



Shirenewton Parish
Magazine

October 2023

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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 Remembrance Sunday and 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.

CHEPSTOW AND BULWARK FOOD BANKS

I received an email from the co-ordinators of our local food banks reminding me that referrals have gone up but that sadly, donations have gone down substantially. They are very grateful for the support they do get but they are particularly worried as winter is on the horizon and ... yes, Christmas. I said I would write about this in our local parish mag.

They sent me a list of items which are particularly needed:

- UHT milk and fruit juices
- Tinned veg – peas, carrots, sweetcorn, tomatoes,
- Potatoes
- Instant mash
- Tinned fish and meats
- Instant coffee and teabags
- Custard, rice pudding, tinned fruit
- Also non-food items such as:
Washing-up liquid, washing powder,
toilet rolls, shower gels, deodorants

Shirenewton Church is holding our Harvest Festival on Sunday 1st October and we are collecting for our local Food Banks. There is a box in the church porch for any contributions, and there is a box under my porch (The Chantry). But we collect all year round, not just at Harvest Festival time! Thank you again for your support and your contributions. Glynis
641 818 glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

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FROM THE VICARAGE

(Well, sort of...)

Julian E LI White

Dear People of the Parish,

It's all very Dickensian.

A Victorian Vicarage (this one), the memory of a previous incumbent who whispered of the haunting of the building, and now the chilling discovery of the vanishing of vital supplies one dark and foreboding evening. Do you feel the cold spectral hand of a ghostly manifestation present?

Well, it felt that way the other day when Sandra and I repaired to the kitchen to prepare a meal only to find, once the door creaked open, that a vital ingredient had been purloined! Yes, the packet of rice was nowhere to be seen! It was like an episode of *Midsummer Murders*, minus the guest appearance of a fading accredited actor.

Oh yes, the transient food-stuff turned up alongside the kettle later but not before we were obliged to locate, in the back of the cupboard, some exotic rice that was produced for consumption during the Siege of Mafeking.

This just goes to show, joking aside, that is very easy to miss the obvious. The same holds true of more important matters as well. Indeed, what is said by the Psalmist, *Eyes have they, but they see not, ears have they but they hear not...* is often the case.

Perhaps you feel, by now, that I don't actually have anything significant to report. You would not be incorrect. I could resort to giving you an up-date on diocesan directives, but I would not be so unkind.

Or else I could tease you with the speculation concerning our retirement plans. Some of you have expressed warm wishes to us in this respect of this and we thank you for your concern. Others are keen to know where we intend to reside. Suffice to say that we would appreciate, on your part, any offer to provide lawn space on which to place a large cardboard

box. It will house both Sandra and myself which would mean that you could avail yourself of the services of a personal Chaplain!

Such is the price of property in the Chepstow area. We have investigated over-valued hovels and utterly boring 'Des.Res' abodes aplenty and wonder what one must do to locate modest yet characterful housing.

All this, however, pales into insignificance when compared to the suffering and homelessness endured by many thousands as the result of recent natural disasters across Morocco and Libya. Please remember those who are afflicted by these factors in your prayers.

Just an update on the appointment of our new replacement Area Ministry leader, Following the interview of the sole applicant, on Friday 22nd September, it was decided not to appoint. The position is to be re-advertised.

With every good wish and blessing.

Julian White





SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the monthly meeting in September 2023.

Planning application considered in September

DM/2023/00992 – Little Brook Farm, Chapel Road, Earlswood

Planning application for single storey extension to bring front of house all into line.

Following discussion by the council the recommendation is: -
SCC has no objection save that the public footpath should remain accessible at all times.

Advertisement for new clerk

An advert has been placed on the SCC website, the Church magazine, Facebook, Shirenewton School and SLCC. Closing date is 29th September with interviews on 6th October.

With continuing lack of a community council clerk, the Council have approved the continuation of Catherine Martin as Responsible Officer for finance until further notice

B4235 Safety Issues

Speeding, overtaking under double white lines and signage obscured by foliage were all issues. The community council strongly supports the reinstatement of the multi-agency meetings.

Request for new dog bin

A new bin has been situated near entrance to the Recreation Hall.

