Shirenewton Parish Magazine June 2024

Village Fête

at Shirenewton Rec

Saturday 15th June 2024

2 O'clock

Sports themed Fancy Dress Parade around the ring 1.50







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|---|----------------------------------|--|
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SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FETE

(ON SATURDAY 15TH JUNE 2024)

Bottle Stall COLLECTION DAYS

From 6pm on Tues 11th June and Thurs 13th June, teams will be collecting bottles/cans - wine, spirits, beer, soft drinks etc. throughout Shirenewton and Mynyddbach for the Fete Bottle Stall. Please donate generously.

It would help us if you could check that the bottles and cans are within the recommended 'use by' date printed on the bottle or can.

If these dates are not convenient or if you are located in Earlswood or the wider area, please contact Janet/Seirian at shirenewtonfete@gmail.com or call 641783 (Janet) to arrange convenient drop/off or collection

THANK YOU

BOOK & TOY STALL

We also need donations of Books/DVDs for the book stall, or any usable and complete Toys, Games or Puzzles

PLANT STALL

Donations of plants of all kinds also gratefully received – flowers, vegetables, ground cover – all welcome!

GREETINGS from your two newest vicars (and vicars' dog Finwe)!

We have been treated to such a wonderful welcome ever since we arrived, and want to thank everyone for all the kind words and deeds we have been recipients of already. Our new Shirenewton parishioners have been particularly hospitable, and very forgiving, when Zoe's satnav inexplicably sent her to St. Thomas a Becket **Wolves**newton rather than Shirenewton on her very first Sunday!

Part of our role as Ministry Area Leaders is to support and oversee a total of 12 churches in the area, so although you will see us regularly at Shirenewton church, we may also be off in other locations, either further back out near Chepstow, or else further to the North of the 'Ministry Area'.

We are excited about meeting you all and working together in the future, and we look forward to saying hello to a few more of you at the upcoming fete.

Our favourite prayer of blessing to pray over our congregations is this, and so we shall end with it now: May God bless you and keep you, may his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; may he turn his face towards you and give you his peace.

With love and prayers

Zoe and Barney





Barney and Zoe cutting their cake at their welcome party



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Timetable from 1 April 2024

Chepstow | Usk | Pontypool | Cwmbran

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Gaerllwyd, Llangwm, Gwernesney, Coleg Gwent, Croesyceiliog via Chepstow Community Hospital. Shirenewton, Earlswood,

| Monday to Friday except bank Holiday Monday | S. | | | | | Sature | ays | | | Sundays and bank |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|--------|------|------|------|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | Holiday Mondays |
| | Sch | 덛 | | | | | | | | |
| Cwmbran Bus Station [Stand H] | 0712 | 0712 | 1020 | 1325 | 1650 | 0712 | 1020 | 1325 | 1650 | Sorry there is no |
| Croesyceiliog Edlogan Square | 0717 | 0717 | 1025 | 1330 | 1656 | 0717 | 1025 | 1330 | 1656 | South and the south of the sout |
| Pontypool Town Hall | 0726 | 0726 | 1034 | 1339 | 1713 | 0726 | 1034 | 1339 | 1713 | sunday service on |
| Pontypool Park Road | 0727 | 0727 | 1035 | 1340 | 1714 | 0727 | 1035 | 1340 | 1714 | route o3 |
| Pontypool opp Town Hall | 0728 | 0728 | 1036 | 1341 | 1715 | 0728 | 1036 | 1341 | 1715 | |
| Little Mill Pont-y-pia | 0735 | 0735 | 1043 | 1348 | 1722 | 0735 | 1043 | 1348 | 1722 | |
| Usk Coleg Gwent Main Road | 0743 | 0743 | 1051 | 1356 | 1730 | 0743 | 1051 | 1356 | 1730 | |
| Usk Twyn Square | 0748 | 0748 | 1056 | 1401 | 1735 | 0748 | 1056 | 1401 | 1735 | |
| Llangwm Bridge Inn Road | 0756 | 0756 | 1104 | 1409 | 1743 | 0756 | 1104 | 1409 | 1743 | |
| Gaerllwyd Cross Roads | 0804 | 0804 | 1112 | 1417 | 1751 | 0804 | 1112 | 1417 | 1751 | |
| Earlswood West End | 0808 | 0808 | 1116 | 1421 | 1755 | 0808 | 1116 | 1421 | 1755 | |
| Mynyddbach Horsemeadow Rise | 0818 | 0818 | 1126 | 1431 | 1805 | 0818 | 1126 | 1431 | 1805 | |
| Chepstow Community Hospital Main Road | 1 | 0825 | 1133 | 1438 | 1812 | 0825 | 1133 | 1438 | 1812 | |
| Chepstow Comprehensive School | 0825 | 1 | I | 1 | 1 | 1 | I | I | 1 | |
| Chepstow Bus Station | 0830 | 0829 | 1137 | 1442 | 1816 | 0829 | 1137 | 1442 | 1816 | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |

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Cwmbran | Pontypool | Usk | Chepstow

Sunday service on Sorry, there is no via Croesyceiliog, Coleg Gwent, Gwenesney, Llangwm, Gaerllwyd, Earlswood, Shirenewton, Chepstow Community Hospital Sundays and Ba

| Monday to Friday except Bank Holiday Mondays | S | | | | | Saturdays | ays | | |
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| Chepstow Comprehensive School | 1 | | 1525 | ı | 1 | | | | |
| Chepstow Bus Station | 0835 | 1142 | 1532 | 1532 | 1820 | 0835 | 1142 | 1532 | 1820 |
| Chepstow Community Hospital Main Road | 0839 | 1146 | 1536 | 1536 | 1824 | 0839 | 1146 | 1536 | 1824 |
| Mynydd-bach Horsemeadow Rise | 0846 | 1153 | 1543 | 1543 | 1831 | 0846 | 1153 | 1543 | 1831 |
| Earlswood West End | 0855 | 1202 | 1552 | 1552 | 1840 | 0855 | 1202 | 1552 | 1840 |
| Gaerllwyd Cross Roads | 0858 | 1205 | 1555 | 1555 | 1843 | 0858 | 1205 | 1555 | 1843 |
| Llangwm Bridge Inn Road | 0905 | 1212 | 1602 | 1602 | 1850 | 0905 | | 1602 | 1850 |
| Usk Twyn Square | 0913 | 1220 | 1610 | 1610 | 1858 | 0913 | | 1610 | 1858 |
| Usk Coleg Gwent Main Road | 0918 | 1225 | 1615 | 1615 | 1903 | 0918 | 1225 | 1615 | 1903 |
| Little Mill Pont-y-pia | 0926 | 1233 | 1623 | 1623 | 1911 | 0926 | | 1623 | 1911 |
| Pontypool Town Hall | 0934 | 1241 | 1631 | 1631 | 1919 | 0934 | 1241 | 1631 | 1919 |
| Pontypool Park Road | 0935 | 1242 | 1632 | 1632 | 1920 | 0935 | 1242 | 1632 | 1920 |
| Pontypool opp Town Hall | 0936 | 1243 | 1633 | 1633 | 1921 | 0936 | 1243 | 1633 | 1921 |
| Croesyceiliog Edlogan Square | 0944 | 1251 | 1641 | 1641 | 1928 | 0944 | 1251 | 1641 | 1928 |
| Cwmbran Bus Station | 0948 | 1255 | 1645 | 1645 | 1932 | 0948 | 1255 | 1645 | 1932 |

Sch Operates on schooldays only

Shirenewton Community Council has a vacancy for a Councillor in the Shirenewton and Mynyddbach ward

If you think you would like to be a Councillor and are over 18 years of age, contact the Clerk by email at shirenewtoncc@gmail.com

What is a Councillor?

Councillors are elected to represent an individual geographical unit on the council, known as a ward or parish. They are generally elected by the public every five years, the last election being in May 2022. Between the elections if a Councillor seat becomes available it can be filled by the Council Co-opting the applicant onto the Council. A seat for Co-option has now become available.

