

Shirenewton Parish Magazine



May 2024

Price £1:50



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Shirenewton Church Fete

2pm at The Rec



Please do get involved!

We will need help with set up & take down,
stalls, activities, car-parking, parade and
more...

Seirian and Janet
shirenewtonfete@gmail.com

Shirenewton Café Church

The first Café Church in Shirenewton was very held on 7th April and was warmly received. It was great to welcome some new faces, reacquaint ourselves with others whom we hadn't seen for a while and enjoy an informal and social time, not forgetting our 'regulars' who turned out to welcome everyone and support the service. We had attendees from 7 to 70 plus and they all seemed to get on very well.

The café was serving tea, cafetiere coffee, hot crossed buns, biscuits and cakes, the majority of which were home made. The fairy cakes proved particularly popular, probably due to the thick icing and sprinkles which were perfect to lick off! Colouring and wordsearches were provided to amuse our younger visitors, although they were keen to be involved in the discussions and planning prayers too. We provided some newspapers so that people could think about what we should include in our prayers. We also had some discussion cards, to get people talking, should conversation flag.

John Waters lead a lively service, opening and closing with an upbeat worship song and featuring a reading and talk, as well as prayers on topics suggested by those present. All the feedback we received was positive and everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves.

We learned some lessons and are now busy planning the next service, which will be on May 5th. Everyone is very welcome, whether from Shirenewton or the wider Ministry Area and all ages will find something.

severnwyema.co.uk

Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in March:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Elizabeth Moore | 2. Fabian Cornwell |
| 3. Lynn Thomas | |

ShAMBLE 12th & 13th October 2024

save the date!

12th October opening night party at The Rec Hall
29th September Community crafting at The Rec Hall

SHirenewton And Mynydd Bach iLLumination Extravaganza
shirenewtonshamble@gmail.com



Eileen O' Dwyer



HomeCare

Private Carer/Home help
07795 689791



Café Church

Sunday May 5th at 3:30 in the Church Room
And on the 1st Sunday of each month

Café Church is perfect for families!
Or indeed anyone who would like to try an informal style of worship.
Café style refreshments and fellowship for adults and children -
meet new friends and neighbours
Home made cakes!
Children's activities Newspapers

Short service featuring:

- Modern worship songs
- Bible story
- All age address
- Prayers for the issues important to you

Come and give it a try!

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 tredegarmspub@gmail.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

TUESDAY 7TH MAY 7.30PM
ST MARY'S PRIORY

**A JOYOUS CELEBRATION TO WELCOME AND
LICENSE OUR NEW MINISTRY AREA LEADERS
ZOE AND BARNEY PIMENTEL**



AND ON
FRIDAY 10TH MAY 7PM – 9PM
A WELCOME TO SEVERN WYE PARTY



MATHERN VILLAGE HALL

63 Chepstow | Usk | Pontypool | Cwmbran

Timetable from 1 April 2024

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

Monday to Friday except Bank Holiday Mondays

	Sch	HOL
Cwmbran Bus Station [Stand H]	0712	0712 1020 1325 1650
Croesyceiliog Edloglan Square	0717	0717 1025 1330 1656
Pontypool Town Hall	0726	0726 1034 1339 1713
Pontypool Park Road	0727	0727 1035 1340 1714
Pontypool opp Town Hall	0728	0728 1036 1341 1715
Little Mill Pont-y-pia	0735	0735 1043 1348 1722
Usk Colleg Gwent Main Road	0743	0743 1051 1356 1730
Usk Twyn Square	0748	0748 1056 1401 1735
Llangwm Bridge Inn Road	0756	0756 1104 1409 1743
Gaerllwyd Cross Roads	0804	0804 1112 1417 1751
Earlswood West End	0808	0808 1116 1421 1755
Mynyddbach Horsemeadow Rise	0818	0818 1126 1431 1805
Chepstow Community Hospital Main Road	----	0825 1133 1438 1812
Chepstow Comprehensive School	0825	0825 1137 1442 1816
Chepstow Bus Station	0830	0830 1137 1442 1816