Audit 2022/23

Annual full audit completed and submitted to Audit Wales

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT September 2023

Council Special Meeting – 31 August 2023

The Council held a special meeting as result of a call in on the decision to allocate all of the section 106 monies to improvements in Castle Park Primary School rather than allocate any monies to Archbishop Rowan Williams Primary School. The Council approved the original decision to allocate monies to Castle Park Primary School

and for later funds from the Church Road and Crick Road site to go for improvements to Archbishop Rowan Williams Primary School.

The link to the meeting can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=143&MIId=5863>

Cabinet Meeting on the 6th of September 2023

The Cabinet meeting covers various reports including the proposed home to school transport policy for 2024/5, the review of respite, the cross-border marches partnership and a 3-11 Seedling Welsh Medium Primary school in Monmouth. Gypsy and Traveller site proposals for potential sites for the next RLDP are now expected to be published on the 26th of September 2023 for a Cabinet report on the 4th of October 2023 and will be followed by a consultation process.

The link to the meeting can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=144&MIId=5401>

Traffic Concerns on the B4235

There are continuing local concerns about the safety of the B4235 road and the accidents there. In relation to traffic offences including overtaking on double white lines, if members of the public have recorded a traffic offence then under operation snap this can be submitted to Go Safe. The following link provides information including a link on how to report an offence:

<https://www.gosafe.org/campaigns-and-operations/operation-snap/>

Date of the next meeting – Monday 2nd October 2023 at 7.00pm and can be attended in person at the public meeting in Shirenewton Recreation Hall or remotely via Microsoft Teams (a link will be provided on emailing the Clerk).

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 E-mail: shirenewtoncc@gmail.com

Biography of Councillor Andy Williamson

My name is Andy Williamson. I have been married to Alison Broughton (she uses her maiden name) since August 1986.

I was born in 1956 just outside Leicester in the East Midlands. I moved to Shirenewton in 1987 to work for Mitel in Caldicott. After two years, I joined Newbridge Networks, a relatively new company started by Sir Terry Matthews after he sold Mitel. Newbridge was headquartered in Canada, and I took an opportunity to move to Canada in 1993 to work in what was known as Silicon Tundra, due to the long cold winters.

In 1994, our son, Jamie, was born out there, so he has dual nationality. In 1995, the three of us moved back to Shirenewton along with my new Harley Davidson motorcycle.

In 1997, we bought a rather run down cottage in Earlswood. After a year, we got planning permission and renovated the existing cottage and added an extension.

Things at Newbridge Networks wasn't going as well as it was, and it was sold to a large French company called Alcatel. Not wanting to work in such a large organisation, I joined Ubiquity Software Corporation, a small start-up owned by Sir Terry.

I spent 2 years at Ubiquity before being made redundant. This was at the time Broadband was becoming available in towns and cities, but not rural areas like ours. I applied for and received a £25,000 grant from the then WDA and built a Broadband wireless network in Shirenewton and Mynyddbach and offered Internet access to residents. But guess what, BT found out and Broadband appeared in the Shirenewton telephone exchange not long after!!

I then joined the Broadband Wales Division at the Welsh Government as their Chief Technology Officer, advising on things to do with broadband, broadband based projects, and procurements.

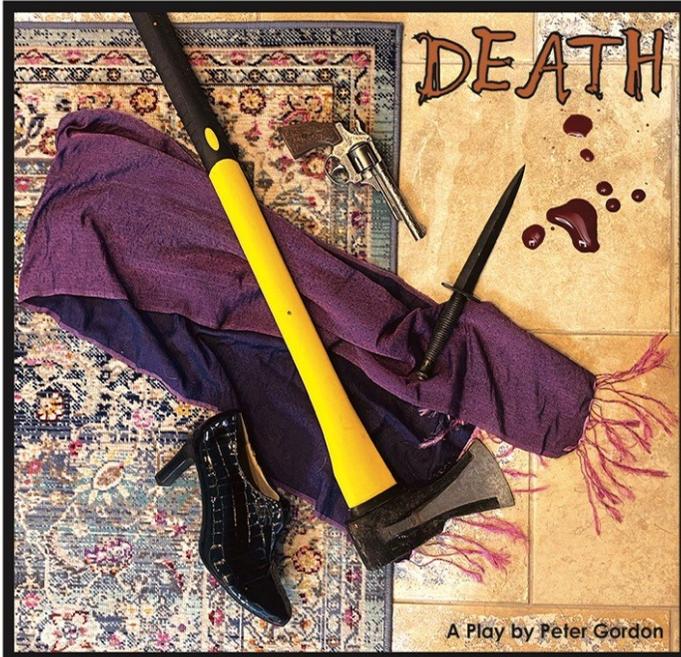
After 10 years with the WG, I joined the Scottish Government as a self-employed consultant and did a similar role for them as I did for the WG. I worked there for 5 ½ years, traveling weekly, but also moving to Edinburgh for last 2 years. I retired after that contract finished in 2017.

