

Shirenewton Parish Magazine



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October 2022

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SHIRENEWTON CHURCH

Julian E LI White

Dear People of the Parish,

September was a solemn month across the country whilst we gathered, in a variety of ways, to mourn the passing of HRH Queen Elizabeth II.

All the churches in the present grouping held separate services of remembrance with Shirenewton marking the occasion on Thursday, September 15th where Warden Sally Saysell (reading) and Janet Horton (prayers) joined me in officiating. I am most grateful to Karen Millar who played the organ with due gravitas on this sombre occasion.

A book of Public Remembrance has been made available for a period in which people are encouraged to submit their condolences.

We continue to remember the Royal Family during their loss at this time, and in particular, King Charles II as he undertakes new and additional duties in the midst of personal grief.

Those who have encountered health issues recently are also remembered at this time. Among them we recall Gilly Lambert and Bill Clark.

Revd. Alan Tyler(Hospital Chaplain) was due to officiate at one of our services recently. The day before, however, he telephoned the Vicarage with apologies as he also had fallen victim to the Covid virus. I am most indebted to Revd. John Collier who stepped in at the last minute and delivered a service that was well received. Alan is due to join us on October 9th and we look forward to extending him a warm welcome.

Speaking of clergy (we seem to be falling over them at present!), we proffer thanks and appreciation to Revd. David Collinbourne for leading the service on September 25th and trust that his insight was duly appreciated.

Just a reminder that Harvest Thanksgiving falls on October 2nd and we anticipate a special time during this event which is of particular significance for the rural community. Gilly Lambert is scheduled to lead us through this period which is rich in reflective consideration.

With all good wishes and every blessing.

Julian White
(Rector)

Severn Wye: our inauguration and our future

The inauguration of the Severn Wye Ministry Area by Bishop Cherry is set for Sunday 27 November at 4pm, at St Mary's Priory Church in Chepstow.

Everyone will be most welcome at this historic service. What will it mean? Bishop Cherry will be creating one Ministry Area out of our ten parishes and twelve churches, and our clergy will become one team: Revd Philip Averay will be Ministry Area Leader, with Revd Michael Gollop and Revd Julian White as Team Vicars and Revd John Waters as Associate Priest. This team, with other clergy who have permission to officiate, and licensed and commissioned lay ministers, will make up the Ministry team.

How have we got here? Nearly all of our ten parishes have voted to accept the change and have signed the resolution ceding authority to the MA, so now we need to be thinking forward, towards our future within our new MA and the many possibilities it opens up.

This is your Ministry Area - the Transition Team will cease to operate before the inauguration, and then it will be in all our hands, and up to us all, to work creatively within the MA and with each other, the better to support our faith, our churches and our community.

Our churches will of course retain their own characters and services and their own church committees, and each church will we hope also be represented on the Ministry Area Council. We will be holding our first Annual Vestry Meeting very soon after the inauguration, on Wednesday 30 November at 7pm, at Shirenewton Church Hall. Again, absolutely all are welcome (please share cars if you can, to help with parking)

We will be asking each church to nominate its own representative and we will also be seeking nominations for anyone willing to hold office on the MAC, which will be the trustee body of the Ministry Area.

So at the Vestry Meeting, we will seek to elect a representative for each church, plus a lay co-chair, a people's warden, a secretary and a treasurer for the whole MAC. Other members, by virtue of their offices, will include the clergy and a warden to be appointed by Fr Philip.

Who can stand for election? To qualify they must regularly attend a church. "Regularly" does not necessarily mean frequently, but they must be known to the church and to have attended in the past six months.

Nomination forms to act as church representatives and for the posts of lay co-chair, people's warden, secretary and treasurer of the MAC can be obtained from our church wardens or from any member of the Transition Team (Fr Philip, Ros Downs, Hilary Hillier, Lindsay Hollies, Graham Lambert, James Leney, Glynis MacDonald, Anne Octon and Rev John Waters). They can also supply job descriptions for these roles. Please note that **people can nominate themselves**.

People who wish to represent their own churches should put their names to their own PCCs, before the Annual Vestry Meeting. More than one person can of course stand, but only one person can be elected to represent each church.

So whether you wish to represent your church, or to become lay co-chair, secretary, treasurer or people's warden on the MAC, please don't be shy - stand for office! This is our chance to strengthen the presence and activity and mission of our churches in the Severn Wye area. Our area very much needs the church and all it stands for, and to meet this challenge we need a strong and active MAC.