What do Councillors do?

Councillors have three main components to their work.

- **Decision making** Through meetings and attending committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.
- **Monitoring** Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.
- **Getting involved locally** As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. These responsibilities and duties often depend on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available, and may include:
 - Going to meetings of local organisations
 - Going to meetings of bodies affecting the wider community Taking up issues on behalf of members of the public

How much time does it take up?

Quite often councillors say that their duties occupy them for about an hour a week. Obviously, there are some councillors who spend more time than this – and some less, but in the main, being a community councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to your community and helping to make it a better place to live and work.

You will be supported in your role and will be expected to undertake training. You should be comfortable working electronically. You should have a positive outlook and a can-do attitude and be willing to work as part of a team. If after reading this notice you are interested in applying, please contact the clerk to the council using the above details.

The closing date for applications is 25th June 2024.





BREAKING NEWS! This year's theme is THEATRE AND MOVIES!



VILLAGE CURRY NIGHTS

The idea behind the 3rd Thursday Men's Curry Night and the Last Thursday Ladies Curry Night is for the men and women of the village to come along (on their respective evening) to the Sultan, eat some curry maybe have a drink or two and get to meet their fellow villagers.

These nights will happen every month on the 3rd Thursday (Mens) and last Thursday (Ladies). There is no commitment to regular attendance.

In terms of logistics, start time is 7:30pm. The format is a buffet with no allocated seating (we expect people to sit down randomly and chat). There will be a small range of curries which Raj will change every month, so it doesn't get 'samey'. Please pay the £15 buffet fee on arrival (card or cash) and then any drinks you purchase as you buy them. To get a handle on numbers, every month I'll publish the next date on the village Facebook group and invite people to confirm their attendance. If you don't have Facebook or would prefer to use email, email me via tredegararmspub@qmail.com

These nights have proven to be very popular and you are welcome to come along and see if it works for you.

David Cornwell



Balloon by John Burrows

Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in May:

1. Sally Saysell

- 2. Margaret Sturcke
- 3. Christine Stanley

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A WARM WELCOME TO ZOE, BARNEY AND FINWE!

This week marked the start of the ministry for our new MA leaders, Barney and Zoe Pimentel. The Licensing service took place in St Mary's Priory church on 7th May, where Bishop Cherry presided, assisted by Archdeacon Ian Rees. Archdeacon Stella Bailey was also present – in fact it was Stella who originally prompted Zoe and Barney to apply for the post – so our warmest thanks to her!

In her address, Bishop Cherry paid particular tribute to Philip Averay. He took on the very challenging role of Ministry Area Leader, at a time when many parishioners were angry about the proposed changes and suspicious about what they would mean. Philip has faithfully, prayerfully and energetically led us, building bridges, getting to know people, listening and leading us to a much more positive place today. He is now graciously stepping aside into his new role as member of the Ministry team, and we are all so grateful to him, and so pleased that he will be remaining with us.

Bishop Cherry warmly welcomed Zoe and Barney, and said that their complementary skills would bring new ideas and energy to the Ministry team. She cautioned, however, that they are carrying out a genuine job share, and that the days they are not working should be respected, since they will allow space for prayer, rest and refreshment.

The evening was attended by around 100 people from across the Ministry Area, as well as family and friends and some members of Zoe and Barney's former congregation in Coventry. Music for the evening was supported by the St Mary's Singers, who also sang a special welcome song, composed by Kevin Higgs and Tony Utting. Friday evening saw a more informal welcome – a lively wine and cheese party held in the Mathern Village Hall. We were blessed with the warmest evening we have had since last summer, allowing guests to spill outside and enjoy the evening sun. A very good time was had by all – the food and drink were, as ever, very plentiful, and our evening was enlivened by a few numbers from the Mathern Men's Choir – including personal favourite, Calon Lan, and an entertaining song about a group of Welsh Rugby supporters travelling to a match in Scotland!

Finwe came along to the party too – she also enjoyed meeting everyone and was impeccably behaved! She and Dunstan have met, and hit it off immediately!



Zoe at her licensing service

Bishop Cherry welcomes Zoe and Barney Cutting the cake and Mathern choir





SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the monthly meeting held in April 2024

Planning applications considered in April

DM/2024/00390 - Retention and completion of boundary wall/fence at Hillside House Usk Road Earlswood. Decision: No objection, provided the colouring of the proposed boarding blends with the surrounding countryside.

DM/2024/00346 - Porch and front single storey extension at Glencoe Earlswood Road Shirenewton.

Decision: Objection pending clarification. The applicant site is in the conservation area in the centre of the village. The adjoining property is listed and as the proposal would impact on that property both visually and in reducing light, we would ask MCC to clarify whether listed building consent is required for this application and whether the proposal complies with conservation area requirements.

We would further request that if MCC are minded to grant consent, that no trees or bushes be permitted forward of the building line so as to minimise the obstruction of light to the adjoining property and possible root damage to its foundations.

Thanks to Cllr I Martin for his in-depth reports.

Councilor Vacancy – there is 1 vacancy currently advertised on the website.

Merlin Waste emptying of dog bins. – New contract for current financial year agreed.

It was agreed to continue with new contract with small a price increase.

No issues reported with collections last year.

Clock Repair - ongoing

Cllr Martin reported that the full repair report had been received, it was agreed to contact Church In Wales to update them on the situation, prior to any further action.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Place Committee 14th of March 2024

The Place Committee considered the toilet strategy report which covers public toilets run by Monmouthshire County Council and those by town and community councils (where applicable). There was a discussion on the need for toilets to be stoma friendly (bin/mirror, shelf and door hooks) as well as the Boys need Bins motion at the last Council. The Committee said they also wanted single sex toilets to still be available as the Council considers unisex provision when any future changes are made to toilet blocks.

In terms of the forward work programme, the RLDP Deposit plan is currently down for consideration by the Place Committee in December 2024, prior to County Council endorsement, but this date is yet to be confirmed. The Committee reports can be found at the following link:

https://democracy.monmouthshire .gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=303&Mld=5558

<u>Performance and Overview Committee 19th of March 2024</u>

The Performance and Overview Committee considered a report on Covid learning and pandemic preparedness, which can be found at the following link:

https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=305&Mld=5548

<u>Individual Cabinet Member Decisions- 27th of March</u> 2024

The above meeting confirmed the experimental traffic regulation order in Monmouth, as well as the Welsh Church Fund Working Group recommendations for grants. The reports can be found at the following link:

https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cld=147&Mld=5448

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the monthly meeting held in May 3rd 2024

Planning applications considered in May

DM/2024/00391 Retention of 6 Stables with storeroom and construction of 6 additional stables. **Home farm Stables, Shirenewton, NP16 6RL**

Home Farm Stables is off a track on the right hand side of the Crick Road (when heading to Crick) below Owl Barn. It comprises a race horse training business graceharrisracing.com connected with Red Barn Farm. Currently there is a central stable block with welfare and a stable block to the northwestern boundary, a park home and static caravan toward the southern boundary and a paddock and menage to the west. A 6 bay stable has already been added along the northeastern boundary, and the application is retrospective in regard this plus a proposal for a further block to provide 6 more bays running down the northeastern boundary. The site is several hundred yards from the Crick Road and the new single storey block is unlikely to have any visual impact on the landscape, being barely visible from the road.

No detail is provided as to materials finishes and colouration, nor is there a landscaping scheme as such save for new hedging and the planting of wildflowers in the banking.

Recommendation: No objection, provided the external finishes are unobtrusive.

DM/2024/00456 - Demolition of cottage and outbuildings, construction of replacement dwelling, replacement of corrugated iron parking shed with double garage/bat loft, bin store and excavation for pond at Ostrey Bully Hole Road Earlswood.

