Shirenewton Parish Magazine



October 2024





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THE CHURCH CLOCK

The clock was made in Croydon by a well-respected company - Gilletts & Co. It probably dates from c1885 so was probably purchased "second hand" by the parish as part of the war memorial. The war memorial tablet indicates that the clock was so purchased, thus in that respect has never been a church clock but is housed in the church. Responsibility for its maintenance has, therefore, rested with initially the Parish Council, now the Community Council.

The clock resides in a case constructed from panelling within the ringing room. The photos of the frame of the clock shows the date of installation—1921—not the date of construction, which would appear to have been originally cast into the frame and subsequently ground or chiselled away and the date hand painted in.

The clock has two spools powered by weights. One spool powers the clock, the other the hourly chime. Up until about 2004 the weights were wound up by volunteers from the village three times a week. Subsequently an automatic winding system was installed.

The drive from the clock to the four faces of the clock is via a series of shafts running through bevel boxes up to a crown bevel box within the belfry. This distributes the drive to the north, west, south and east faces each with its own gears to power the minute and hour hands.



More photos of the Church clock on Page 5







The Ringin'n'Ridin' Challenge

On Saturday 31st August, 9 intrepid Shirenewton bell ringers set off from the village to raise money for the repairs to the Memorial Clock on the church. As I keep banging on this is not a church clock but a clock that was donated to the village after the First World War as a memorial to those who died. The Community Council has the responsibity to maintain it - but it was going to cost a bit to have it fixed and so the bell ringers thought they would step in - or pedal in to help raise some money for what we think is an important memorial.

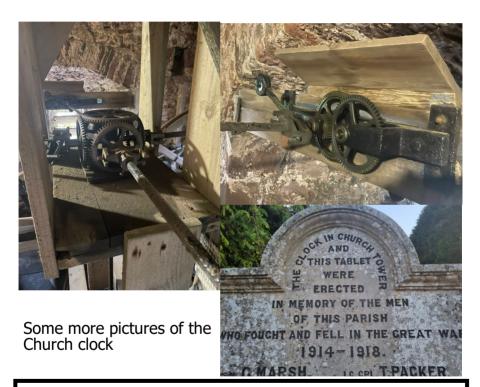
Now while, as a band, we are pretty good bell ringers (our Tower captain might disagree) some of us are not pretty good cyclists so 35 miles was going to be a bit of a push. We left at 8:15 and our first stop was at Mathern Church. What a glorious 6 mile downhill ride! It was a lovely day, the sun was shining and we arrived early to ring the bells. This was going to be a doddle!

The next part of the pedal was to Penhow which was a bit more of a challenge and from there to Llanwern and Redwick which was the furthest tower with rather ropey bells. But it had the bonus of being next to The Rose where we had lunch. Then home via Magor and Caldicot and the final horror of pushing up the Crick drag to ring at our home tower. Thanks Bob -it was an excellent day. With 36 supporters via Justgiving plus cash donations and we have raised £3820! Glynis MacDonald

FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S NEWCHURCH

Diary Dates 2024

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



Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in September:

- 1. Chris Sturke
- 2. Caryl Wilson
- 3. Elizabeth Moore

VILLAGE CURRY NIGHTS

Hello all, The Village Curry nights are back!

Due to popular demand the village curry nights will be reinstated from September. As a reminder, they happen as follows: The Mens curry night is on the penultimate Thursday evening in the month and the Ladies on the last Thursday evening in the month. So, for September, these dates are Thursday 19th (Mens) and Thursday 26th (Ladies). So, please save the date.

The format is, as always, a simple buffet featuring three different curries, rice and nans, costing £20 per person.

This is a great opportunity to catch up with neighbours and friends and meet others in the village you may **not** normally meet. Name badges are provided so you know who you are talking with. Please comment below (or contact us via FB messenger or via our WhatsApp number 07418 046919) to tell us you are coming so we know approximate numbers.

BTW: We, the Sultan, are posting this as David Cornwell who previously organised these nights has handed over the organisation to us!