We hope to increase opportunities for worship and for the understanding of Christianity, to provide more - in particular for children - and for very busy and overworked people who can scarcely find the time to come to church and know little about it, and to put our churches more at the centre of community life. We will have a new website which will be introduced at the time of the inauguration. We welcome constructive and creative suggestions towards all aspects of the Ministry Area - our mission, our activities, the website. Together and with your help we can make the future brighter for our churches and our community.

Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in September:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Wendy Montague | 2. Hugh James |
| 3. Cynthia Smith | 4. Andrew Griffiths |

Shirenewton Church Harvest Lunch



Everyone is Welcome!

Sunday 2nd Oct 1 o'clock in The Church Room

**It will be a Bring 'n' Share thing, so bring
along a plate of nosh to share.**

There will also be a Raffle.

**And a Sales Table with home-made goodies,
jams, jellies, cakes, biscuits, marmalades,
chutneys, reserves and yes, a competition for
the biggest marrow. I've got a huge one. So
please Bring Cash!!!**

**Proceeds from the Sales Table and Raffle will
go to the DEC Pakistan Disaster Appeal**

For more info: Glynis 641 818 Jane 641 525j



All Age Harvest Thanksgiving Service 10:00 Sunday 2nd October

*Come and join us to celebrate our many blessings from a fruitful year
in hymns, readings and prayers.*

At the service we will collect offerings for the Chepstow Food Bank.

Suitable donations include:

- Tinned and dried goods
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toiletries
- Food which can be prepared with little energy required

No fresh food or produce please.

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.

BILL CLARK would like to thank all those who have sent him their best wishes for his recovery from his stroke on Saturday 17th September.

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FROM THE REGISTERS

Reenie Hannah Winnie Howe was baptised on 18th September 2022. The Reverend David Collier 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

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC) GRANTS TO THE PCC

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

£500 contribution to the Parish Magazine printing costs

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

£80 contribution to the Christmas Event

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



Shirenewton Community Council

Includes updates from the September Community Council Meeting

Shirenewton Community Council welcomes one new Councillor who was co-opted to Shirenewton Community Council in the 5th September meeting.

Catherine Martin has now joined the list of councillors below.

Philip Butterworth

Keith Dunn

Ian Martin

Andy Williamson

Elizabeth Wixcey

Gary Mitchell

Planning Application Considered in September

DM/2022/01229 Willowbrae, 8 Orchard Rise, Shirenewton, Chepstow

Proposed extensions and general remodelling to existing bungalow
Recommendation: Unanimous No objection but MCC is requested to add conditions as to external colouring specifically white render and discrete timber colour hues.

Recreation Field Improvement Project Update

In the Community Council meeting on the 5th September, members of the Recreation Association and village residents addressed the Community Council with regards to the planning application reference DM/2022/00851.

The Recreation Association and village residents requested that their comments and concerns with regards to the planning application be on record in the Community Council meeting minutes, citing the points/letter submitted to Monmouthshire Planning department and their main comments/concerns. Full details of the comments/concerns recorded in the minutes can be found online on the Community Council's website.

The Chair of Shirenewton Community Council, Councillor Butterworth advised members of the Recreation Association and village residents present that regardless of the outcome of the planning application, nothing would be undertaken without the agreement of the Recreation Association and over 50% of the community.

Community Council Noticeboards

On 17th August work was undertaken to install a new Noticeboard at Gaerllwyd Junction, due to the failure of the previous wooden noticeboard.

A new noticeboard for Earlswood Village Hall location has been ordered and is estimated to be delivered late September for installation beginning October.



County Councillor Report September 2022 County Councillor Brown advised:

There has only been a planning committee meeting in August and so few committee meetings to report on during the summer break. Please refer to the August report for meetings prior to this time.

Local Resident report of recent accidents on the B4235

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

-Another accident on the night of Sat 20 August 2022. Again, by Well Head cottage, the little lodge on the way into Chepstow from us. A vehicle coming from Chepstow failed to make the bend and has demolished part of the hedge and an old fence, large skid mark on the road. This is the same place where the car and motorbike came together on the 9th of August.

-Between 9th of July and the 20th of August 2022 there have been 3 locally known accidents on the B4235.

Dates of next meetings - Monday 3rd October 2022 and Monday 7th November 2022 both at 7.00 pm, by public meeting in Shirenewton Recreation Hall.

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

Contact the Clerk to the Community Council - Mrs Natasha Jones Tel: 01291 650133 E-mail: shirenewtoncc@gmail.com

Shirenewton Bellringers
Invite you to an
Open Tower Evening



Come and see the bells

Find out about Change Ringing

Watch the bells being rung

Meet your local bell ringers

Friday 14th October
7.00pm

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Are you putting your online shopping to good use?