Alison and I like to travel and had several staycation holidays, but now the pandemic is over, we have started to explore foreign climbs again with a trip to Australia planned for the end of this year.

We also enjoy a meal and drink in local pubs and restaurants. I have been on the Community Council since November 2020 and represent the Earlswood ward. I also am responsible for environmental issues.

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present

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St. Arvans Memorial Hall

Friday 20th October 2023 - 7:30pm
Scan QR tag to buy tickets for St. Arvans (booking fee applies)



Portskewett Church Hall

Saturday 21st October 2023 - 7:30pm
Scan QR tag to buy tickets for Portskewett (booking fee applies)



Shirenewton W.I. Coastguard Talk



Rich, Alistair and Tom from Chepstow Coastguard team based at Beachley gave us a most informative and entertaining talk at our September meeting. They explained how HM Coastguard Service has evolved from its early 19th Century origins, when it was mainly policing smuggling around Britain's coast, to the wide-ranging role of today's Coastguard Service, on call 24 hours a day for anyone in danger at sea or on the coast.

We were all amazed at the breadth of activities that the Coastguards undertake. From searching for missing and vulnerable people, to rope, mud and water rescues, not only of people, but also animals, such as dolphins, whales and cows. They respond to flooding and pollution emergencies, as well as dealing with bombs that are washed up onshore, particularly in the Severn estuary. They also support the RNLI and helicopter services.

The Chepstow team works closely with SARA and also is responsible for rescues in sections of our local rivers. In fact, a large proportion of their rescues are inland. As Alistair said 'No two call-outs are ever the same'. The message that we all came away with was that if you see anyone in danger at the coast, call 999 and ask for the coastguard.

Possibly the fact that we were most in awe of was that these brave people are all volunteers. One local member of the Chepstow Coastguard Team, who was unable to attend our meeting, is Rhiannon Miller, an inspirational young woman from Earlswood.

Well it is going to be a tough act to follow that talk but our next meeting has the intriguing title – 'Love, Marriage, Divorce and ?' a talk by Barbara Atton and will be of particular interest to anyone tracing their family tree. That meeting will be on Thursday 12th October at 7.15 p.m. at Shirenewton Recreation Hall, If you would like to join us, then please contact Jane Butterworth at janeb247@gmail.com or Diane Ashton Smith (01291 628838)

Jackie Broughton



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Gardening Corner

Time moves on and Usk show has been and gone. After all 'the weather' we have had this year, show day was lucky in that it dawned dry and sunny. It turned out to be very warm though, certainly the hottest day that we can remember over the years – and that has been many (well over 30). In fact, it was so hot by mid-day, the show organisers made the brave decision to allow farmers to take most of their stock home at 13.00 which meant that there was no grand parade. The only stock that remained were those under shelter in marquees, or where transport wasn't available. But for these, makeshift cover was hastily built from wool bags and anything else that was available, that would provide much needed shade. Needless to say, things were tough in the horticultural tent, especially among the flower section, where some blooms were starting to drop by late morning, fortunately after the judging had been completed! It had been extremely difficult to find enough flowers anyway, as many blooms had been battered by heavy rain and wind in the days building up to the show. We decided to spilt our efforts this year, with myself concentrating on the vegetable classes, whilst the assistant head gardener sorted the flowers out. We both struggled to find enough of anything, that was good enough quality. For the first time, I didn't enter the 'five vegetables' class as I simply didn't have enough variety, of a good enough quality. We did end up with a number of 'cards', and a good number of these were 1st places, but Felicity did much better than me in the end, which she was very pleased about! So it wasn't all bad news.