Ostrey is situated off the Usk Road in the upper reaches of the Mounton valley. According to the Design & Access Statement, Ostrey is a one bed detached farmworkers dwelling constructed in the late 1800s set in its own grounds within 11 acres of agricultural land. It is double fronted with 1.5 storeys, the upper windows being set immediately below the low eaves line. Single storey extensions have been made to the sides and rear over the years, and the roofs have a mixture of pitched and lean-to forms

with a combination of concrete tiles and corrugated metal. The walls are random rubble stone, some with a render finish originally cream/white.

The buildings are of no architectural significance and the cost of renovation is uneconomic so a new four bedroom house is proposed. Downstairs there will be a kitchen, dining room, snug, and living room with a single storey addition for a piano room/playroom abutting and connected to the main house. Provision has been made for a future lift and modifications can be made to make the second bathroom into a future ensuite. The house exceeds Nationally Described Space Standards for a 4-bed 2 storey dwelling. The design is a modern interpretation of a traditional farmhouse, the roof pitch and materials similar to the existing house.

The existing house has very low ceilings, incompatible with modern living standards. Much of the volume of the proposed house is generated by an increase in ceiling heights. The existing house has a volume of 578m3 and the outbuildings 426m3. The new house volume is to be 958m3 and the new outbuildings 320m3. This equates to a 65% increase in volume for the house (much of it attributable to having modern ceiling heights) and a 43% decrease in volume for the outbuildings. In contrast, the footprint of the existing house is 152m2 whilst the new house has a footprint of 158m2 (+ 4%).

As the roof pitch of the proposed is similar to the existing, the house sits higher in the landscape [by 2.2m – see comment below]. The new ridge line will be similar in height to the existing chimney and does not break the skyline set by the trees in the background.

Most of the outbuildings on the site will be removed as they are in a poor state of repair, save for the stone barn and the corrugated metal barn on the west side of the house which are to be repaired and will remain. A double garage is to be built.

The south facing roof will have a photovoltaic array. Heating and hot water will be provided by an air source heat pump. The design maximises internal levels of daylight and complies with the Simplified Method when assessed against Approved Document O, Overheating. Rainwater will be stored for use in the garden, with any excess draining to the new pond or to the soak away. An EV charging point will be located in the garage.

The north and east walls will be faced with random stone (from the existing house), the window lintels and cills provisioned in cast stone, The west and south sides are more modern in elevation and window design but the walls are to be rendered being typical of other buildings in the landscape. The windows are uPVC throughout to match the existing, with windows in the stone façades coloured white, whilst those in the render will be Chartwell Green. The roofs will have a similar pitch to the existing house but will be finished with artificial slate, and the roofs to the single storey addition and the garage having standing seam metal roofs to match the existing outbuildings.

A new natural pond will be formed in the lowest part of the garden, providing a habitat for frogs, toads and newts, and nest-building materials for swallows and House Martins. The pond will also attract insects for foraging bats. A new bat loft will be accommodated above the proposed garage, sized for Lesser Horseshoe bats, and bat boxes will be incorporated into the gable walls on the North, East and West sides suitable for Pipistrelle bats. A range of bird box designs will be fixed to the trees in the gardens to accommodate sparrows, robins, nuthatches, and owls.

MCC Planning Policy H5 permits the replacement of dwellings provided that:

the original dwelling is not a traditional farmhouse, cottage or other building that is important to the visual and intrinsic character of the landscape and has not been demolished, abandoned or fallen into such a state of disrepair so that it no longer has the appearance of a dwelling;

the design of the new dwelling is of a form, bulk, size and scale that respects its setting;

the proposal does not require an unacceptable extension to the existing residential curtilage;

the replacement dwelling shall be of similar size to the replaced;

any outbuildings should be modest in size and sensitively located and it can be demonstrated at the time of the original application that adequate ancillary garage and storage space can be achieved for the dwelling.

Where the replacement of an existing dwelling can be considered acceptable in principle under Policy H5, the replacement dwelling shall be of similar size to that replaced.

Supplementary Planning Guidance: Replacement Dwellings and Extensions to Dwellings in the Countryside (2015) advises that it is reasonable to take into account the size of extension that might be permissible under Policy H6 (Extension of Rural Dwellings). While SPG regards up to a 50% increase in volume to comply with Policy H5 it does recognise that exceptions to extensions can also apply to replacement dwellings.

The applicant's Design & Access Statement asserts that the cottage has a constricted room layout with shared bedroom access so is by no means generous in size or representative of a typical modern-day house hence an increase above 50% is justified and can be accommodated within the context of the site and the surrounding landscape.

Councillors may be concerned that the roof ridge height of the new house will be 2.2m above the existing and the impact this will have on the landscape. The existing house is of 1 ½ storeys and Councillors may wish to consider whether the replacement house should be similar given that although the existing house does not sit on the skyline, it is visible from the Usk Road. Councillors might also wish to give thought to the compatibility of the proposed utilitarian monoculture building design with the surrounding traditional Monmouthshire farm building landscape.

Recommendation: Objection on the grounds that the proposed house is too prominent in its setting given

- 1.its visibility from the B4325 and
- 2. the roof ridge height being 2.2m (plus chimney) above the existing house roof ridge height, consequent upon the existing house being 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ storeys and the new house being 2 storeys
- 3. the lack of compatibility of the utilitarian appearance of the new house with the surrounding traditional Monmouthshire farm building landscape, particularly in the scenic upper reaches of the Mounton valley

Councilor Vacancy – there is 1 vacancy currently advertised on the website, noticeboard and Parish Magazine.

Community footpaths (GM). Poster Completed and ready to display on Noticeboards around the community, signposting walkers to report any issues.

Clock Repair – ongoing, awaiting contact with new member of PCC

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

CIIr Louise Brown reported:

Place Committee 10th of April 2024

The Place Committee meeting covered reports on the Climate and Emergency strategy.; The Nature recovery strategy including` biodiversity and ecosystems resilience and green infrastructure and the Local Food Strategy. The reports can be found at the following link:

https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=303&MId=5652

Individual Cabinet Member Decisions- 10th of April 2024
The reports confirmed the public space protection order for dogs across Monmouthshire. As well as section 106 sums from developments and school catchment areas but were not impacting our local ward area. The reports can be found at the follow-

ing link: https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MId=5408

People Committee 16th of April 2024

The above meeting covered reports on the Empty homes update bringing them back into use and the Local Housing Market Assessment which unfortunately is not broken down into ward level:

https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=304&MId=5540

County Council -18th of April 2024

The County Council confirmed the urgent decision to purchase a property for 16+ residential care due to the need to use an end of year grant. In addition, the Council agreed a £3 million borrowing headroom for further properties for use for 16+ residential care in Monmouthshire.

There were various motions including concern about the Standards Committee Chair resigning and the concern about the award of a milk contract to a diary business 100 miles away rather than a local one. This motion was amended by the Labour administration to indicate that the procurement would

be reviewed as separate from the All-Wales Framework. The link to this meeting can be found below: https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=5414

High Beech Roundabout Update 18th of April 2024

One of the questions raised was about Chepstow's transport infrastructure including High Beech roundabout and the answer to this questions can be found in the following link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74kF3PYiyF0&t=19494s

Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP Update)

A question was asked about information on the Gypsy and Traveller site in relation to the RLDP and the answer can be found below in the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74kF3PYiyF0&t=17972s

The following update on the RLDP has been provided by the Planning Policy Team in quote marks below:

"We are writing to provide you with an update on the timescale for the preparation of the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP). As you'll be aware, we are currently working towards the Deposit Plan stage of the RLDP process which will set out the detailed policy framework and land use allocations for Monmouthshire up to 2033.

The Deposit Plan was due to be published in late Spring 2024. However, the preparation of the Deposit Plan is ongoing and is due to be completed in September 2024. It is anticipated that political reporting to seek endorsement of the Deposit Plan for public consultation and subsequent statutory engagement/consultation will take place in Autumn 2024, although this will be dependent on the timing of the UK General Election.

The revised RLDP timetable will be set out in an updated Delivery Agreement which will be reported to Council at the same time as the Deposit Plan.