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



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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Truly this last week has seen extraordinarily significant events : the end of an era with the momentous ceremonial of the Queen's funeral on the 19th and the 'fiscal event' which has upended at least a decade's worth of economic thought. The Queen has been described as the 'glue' that held the Commonwealth together, perhaps some are now thinking she may have been a necessary component of the 'glue' holding the UK itself together.

Charles (and William) has long espoused a more articulate and public commitment to green issues. But it's perhaps worth noting that the Duchy of Cornwall has been justly criticized for its lack of tree cover – 6%, as opposed to a UK average of 16% (and European average of 38%). He is known not to have engaged very willingly with organisations trying to increase the Duchy's tree cover.

Rumour has it that developments beyond the 'fiscal event' will scrap the 'Brexit bonus' which would have paid farmers and landowners to enhance nature and the state of the environment, and revert to the much maligned EU basic payments relating to land area, not linked to environmental benefits

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Protecting the soil by practising organic farming methods

Reducing deforestation by intercropping trees and crops

Receiving training on mitigating the devastating effects of climate change (WHICH THEY HAVE SCARCELY CONTRIBUTED TO!)

I was very pleased to hear that the local village market may well be starting up again and I will be delighted to run a Fairtrade stall. In the meantime do contact me for info or go directly to the Traidcraft website. Buying Fairtrade goods is a simple way that consumers can directly influence people's lives for the better.

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

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CCS NEW SEASON 2022/2023

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THE SEASON'S CONCERT PROGRAMME ---

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

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

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

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

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

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

Come and share the party with us – this is YOUR local Choral Society – let's keep it! We are now actively recruiting new members –it's time to Come and Sing!

Thank you –Marjorie Duerden (Asst MD, CCS) – bduerden@doctors.org.uk
Tel. (01292) 623310

EARLSWOOD & NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL



Macmillan's Coffee Morning

Let's do whatever it takes to support people living with cancer. We all know someone who has been affected, come show your support.

Tuesday 4th October 2022
10am - 12pm



In aid of

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

SHIRENEWTON W.I Remembering Queen Elizabeth II

Our meeting on 8th September will be etched into all of our memories because, minutes before it was due to start, there had been the announcement of the Queen's death. We arrived at the meeting still reeling from this sad news and spent time reflecting on the Queen's life and her legacy. Her Majesty was a longstanding member and supporter of the W.I. and it seemed very apt and comforting that we were gathering as a group of women that evening. I think that we all agreed with the words of the chair of the National Federation of Women's Institutes when she wrote in her statement 'Her Majesty the Queen remains a role model to us all and an embodiment of the W.I. spirit and values.'

W.I. Rocks

The Queen remained at the forefront of our thoughts throughout the evening but we decided to adopt the 'Keep Calm and Carry On' approach of which we hoped her Majesty would have approved. We spent the rest of the evening painting rocks to be placed around the spout in the village. This creative activity was actually very therapeutic in the circumstances, but of course there was only one topic of conversation.



Our next meeting will be on Thursday 13th October at 7.15 p.m. in Shirenewton Recreation Hall when we shall be trying our hand at making Origami Cranes. As always, everyone is welcome to join us. We have made this an open evening so do come along and see what Shirenewton W.I. is about.

For further details contact: Jane Butterworth at janeb247@gmail.com or Diane Ashton Smith (01291 628838)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October

- Sunday 2nd
1.00 p.m. Harvest Lunch Bring and Share
Church Room
- Monday 3rd
7.00 p.m. SCC Meeting
Recreation Hall
- Tuesday 4th
10.00 to 12.00 Macmillan's coffee morning
Earlswood and Newchurch West
Memorial Hall
- Saturday 8th
7.30 p.m. Royal Forest of Dean Orchestra
concert
St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow
- Monday 10th
7.30 p.m. Ministry Area Praying Together
St Christophers Church, Bulwark
- Thursday 13th
7.15 p.m. WI Meeting
Shirenewton Recreation Hall
- Friday 14th
7.00 p.m. Open Tower Evening
Belltower, St Thomas à Becket Church,
Shirenewton
- Sat 15th/Sun 16th
about 6 p.m. SHAMBLES
Shirenewton and Mynnydbach
- Monday 24th
7.30 p.m. Ministry Area Praying Together
St Christophers Church, Bulwark
- Monday 24th
9.00 a.m. parish magazine copy deadline
- Tuesday 25th
7.30 p.m. Shirenewton Local History Society
Commonwealth War Graves
by Richard Hoyle, Shirenewton Church Hall

November

- Monday 7th
7.00 p.m. SCC Meeting
Recreation Hall
- Sunday 13th
11.00 a.m. Remembrance Sunday service
St Thomas à Becket Church, Shirenewton
- Monday 14th
7.30 p.m. Ministry Area Praying Together
St Christophers Church, Bulwark
- Saturday 26th
tbc Shirenewton Market
Shirenewton Recreation Hall
- Monday 28th
7.30 p.m. Ministry Area Praying Together
St Christophers Church, Bulwark

The Bells.