The weather since has proved to be just as unpredictable, with the hottest week ever in September being followed by very high winds and pummelling rain. Many of the flowers have now been broken, and/or rotted due to the very wet conditions. As I write this, there are forty mile an hour winds blasting everything, with even stronger winds forecast for the middle of the week. We had hoped for a late flush of flowers for selling, but this no longer looks a prospect. Instead, I think it will be a case of cutting our losses and simply clearing crops away to the compost heap or bonfire, depending on what they are. All top growth usually ends up in the compost heap, unless it is something like potatoes, tomatoes or peppers. The problem with these is that they contain either a lot of seeds, which means you end up with seedlings coming up everywhere next year, or, as with potatoes, the stems or any small spuds, can start to grow new plants. You then end up with

potatoes growing everywhere, and it can often take several years to remove every feral spud that appears! Roots from the 'greens' can harbour club root disease, or can certainly increase the risk of spreading it, so for this reason these all end up on the bonfire.

Currently, work in the garden is very much a case of out with the old, and either in with the new, or preparing the soil ready for next year. In the smaller of the two tunnels, we had grown some early salad crops, along with shallots and garlic. These were all harvested at the start of July, and the ground was cleared, manured and then covered over, to allow the worms to do their bit. Several weeks ago the covers were removed, and the beds then replanted with autumn cauliflowers, winter and spring cauliflowers and some purple sprouting. We had to declare war on the massive slugs that are about this year, but eventually we got on top of them, and most of the greens are now well established and getting growing. The tunnel cover gives sufficient protection against bad weather, so hopefully we will start cropping late October, and will get a steady trickle of produce through to early summer, before the summer varieties then start to kick in – at least that is the plan. If really cold weather hits, we will cover everything over with horticultural fleece to provide the necessary protection. In the large tunnel I am in the process of removing some of the old crops. Courgettes and summer cabbages have gone and been replaced with some flowers that hopefully will provide a later crop of cutting material. I grew far too many tomatoes this year and I am in the process of removing one variety all together. They were meant to be a show variety with good flavour, but they didn't turn out well. The weather may have been the main reason, I don't know. Suffice to say they proved to be tough skinned, and tasteless, so not a variety we will grow again! The variety that we grow for passata sauce (big mama!) have done very well as usual, and I think we will get enough to make at least one more batch if not two. We grew another variety especially for the truss of tomatoes competition. But these were judged to be too big on the day! It was a single truss, but clearly the judge didn't like it. At least these are nice to eat and end up on the fry up plate or in the sauce mix. They have an appropriate name for the fry up plate – British breakfast. As these crops are cleared, the beds will be manured, assuming I can find enough, and prepared for the next crop, which is already in pots and growing well. This will mainly be the early production calabrese, which means that hopefully we will be picking in late May or early June. I'm also planning on moving the garlic and shallot crops to this tunnel as well for next year. These are usually planted in October, as both need a cold period to produce their

best crop around June or July next year.

With the wet weather making it impossible to do much outside, I am taking the opportunity to cut all of the hedges. As I've mentioned before, we have a lot, and I cut them all using hand hedgecutters, so tend to cut them over several days as I'm not so young as I used to be! I try to leave the hedges with fruits and late flowers on as long as possible, as we have a population of hazel dormice around us and they will desperately be trying to put weight on before winter comes around and they go into torpor (a state of endless sleep). Until periods of warm weather wake them up again.

I mentioned the bees, last month. These have been a massive challenge this year and I have to admit that I am teetering on the edge of giving them up altogether after some 35 years of keeping them. I think if Asian Hornets arrived in this country, then that really would be the end of things for me. Instead, it is wasps that have done the damage. Bees initially starting robbing the weaker hives, but once they started, the wasps took over with a vengeance, as they changed their diet from other insects (early on in the season to feed their grubs) to anything sweet (to keep the adult wasps alive until they eventually die. Despite destroying every nest I could find (helped I might add by the strong badger population around here), it was obviously not enough. From a peak of 13 hives in mid-summer, I am now back down to six, and one of these may not survive. Fortunately, the worker wasps have started to die off early, due I guess to the weather, but they have done their damage now. I tried everything I could to protect the bees from the wasp's endless attentions, but it was clearly not enough this year.