Saturdays

0712	1020	1325	1650
0717	1025	1330	1656
0726	1034	1339	1713
0727	1035	1340	1714
0728	1036	1341	1715
0735	1043	1348	1722
0743	1051	1356	1730
0748	1056	1401	1735
0756	1104	1409	1743
0804	1112	1417	1751
0808	1116	1421	1755
0818	1126	1431	1805
0825	1133	1438	1812
0829	1137	1442	1816

Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays

Sorry, there is no Sunday service on route 63

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

Monday to Friday except Bank Holiday Mondays

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

Saturdays

0835 1142 1532 1820	----
0839 1146 1536 1824	----
0846 1153 1543 1831	----
0855 1202 1552 1840	----
0858 1205 1555 1843	----
0905 1212 1602 1850	----
0913 1220 1610 1858	----
0918 1225 1615 1903	----
0926 1233 1623 1911	----
0934 1241 1631 1919	----
0935 1242 1632 1920	----
0936 1243 1633 1921	----
0944 1251 1641 1928	----
0948 1255 1645 1932	----

Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays

Sorry, there is no Sunday service on route 63

Sch Operates on schooldays only



A BIG THANK YOU TO MAUREEN MOODY

The wardens of Shirenewton Church and all members of our congregation would like to thank Maureen for her wonderful flower arrangements that have graced the church over the many years. We are so grateful for the quiet and efficient way you have done this for us, season by season, year after year and giving us such joyful and beautiful displays.

Thank you so much Maureen – your flowers give us so much pleasure.

See cover picture for an example

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SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

We had a very interest talk in March, the title of the talk was 'Japan & Wales the Big Connection', the speaker was Keith Dunn, who just happens to be the Welsh Consul for Japan, a local Shirenewton man. I'm pleased to say our technical equipment worked well, we were able to enjoy Keith's talk with illustrations.

Our April meeting will be, 'Bring a Friend Meeting', the title of this talk will be 'Moun-ton House Garden' the speaker, Hellena Garrish who has published a book on this subject. It will be of interest to local historians and of course keen gardeners among us. Helena will be conducting a tour of the garden in July if anyone is interested.

May see's us Beating the Bounds again, this tradition has taken place for century's here in the village so please come and join us on 5th May.

We meet in the Church Room on the last Tuesday of the month, everyone welcome.

Dates for your diary

2024

30 th April	Moun-ton 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 Moun-ton House Garden	Helena Garrish
30 th July	Oliver Cromwell	Prof Hutton



*SHIRENEWTON LOCAL
HISTORY SOCIETY*

*If you're interested in local
history, why not join our
society.*

*We meet once a month at St Thomas a
Becket Church Room*

*We have a small village archive that
members are able to use.*

*We arrange visits to historic houses and
gardens.*

*We are a friendly group and look forward
to meeting you.*

To contact us for more information:

*Secretary@Shirenewton
localhistorysociety.com*

Registered Charity No.1090167



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

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

*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.*

FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S NEWCHURCH

Diary Dates 2024

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



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Gardening Corner

As I sit here writing this, we have had two very warm dry days (at least warm when you are out of the wind), and the soil is at last beginning to dry out a little. All the raised beds that could have been weeded and prepared, have been, but all of the main flower beds still remain too wet to really be able to do much with. You do more damage to the soil structure walking all over the ground weeding and cutting back, so this is going to have to wait a little longer. Hopefully that the dry weather will continue, but it isn't looking promising at the moment. If we think it is bad from the gardening perspective, I feel so sorry for our farmers who simply can't get crops in the ground. Sowing and planting crops in the coming weeks isn't usually a problem as the warmer weather allows them to catch up, but too late, and there is insufficient time for crops to mature and produce a reasonable crop. We aren't quite there yet, but it gets more worrying as the days go by.