This year's Annual Summer Ringing Tour was arranged for later in the year than in the past due to the varied prior commitments of the band members. On Friday 2nd September the advanced party headed off to rural Bedfordshire to ring in 3 different churches spanning the Hertfordshire/Bedfordshire border. The first ring was at Pirton, an anticlockwise ring of 5. The majority of rings are clockwise meaning that looking down from above the bell ropes are attached to a descending diatonic scale of bells in clockwise order. This means that the ringer on the lightest and usually highest pitched bell looks to their left side for the next bell lower in the scale and so on around the circle. For an anti-clockwise ring of bells ringers must look in the opposite direction. This can cause some confusion initially but was quickly mastered. The next ring, also of 5 bells, was at Shillington. An imposing church stood at the top of a chalk knoll within the village and as we approached we could hear the large tenor bell (18.5 cwt) ringing out. The church was described by John Betjeman as the "Cathedral of the Chilterns" and once we had climbed up to the mezzanine floor in the tower at the west end of the nave there was clearly a problem with the tenor bell. Two of our party accompanied the young lady who had met us to discover the bell had "gone over". Bells are rung through 360 degrees of travel before striking, and start from the inverted position. This is known as "full circle ringing" and quite unlike the "swing chiming" which predominates in the majority of continental churches. Full circle ringing allows precise timing of the strike of each bell unlike swing chiming in which the frequency of the strike is akin to a pendulum effect so that in general large bells strike more slowly than smaller bells resulting in a cacophony of sounds. Just compare the sound of Notre Dame Cathedral bells in Paris¹ compared to the precision of St Pauls in London² and you will understand what this means. So back to "gone over" – when the bell swings through 360 degrees and strikes, it is then swung in the opposite direction for the next strike. There is a mechanism to park the bell in the inverted position and this is known as the stay and slider. The stay is constructed from ash and is designed for a gentle parking of the bell and not something to bounce off. Normally should a bell "go over" it is because the stay is broken and the 360 degree travel continues rapidly to 400 degrees and so on winding the rope around the wheel and causing the unfortunate ringer below to let go lest they be drawn up skyward! However, in this case the stay was intact but the slider set too low so no contact was possible between them. We were informed a new slider had

been fitted that day but unfortunately had not been positioned appropriately. It proved not possible to correct this with the tools available at the time so after unwinding the rope a brief ring was had with the tenor not having an effective slider/stay mechanism – a task for an experienced ringer. After this exciting time we headed to Hinxworth, a fine ring of 6 bells. The base for the tour was a field behind The Cock Inn at Broom, a small hamlet close to Biggleswade, where we set up camp and headed to the pub for supper.

The next day we started the main tour visiting 5 different churches in the morning at the villages of Haynes, Steppingley, Eversholt, Westoning and Flitton: all six bell towers. The surrounding rich and flat land had clearly provided wealth going back to medieval times, the churches being on a grand scale and some of the bells being extremely ancient including a bell cast in 1349 at Haynes. Lunch was held at The White Hart at Flitton conveniently adjacent to the church. In the afternoon 5 more rings of six bells were visited including Silsoe, Meppershall, Arlesey, Northill and Old Warden. On leaving Old Warden we were “buzzed” by a couple of Tiger Moth biplanes preparing for an air show the following day based at the Shuttleworth Collection nearby. After this we returned to our camp and were further entertained by other aircraft flying around. No BBQ was permitted on this occasion because of the fire risk so frying pans and gas stoves were brought into action. The following day we had been invited to ring for service at nearby All Saints, Southill. Following breakfast we then decamped and headed back to Wales, and in the evening held a post-Tour celebration courtesy of Glynis MacDonald.

A full report of our busy ringing schedule following the Queen’s death will follow next month.

M.D. Penney.

1.YouTube search: Notre-Dame de Paris bells (850th anniversary peal) II

2.YouTube search: The bells of St Paul’s ring out for London Festival of Bells 2021 – the bells start ringing 4 minutes in.



Ringing at Meppershall

The Shirenewton Tour Band





Shirenewton Market needs you!

Our lovely market has been on hold – Covid originally stopped it going ahead & now some of the previous organisers have other commitments so we're looking for stallholders & volunteers to start back up. Our plan is to start with quarterly markets & gauge interest. It seems fitting to start with a Christmas Market.....

Are you a local producer & would be interested in having a stall at a Christmas Market in Shirenewton Recreation Hall?