Happy gardening until next month, *Steve and Felicity Hunt.*



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Shirenewton And Mynydd Bach iLlumination Extravaganza 2023 – the latest

What is this 'ShAMBLE' thing again?

Shirenewton and Mynydd Bach iLlumination Extravaganza (or ShAMBLE to its friends) is an annual event in which the residents of the village are invited to decorate their windows at dusk over one weekend in October, with the aim of creating a spectacular outdoor gallery for everyone to enjoy. 2023 will be its sixth glorious year! **This year's theme is Children's books.**

When is ShAMBLE 2023?

The evenings of 14th & 15th October - starting 6.30pm. **GET IT IN YOUR DIARY!**

How do I take part?

If you'd like to decorate your window, that's great. So that we can include you on our map please follow this link and complete the very simple form: www.shirenewtonshamble.org.uk Please, please, please register by 30th September as this gives us time to get the maps printed. Remember, you don't need to register to walk around the village looking at the windows.

**Will there be a craft afternoon this year?
YES!**

'Craft, cake and conversation' will be on 1st October 2.00-4.00pm at The Rec Hall. We will have art materials available for everyone to have (for a small donation). A nice excuse for a chat & a cuppa!

Opening night refreshments Saturday 14th October 6.30pm

Don't miss the opening night party at the Recreation Hall on Saturday 14th October, where you can collect a map and hi-viz for all the family! AND of course indulge in some lovely home made cakes and a beverage of your choice. We will have a selection of wine, beer and soft drinks available at **last year's prices!** Everyone is welcome.



ShAMBLE windows from previous years



Shirenewton, Mynydd Bach & Earlswood Community



shirenewton_shamble



@ShireShAMBLE



@shirenewtonshamble

SHAMBLES

Please remember to SEE and BE SEEN. Bring a **torch**. **Hi-Viz vests** for adults and children will be available to borrow for the event. You can pick them up from the old telephone box by The Sultan (Saturday and Sunday night), or from the Recreation Hall (Saturday night only). Please remember to return them so that we can use again next year.

Maps will be available to pick up from The Recreation Hall and the old telephone box too (details as above.) We will also publish online.

If you are decorating your window, please make sure it's illuminated both nights from 6pm!

SHIRENEWTON VILLAGE MARKET

**Thank you all for another successful Shirenewton Village Market – we appreciate all your support!
A grand total of £115.80 was raised for LATCH from the raffle & refreshments.**

**Christmas Market date to follow...
(We will post details on the Shirenewton Village Market Facebook page & in the next magazine).**

Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in September:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Frances Gray | 2. Alex Baker |
| 3. Kaelyn Owen | 4. Cynthia Smith |



Window Art Trail

Come join us at dusk on **14 & 15th October 2023** when the stars come out and the whole village is transformed into a spectacular window art gallery!

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

On **14th October only** refreshments will be available from **6.30pm-8.30pm** at The Rec Hall.

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

This is a family friendly community event. All welcome!

 @ShireShAMBLE

 shirenewton_shamble

 Shirenewton, Mynydd Bach and Earlswood Community group

SHAMBLE: Shirenewton And Mynydd Bach Illumination Extravaganza!

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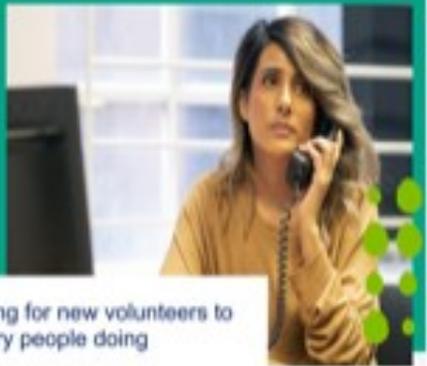
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SEVERN WYE MINISTRY AREA

Praying Together

JAMES 5:16

"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."

2ND AND 4TH MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH
7.30 TO 8.30 PM

PRAYING TOGETHER FOR OUR MINISTRY
AREA AND OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

**St Christopher's Church,
Bulwark, NP16 5AF**

Nerys's Natty Nosh

According to the Energy Saving Trust, a slow cooker is **one of the most energy efficient kitchen appliances**. On average, a slow cooker draws about the same amount of energy as a standard electric light bulb. This means that despite being on for a longer period, a slow cooker uses very little energy.