Normally all of my earlier sown crops would be planted out in the ground by now, but the better days have resulted in some pretty hard frosts, which is to be expected in April – but it isn't helping much! So far I have planted some broad bean plants outside, which are pretty hardy, and that is about it. All of the early potatoes have been planted under cover in either the tunnels of greenhouse. These are doing fine and the tops are up to almost 18 inches high. I did plant the main crop potatoes over Easter, but with the excessive wet and then sun, I noticed that the soil had set like concrete on the ridges, so I had to break this up using a rake. This allowed the shoots to poke through, but I then had to cover these over with more soil, so they didn't get touched by the frosts. I think they have survived thus far, but we need it to warm up soon. That said I decided this week to sow all the carrot seed. I have a special bed for these, right at the top of the garden. They have two choices as to whether they grow or not. Normally I sow parsnips earlier in the year, but I have had so little success with these in recent years due to either the seed not germinating well, or when the seed has germinated, the roots get attacked by canker, or ravaged by carrot root fly. So this year, we will just buy them as and when we need them.

In an effort to avoid the cold nights and the attentions of slugs and snails, I have therefore decided to repot many of the vegetable and flower plants (at least those that I can) into the next size pots. It is a bit time consuming, but hopefully will turn out OK. It means the young plants can continue to grow well, with the extra shelter and warmth, and hopefully when they do get planted out, they will be a bit more robust, withstanding both the weather better as well as the various molluscs! We are getting to the point that some of the earlier sown crops such as cucumbers and tomatoes are now getting too tall for being on the benches in the smaller, heated greenhouse, so we may need to think of a plan 'B'. Normally they would progress to the larger greenhouse where the roof height is much taller, but this is unheated, so we need to be sure the weather isn't going to be excessively cold in the coming weeks. We do have a fan heater that could be brought into use to keep this greenhouse frost free, but it can be expensive to run. A decision for another day! Most of the flower plants are in the cold greenhouse anyway, as they are reasonably hardy, except from a direct frost. Normally these will be planted out, which then releases the room for the salad crops etc., but I don't want to plant them out just yet, although we may need to bite the bullet one day very soon. At least the drier couple of days have allowed us to get on top of the grass in the garden.

To have a break from digging yesterday I decided to do a number of odd jobs about the place. First thing was to get the ladders out and to put the house marten nests back on the house walls. We hadn't seen any martens about, but thought they would soon be here. To our amazement, nearly all the nests had residents within 15 hours of putting them up! We were also reminded by their arrival that we should have heard the first cuckoo by now, but nothing thus far. For some reason we nearly always hear it for the first time on a Sunday morning, so maybe today will be the day. Whilst up the ladder, I noticed the gutters were full up with leaves, so that was the next job to cross off the list! This was followed by cutting up some logs in our woodshed which were too big for the stove and were in the way. As I had the small chain saw out, it made sense to then go and prune all of the buddleias. Odd how one job can lead to others that were unplanned! The rubbish went on the bonfire heap and as this was relatively dry it seemed a sensible time to set light to the heap, which ended up in us clearing a lot of other things up as well.

I had to bite the bullet the other day and got everything ready for opening the bees up to see if they had survived the winter and were behaving themselves. The weather being so up and down – but especially wet, usually causes problems as the bees get bored in the hives and start doing all manner of things. They are also more susceptible to various diseases. In the autumn, I remove the queen excluders, which allows the ball of bees to move around in the hive to reach their food supplies. They stay as a tight ball to keep warm and protect the queen. If the excluder was left on and supplies dwindle, the bees run the risk of starving if they cannot reach all of the food supplies. I have seen it in the past where bees have not moved just a few inches to reach fresh supplies, because the queen couldn't move with them, and the whole colony has simply starved to death. Timing of getting the excluder frame back on is critical. Too early and bad weather may result in the colony starving, too late, and the queen may start laying eggs here, there and everywhere, which is also not good. I'm pleased to report that all hives had survived the winter and with early blossom about the foragers were out and bringing food back to the hives. So I took the decision to put the excluders on, and just hope for the best. If there are signs of the weather getting worse, I may have to remove the excluders again, but fingers crossed this won't be necessary now. One hive was not pleased to see me. This was a swarm from last year and I'm wondering whether they actually came from another apiary, as generally my bees are pretty well behaved. That is one trouble when collecting swarms where you don't know their history. You can bring in a nasty surprise!