I trust this update is of assistance. If you have any queries regarding the process, please contact the Planning Policy Team planningpolicy@monmouthshire.gov.uk Telephone: 01633 644429".

Dates of the next meetings — Monday 3rd June 2024 at 7.00pm - can be attended in person at the Shirenewton Recreation Hall or remotely via Microsoft Teams (a link will be provided on emailing the Clerk), with prior notice.

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: shire-newtoncc.@gmail.com

Mobile: 07410 580961

Extracts from the minutes of AGM held 3rd May 2024.

To Elect the Chairman of the Council 2024/5 and to receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Councillor P Butterworth was unanimously elected as Chair until the next annual meeting who in turn accepted the nomination. The Committee thanks Cllr P Butterworth for all his work during the last 12 months.

To Elect the Vice Chairman of the Council 2024/5 and to receive the Vice Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Councillor C Martin was unanimously elected as Vice Chair until the next annual meeting who had agreed to accept the nomination in advance. The Committee thanked C Martin for all her works during the past year.

The Chair's Report:

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for all the time and work they have put in over the past 12 months.

At the end of April 2023 our Clerk Natasha left our Community Council to take up a new role. While seeking a new Clerk, Cllr Cathie Martin took on the role as acting Clerk to ensure our financial commitments were upheld and our emails were dealt with promptly. I wish to thank Cllr Cathie Martin on behalf of the Council for all the work she has put in.

On 29th January 2024 we appointed J McLagan as our new Clerk. Jan is co-working as the Clerk for Devauden Community Council, an arrangement which is benefitting both Community Councils.

In January 2024 we were sorry to see the departure of Cllr Elizabeth Wixcey and I thank her for all the work she has done for the Council during her tenure.

During this Council period the following activities were carried out:

Following a consultation with the Shirenewton Primary School Council an in-ground trampoline was installed in the children's playground to replace the aging climbing frame which due to its condition was becoming unsafe. There has been an issue with the drainage of the pit under the trampoline in periods of extensive rain which MCC are aware of and we are waiting for them to install additional drainage.

A new planter was commissioned and installed on the central reservation in the road outside the Tredegar Arms, this was following the original planter being demolished by a large vehicle.

The Community Council is responsible for the upkeep of the Church clock. Over the past year is has proved to be problematic after its last scheduled maintenance and despite several visits by the maintenance company it is still not functioning. The Church in Wales provided contact details of the maintenance company they use, and a survey and quote has been received. Due to the amount of work needed to repair the clock and the cost the Community Council is presently reviewing the options and a meeting with the PCC and the Church in Wales will be arranged.

Over the period of this Community Council, we received 17 planning applications for consideration. The ultimate decision on a planning application is made by Monmouthshire County Council however, we can make a recommendation after taking into account our local knowledge, the information presented to us in the application and the views of local residents presented at our meetings. The Community Council recommended approval for 10 applications; Monmouthshire County council have approved 9 applications with 5 applications still pending consideration.

During this period among the numerous activities the Community Council has carried out there have been several incidents reported to My Mon for multiple issues ranging from rusted signposts to blocked drainage grids.

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

Our meeting in May was very well attended, the speaker was Helena Gerrish giving a talk entitled, 'Mounton House Garden', members brought friends and neighbours and I know everyone thought how lovely the house and gardens had been restored and to such a high quality. Members will be visiting the garden on Wednesday, 3rd July, to see the gardens for themselves.

Once again as it is our tradition to 'Beat the Bounds of the Parish', we gathered at the Church door (see photograph opposite) and walked the Golden Valley section of the parish, we were very lucky with the weather, just returned it time before the thunder storm, to be greeted at the Church Room with tea and cakes to refresh our tired legs.

Our May meeting was a visit to the Beachley peninsula, our guide for the evening was Richard Clammer, who has recently published a book on the subject (we have a copy in our archive), once again we were lucky with the weather and had a very pleasant and interesting walk. (see photograph opposite).

You will note in the .Dates for your Diary, we have started our archive meetings once again, meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, everyone welcome. The Archive includes maps, documents, photograph sand quite a large collection of local interest books. I'm sure there is something of interest there for everyone.

Dates for your diary

2024

| 12 th June 25 th June | 2 p.m. Archive Meeting, Church Ro | oom |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 25 th June | Roman Houses XXVI & XXVII | Mark Lewis |
| 1 | in Caerwent | |
| 3 rd July | Visit to Mounton House | Helena Garrish |
| | Garden | |
| 10 th July 30 th July | 2 p.m. Archive Meeting, Church Ro | |
| 30 th July | Oliver Cromwell | Prof Hutton |



The History Society beating the bounds (above) and at Beachley (below)





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MATHERN MALE VOICE CHOIR

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LENA AND CERI

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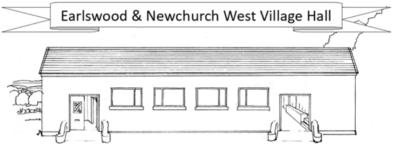
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FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S NEWCHURCH

Diary Dates 2024

29th June, 7pm Bingo and Buffet Church Farm
21st Sept, 7pm Harvest Supper Church Farm
7th Dec, 7pm Christmas Quiz & Supper Church Farm
15th Dec, 4.30pm Christingle Service St Peter's Church
24th Dec, 4.30pm Christmas Carol Service St Peter's Church
25th Dec, 10am Christmas Day Service St Peter's Church



Elvis Night

Friday 2nd AUGUST

Back by popular demand

A night of music and laughter with Keith Davies (as seen on the BBC's One Show!)

 Tickets £20 (includes cold supper & dessert)

Save the Date!

| October, 26th | Barn Dance |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| November, 30th | Christmas Market & Craft Fair |
| December, 14th | Xmas Quiz |
| 2025 | |
| May, 10th | Plant and cake sale |

To book tickets, hire the hall or sign up for emails: 07889 762 840 / 07855 301 806



CHEPSTOW AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 516919

Annual Membership of Chepstow Agricultural Society is now open

Benefits of Membership:

Members, Vice Presidents & Family Members have free entry to Chepstow Show, with access to the Members Enclosure. Additionally Vice Presidents have access to dedicated parking (near the main ring).

In the Members Enclosure you will find lunch, refreshments and drinks & dedicated toilet facilities.

In fine weather you will be able to sit directly alongside the Main Ring.

More details:

membershipsecretarychepstowshow@hotmail.com



Chepstow Show Sat. August 10th 2024





At Chepstow Racecourse
Main Ring programme commences 10:00am.
Attractions include.

Fire Service Display, Usk Valley Working Gun Dog Club, Vintage Vehicle Display and much more



Homecraft, Horticulture, Livestock, Dog Show, Food Hall, Craft Tent and Vintage Vehicles



ADULTS £12 • UNDER 16's Free

FREE PARKING







www.chepstowshow.co.uK

All are welcome to our Animal Blessing Service at St Deiniol's Church, Itton on

SUNDAY 9th June

11.30a.m.

Bring your pets to be blessed, or bring a photograph or draw a picture to be blessed.

Penycaemawr Chapel Anniversary

To be held on

Sunday June 23rd at

3.00 p.m.

(Preacher: Rev. Bethany Willers)

Including songs from the Caldicot Methodist Church Choir

This year we are celebrating 132 years.



It is a really joyous occasion!
It would be lovely if you could come and join us in our celebrations.

A warm welcome to everyone

Gardening Corner

I mentioned last month that the House Martens suddenly arrived overnight, and only after I had put our artificial nests up. We joked that they must have been sitting around on overhead wires somewhere just waiting for the nests to be put up! Since then, it is almost like there has been a second wave arrive, as the skies around the house seem to be full of Martens as I write this. There are even signs of the newer arrivals looking to build their own nests, and we haven't had that for a number of years. They will have to hurry as time is moving on, and they don't have that much left to raise a brood. The big advantage of the artificial nests is that the first arrivals get a head start and, in a good year weather wise, it is not uncommon for them to raise two broods of chicks, which clearly must swell their numbers. We were still awaiting the arrival of the first cuckoo. It was late, then very late, then exceptionally late, but we did eventually hear our first cuckoo, but not until the first week or so in May. So, nearly a month later than usual. They arrive along with other migratory birds, some of whose nest, the cuckoos then lay their solitary egg in. Strikes us as a very mean way to live a life, but guess that is one of the wonders of nature. The cuckoos continued calling for a week or so, but now it has gone quiet again.