Are you someone willing to give up some time to help set up/clear away/tidy up on Market Day?

Proposed dates: –

Saturday 26th November

Saturday 3rd December

Saturday 10th December

Date & time to be confirmed if we have enough interest...

Please email Shirley if you're keen to have a stall/volunteer.

ayresandgraces@yahoo.com

Thank you!

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PERSONAL MEMORIES OF THE LATE QUEEN ELIZABETH
from residents of Mynyddbach and Shirenewton



JOHN BURROWS WITH HM THE QUEEN IN CARDIFF IN 2002



BILL CLARK WITH THE QUEEN IN 1987 AND 2006





THE PROCLAMATION OF KING CHARLES III AS MONARCH AT THE ROYAL EXCHANGE, LONDON



THE LORD MAYOR OF LONDON, VINCENT KEAVENY, GIVES THREE CHEERS FOR KING CHARLES III

THE PROCESSION OF THE COFFIN OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II FROM BUCKINGHAM PALACE TO WESTMINSTER HALL







Nerys's Natty Nosh

I'm now in my fourteenth year of producing "Nerys's Natty Nosh". I just can't believe where the time has gone!

Ginger Glazed Gammon.

Boil then cook the glaze in the Air Fryer.

On my plate I have ginger glazed ham, air fried sauté potatoes, coleslaw, red peppers, tomatoes, sliced fennel, beetroot, lettuce, and micro greens.



Ingredients

2kg unsmoked boneless gammon joint

Bottle of Ginger ale

1 carrot chopped

1 onion, peeled and quartered

1 stick celery, chopped

1 cinnamon stick

½ tbsp peppercorns

For the glaze

150ml maple syrup

2 tbsp wholegrain mustard

Method

Put 2kg unsmoked boneless gammon joint in a large pan and cover with the ginger ale + hot water if needed.

Add 1 chopped carrot, 1 quartered onion, 1 chopped celery stick, 1 cinnamon stick, ½ tbsp peppercorns and cinnamon stick.



Bring to the boil, then turn down to simmer for around 2 ½ hrs, topping up with boiling water if necessary to keep the gammon fully covered. Carefully pour the liquid away, then let the ham cool a little while.

Make the glaze and cover the top of the gammon. Air fryer until the top is golden brown.

Allow to cool then serve hot with your choice of vegetables. Gammon can be served with a sweet or savoury sauce. If the gammon is served with fruit or vegetables,

a pineapple works well. If served with roast potatoes and salad a savoury sauce is better. Chutney also works very well.

Blueberry tart (Tarte aux myrtilles)



— Preparation time 1-2 hours

Cooking time

30 mins to 1 hour

Serves 8

Rick Stein's blueberry tart recipe, with ground almonds and egg custard is the perfect mix of comforting and refined. The tart is really stuffed with fruit with a very light binding of egg custard.

From Rick Stein's Secret France

Ingredients

For the pastry

210g/7 $\frac{1}{4}$ oz plain flour, plus extra for

dusting

pinch salt

100g/3 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz butter, chilled and diced

40g/1 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz caster sugar

1 free-range egg, beaten

1 tbsp iced water

For the filling

75g/2 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz ground almonds

600g/1lb 5oz fresh or frozen blueberries, defrosted

150ml/5fl oz double cream

75g/2 $\frac{3}{4}$ oz icing sugar, sifted

2 free-range eggs, beaten

1 tsp vanilla extract

single cream or crème fraiche, to serve

Method

To make the pastry, put the flour, salt, and butter into a food processor and pulse until the mixture looks like breadcrumbs. Transfer to a bowl, stir in the sugar and then fold in the egg. Add enough of the water to bring everything together and knead into a smooth, non-sticky dough. Wrap the dough in cling film and place in the fridge for about 20 minutes.

Roll out the pastry on a lightly floured surface to a circle measuring about 28cm/11in in diameter. Line a 25cm/10in loose-bottomed tart tin with the pastry and prick the base all over with a fork. Place in the fridge for 20-30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 190C/170C Fan/Gas 5. Line the pastry case with crumpled greaseproof paper and add some baking beans. Bake for about 10 minutes, remove the paper and beans, and put the pastry back in the oven for another 3-4 minutes. Turn the oven down to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4. (*continued next page*)

(continued from previous page)

To make the filling, sprinkle the pastry case with the ground almonds and then the blueberries and bake for 15 minutes. Meanwhile, make a custard by mixing the double cream, icing sugar, eggs, and vanilla in a bowl. Pour this mixture over the berries and bake for another 20–30 minutes, or until the tart filling is firm and golden.