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

Oakfield Veg Boxes

Sown and grown using organic methods in Newchurch

Larges boxes £22 and Medium boxes £17

email leighayland@gmail.com

call on 01291 428604/07889 247361

Read more about us on Facebook
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*This is a fair share scheme where seasonal produce is shared among subscribers.
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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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 love 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 Coffee Morning

Jane and I are holding a Christian Aid Coffee Morning at The Chantry on Saturday 18th May from 10:00 - 11:30

There will be coffee as you would expect at a Coffee Morning - alongside those other staples - cake and a raffle.

Jane and I still live in a cash society, so gold coins and paper money are most acceptable.

And if the weather is right you may be able to see my Greenhouse Burgeoning with Self-Seeded Poppies.



Glynis - 01291 641 818 or 07531 425 006

glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

After the Coffee morning I will be rushing off to join the Shirenewton bellringers in the annual Monmouth Branch Striking Competition.

Although I suspect I will be relegated to 7th spear holder on the left.

MARKET NEWS

We raised a fabulous £141.50 for LATCH from the Youth Market in March – thanks to all for their hard work & for supporting our local youngsters.

Here's one of my purchases from the Youth Market in March – a lovely Rag Wreath – just an example of our talented youngster's handiwork.



DONATION TO LATCH

Donation details

Date

18th April 2024

Transaction ID

3695-4494-7219-0357

Purpose

LATCH Welsh Children's Cancer Charity

Donation to

LATCH

Donation from

ayresandgraces@yahoo.com

Donation amount

141.50 GBP

We plan another Youth Market sometime before Christmas. As the hall is busy with events over the next couple of months with free Saturdays being extremely limited and our Café/organisers being unavailable the next market date is yet to be set.

To advertise in this magazine contact

Bill Clark: 01291 641783; parishmagshirenewton@gmail.com

The editor reserves the right to print free content and
free advertisements in black and white

Advertising Rates for Commercial organisations

12 months 10 issues

Full page £100; £150 for a designated page

Half Page £50

Quarter Page £25

Advertising for Local and Charity organisations is free.