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Timetable from 1 September 2024

Chepstow | Usk | Pontypool | Cwmbran

63

Monday to Friday except Bank Holiday Mondays

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

Saturdays

	Sch	HOL								
Cwmbran Bus Station [Stand H]	0712	0712	0922	1200	1	1650	0712			1
Croesyceiliog Edlogan Square	0717	0717	0927	1205	!	1655	0717			!
Pontypool Town Hall	0725	0725	0935	1213	1420	1713	0725			1420
Pontypool Park Road	0726	0726	0936	1214	1421	1714	0726			1421
Pontypool opp Town Hall	0727	0727	0937	1215	1422	1715	0727	0937	1215	1422
Little Mill Pont-y-pia	0734	0734	0944	1222	1429	1722	0734			1429
Usk Coleg Gwent Main Road	0741	0741	0951	1229	1436	1730	0741			1436
Usk Twyn Square	0747	0747	0957	1235	1442	1736	0747			1442
Llangwm Bridge Inn Road	0755	0755	1005	1243	1450	1744	0755			1450
Earlswood West End	0803	0803	1013	1251	1458	1752	0803			1458
Shirenewton Road Junction	0813	0813	1023	1301	1508	1800	0813			1508
Chepstow Community Hospital Main Road	ı	0820	1030	1308	1515	1807	0820			1515
Chepstow Comprehensive School	0820	1	1		ı	1	1			1
Chepstow Bus Station	0825	0824	1034	1312	1519	1811	0824	1034	1312	1519

1700 1705 1713 1714 1715

1730

1744 1752 1800 1807

1811

These timetables are updated for 1 September 2024 and show changes to assist college students

Sorry, there is no Sunday service on route 63

Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays

Cwmbran | Pontypool | Usk | Chepstow

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

Monday to Friday except Bank Holiday Mondays							Satur	urdays			
				Sch	HOH						
Chepstow Bus Station	0805	1040	1320	1525	1526	1820	0805	1040	1320	1526	1820
Chepstow Comprehensive School	ı	ı	ı	1530	ı		1	1	1	ı	ı
Chepstow Community Hospital Main Road	6080	1044	1324	ı	1530	1824	0809	1044	1324	1530	1824
Shirenewton Road Junction	0817	1051	1331	1537	1537	1831	0817	1051	1331	1537	1831
Earlswood West End	0825	1059	1339	1545	1545	1839	0825	1059	1339	1545	1839
Llangwm Bridge Inn Road	0834	1108	1348	1554	1554	1848	0834	1108	1348	1554	1848
Usk Twyn Square	0843	1117	1357	1603	1603	1857	0843	1117	1357	1603	1857
Usk Coleg Gwent Main Road	0848	1122	1402	1609	1609	1901	0848	1122	1402	1609	1901
Little Mill Bridge	0855	1129	1409	1616	1616	1908	0855	1129	1409	1616	1908
Pontypool Town Hall	060	1138	1418	1625	1625	1916	060	1138	1418	1625	1916
Pontypool Park Road	0904	1139	1421	1626	1626	1917	0904	1139	1421	1626	1917
Pontypool opp Town Hall	0905	1140	ı	1627	1627	1918	0905	1140	1	1627	1918
Croesyceiliog Edlogan Square	0913	1147	I	1635	1635	1925	0913	1147	I	1635	1925
Cwmbran Bus Station	0917	1151	1	1639	1639	1929	0917	1151	i	1639	1929

Sch Operates on schooldays only

Hol Operates school holidays only

Sorry, there is no Sunday service on route 63 Sundays and Bank



SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 2nd September 2024.

Planning applications considered

DM/2024/00985 Replacement dwelling Bushes Farm Chapel Road Earlswood

Shirenewton Community Council discussed the above application and resolved to object on the following grounds.

It was noted that more of the original structure of the old farmhouse has been lost. In applying for its replacement, the applicants appear accept that the farmhouse is not capable of restoration or renovation. The bungalow which was built as its replacement still exists.

SCC's objections (copy attached) to the 2018 application DC/2018/00128 therefore apply equally to this current application. The old farmhouse should have been demolished upon construction of the replacement bungalow.

It follows that the current application is, despite its title, an application for a new build in open countryside. SCC objects to this on the grounds that:

- 1. The proposed new building does not comply with the planning policies of the Welsh Government nor of MCC as to new build in open countryside
- 2. The size and scale of the proposed building significantly exceeds the original volume of the farmhouse.
- 3. The size and scale of the proposed building will have a material adverse effect on the local landscape being uncharacteristic of typical Monmouthshire farmhouses

The new building will adversely impact on local infrastructure and amenities particularly transport and schools which are already

overstretched.