We recently took the decision to have a very large ash tree felled on our boundary. It had the first signs of ash dieback, so it was only a matter of time before it succumbed completely. This wasn't why we felled it though. Unfortunately, it had started to lose limbs at random times, and with a bridleway, and our gate entrance right underneath it, the risk of a limb coming down on someone and causing an injury or worse was too much of a risk. In the past, a tree shedding a limb, or in fact falling / blowing down would have been regarded as an act of God. This hasn't been the case for a long time. It reminds me of a story that the police presented to me and other new entrants, when I first started at Forestry school. I won't bore you with the story (it was a 'man thing' anyway so not politically correct these days), but the catch phrase at the end was "accidents don't just happen, they are caused". The purpose of the talk was to try and ensure we students all kept safe on the roads, during our time at college. Fortunately, we all did. I have thought many times since, what a good lesson that was to learn. If you think about it, accidents don't just happen. A ladder toppling over is usually because it hasn't been put up properly or attached to anything where required, someone falling off a scaffolding tower because they are not strapped to anything. Even cutting ourselves with a blunt knife, or because we cut towards ourselves instead of away! The point Nowadays, an owner of any tree is responsible for it, and by law, we should monitor its safety. A tree health survey doesn't have to be necessarily done by a professional arborist, but as owners we should monitor things such as rot, dving limbs etc. If not, it is very likely that you will be held responsible should the tree fail in any way, and

property or life is impacted. Driving the roads around us, it is sad to note all the ash that are dying, and becoming increasingly more dangerous as time goes on. We always wonder just how many owners realise that they are wholly responsible should those trees fail, and there is clear evidence that the warning signs have not been acted upon. Accidents really don't just happen. As to our ash tree, it turned out to be very rotten in the bottom, so it really was time to go.

The garden – ah yes, the battle continues against the massive slug and snail population that we have this year. We have almost been at the point of giving up some days as the continuing 'ample' rainfall, makes conditions for these nasty pests, just right. Everything that we planted out was getting annihilated almost overnight. Something had to be done. The current slug pellets seemed to be eaten with relish, although we have found one brand that was approved by organic associations which was much more effective than others. This 'advanced' brand seems to do the job better. However, the amount of damage being done needed more drastic measures if we were to have any success with crops this year. A declaration of war was made, the night fishing headtorch was brought into action, and necessary work was initiated. I won't tell you what this was, and I'm afraid that, yes, numerous slugs and snails did end their lives as a result. This action did allow the plants to establish, and to toughen up a bit, but the damage limitation exercise continues. Not every night, but regularly enough to hopefully get on top of the pests. I just want hedgehogs to make a recovery and long for the day when I see a pile of hedgehog poo on our lawn in the mornings. I haven't seen any evidence of this for many years. The numbers of frogs and toads returning to our wildlife pond seem much reduced this year too, so with these and the wet, mild winter, we always knew it would be a battle this year.

We are continuing to get crops sown and planted out, but because we are not entering any shows this year, the reduction in growing, has meant that we have more room in the greenhouses and tunnels. A result of this is that we have transplanted plants into slightly bigger pots, which means that they can stay under protection for longer. The plants are then better established, they have grown bigger and are not so 'leafy and tender'. It is clear that these are then less palatable to the slugs and snails when transplanted, so a win, win really. Some crops we have struggled to protect, so the numbers of pickings from our asparagus beds, for example, are going to be very limited this year.

We are currently eating our own fresh lettuce, cucumber, asparagus and new potatoes, but our over-wintered calabrese and cauliflowers have now finished. We do have French beans growing in the tunnel and these are now in flower, so it won't be long before the first beans develop. We also have the next rotation of greens well on the way. Since last months musings, all of the melons, tomatoes and most of the pepper plants have been planted out in the large tunnel, and these are now getting well established. The first tomatoes are even forming. The new potatoes

harvested thus far, were the result of cleaning some ground in the tunnel. I clearly missed every potato when harvesting last year, but when these started to sprout up between the cauliflowers and calabrese, I just left them to do their own thing. Removing the greens that had finished, to get the bed ready for the tomatoes etc., meant that we had several weeks, worth of lovely new potatoes! They were a new variety that we tried last year called Casablanca. We would recommend them to anyone, the taste is superb. Our actual plantings of new potatoes are now ready for digging, but those accidental 'plantings' have meant that we have eaten new potatoes since the start of May, and they have been very welcome indeed.

The continuing bad weather has meant that some areas of the garden have still not been weeded, but for now they will have to wait. Because of the weather, beekeepers were issues with a starvation warning for their hives. Reports were coming in that bees were unable to fly, and so could not bring in new supplies of pollen and food. By the first week in May, keepers were reporting the loss of numerous hives. This is one of the worst things that can happen. I did look at my bees about that time, and some hives had so much still stored, that I was tempted to remove some of the honey, as it was still liquid enough to extract. I left it at the time, which as it transpires, was a good decision. The recent hot weather though has encouraged a couple of swarms, and I had two on successive days. They were both gathered in, but weren't overly large swarms. They were moved from there temporary 'capturing quarters' into proper hives and are being fed sugar syrup, at present to give them a helping hand. The one is progressing well, the other not so well, so we will have to see how things go.

Happy gardening until next month.

Steve and Felicity Hunt.



COFFEE MORNING at

Valley Chapel Earlswood

On Saturday 15th June 10.30 – 12.30

Raffle, Cakes and Plants For Sale

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Sown and grown using organic methods in Newchurch

Larges boxes £22 and Medium boxes £17

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We guarantee a minimum of 8 items in the medium boxes (suitable for 2-3)

and 10 items in our large boxes



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(29 years' experience)

Shirenewton Church Fete Saturday 15 June 2024

Family Fun Dog Show Entries from 1.30 at the dog show ring - £2/dog/class

First Class to begin promptly at 2.15 pm

| 2.15 | The Prettiest Girl and the Most Handsome Boy | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2.35 | Dog with the Waggiest Tail | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.45 | Best Child Handler – 2 Age Groups; SCHOOL YEAR 3 OR BELOW SCHOOL YEAR 4 AND ABOVE | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.05 | Dog with the Best Trick | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.20 | Best Dressed Dog to include; | | | | | | | | | |
| | DOG THAT LOOKS MOST LIKE ITS OWNER BEST SPORTS THEME COSTUME | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.40 | Best Six Legs (Dog's 4 and Human's 2) | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.00 | Dog judge would most like to take Home | | | | | | | | | |

All are welcome to

A Walk on the Wild Side

an illustrated talk about

The history and planting of the High Line Garden, New York

by

Lesley Kelly

at

St. Deiniol's Church, Itton

on

Wednesday, June 12th. at 2.30 p.m.

Admission Free Followed by Tea and Cakes

The Cake Stall at the Shirenewton Church Fete - Sat 15th June



Glynis, Gail and Annabel have volunteered to run the Cake Stall this year and we would welcome your help!

Cookies and slices and muffins, Breads and biscuits and cake, Buns and bagels and tiffins, Please, put on your pinny and bake.

Chutneys, preserves and some pickle.
Make marmalades, jellies and jam,
Or loaves, large, medium or likkle...
Cheese straws and crumbly meringue.

I like Welsh cake with a pinch of mixed spice And I'll have a Swiss Roll if I can. Melting Moments I remember were really quite nice But I do like a Gingerbread Man.



You can deliver your goodies to me on the Friday before the fete to The Chantry or you can bring your delights on the day.