Leave the tart to cool in the tin on a wire rack. Serve warm or at room temperature with cream or crème fraîche.

I cheated & used bought wholemeal pastry 😞 I'm sure home-made would be much nicer. This was made by Gwenlli Davies from Happy Recipes to Share Facebook page.

“

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Google dominates internet search. By latest estimates it accounts for over 92% of searches. Bing has a mere 3%. There are, of course, other search options (Yahoo @ ~1.4%, DuckDuckGo @ ~0.7%, etc.) however these mostly simply put a wrapper around Bing's engine. Included in these are search engine like Ecosia which try and differentiate themselves based on the fact that a portion of their revenue goes towards tree planting. However, like others, their engine is based on Bing. So, in summary, whatever engine you use you are viewing the results generated by Google or Microsoft. Until now (ish).

Neeva claims to be a 'No Tracking, No Bias, Ad Free' search engine (founded by ex-Google and ex-YouTube executives) which claims to generate its own unique results. It transpires that it does have its own crawler but currently relies fairly heavily on Bing. It's 'privacy first' approach is similar to DuckDuckGo which claims to be the first privacy-focused search engine but differs in that Neeva does not permit ads and tries to make its money by offering subscriptions (US\$4.95 pcm). It will be interesting to see how it gets on.

Speaking of privacy, at the end of the year Google Chrome is dropping support for its legacy extension platform (Manifest v2 (Mv2)). This is important if you use a browser extension to, for instance, filter out certain kinds of content and safeguard your privacy. Extensions like Ghostery Privacy Ad Blocker, uBlock Origin, and Privacy Badger will no longer work and it's not at all clear that they will be able to work with the new Google standard, Mv3 which, to be fair has been endorsed by the other major browser authors such as Apple, Microsoft and Mozilla. Needless to say, Google casts the change in a positive light and insists that it is not designed to stop ad blockers working. However, given that Google generates about US\$150Bn (yes billion) a year in ad revenue and the other browser authors similarly generate a majority of their revenue from ads, people are understandably sceptical.

Clearly, the world need something less Google focused but, at this time, it's difficult to see where that will come from.

Moving onto scams. There has apparently been a surge of WhatsApp support scams which try and target getting the 6 digit pin protecting your account. There appear to be a couple of main approaches: Firstly, there are a number of accounts claiming to be WhatsApp support accounts. Real support accounts have a green tick (which fraudsters can try and replicate in their profile image), but that isn't the point. Ask yourself why WhatsApp support would contact you out of the blue and never give them you 6 digit pin. Secondly, you receive a message with a WhatsApp 6 digit code (the kind of code required if you are setting up a new account, or logging in to your existing account on a new device) and then a WhatsApp message from a friend asking for the six-digit code, do not provide it and tell your friend (not via WhatsApp) that their account is compromised.

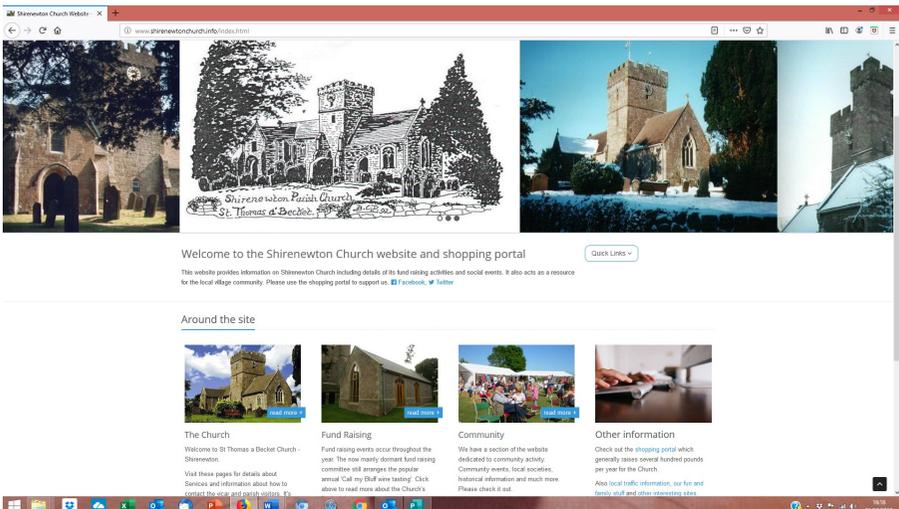
What is in it for the scammers? Well it seems to be an extension of the impersonation fraud which I have previously warned about. Whereas in the 'standard' fraud, it starts with a message from a number you don't know saying something like: 'Hi mum, I lost my phone and this is my new number', if the fraudster can take over and message from the real WhatsApp account it is so much more convincing.