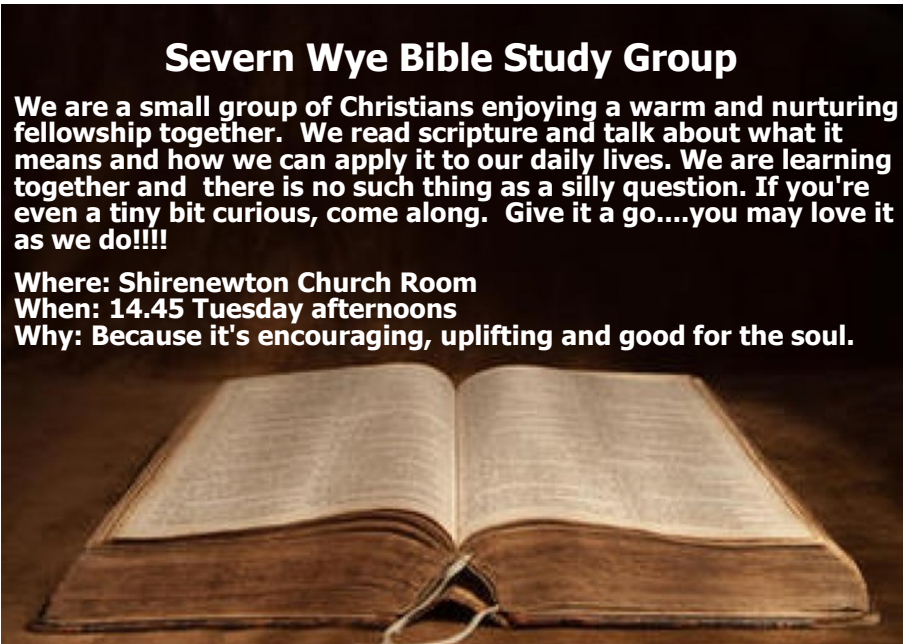
Severn Wye Bible Study Group

We are a small group of Christians enjoying a warm and nurturing fellowship together. We read scripture and talk about what it means and how we can apply it to our daily lives. We are learning together and there is no such thing as a silly question. If you're even a tiny bit curious, come along. Give it a go....you may love it as we do!!!!

Where: Shirenewton Church Room

When: 14.45 Tuesday afternoons

Why: Because it's encouraging, uplifting and good for the soul.



Shirenewton W.I.

A Good Read



Our April meeting had to be rearranged as our guest that evening was unwell. We know that Jo Bolland was disappointed at having to postpone the 'Strictly Evening'. We shall be rearranging this event, so watch this space.

Instead, we asked our members to bring along a favourite book to share and discuss with others. Despite the relatively late notice of our request our members rose to the occasion and turned up with their book choices. It was like the W.I.'s version of Radio 4's 'A Good Read' except that wine and tea and coffee were also on offer, which no doubt helped the lively and friendly discussions that followed.

I know that there are several book groups and many avid readers in the community, so I have included a list of the books that were chosen – food for thought.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 9th May at the Recreation Hall at 7:15pm will be our AGM, and we are also looking forward to Keith Tayton's talk on Famous Operations that evening.

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

Jackie Broughton

Book Title	Author	Film/TV programme
Black Cake	Charmaine Wilkerson	T.V Series available on Disney +
Silk A History in Three Metamorphoses	Aarathi Prasad	Non-fiction
Lion	Sahoo Brierly	Lion – film 2016
Not without My Daughter	Betty Mahmoody, with William Hoffer	Film Version 1991
Small Island	Andrea Levy	BBC T.V. series 2009
A Town Like Alice	Neville Shute	Film made in 1956.
Day of the Triffids	John Wyndham	Various film, T.V. and radio adaptations
The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder	David Grann	Film awaiting release
Hamnet	Maggie O’Farrell	Stage Play by Lolita Chakrabarti. Film version progress.
The Daughters of Madurai	Rajasree Variyar	
The Butterfly Summer	Harriet Evans	
Tomorrow, Tomorrow and Tomorrow	Gabrielle Zevin	
The Pillars of the Earth	Ken Follett	T.V. mini-series 2010
The Evening and the Morning	Ken Follett	T.V. mini-series – to be released, date is unknown
The Diary of Miss Idilia	Idilia Dubb	
Cloud Cuckoo Land	Anthony Doer	Inspired by the Birds by Aristophanes (414 B.C.)
To Bless this Space Between Us	John O’Donahue	Collection of Poetry
The Poetry Pharmacy	William Sieghart	Collection of Poetry

Nerys's Natty Nosh



Chocolate Brownies. Gluten free not Dairy free this time.
It is delicious.

Ingredients

125g chocolate
100ml milk
100g unsalted butter/margarine
175g Agave/maple syrup
50g cocoa powder
3 eggs
75g peanut flour
75g ground almonds
1tsp Baking powder

Method

Preheat oven 190C/170C/Gas 5.

Line your tin with parchment paper, leaving the paper sticking up at the sides to make it easier to lift the brownie out when cooked.

Put the chocolate, milk, butter, Agave in a saucepan.

Warm over gentle heat, stirring regularly, until everything has melted.

Remove the pan from the heat and add the cocoa powder.
Allow the mixture to cool for a few minutes.



Beat in the eggs then finally add the peanut flour and ground almonds and baking powder.

Pour the mixture into the prepared tin and bake in the oven for 20/25 minutes or until the middle is set but still gooey.