Glynis 01291 641 818 07531 425 006 Glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

Christian Aid Week

Glynis and Jane would like to thank everyone who came along to support our Coffee Morning on Saturday 18th May.

We raised £346.



And the poppies in my greenhouse were magnificent too!



Shirenewton W.I. Election News



At our AGM in May, we were sad to learn that our President, **Diane Ashton-Smith** was standing down after 9 years in the office. Diane has been such a dedicated and welcoming president for Shirenewton W.I. Under her presidency, our membership has increased, we've made new friends, learned a lot and had great fun. The very good news is that **Angela Gray** was elected as our new president and that Diane is staying on as a committee member.

Famous Operations

We are all aware of the ever-improving developments in modern medicine, but **Keith Tayton's** most entertaining talk to us in May on **Famous Operations** opened our eyes to the long history of operations and explained the medical breakthroughs of the past that we now take for granted.

Keith's well illustrated talk showed that medical operations had been carried out for thousands of years. Neolithic people made holes in skulls, the belief being that this was treatment for epilepsy, and glass eyes were used as early as 3,000 B.C. I hasten to add that there were no grisly illustrations in his talk as Keith was under strict instructions from his wife, Jill, not to upset any W.I. members!

The talk led us through some of the major breakthroughs in medicine, including the first successful abdominal operation in 1809 by Ephrain Mc Dowell in Kentucky, to remove an ovarian cyst. Despite the operation being performed on his kitchen table, without the use of anesthetic or antisepsis, the patient, Jane Todd Crawford, made a full recovery and went to live on for another 32 years.

Another breakthrough was in anesthetics. James Simpson experimented with various chemicals in the 19th Century. He would invite his friends to dinner and get them to try out various chemicals.

Although some of these chemical experiments rendered his guests unconscious (beware those dinner party invitations!), they led to the discovery in 1847 of chloroform as an anesthetic. Other medical breakthroughs included antiseptic treatment for wounds, and joint replacement and organ transplants during the 20th Century.



Model scene showing James Simpson and two friends unconscious due to the anaesthetic properties of chloroform

Our next meeting is on Thursday 13th June at 7.15 at Shirenewton Recreation Hall when we shall be trying our hand at flower arranging under the expert eye of Becky Allen from the local business, Green Bee Blooms.

If you are interested in joining Shirenewton W.I. or would like to find out more about our group, then please contact Jane Butterworth at janeb247@gmail.com or Diane Ashton Smith (01291 628838)

Jackie Broughton

Sharing: Nerys's Natty Nosh



Hi Nerys.

Thought these recipes would be good to share.
Best wishes, Eirwen Wilson.

Weetabix Cake Serves: 8 **Ingredients**

2 Weetabix

1 cup dried fruit

3/4 cup muscovado sugar

1 cup milk

1 cup -mixed chopped nuts and chopped cherries.

6oz self raising flour

1 large egg, or 2 small eggs beaten

Method

- 1 Mix together the Weetabix, sugar, dried fruit and milk in a large bowl.
- 2. Leave overnight.
- 3. Add flour and beaten egg. If the mixture is a little dry add a little milk. Put into greased and floured (or lined with liner) 2lb loaf tin.
- 4. Cook at 180c or gas mark 4 for approximately one hour, until the skewer comes out clean. Cool on wire rack. Optional, decorate with marmalade and toasted almonds.

Tips

I have made this cake several times and I'm delighted with the results. It's incredibly easy to make, it's moist and keeps well in an airtight container in the fridge.

Can be eaten as a quick-fix breakfast.

Freezes well.

It's adaptable, use it as a pudding, or serve with a cup of tea. Vary the ingredients: -

Dried fruits; - sultanas, blueberries, cranberries, currents, papaya, pineapple, or strawberries.

Essences: -Add essences to the milk e.g., Vanilla, chocolate, or almond.

Spices: -Add spices to the flour e.g., cinnamon, nutmeg, or mixed spice.

Make it into a double chocolate cake: -Follow the above method with the following ingredients.

2 Weetabix

1 cup -cooking chocolate drops and chopped nuts

34 cup muscovado sugar

1 cup milk or Soya milk

1 cup dried fruit

5oz self-raising flour

1 oz cocoa

1 large egg, beaten add a little milk if required. Enjoy!



Bara Brith

Inaredients

300g mixed fruit
50g cherries chopped
100g soft brown sugar
150 ml cold tea
1 beaten egg
200g self-raising flour
Pinch of cinnamon
1 teaspoon mixed spice
Little milk for mixing

Method

1 Overnight soak the mixed fruit, cherries, and sugar in the cold tea.

2 Line a greased loaf tin.

3 Heat the oven to 150C/300F/Gas 2.

4 Sift the self-raising flour, cinnamon, and mixed spice into a mixing bowl.

5 Add the soaked fruit into the mixing bowl.

6 Add the beaten egg to the mixture and fold, add a little milk until a dropping consistency is reached.

7 Put the mixture into the prepared loaf tin and bake for about 1½ hours.

Tips

1 Once the Bara Brith has cooled, wrap it in parchment paper and foil and freeze it until required. The freezing allows the fruit to expand, making the bread very moist and delicious.

2 Why not double up the recipe and make two loaves, one for now and one for later.

3 Some people like to add a little whisky or brandy to the tea when soaking overnight. The choice is entirely yours.

4 To serve, slice the bread and spread with butter or margarine.

5 Bara Brith is served as a tea-time treat with plenty of hot tea.

6 Traditionally in North Wales Bara Brith is included in a funeral wake.

Thank you Eirwen Wilson for sharing these recipe with us.

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Gamble Aware (18)



Chepstow Choral Society

Conducted by Graham Bull Piano - Richard Kubiak

Midsummer Melodies

From Madrigals to Mama Mia,

A selection of beautiful summer music!

Including:

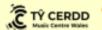
Madrigals by Thomas Morley, Locus Iste by Bruckner, Psalm 23 by Schubert, Non Nobis Domine by Quilter, folk songs by Vaughan Williams and a selection of modern classics including One Moment in Time and a Mama Mia medley.

Wednesday 26th June 2024

7pm, Arts Hall, Chepstow School

Tickets £10

Under 18s & Students Free Please join us for light refreshments afterwards Tickets from Choir members, Chepstow Bookshop, on the door or by logging on to www.eventbrite.co.uk



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www.chepstowchoralsociey.org.uk





THE HISTORY AROUND US TUDOR CHEPSTOW 500 YEARS AGO

On **Saturday 18 May 2024** Chepstow held a Tudor Street Party to celebrate the 500th anniversary of its iconic gatehouse completed in 1524 and of its Charter of 1524 presented by the last but one *Marcher Lord* (*'Borderland'* Lord) of Chepstow, the Earl of Worcester. There was much merriment in Tudor clothes in the High Street around, under, and through Chepstow Town Gate – the Archway which defines Chepstow.

The Archway which was once, with Chepstow Bridge, the notorious bottle neck for motor traffic between England and South Wales and the reason in the 1920s for the campaign started by Chepstow Urban District Council to build the Severn Bridge to bypass Chepstow – which finally happened in 1966 although the A48 still came under the arch until 1988. Thomas Telford suggested a Severn Suspension Bridge in 1824 but it takes time for these ideas to sink in!

The principal impact of the Tudors on Chepstow and surrounding areas was the dissolution of the monasteries in 1536 to 1540, almost 500 years ago. Chepstow Priory and its out-buildings on what is now Tesco car park and Nelson Street car park was 'dissolved' although thankfully the superb C11th nave of the Priory remains as the nave of St Mary's Parish Church as does its fine West Door with its Norman carvings.

St Mary's nave contains the Tudor tomb and effigy of the last Marcher Lord of this area, the 2nd Earl of Worcester and of his wife the 2nd Countess. The 2nd Countess was Lady in Waiting to Queen Anne Boleyn and was the principal witness against her at her trial in 1536 which gave rise to the first infamous event of the reign and marriages of Henry VIII.