Finally, here is a story in which innocent use of technology landed him in a lot of trouble and 'ruined his life'. Google flagged and reported to police as potential child sexual abuse material a photo taken by a father of his toddlers groin rash at the request of a doctor. This was during the pandemic when he was asked to supply photos of the rash in advance of a video consultation. Shortly after uploading the photos from his Android phone, his Google account was locked and a police investigation opened. The police eventually (after about 10 months) found no crime had been committed but Google refused to unlock the account and instead permanently deleted it. There are other similar stories.

Google use AI to trawl these images and, clearly, it is unfortunately a necessary task. The story goes to show what a challenge content moderation presents. However, it goes further than that. It also highlights the dangers of cloud platforms that many of us use every day without a second thought. These massive businesses, such as Google, have very limited customer service and even innocent use of them can get you cut off without recourse. So, please be aware and think carefully how you use them.

On that happy note, safe browsing.

drc
webmaster



STARGAZING

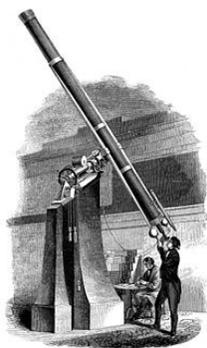


The constellation of Cygnus the Swan lies pretty much directly above. It is in the shape of a cross – in fact it is sometimes called the Northern Cross. According to legend, Jupiter the king of the Gods changed himself into a swan when he wanted to visit Leda, the wife of the King of Sparta. In memory of the episode, he placed a swan in the sky. The seven stars of the Plough are to the North and the four stars forming the Great Square of Pegasus lie to the South.

At the beginning of October, there are three planets in the evening sky: Saturn lying to the South, brighter Jupiter to the South-East and Mars just above the horizon to the North-East. By the end of the month Mars has risen higher in the sky. The Moon is close to Saturn on the 5th October, Jupiter on the 8th and Mars on the 14th.

Edward Lowe, a Victorian gentleman-scientist lived at Shirenewton Hall from 1880 until his death in 1900. He had many scientific interests including astronomy. In particular he studied the “haloes” that sometimes form around the Moon, and sun-spots. His memorial plaque in Shirenewton Church records his wide interests – he was a Fellow of the Royal Society, the Royal Astronomical Society, the Meteorological Society and the Linnaean Society.

The evenings are drawing in, providing glorious views of the night sky at relatively social hours. This is particularly true after the clocks go back on 30th October, giving extra darkness in the evening.





Come join us at dusk on **15th & 16th October** 2022 when the stars come out and Shirenewton & Mynydd Bach are transformed into a spectacular window art gallery.

From Friday 14th afternoon onwards, pick up a free **ShAMBLE** map from the old telephone box, the Huntsman or The Carpenter's Arms and 'shamble' around the village with friends, neighbours & family.

On 15th October only refreshments will be available from **5.30pm-8.30pm** at The Rec Hall.

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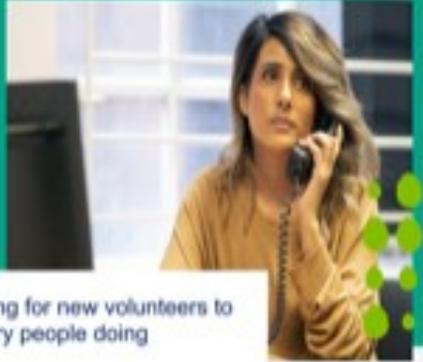
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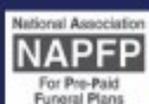
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Gardening Corner

Another month has sailed by and despite the promise of heavy, thundery rain on occasions, with the odd weather system wafting by as well, we still haven't received any 'proper' rain that has helped the garden to any degree. We seem to have been in a little rain shadow in this area. Yes, there has been enough to green up the grass (or rather the weeds in it) but the soil remains as dry and as hard as ever. We did have one very heavy storm that lasted about 15 minutes, the rain fell and away it ran. As often seems to happen, it fell just at the wrong time – a few days before the Usk show, and so badly damaged many of the flowers we were depending on for the flower arranging classes and the horticultural tent. We were already struggling with the vegetable classes, and by the time we got to the day before the show there were several classes that we couldn't enter as we didn't have at least two specimens that matched. So, cucumbers, courgettes, cauliflowers and round tomatoes didn't feature. Fortunately, the onion family saved the day as all of these had been stored from the Chepstow show and could be 'recycled again for Usk. We did have some success across the flowers and vegetables, which is always pleasing. The competition at Usk is much stronger than Chepstow but we managed some firsts and I won a couple of cups for flowers. The assistant head gardener had a first, two seconds and a third in the flower arranging, which is no mean feat when the winner is a semi-professional arranger.