Lamb Saag—Slow cooker



This curry is cooked slowly to bring out the flavour of the spices and at the same time tenderising the meat.

Ingredients

1 tbsp olive oil
1 medium onion, finely sliced
3 garlic cloves, crushed
400g diced leg of lamb trimmed and cut into chunks
6 tsp tikka masala paste (make sure it's gluten free)
1 celery stick, diced
50g dried red lentils

1 small red chilli, seeded and diced
Handful frozen mixed peppers
1 tin chopped tomatoes
1/2 cup water

Addons

Fresh green beans
Baby spinach

Serve with diced cucumber and red onion
Garnish with fresh chopped parsley

Method

Preheat the slow cooker on the low setting.
Heat the oil in a frying pan and add the onion, diced red chilli, celery and garlic, and cook for 5 minutes.
Add the lamb pieces and cook until coloured on all sides.
Add the peppers and mix.
Stir in the curry paste and cook with the lamb and onion for 2 minutes. Add the lentils and tomatoes.
Bring to the boil, then add to the slow cooker.

Cook on low for at least 6 hours.
Add the chopped green beans. If the sauce is very thick you might need to add a little boiling water to the mixture. Leave to cook for a further 30 minutes or until the green beans are cooked.

Add the spinach, stir, and serve.

Garnish with fresh chopped parsley, chopped cucumber and red onion.

Serve with rice or naan bread.



Slow cooked Beef casserole- Slow cooker

Ingredients

2 tbsp oil
1½ kg rolled beef brisket
3 carrots, peeled and chopped
3 sticks of celery chopped,
2 parsnips, chopped
1 onion chopped
1 leek, washed and chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
2 tsp English mustard
1 tablespoon dry mixed herbs
500ml red wine
250ml beef stock

Method

Heat 2 tbsp oil in a large pan.

Seal the brisket on all sides. Remove and put into the slow cooker.

Put 3 chopped carrots, 3 chopped celery sticks, 2 chopped parsnips, 1 chopped onion and chopped leek into the large pan. Sweat for a few minutes.

Add the 2 crushed garlic cloves and 2 tsp English mustard then pour over 500ml red wine and 250ml beef stock. Cover with the lid and cook on low for 7 hours.

Carefully ladle the cooking liquid out of the slow cooker into a shallow pan. Boil rapidly on a high heat to reduce to a rich gravy.

Serve the beef sliced with your choice of vegetables. **Enjoy!**

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

My avid readers may recall that, last month, I suggested that there were a lot of scam/fake adverts on Facebook (FB) and Instagram and that, just because the advertisement is on a 'trusted platform' doesn't mean it is safe and that you should assume it is a scam. Well I'm delighted to say that the MSM (Main Stream Media) has finally caught up and, on the 13th September, the Daily Mail online 'This is Money' section had an article titled 'We 'made' £3,000 on a Facebook Marketplace scam in just 24 hours'. It explains how it achieved this via a 'too good to be true' advert for a 2nd hand mobile. The article is here: <https://tinyurl.com/53pmb9r>

The article notes that "hundreds of Facebook Marketplace users lose money to scam adverts every day" and "around 65,000 Britons lost £37.5m through Facebook Marketplace last year" – I assume that the latter stat is an estimate because there is no way of knowing the extent of the problem.

So, the message is simple, treat anything on FB (adverts in your feed or FB market places ads) with a very healthy degree of scepticism.

And so onto another 'kind of' scam. This is a real story which befell a friend of ours recently. So read very carefully, I will type this only once.

Fred (as we will call him) was booking a Ryan Air flight to a European destination. So he typed 'Ryan air' into google and clicked on the top link, completed his booking and was relaxed and happy. Relaxed and happy until he received a communication from Ryan Air pointing out that his booking had been made via an agent and that they had no commercial relationship with said agent. In order to keep the flight he'd booked and paid for, he'd have to prove his identity and jump through several other hoops, etc. In summary, he had to rely on his son-in-law to sort it all out (much pain on both parts) and had paid an extra ~£100 for the flights (over the cost of the flights if booked via the Ryan Air website) which the 'agent' kept.