Leave in the tin to cool completely before removing from the tin.

Cut into square when cool.

Or serve as a pudding with chocolate ice cream, strawberries and a splash of Grand Marinier. **Enjoy!**



How healthy is chocolate?

It's the dark, glossy treat with a powerful hold on our taste buds. While some people refer to chocolate as a 'naughty' or 'guilty pleasure', it's okay to enjoy the odd

chocolate treat as part of your usual healthy diet.

Health benefits?

Chocolate has enjoyed a growing reputation as a type of 'health' food. Cocoa, the basic ingredient in chocolate, contains an abundance of flavanols, a group of antioxidants that have many benefits, such as reducing blood pressure and protecting skin from UV damage. Flavanols have also been shown to reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke by keeping arteries elastic. The problem is most chocolate confections contain very little pure cocoa.

Four small squares of quality dark chocolate make the ideal sized snack.

The best choice is dark chocolate with more than 70 per cent cocoa mass, meaning it's the highest in flavanols.

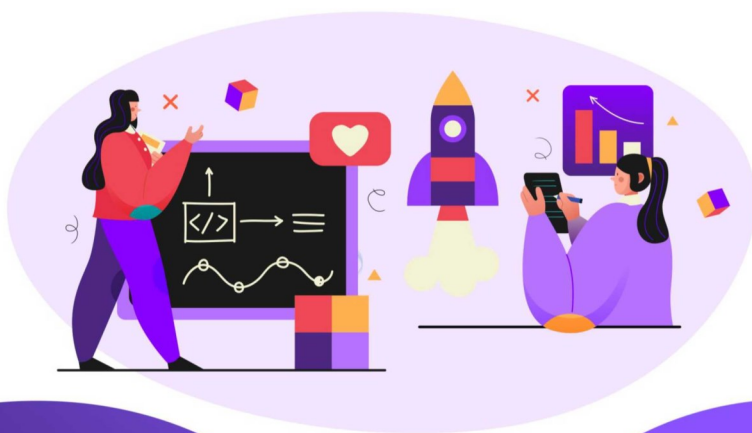
DARK CHOCOLATE

According to recent research, chocolate contains more antioxidants, gram-for-gram, than most fruit juices.

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL PLAY OUR LOTTERY



- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- The easy way to help us raise funds
- Local cash prizes every week



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Go to: www.yourschoollottery.co.uk

And search for: Shirenewton



GambleAware 18+



Ariennir yn Rhannol gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Part Funded by
Welsh Government

DEVAUDEN FESTIVAL

MAY 24 - 26
2024



Bank Holiday Weekend

BOOK NOW

WWW.DEVAUDENFESTIVAL.COM



STARGAZING



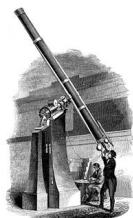
The seven stars of the Plough lie overhead in mid-evening. Its classical name is Ursa Major, the Great Bear. In mythology, Callisto, attendant to the goddess Juno was considered more beautiful than her mistress. To protect her from her jealous mistress, Jupiter turned Callisto into a bear. Unfortunately Callisto's son tried to kill the bear whilst he was out hunting, so Jupiter placed the bear in the sky.

The two stars furthest from the handle of the Plough are called the Pointers. Tracing a connecting line from the Pointers leads to Polaris, the North Star. Polaris is called the North Star because it is the closest easily visible star to the point in the sky about which the star patterns rotate. This point changes very gradually with time. In fact, over thousands of years, other stars have been the North Star.

The stars appear fixed with respect to each other, but over long periods of time the star patterns change. The pattern of stars we call the Plough looked very different many years ago, and will look very different in the distant future.

The Moon is just above the bright star Regulus on 15th May. On the 20th the Moon can be seen to the lower left of another bright star, Spica.

The Moon is full on 23rd May. Many cultures refer to May's full moon as the flower moon thanks to the abundant blooming that occurs as spring gets going properly.