St Kingsmark Priory near the Racecourse was dissolved and destroyed and Tintern Abbey was closed down and has remained in ruins ever since – ruins much admired by the likes of painter J M W Turner and poet William Wordsworth and numerous tourists to the Wye Valley. Tintern Abbey was founded by the Lord of Striguil (Chepstow) Castle and of

Netherwent in 1130 and is the burial place of the Marshal family (except William who, as a Knight Templar at the very end of his life, is buried in Temple Church in London).

The Town Gate was first built 750 years ago (1272-1278) as part of the Town or Port Wall around Chepstow and then 500 years ago it was rebuilt in its current form as an arch and given to the Town by Charles Somerset, 1st Earl of Worcester, in 1524 along with a Town Charter. The Arch found its way back into the ownership of the Earls of Worcester/Dukes of Beaufort at the Restoration of King Charles II in 1660 and was given again to the town 125 years ago in 1899. In 2008 the Town Arch, Gate and Gatehouse was bought for the Town from MCC by Chepstow Town Council negotiated by the Town Clerk who was Sandra Bushell (also Burrows) of Shirenewton/Mynyddbach!

John Burrows







STARGAZING

To the south the constellation of Boötes the Herdsman, has the fourth brightest star in the whole sky, Arcturus. It is a red giant star and the curve of the handle of the Plough points down to it. Arcturus is at a distance of 40 light years, which means it takes light 40 years to cross space from the star to Earth. As light travels approximately 200 thousand miles in 1 second, Arcturus is at quite a distance! Even so it is one of the closest of the bright stars. The name Arcturus is derived from Greek and means "guardian of the bears". Above and to the left of Arcturus can be seen a semi-circle of stars making up Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown.

The W-shape of Cassiopeia lies in a north-easterly direction. Leo the Lion, shaped rather like a reversed question mark, can be seen in the west. Cygnus the Swan lies in the eastern sky. It is one of the most distinctive constellations, often nicknamed the Northern Cross.

On the 20th June the Earth's axis is tilted towards the Sun to its greatest extent and the Sun reaches its highest position in the sky at noon. This is the longest day or summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere. In Wales it is called Gŵyl Ifan Ganol Haf (St John's of Midsummer). Great agricultural fairs used to be held at this time, along with merriment and dancing. A bonfire was also kept this night. Its observance finally died out in SE Wales by the end of the 19th century.

Joke: After his first meal on the Moon, the astronaut said the food was good but the restaurant lacked atmosphere!

The Full Moon appears on June 21st.

The great Italian scientist Galileo used his telescope or what was then called an "optic tube" to map the Moon, and estimated the height of its mountains to be roughly 5 miles. This is surprisingly accurate considering his measurements were made 400 years ago.



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DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

(Cabinets do not require codes, they are unlocked although they have a key pad)

Carpenters Arms (on the Usk road) Huntsman Hotel (on the Usk road Recreation Hall (Shirenewton village) Shirenewton Sultan (The Square, centre of Shirenewton)

Earlswood Hall (Erlswood)



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

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

In last month's article I mentioned a workaround for how 'to get to read all the Daily Mail without paying for Mail+'. Well, it seems that they must subscribe to the Parish Magazine because I'm just back from Malaga and can confirm that this no longer (fully) works. Despite being online from Spain, there were articles for which a Mail+ account was required. Oh well, no loophole lasts forever.

Last month I also talked about backing up IMAP email files. Well, I've found a bit of software (not free unfortunately, US\$99) which seems to do the job and more. Corbett Backup & Restore (https://corbettsoftware.com) is a neat bit of software which allows you to export all your emails as various formats. I've chosen PDF, as PDFs are searchable. So, I now have all my historical emails as PDF files on a separate drive which I can back-up anywhere I wish. They key point being that my email holds valuable data which, if the service provider were to withdraw their service for whatever reason, I would potentially lose. Therefore, backing up that data and having is accessible regardless of the service provider is important.

So, create the local PDFs and then chuck them on a secure local drive or in some cloud storage (I have accounts with Google, Microsoft and an independent 3rd party called PCloud) and you will have access to that data independent of the service provider.

I also mentioned that, having moved PCs, one of my add-ins (SimplyFile) was behaving erratically. I've now worked out that, unfortunately, Gmail in IMAP mode and SimplyFile have some incompatibilities. This is unfortunate and I need to develop workarounds (i.e. new patterns of behaviour) to keep everything clean and filed. The major lesson here is that moving to a new operating system (such as my forced move from Windows 10 to Windows 11) will always be accompanied by change. In some ways, that change is good. It is an opportunity to start afresh without legacy programs you use out of habit. In other ways, it's bad because you have to change working practices you've become used to over the years. However, as they say, 'the only constant is change', so we have to adopt and adapt.

Moving onto passwords. A firm called Hive Systems has come up with a great graphic called the 'Hive Systems Password Table' (www.hivesystems.com/password) which, if he has room, Bill will publish below. This is really a message about strong lengthy passwords with complexity inbuilt. For example, a 10 character 'numbers only' password would take a brute force attacker only one hour to crack. Whereas a password of the same length with numbers and a mixture of upper and lower case letters, would take

9,000 years. Add some symbols into that and that rises to 33,000 years.

| S | | TIME IT TAKES | | A HACKER TO | | BRUTE FORCE | | YOUR | | PASSWORD | | 4707 N | | How did we make this? | How did we make tims: | > Hardware:12 x RTX 4090 Password hash: bcrypt |
|---|-----------|---------------|-----------|-------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters, Symbols | 9 secs | 10 mins | 12 hours | 1 month | 7 years | 479 years | 33k years | 2m years | 164m years | 11bn years | 805bn years | 56tn years | 3qd years | 276qd years | 19qn years | ware:12 x R1 |
| Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters | 6 secs | 6 mins | 6 hours | 2 weeks | 3 years | 161 years | 9k years | 618k years | 38m years | 2bn years | 147bn years | 9tn years | 566tn years | 35qd years | 2qn years | > Hard |
| Upper and Lowercase Letters | 3 secs | 2 mins | 2 hours | 4 days | 8 months | 33 years | 1k years | 89k years | 4m years | 241m years | 12bn years | 652bn years | 33tn years | 1qd years | 91qd years | |
| Lowercase Letters | Instantly | 4 secs | 2 mins | 50 mins | 22 hours | 3 weeks | 2 years | 44 years | 1k years | 29k years | 766k years | 19m years | 517m years | 13bn years | 350bn years | |
| Numbers Only | Instantly | | Instantly | 4 secs | 37 secs | 6 mins | 1 hour | 10 hours | 4 days | 1 month | 1 year | 12 years | 119 years | 1k years | 11k years | HIVE |
| Number of Characters | 4 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | THIS SALES |

Note: A brute force attack uses trial and error to obtain login credentials. In essence, the attacker uses a program which automatically tries multiple username and password combinations. If they know your username (for example, an email address), the attempt simply tries multiple passwords against the username.

Regular readers will recall that I recommend that you use a long, complex password which is a phrase or saying which you can remember. The example I have previously used is:

The USKRoadisthe B4325... - that is 23 letters long and would take over 22 quintillion years to crack. If you are interested a quintillion has 18 zeros!!!

What do I do? Well as discussed in previous articles, I have password manager software, so every password is a different 16 digit combination of random numbers, upper and lower case letters, and symbols. The master password is a phrase over 30 digits long which contains numbers, upper and lower case letters, and symbols.

On that happy note, safe browsing.

David Cornwell

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FAIRTRADE NEWS APRIL 2024

In 2020 in reaction to a report by Professor Corinne Fowler into the colonial history of properties belonging to the National Trust, Nigel Farage and a group of 59 Conservative MPs and Peers calling FAIRTRADE themselves without any apparent irony the Common



Sense Group declared a 'battle for Britain' against 'subversives fuelled by ignorance and an arrogant determination to erase the past and re-write the future'. A close acquaintance of mine agreed and said that a group of extremists was trying to 'erase our history'.