His mistake was to click on the first link he saw saying Ryan Air. This was obviously a sponsored advert designed to look like a link to Ryan Air. It is worth noting that Google occasionally alters the appearance of their search results page (SERP in the jargon) and currently sponsored links/adverts appear as listings above the organic (i.e. non paid for) search results. Look for a bold '**Sponsored**' just above the result listing on the results page. The paid for links (i.e. adverts) are all listed at the top of the page

With the organic (aka real) results are below these sponsored results.

The simple fact is that it is expensive for companies to advertise on google. Every click costs them pounds. Sometimes tens of pounds. Therefore, the major companies (such as Ryan Air, Easy Jet, etc.) don't, as a rule, advertise on the SERP. Therefore the link to their site may appear below paid for results which are designed to snare you.

Google is a very rich company. Personally, I try and avoid clicking on the sponsored links. If I'm looking for a specific company (one which does advertise on google) the SERP will always display their advert/sponsored link above the organic result. I therefore make a point of not clicking on the sponsored link (which will cost them £££) and always click on their organic result. I don't know if this changes the amount I pay but I'd prefer them not to pay google for the pleasure of my visit to their store.

Finally, while we are on the subject of Google. Gmail. I have/run several Gmail accounts and, earlier this year, started having people tell me that emails to my main Gmail addresses were bouncing. These were emails from domains I control!! What was happening? I spent some time working out that Gmail now requires the sending domain to have a specific authentication mechanism enabled, namely either SPF or DKIM.

What are SPF & DKIM? As Mailshake so succinctly puts it: While they both are authentication protocols, SPF and DKIM are not exactly the same. SPF is used to authenticate the sender and ensure that only authorized servers can send emails from your domain, while DKIM is used to verify that messages haven't been tampered with in transit.

Gmail help explains: Google performs random checks on messages sent to personal Gmail accounts to verify messages are authenticated. To help ensure messages you send to Gmail accounts are delivered as expected, you should set up either SPF or DKIM for your domain. Messages without at least one of these authentication methods are rejected with a 5.7.26 error, or are marked as spam.

So, now you know. If emails to Gmail accounts are bouncing contact your email service provider and ask them to implement SPF and or DKIM.

Safe Browsing.

drc

STARGAZING



As it is now getting darker earlier there are more opportunities for stargazing. This is particularly true after the clocks go back on 29th October, giving extra darkness in the evening. In the evening sky, the bright planet Jupiter can be seen in the East whilst slightly yellow Saturn lies to the South. The Moon is close to Jupiter on 1st October and close to Saturn on 24th October.

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

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



Clothing Bank at the Rec Hall

Please see the new addition to the Rec Hall – a new clothing bank in aid of Child & Teenage Cancer & Leukaemia Foundation – it's ready to take donations now. The Playgroup has recently had news of one of its children being diagnosed with Leukaemia so this cause is close to their hearts & the clothing bank will help fund this worthy cause.

Please don't leave items/bags if the clothing bank is full – it's going to be emptied weekly – so not long to wait for space to donate!

Thank you for your support.





CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL.

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CCS -- ANOTHER SEASON BECKONS!!
CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY commences its 45th
season this autumn.

We are incredibly proud to still be "in business" post-pandemic and now look ahead, after an amazing return to full singing in 2022/23 season, to another year of three contrasting concerts for Christmas, Spring and Summer.

Wednesday December 13th, Chepstow School Arts Hall, 7.00pm –CHRISTMAS MUSIC and mince pies/wine/soft drinks – choir items, carols, a lovely start to Christmas!

Saturday March 23rd 2024, St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow, 7.30pm – Rossini's "Petite Messe Solennelle", a vibrant work for choir, 4 soloists and 2 pianos, as the principal item in the concert.

Wednesday July 3rd, Arts Hall, Chepstow School – a Celebration Summer Concert, with a mixed range of vocal items and styles –followed by light refreshments and drinks.

HOWEVER – it is an undeniable fact that Choral Societies cannot function without singers!!! CCS is the only choral group in our area to regularly produce concert programmes with 4-part SATB mixed singing, using professional musicians with full orchestras and young professional singers (the latter often from RWCMD).