SCC is surprised that this application has been followed by an appeal against MCC's decision to refuse the proposed amendments in application DM/2023/01105. SCC suggests DM/2024/00985 be referred to MCC's Planning Committee and held in abeyance pending the outcome of the appeal at which point SCC would wish to make further comment.

DM/2023/01105 - Proposed amendments to previous planning permission DC/2018/00128 - Appeal

SCC noted that more of the original structure of the old farmhouse has been lost, so much so that the appellants appear to have accepted that the old farmhouse is not capable of restoration or renovation in their application for a replacement building (DM/2024/00985) which predates this appeal. The appeal is not supported by a current structural surveyor's report confirming that restoration remains viable.

In comment on the application DM/2023/01105 SCC sought the retention of the principle conditions of consent under DM/2018/00128 and given the ongoing decay of the old farmhouse SCC is supportive of MCC's decision to refuse.

DM/2024/00921 Conversion of existing storage outbuilding to create gym / home office ancillary to existing dwelling Little Bushes Farm Chapel Road Earlswood

Shirenewton Community Council discussed the above application and resolved to object on the following grounds:- for the want of further detail on measurements, materials, colour finishes, services and access.

In the event that MCC is minded to grant consent SCC requests conditions to restrict the barn to use with the bungalow as a single family unit and to remove the general consent for extensions improvements and additional outbuildings without further planning consent

Community Clock update - **Public Participation,** Mr Millar, Mr Penney and G MacDonald.

Members questioned Cllrs regarding how much support had been received & level of community engagement and clock quotes. Cllrs confirmed that notices had been put on Facebook, SCC website, ward noticeboards, and Parish magazine.

Cllrs welcomed participation from the above members and their passion to support the repair of the Community/Memorial clock, taking note on the following points:

i) Fundraising of £3,600 via crowdfunding, has been achieved in

a short period of time.

ii) Requested to form a group to fundraise, as the Council did not receive sufficient community support for the project. A variety of fundraising events planned.

iii) Request for information relating to the clock & previous

répairs.

- iv) Request for any information relating to local fundraising offers for the Community clock.
- v) Possible intention to dismantle the Community clock, prior to repairs, to save money.
- vi) To seek additional quotes.

vii) To seek grants.

- viii) Requested access to archives dating back to 1921. When the clock was gifted to the Community as a memorial.
- ix) Requested to approach Church re Faculty.

Notification on Community Clock – The following statement has been issued by the council and displayed on Facebook, Website, Noticeboards and parish Magazine

Community Clock Repair

Firstly, many thanks to those who took the time to respond to the Community Council request for feedback on the repairs necessary to the church clock.

The feedback received to date has been limited, of the 160 households in Shirenewton and 131 households in Mynnyddbach we received only 14 responses. The responses have been fairly, equally split on whether the clock should be repaired or not. Some views have also been expressed that any repairs that are undertaken should not be done by utilising Community Council reserve funds.

The Community Council has discussed the responses in depth and based on the number of responses and feedback it is clear that we do not have the remit of our community to commit community funding for any repairs other than by way of small grants.

Therefore, if the clock is to be repaired, this will need to be funded by community led fundraising efforts. If anyone would like to take on the role of fundraising coordinator, please get in touch and the Community Council can pass over the contact details for the repair company as appropriate.

Many thanks. Shirenewton Community Council

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Louise Brown reported:

Cabinet 21st of August 2024

The Cabinet meeting approved the use of land at Bradbury Farm, Crick for the proposed Gypsy and Traveller site for development for inclusion in the RLDP. This will form part of the later public consultation on the RLDP.

The Tudor Street Abergavenny my day my life centre was leased to the Gathering community group for a 12-month lease. The reports and the Cabinet meeting link can be found here: https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx? CId=144&MId=6050

<u>Individual Cabinet Member Decision meeting on the 21st of August 2024</u>

The above meeting reported on the Welsh Church fund grants and an increase in building regulations charges. Details of the reports can be found at the following link:

https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx? CId=147&MId=5717

Home to School Transport Consultation

The Home to School transport consultation is expected to be considered by Cabinet on the 11^{th} of September 2024, as changes to the Home to School transport policy starting in September 2025 have to be published by the 1^{st} of October 2024.