Our show interest over the past years has always been fed from the garden, but with no real thought on what we do and how we do it. So, entries are simply selected from what is available at the time although we have started buying seed varieties that are more likely to deliver better results. Next year I am promising myself that some extra thought is required as to what we sow and when. This will involve identifying how long each crop takes to grow to harvesting then working back when seeds need to be sown. Then sowing more frequently rather than all in one go. This will spread harvesting out over a longer period, so hopefully more produce will be available around showtime – at least that is the theory! Tomatoes for example take around 85 – 90 days depending on the variety, cabbages about 107, calabrese 100 etc. This will mean that, instead of growing say all of the cucumbers in one go I will sow half of the packet early as always, and then the rest some 6 weeks later. Hopefully this will avoid what happened this year where the cucumbers were producing well one day, and four had literally just keeled over the next. The same with runner and French beans. Although they generally crop over a long period of time, it seems that they cannot last all season now as they should. So instead, I will sow in two or three batches with say a two- or three-week period between, that way we will have younger plants growing on for much longer. This would have been impossible to have done in the past as you would always be limited by the first frosts bringing an end to proceedings. But if current weather patterns are going

to continue, early frosts may be a thing of the past (at least for most years). Whatever we do will always be the garden providing food first, and show produce second, whereas those entering consistently high-what is left over. We have always felt that entries into shows are most important in order to help keep them running, but ultimately, we want to win if we possibly can! So we need to find a balance going forward. A real benefit of course is that any prize money we do win, certainly helps with the cost of buying the seeds for next year, which get more and more expensive.

So, with 'show season' over for another year, we have started to try and catch up with all of the jobs in the garden. I am avoiding those where we need to dig in between plants, such as weeding the flower beds. It is simply too dry to even consider this at present. I have blitzed most of the garden hedges now so they are looking much tidier, as I have said previously, with most hedges being double sided (for cutting purposes), we must have over a mile to cut, so it takes some time to complete the job. A couple of them I do cut earlier in the year, so after the birds have raised their first brood of chicks. These now need a second cut, but this job will be last on the list. The vegetable garden is the main area for attention as crops have finished and can be cleared away. I have a lot of 'greens' plants waiting in the wings for planting out, such as curly kale, winter cauliflowers, early calabrese and early cabbages. So as ground is cleared, I immediately replace with the next crop as soon as I can. I have to be very careful what I plant and where, as many of our beds are infected with club root. This is a long-lasting disease which affects all plants of the brassica family (which includes many flowers as well). There is nothing you can do about it, but plant breeders have in recent years, developed varieties that are extremely resistant to infection. It does limit the variety that you can choose to one or two per species, but there are more coming onto the market which will improve things further. They do make a huge difference though as otherwise it would be almost impossible to grow brassicas. There are now varieties available for calabrese, cauliflower, Brussel sprouts, ordinary cabbage, red cabbage, and most recently, winter cabbage (savoy). Unfortunately, there isn't any of the kale family as yet, nor are there any turnips and swedes, which are also members of the brassica family, but it is only a matter of time before varieties are introduced. I mentioned last month that I am changing the way we grow carrots, and I am having a practice with this at present. I have grown some fast-maturing carrots in grow bags, and about a month ago I did sow a late variety of main cropping carrots. The idea is that sowing early and late means that you hopefully avoid the crops being attacked by carrot fly, which lay their eggs in the soil next to the carrots and then the eggs hatch and the young grubs start eating the outside of the carrots, running them for eating. So far, things are looking promising, so fingers crossed. The problem of course is that, with warmer weather for longer, the flies might start laying a second brood, or even a third if their life cycles can be completed quicker, but we will see how things go.

Next year I am going to try using biological means for controlling some of the pests. I mentioned the slugs and snails earlier in the year and these

have continued to be a major problem even to this day. There are nematodes available that can be watered onto the soil, that find and then infest the individual slugs, killing them in the process. Sounds gruesome, but I'll try anything that works. We simply do not have the numbers of frogs and toads, nor hedgehogs or thrushes that once had an impact on slug and snail numbers, despite all of our best efforts. You can also get a similar control for caterpillars and I have to say that these have been an absolute nightmare this year, with some varieties of moths that we have never had trouble with before. There is one for example, called the y moth (they have a marking like a silver letter y on their wings), whose young eat almost anything. They are normally migratory from the continent, that, because of last year's mild winter, clearly survived here. In the greenhouses and tunnels, I also need to get control of the red spider mites as these are stopping us successfully growing many crops. There is a predatory wasp or fly, whose young devour the mites, so it is time to give them a go!

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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