array of solar panels can be a problem. Likewise, the software isn't good at detecting pools covered by trees or in shadow. But, as always, the accuracy is growing all the time and the software is being expanded to look for undeclared house extensions and so on.

I don't know when the last time you looked at Google satellite view of anything, let alone your own home. However, the definition has markedly improved over the last few years and you can see that it wouldn't be hard to have software trawl the images looking for 'stuff'. We are not yet at the point that we can see the cat on the drive, but it's not that far away.

Finally, PC Mag (and others) is reporting that there is a doctored image of the iconic photo of a region of space called SMACS 0723, which the James Webb Space Telescope captured earlier this year, being pushed by phishing emails containing a malicious Office document, which is designed to automatically download the malware on a victim's PC. The doctored image contains the malicious code. The lesson: don't download stuff (or even click on the links) sent by random emailers.

On that note, safe browsing

David Cornwell
Webmaster

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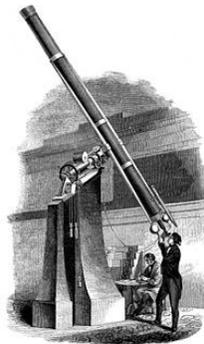
Stargazing

The seven stars of the Plough lie to the North in the evening. It is also known as the Great Bear or Ursa Major. Ursa Major was one of the constellations listed by the 2nd century AD Egyptian astronomer Ptolemy. The constellation of Ursa Major has been seen as a bear by many civilizations. In Greek mythology, Zeus, the king of the gods, fell in love with a young woman named Callisto. Hera, Zeus' jealous wife, transformed the beautiful Callisto into a bear and placed her in the heavens.

The cross of Cygnus is high in the western sky. The "W" of Cassiopeia lies nearly overhead in the Milky Way.

Mid-month the bright planet Jupiter is to the South in the evening sky. Orange Mars is to the left of the bright star Aldebaran in the East and Saturn is close to the horizon in the south-west. On 1st November the Moon at First Quarter is just below Saturn. The Waxing Gibbous Moon is below Jupiter on 4th November whilst it is close to Mars and Waning Gibbous on the 11th. The waxing Moon is getting brighter whilst it is waning when it is becoming less and less illuminated. Gibbous describes the Moon when it is in a phase that is between Full and half-illuminated.

The Milky Way is a faint band of light visible on clear dark nights. It is the combined light of an enormous number of stars that make up our galaxy. There are approximately 200 billion galaxies in the Universe. Each galaxy contains very approximately 200 billion stars. So that's very approximately a mind-boggling 40,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars in the Universe!



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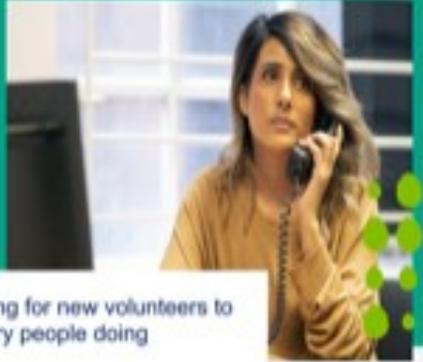
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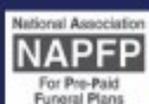
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Gardening Corner

I don't know why, but when things go wrong it always seems to happen in threes! If the washing machine packs up, you can almost guarantee that the Hoover and the kettle (or something similar) will pack up at the same time, or not long after! Maybe it is because you tend to buy them at the same time (after getting married, or moving to a new home) and as with most things these days, they don't seem to last like they used to. We have experienced one of those phenomena recently in our family which ended with the Assistant Head Gardener tripping over and badly breaking her wrist. The staff in 'the Gwent' were fantastic on the day, as were the staff at Ystrad Mynach hospital when the wrist needed reconstructing. The break needed a metal plate and several screws to hold everything together, but recovery is now well underway, with no need of a further plaster cast to help things along. The lack of a cast proved a big disappointment to the grandchildren, all of whom were making plans on what they could draw / write all over nanny's cast after she had the operation! Hopefully, things are now moving in the right direction again.

In the garden, the rain has finally arrived and as expected, doesn't now know when to stop, so the cleaning up of the vegetable beds and the flower borders is temporarily on stop. But there is still plenty of jobs to be done. I had started cutting the hedges back in August and all have at least been cut once. The ones cut first are now looking a bit ragged, so these will get a further trim over as soon as the rain stops. We do like to see nice orderly hedges and by cutting them as soon as you can ensures a sense of tidiness for much longer. Tidy isn't necessarily good for nature though, so it is a case of ensuring a balancing act. To increase biodiversity, we have a couple of hedges that remain uncut, and I keep an eye on what neighbours are up to as well! Usually when cutting, I keep an eye out for summer dormouse nests, which I often find, especially near the top of the beech hedges. For years now, there have always been a number of small balls of dried-up leaves which the dormice use as summer sleeping quarters, but this year I have noted very few. I hope that this isn't a bad sign. They have also used our big tunnel as a feeding station, making the most of any fallen nectarines and peaches that have purposefully been left on the ground for them to make the most of the large stones inside. Unfortunately, I have just had to remove the last tree from the tunnel as it was suffering from age, and constant attack by pests, so I'm going to have to find an alternative way to provide a food source for these endearing little animals. We have a very large fruit cage, and have lost several blackberries and other soft fruit plants, so there should be room to establish some small trees in the borders. This should be ideal, as the cage is adjacent to one of our boundary hedges, so easy and well protected access for the dormice to gain access. The leaves are starting to fall rapidly now, so the bulk of these will be collected and stored to rot down. We use these as a valuable dressing for the rose beds. The rotted leaves provide little food source, but make a lovely friable top dressing to help keep the weeds down and the moisture in.