Also open until 31st October 2024 – Monmouthshire Residents Survey

Share your thoughts in the Monmouthshire Residents Survey 2024. Click the link to give your feedback and share your views on life in Monmouthshire. https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/monmouthshire-resident-survey/

Date of the next meeting – Monday 7th October 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: shirenewtoncc.@gmail.com Mobile: 07410 580961



SHIRENEWTON VILLAGE CHRISTMAS MARKETS



WE HAVE <u>TWO</u> MARKET DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

A YOUTH CHRISTMAS MARKET ON FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 5.30PM -7.30PM. (OPEN TO UNDER 16'S)

OUR NORMAL CHRISTMAS MARKET SATURDAY 23RD NOVEMBER USUAL TIME 10.30AM-12.30PM.

WE WILL NEED SOME HELP ESPECIALLY AT THE YOUTH MARKET WITH THE POP-UP CAFÉ - PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU'RE AVAILABLE & WILLING! VOLUNTEERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME — WE HAVE A SMALL TEAM & APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE.

Thank you.
Shirley
ayresandgraces@yahoo.com







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HARVEST FESTIVALS

St Thomas à Becket Church, Shirenewton Sunday 6th October at 10 a.m.

> 'Hope' Methodists Sunday 6th October at 3 p.m.

FROM THE REGISTERS

The funeral service for Nancy Selina Jones (1928-2024) was held at St Thomas à Becket Church, Shirenewton on 19th September 2024. The Reverend John Waters officiated.



Village Mobile Hairdresser

Don't have the time to go to a hairdresser?

Have your hair done in the comfort of your own home!

Cut & Blow-dry
Tint
Highlights
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Call for details; Rachel 01291 641461

(29 years' experience)

HOW to take part in ShAMBLE

*decorate your window

Come to the party at The Rec Oct 12th

Mingle with friends

Pick up a map

Borrow our hi vis

walk the ShAMBLE window art trail

Happy Shamble-ing

Sat October 12th & Sun 13th 2024

*or just come and enjoy the party and window art!



On 12th October only refreshments will be available from 6.30pm-8.30pm at The Rec Hall.

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

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

This is a family friendly community event. All welcome!

9.00

SHAMBLE: Shirenewton And Mynydd Bach iLlumination Extravaganza!

ShAMBLE 2024



Craft, cake and conversation

29th September, 2 - 4pm, Shirenewton Rec Hall. Kick start your ShAMBLE window art! Art materials available for a small donation.

shirenewtonshamble@gmail.com www.shirenewtonshamble.org.uk For all the family!



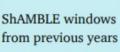
Opening night refreshments Saturday 12th October 6.30pm

Don't miss the opening night party at the Recreation Hall on Saturday 12th
October, where you can collect a map and hi-viz for all the family! AND of course indulge in some lovely home made cakes and a beverage of your choice. We will have a selection of wine, beer and soft drinks available at **very good prices!** Everyone is welcome.

















- Shirenewton, Mynydd Bach & Earlswood Community
- shirenewton_shamble @ShireShAMBLE ____@shirenewtonshamble

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

This is our programme for our 2024/2025 year:

Shirenewton Local History Society Programme for 2024/2025			
Date 2024	Speaker Title		
Wed 11 th Sep Tues 24 th Sep Wed 9 th Oct	Naylor Firth	Archive meeting, 2.00 pm Namibia, Sandland Archive meeting, 2.00 pm	
Tues 29 th Oct Wed 13 th Nov	Tony Hopkins	John Gwin (A.G.M) Archive meeting, 2.00 pm	
Tues 26 th Nov Tues 10 th Dec	Keith Tayton Naylor Firth	T.B.D. Itton Church, Supper,	
. 44	-	Two Rivers	
Wed 11 th Dec Fri 27 th Dec		Archive meeting, 2.00 pm Winter Solstice walk, Grey Hill	
Date 2025		1 1111	
Wed 8 th Jan		Archive meeting, 2.00 pm	
Tues 28 th Jan	Dr Lynne Davies	Chepstow Roman Crossing	
Wed 12 th Feb Tues 25 th Feb	Peter Strong	Archive meeting, 2.00 pm Dinner Two Rivers	
Wed 12 th Mar	_	Archive meeting, 2.00 pm	
Tues 25 th Mar	Ned Hayward	Potlets to plaques and with the odd Pub In Between	
Wed 9 th Apr		Archive meeting, 2.00 pm	
Tues 29 th Apr	T.B.D.	Visit	
Wed 14 th May Sun 25 th May		Archive meeting, 2.00 pm Beating the bounds	
Tues 27 th May	Les Ashton-Smith	August Picard, Life and Legacy	
Wed 11 th Jun	a. =	Archive meeting, 2.00 pm	
Tues 24 th Jun Wed 9 th Jul	St Fagans	Visit Archive meeting, 2.00 pm	
Tues 29 th Jul	Prof Ronald Hutton	The Great Civil War	



Free cream tea in one of our homes; if it's your birthday that month, come along!