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In last month's article I said something incredibly stupid, specifically: "*I shall spend a happy Easter moving laptops.*"

Well, I did move laptops over Easter (and am typing this on the new laptop) but it wasn't a happy experience. It was, in fact, the opposite. The main issue was my Outlook email. My email usage is copious, and I rely on Outlook. Over the years I've set-up Outlook with a couple of add-ins and had developed a well-honed *modus operandi*. Unfortunately, both Microsoft and Google are moving away from POP email to make accounts more secure and consequently I've had to re-think my approach.

The basic authentication POP uses doesn't include end-to-end encryption and is therefore considered insecure. This means that, whereas previously I had used Outlook in POP mode to access my Gmail accounts, I could no longer do this. So, I had to use IMAP.

IMAP is a very different protocol which doesn't actually download the message from the server to your PC (like POP) but instead provides a 'window' into what is on the email server, just as if you had logged on to webmail. Outlook uses a .ost file format to store a local copy of the emails for IMAP accounts but, importantly, backing up .ost files is a waste of time as you aren't able to restore and recover the emails from an .ost file.

From my perspective, this means that I am no longer able to back-up my emails locally or to another service under my control. Whereas, with POP, I could simply back-up my local .pst file ('pst' stands for 'personal storage table' and was the file format Outlook used to store all emails for POP accounts) confident in the knowledge that all my emails were backed-up and access to them was not based on the email provider continuing to provide access to their system.

Now I'm having to look at how to back-up these IMAP email folders with content locally. This probably means I will have two back-up processes. One for standard local files (such as documents, spreadsheets, etc.) and separate one for emails. To be clear, when I say "back-up these IMAP email folders with content locally", I mean 'under my control'. Once the data is on my local hard drive it is backed-up to multiple other services.

I believe that it is critical that you maintain control over your own data. You may recall that in the 2022, I wrote about a father being locked out his Google accounts after taking photos of a swelling in his son's groin to send to his doctor – at his doctor's request. Google's artificial intelligence (AI) flagged the photos as potential child abuse material and he was locked out of all accounts and referred to the San Francisco police department. Despite being cleared by San Francisco's finest and repeated attempts to convince Google of the innocence of his actions, Google refused to reinstate the account. The lesson is to always have your data locally and not rely on a service provider's continuing service.

The other issue I am facing with email is that one of my add-ins (SimplyFile) is behaving erratically. SimplyFile is a brilliant add-in which, in my opinion, should be a standard part of Outlook. When I send an email or reply to an email, a little dialogue box pops up and asks where you want to file the email (it provides its best guess based on previous usage) and, for a reply, you can automatically file the incoming message in the same place. This means that you can keep a 'clean' inbox and 'sent messages' folder without having to manually file everything. Yet another challenge to investigate.

Moving on.

I was asked by a villager what the implications of Chrome not permitting 3rd party cookies (see last month's article) were for sites like TopCashBack. If tracking was removed how would purchases be tracked, he asked? A good question. From my brief research you will need to download and use the TopCashback Browser Extension for Chrome, Edge & FireFox. Unfortunately, Opera (my default browser of choice) doesn't appear to be supported!


Finally, I occasionally read the Daily Mail and have noticed recently articles are increasingly behind the Mail+ pay-wall. Now, as it happened, I was in Spain over Easter and noticed that there was no mention of Mail+ when I browsed the Daily Mail website. I reasoned that this must be because my IP address was Spanish. Sure enough, as soon as I

returned to the UK, I found that Mail+ reappeared. So, I tested my theory using Opera's built-in, free VPN. By initiating the Opera VPN and setting the location to 'Europe', sure enough, the entreaties to join Mail+ vanished. I've tested it on my iPad as well. In summary, to get to read all the Daily Mail without paying for Mail+, whatever device you are on, simply download Opera, initiate the VPN, set your location to Europe (the default is 'optimal' which will find a server in the UK) and call up the website.

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 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 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!