If you enjoy singing, COME AND JOIN US!!! (details below).

www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk or tel. 01291 823310 (Marje) or follow us on Facebook & Twitter – @ChepstowChoral



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SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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The society's first meeting of our 2023/2024 year started with a full house, our members are hearty souls braving the wet and windy weather to attend our meeting. They were not disappointed, our speaker for the evening was Colin Andrews who gave an excellent talk entitled 'The Industrialists of the Wye Valley. We never realised how much was produced in this area, brass, copper, wire. ship building and of course we must not forget Monmouth caps were produced in their thousands and sent out all over the world.

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 31st October**, when we will be holding our **Annual General Meeting at 7.00pm**. Afterwards, we will be having a talk entitled 'The Vedw' given by Anne Wareham.

Dates for your Diary:

31 st October	AGM. The Vedw	Anne Warham
28 th November	Enclosures Act	Peter Strong
12 th December	St Arvans Church visit	David Priddis
	Supper at The Piercefield	
27 th December	Winter Solstice walk and Breakfast	
2024		
30 th January	James Stephens of Chepstow	Guy Hamilton
27 th February	Dinner	TBD
26 th March	Japan & Wales the big Connection	Keith Dunn
30 th April	Mounton House Garden	Helena Garrish
5 th May	Beating the Bounds	
14 th May	An evening guided walk around Beachley	Richard Clammer
25 th June	Roman Houses XXVI & XXVII in Caerwent	Mark Lewis
3 rd July	Visit to Mounton House Garden	Helena Garrish
30 th July	Oliver Cromwell	Prof Hutton

Please come along, everyone welcome

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October

Sunday 1 st 10.00 a.m.	Harvest Festival St Thomas a Becket Church
Sunday 1 st 12.00	Harvest Lunch Bring and Share Church Room
Monday 2 nd 7.00 p.m.	Shirenewton Community Council meetings Recreation Hall
Monday 9 th 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Thursday 12 th 7.15 p.m.	WI Meeting — Love, Marriage, Divorce Recreation Hall
Saturday 15 th 6.00 p.m.	ShAMBLE Local Area
Sunday 16 th 6.30	ShAMBLE Local area
Friday 20 th 7.30 p.m.	Cast Adrift — Murdered to Death St Arvans Memorial Hall
Saturday 21 st 10.00 a.m.	Friends of St Peter's, Newchurch Newchurch Farm Shop Coffee Morning
Saturday 21 st 7.30 p.m.	Cast Adrift — Murdered to Death Portskewett Church Hall
Monday 23 rd 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Tuesday 31 st 7.30 p.m.	Shirenewton Local History Society AGM. The Vedw, the Church Room

November

Sunday 12 th 11.00 a.m.	St Thomas à Becket Church Remembrance Sunday
Monday 13 th 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Monday 27 th 7.30 p.m.	Ministry Area Praying Together St Christophers Church, Bulwark
Tuesday 28 th 7.30 p.m.	Shirenewton Local History Society Enclosures Act — Peter Strong

Please let the editor know if you would like your event to be included in this list

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Amazon Smile may be gone but you can still support Chepstow and Caldicot Lions with Easyfundraising!

We have some important news regarding the Amazon Smile program. Unfortunately, Amazon has discontinued this program, which means that we can no longer receive donations through it. However, we have some good news too! You can still continue to support Chepstow and Caldicot Lions by signing up for Easyfundraising. By doing this, you can help us raise funds for our community projects and initiatives, without any extra cost to you.

All you have to do is sign up through our Easyfundraising page at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/chepstowandcaldicotlions> and shop online as you normally would. The retailers you shop with will then make a donation to us, at no extra cost to you. It's as simple as that!

So, if you want to continue supporting our cause, please consider signing up for Easyfundraising today. Your support means the world to us, and together we can make a real difference in our community. Thank you!



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- Shirenewton Sultan (The Square, centre of Shirenewton)
- Earlswood Hall (Erlswood)



(House half way between Blethyn Close and the School in Mynyddbach)
 Shirenewton School

LOCAL CONTACTS

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**Deadline for the November 2023 issue is
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