Again, it is a case of keeping a balance as leaves on the lawn, can kill off the grass, but are also needed by the worms and other insects, which in turn help improve the soil conditions.

There are plenty of jobs to be done in the greenhouses and tunnels. At this time of year, and crops that are surviving will be impacted by mould and fungal attack as conditions are rife for these diseases. We are still picking tomatoes, but in order to keep the fruits fungal free, I have spent some time removing most of the leaves and putting these onto our compost heap. This increase the air flow around the fruits, and allows any sun that is about to more readily ripen the remaining fruits. Some advocate removing the fruits and bringing them indoors to ripen (often with the help of a banana which releases a gas as it ripens which then encourages the tomatoes to ripen as well). I know that this does work, but I always prefer to leave the tomatoes on the plants for as long as possible – usually until the first hard frost arrives. The large ripened plum tomatoes have just been turned into passata sauce, and I think that this might be the last. The remaining green tomatoes might be used for chutney, but we will see how things go. We have already made three or four batches of various chutneys including pear, date and walnut and there is a limit to how much chutney you can eat / give away! Some of the tomato plants have had their day, so these will be completely removed as soon as possible. Even though we have had a couple of early frosts, these did not impact the tunnels so we still have peppers growing. These are both hot and sweet varieties. We sell what we can during the season, but it is now the time to start dealing with any 'left-overs'. The sweet peppers get cut up and stored in the freezer. They are cut into both coarse and fine chunks, with the coarse cut being stored for casseroles, and the fine cut for the filling in Fajitas. The hot peppers will be cut in half, de-seeded and then dried in or on the top of the range. These will then be stored for use next year. Sometimes we put them through the blender to give a supply of chilli flakes. We have learnt the hard way though that, when 'blitzing' the dry chillies in the blender, you must make sure windows and doors are left open and a face mask is worn. Inhaling the fumes / any fine dust is not a healthy experience – trust me! In the greenhouses the smaller one tends to be used for drying produce, some of which, like shallots, garlic and small onions have now been removed for storage in the garage. All that remains are our large onions, and trays of produce which are drying for extracting the seeds for next year's planting. These are mostly beans and peas. Some of the beans are being dried for use in casseroles as well. For some reason the peas have also been turned into a secondary use – a bed for our little 'wild' cat, called Harvey. Cats seem to like sleeping somewhere elevated, but quite why he has chosen the tray of pea seeds is not clear. I'm clearly not going to be flavour of the day when I pod them and remove the trays!

With the forecast looking good one day last week, I decided it was now or never to have a last run through the bees before shutting them down for the winter. You will no doubt remember the trials and tribulations

experienced this year, so I was very pleased to see that the queens in all hives were still laying, although as you would expect at this time of year, the amount of brood was much diminished in numbers as the queens also shut down, laying just enough eggs to keep things ticking over. Bees that remain, because they are no longer flying huge distances, will now survive until the spring (rather than the usual three weeks or so in summer).

They will hopefully survive long enough to kick the whole process off when weather conditions improve next spring. To allow the queen to move with the ball of bees, the queen excluder was removed from each hive. I did remove some honey, but made sure there were more than enough stores to get the bees through even the hardest winter. I had already put mouse excluders on the front of the hives, but I will still need to monitor these during the winter to make sure no pesky mice try to gain entry by chewing the wooden hives. The only remaining job is to put some wire netting around the hives. This is to keep green woodpeckers away, especially when the ground is frozen solid and food is difficult to find. I have only ever had this trouble once. It is not a 'natural' thing for green woodpeckers to do but can be learnt, so if one starts others will soon quickly follow. The netting ensures they cannot reach the hive to even start. For some reason, greater spotted woodpeckers don't seem to have the same bad habit, probably because they mostly find their food in trees.

The seed catalogues have started to land on the doorstep again, so time to plan what we want to purchase for next year. Happy gardening until next month, *Steve and Felicity Hunt*.

Shirenewton Operatic and Dramatic Society



Yes, the panto is On!

All Welcome! Even if you've not been involved before, even if you don't want to tread the boards, what about prompting or sewing costumes or making props or even writing a script?

Oh and Daisy the Cow needs two people. You would have to get on with the other half of that partnership...

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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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Rector	Revd Julian White Jel.white@btinternet.com	01291 622317
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	John Burrows	01291 641 845
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	James Leney	01291 641 271
Sunday Club	Lynn Morcombe	01291 641 671
Tower Captain	Mike Penney	01291 650 653
Saysell Centre Booking	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641 818
Safeguarding Officer	Andrew Baker	01291 641 925
Church Flowers	Maureen Moody	01291 641 524
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200 Club	Aileen Doggett	01291 641 459

Church of St Tewdrics’s Mathern

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Caerwent Group Mothers Union

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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.

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Advertising for Local and Charity organisations is free.

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**Deadline for the December 2022/January 2023 issue is
9:00 a.m. Monday 21st November 2022**