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Sunday 5 th 2.00 p.m.	Beating the Bounds Starting from St Thomas à Becket church
Sunday 5 th 3.30 p.m.	Café Church St Thomas à Becket church
Tuesday 7 th 7.30 p.m.	Licensing service for Zoe and Barney St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow
Thursday 9 th 7.15 p.m.	Shirenewton WI AGM and Keith Tayton's talk Recreation Hall
Friday 10 th 7.00 p.m.	Welcome to Zoe and Barney Pimentel Mathern village hall
Tuesday 14 th 7.45 p.m.	An evening guided walk around Beachley with Richard Clammer—Beachley
Thursday 16 th 7.30 p.m.	Men's curry night Shirenewton Sultan
Saturday 18 th 10.00-11.30 a.m.	Christian Aid coffee morning The Chantry
Friday 24 th to Sunday 26 th	Devauden Music Festival Devauden
Thursday 30 th 7.30 p.m.	Ladies curry night Shirenewton Sultan
Thursday 30 th 7.45 p.m.	Ministry Area Prayer Group St Peter's Church, St Pierre

JUNE

Sunday 9 th 11.30 a.m.	Animal Blessing Service St Deiniol's Church, Itton
Wednesday 12 th 2.30 p.m.	Lesley Kelly: The High Line Garden, New York St Deiniol's Church, Itton
Saturday 15 th 2.00 p.m.	Church Fete Recreation field
Thursday 20 th 7.30 p.m.	Men's curry night Shirenewton Sultan
Tuesday 25 th 7.30 p.m.	History Society—Roman Houses XXVI/XXVII at Caerwent by Mark Lewis—Church Hall
Thursday 27 th 7.30 p.m.	Ladies curry night Shirenewton Sultan

SATURDAY MAY 18th 2024

Severn Wye Ministry Area

'Rogation' Walk

**The Churches of Itton, St Arvans, Penterry,
Devauden
and Kilgwrrwg**



Please join us for as much of the day as you wish!

including well-behaved dogs (on leads)

- Stage 1:** **St Deiniol's Itton to St Arvans Church**
- we will be setting out after prayer and a blessing at *about* * 9 a.m.
arriving at **St Arvan's Church** at **about 10.15 a.m.**
- Stage 2:** **11 a.m. St Arvan's to St Mary's, Penterry**
- Stage 3:** **St Mary's, Penterry to St James Devauden**
- setting out at 1.p.m. after a break for lunch
(please bring your own refreshments)
- Stage 4** **St James', Devauden to Holy Cross, Kilgwrrwg**
- setting out at 2. p.m.

The walk will end at Kilgwrrwg at approximately 3 – 3.30 p.m..

For more information about the day, including transport arrangements at the end of the walk, contact The Vicarage, St Arvans 01291 622064 or email frmicahelgollop1@gmail.com

** All times are approximate, please dress appropriately for the weather conditions and terrain.
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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!

The graphic features a man with a beard and dark hair, smiling as he looks at a smartphone. He is holding a credit card in his other hand. Behind him is a large yellow semi-circle. The background is a light cream color. At the bottom is a dark teal banner with the Easyfundraising logo and text.

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Friday 31st May, 19:30	Beulah United Reformed Church, Cardiff
Thursday 13th June, 19:30	St. Deiniol's Church, Itton
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	Headingley Methodist Church, Leeds
Thursday 18th July, 19:30	Cherry Reds, Birmingham



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Ministry Area Treasurer	Kevin Higgs	

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EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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Copies are delivered free by local distributors to those who have pre-paid.

Monthly copies are available at the Church.

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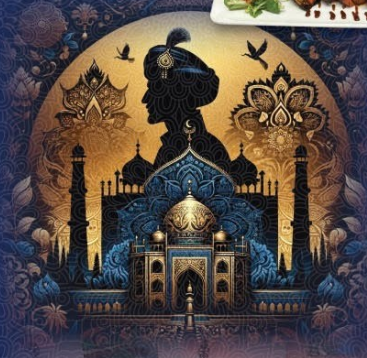
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