Surely, learning a bit more about the history of these wonderful places is the opposite of 'erase'? Information, facts just add to their story. Getting information and making it available to the world is absolutely vital.

Companies are often not very keen on the public understanding their methods or the make-up of their products. Nestle, the world's largest consumer goods company is not immune to controversy. Since the 1970s Nestle has been accused of promoting infant formula in poorer countries where conditions are not always conducive to hygiene, and there is still evidence of child labour in cocoa production and Nestle continues to promote bottled water 'Bottled water is the most environmentally responsible consumer product in the world' (!?)

Now a report has revealed (article in the Guardian 17 April 2024) that Nestle adds sugar to infant follow-on milk and infants' cereal. But, interestingly, not in Europe, only in some less developed nations where legislation is vaguer. Obesity is increasingly a problem in in low and middle income countries. Globally more than one BILLION are living with obesity.

It is possible, though very time-consuming to discover this info. Similarly well-documented statistics re: climate change or plastic production are available Companies are generally at pains to secure their profits and will do little unless coerced. So, I suppose we just have to enact more legislation. . . . Roll on the Nanny state!!

Buying Fairtrade is a simple way to effect positive real change for producers and the environment. Consumers do have power! (Palestinian goods still available from Ethical Superstore!) Marion McAdam 641316 msm316@gmail.com

See you at the Chepstow 500 year celebrations on May 18th!



St Tewdric's Church Unlocked presents:

An Organ & Trumpet Recital



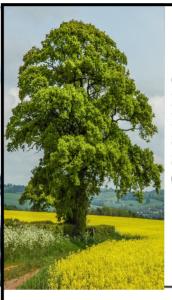
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This Photo by

St Tewdric's Church at 7pm 12th June 2024



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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE

Sunday 2nd Café Church

3.30 p.m. Shirenewton Church Room

Monday 3rd Shirenewton Community Council meeting

7.00 p.m. Recreation Hall

Friday 7th Mathern Male Voice Choir

7.00 p.m. St Pierre Church

Saturday 8th Open Day

2.00 p.m. Gilgal Chápel, Llanvaches Sunday 9th Animal Blessing Service 11.30 a.m. St Deiniol's Church, Itton

Wednesday 12th Shirenewton History Society Archive Meeting

2.00 p.m. Shirenewton Church Room

Wednesday 12th Lesley Kelly: The High Line Garden, New York

2.30 p.m. St Deiniol's Church, Itton Wednesday 12th Organ and Trumpet recital 7.00 p.m. St Tewdrics's Church, Mathern

Thursday13th W.I—flower arranging with Green Bee Blooms

07.15 Recreation Hall

Saturday 15th Church Fete 2.00 p.m. Recreation field Saturday 15th Coffee morning

1030-1230 Valley Chapel, Earlswood

Thursday 20th Men's curry night 7.30 p.m. Shirenewton Sultan Sunday 23rd Chapel Anniversary 3.00 p.m. Penycaemawr Chapel

Tuesday 25th History Society—Roman Houses XXVI/XXVII 7.30 p.m. History Society—Roman Houses XXVI/XXVII at Caerwent by Mark Lewis—Church Hall

Wednesday 26th Chepstow Choral Society—Midsummer Melodies

7.00 p.m. Art Hall, Chepstow School

Thursday 27th Ladies curry night 7.30 p.m. Shirenewton Sultan

JULY

Wednesday 3rd Visit to Mounton House Gardens

2.30 p.m. Mounton House Sunday 7th Café Church

3.30 p.m. Shirenewton Church Room

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY—continued

JULY

Wednesday 10th History Society Archive meeting 2.00 p.m. Shirenewton Church Room

Thursday 18th
7.30 p.m.

Men's curry night
Shirenewton Sultan

Ladies curry night
Shirenewton Sultan

Shirenewton Sultan

Tuesday 30th History Society talk—Oliver Cromwell

7.30 p.m. Shirenewton Church Room

AUGUST

Sunday 4th Café church

3.30 p.m. Shirenewton Church Room

Saturday 10th Chepstow Show 10.00 a.m. Chepstow Racecourse Thursday 22nd Men's curry night 7.30 p.m. Shirenewton Sultan Ladies curry night 7.30 p.m. Shirenewton Sultan

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 1st Café church

3.30 p.m. Shirenewton Church Room

Thursday 19th Men's curry night 7.30 p.m. Shirenewton Sultan Thursday 26th Ladies curry night 7.30 p.m. Shirenewton Sultan

Sunday 29th Community crafting evening (for ShAMBLES)

6.30 p.m. Recreation Hall

OCTOBER

Sunday 1th Café church

3.30 p.m. Shirenewton Church Room

Saturday 12th ShAMBLES—opening night party From 6.00 p.m. Shirenewton and Mynyddbach

Sunday 13th ShAMBLES

From 6.00 p.m. Shirenewton and Mynyddbach

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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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FB Messenger The Huntsman Hotel New Page.

Email TheHuntsmanHotel@ICloud.Com, or call 01291-641521 ooOoo

"Thank you to all those involved organising and enjoying the Tea/Coffee & Cake Event which raised £735 for the Village AED Fund & Steve Bray's 70's Night raising £100

| 1 | | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2 | Income | | | |
| 3 | Personal donations | £1,180.00 | | |
| 4 | Coffee event | £734.48 | | |
| 5 | Sing a long | £100.00 | | |
| 6 | Community C | £215.82 | | |
| 7 | Earlswood Hall | £300.00 | £1,350.30 | |
| 8 | Total | £2530.30 | | |
| 9 | Expenditure | | | |
| 10 | Batteries x 3 | £612.00 | | |
| 11 | Pads x 3 | £215.82 | | |
| 12 | Total | £827.82 | | |
| 13 | Surplus | £1,702.48 | | |
| 14 | Bank Statement | IN | OUT | Balance |
| 15 | Jan 24 | £975.00 | £827.82 | |
| 16 | Feb-24 | £450.00 | £0.00 | |
| 17 | Mar-24 | £1,105.30 | £0.00 | |
| 18 | Total /Balance | £2,530.30 | £827.82 | £1,702.48 |
| 19 | | | | |
| | | | | |





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OffShoots

Friday 26th July

00000

The Rohan

Saturday 17th August

00000

Something Sultry

Saturday 6th July

00000

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Time & Date to be Announced









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TOUR DATES

Friday 17th May, 19:00 St. Ar

St. Andrew's Church Cullompton, Devon

Thursday 30th May, 19:00

St. Catwg's Church, Pentyrch

Friday 31st May, 19:30

Beulah United Reformed Church, Cardiff

Thursday 13th June, 19:30

St. Deiniol's Church,

Friday 14th June, 19:30

Ingatestone United Reformed Church, Essex

Saturday 22nd June, 19:30

St. Mary's Church, Guildford

Sunday 23rd June, 15:00

Redland Park United Reformed

Church, Bristol

Thursday 27th June, 19:30

Cedar Church, Birmingham

Friday 12th July, 19:30

All Saint's Church, Putney, London

Saturday 13th July, 15:00

Headingly Methodist Church, Leeds

Thursday 18th July, 19:30

Cherry Reds, Birmingham



www.amaltheaensemble.com • www.joyoflearningug.com

LOCAL CONTACTS

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| Ministry Area Treasurer | Kevin Higgs | | | | | |
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| Member of the Senedd Peter Fox MS | 01291 674898 | Peter.Fox@senedd.wales |

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Neighbourhood CSO Andrew.jones@qwent.pnn.police.uk

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Church Fete
Earlswood Hope Mr Raymond Jeremiah 01291 641726

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 Becca Allen Treasurer
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 chair@earlnew.com treasurer@earlnew.com

Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel

Avril Smith 01291 627677

Gaerllwyd Baptist
Ranger Guides
Recreation Association
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St Peters Church Newchurch

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Shirenewtonplaygroup@gmail.com

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