Hosted by
David & Catherine Carne
and
Revds Zoe & Barney Pimentel

For venue information and to RSVP, please contact Revd Zoe: severn.wye.MAL@gmail.com / 07754 306229

Sharing with Nerys



I thought I'd make some spicy beef pies. Boy they were delicious!

For the filling I sautéed onion and sweet peppers in olive oil before adding a pound of minced beef. When browned I added a tin of tomatoes, a teaspoon each of chilli flakes and turmeric, three teaspoons of madras curry powder and some salt. Whilst this simmered for half an hour, I boiled four medium potatoes and three carrots. When

cooked I drained and mashed the potatoes and carrots and stirred it into the beef pan. The mixture was then cooled, including in the fridge.



For the pastry I used a mixture of white and wholemeal strong flours, pure dairy free margarine (half the weight of the flour) and a small amount of cold water. I rolled out the pastry and cut round shapes to fit my pie maker. After pre-heating the pie maker I inserted the pastry bottom, added the cold beef mixture, put on the pastry lid and baked for 15 minutes. I wasn't sure

how thin the pastry needed to be to prevent filling leakage. There was no leakage on the first two pies and so I made the pastry progressively thinner on successive batches and found that it was fine even when really thin. With a pastry mix containing 500g of flour I baked 8 pies but probably could have made 10 had the earlier ones been rolled out thinner, and I had enough filling to make around a dozen pies.









Quick and easy air fried sausage rolls.

I used bought @justrol short crust pastry and @riverford sausages.

I removed the skin from the sausages.

Rolled out the pastry into a rectangular shape. Placed the sausages on the pastry.

Rolled the pastry over the sausages. Making sure the seam was underneath.

Brushed with a little milk.

Cut equally.

Baked in a preheated air fryer for 10 minutes, making sure the filling was piping hot.



Tip

Pre-heat your air fryer before adding your food. This is easy – just turn the air fryer on to the temperature that you need and set the timer for 2 or 3 minutes. When the timer goes off, the air fryer has pre-heated and is ready for food





HARVEST FESTIVAL



6TH OCTOBER

10am Sunday service followed by bring & share lunch

Canned good
donations for the
foodbank gratefully
received











MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd & Making Music, and is a Registered Charity (no. 112798) www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY SEPTEMBER 2024 – JULY 2025

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY commence their 2024/2025 season on Wednesday September 4th with a first rehearsal at Chepstow School Drama Room, 7.30pm - 9.30pm.

The Society is planning a season which will focus on recruitment as well as our traditional "3 Concerts during the year –Christmas, Spring and Summer" – like ALL Societies of our ilk, we cannot function without singers –sopranos, altos, tenors and basses!

CCS is also proud to celebrate 25 years this season of being the only Society in our area to offer four-part choral concerts featuring a fully professional orchestra, instrumentalists, and soloists often from RWCMD commencing their professional careers.

CONCERT DATES, 2024/2025

<u>WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 11th 2024</u>, CHEPSTOW SCHOOL ARTS HALL –our Annual Christmas Programme of carols and Christmas items –this year to include choruses from "Messiah"

SATURDAY MARCH 29th 2025, ST MARY's PRIORY CHURCH, CHEPSTOW – a Spring Concert with Professional Orchestra, including a wonderful work by John Rutter of a comprehensive set of folk songs (Sprig of Thyme) with instrumental accompaniment

JUNE 2025 -date to be confirmed.

CCS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS!! If you would like to join a friendly four-part vocal group who perform with first-class musicians, CCS is for you! For further information, please contact Marjorie (01291 – 623310, bduerden@doctors.org.uk) or visit our CCS website (www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk) and follow us on Facebook & X (Twitter) @ChepstowChoral

Gardening Corner

I always like to start cutting the hedges early, and the first one to receive treatment runs along the side of our drive down to the house. We have a number of standard trees planted in the hedge, field maple and hornbeam, but if the hedge gets too high, it, along with the trees, cuts too much light out, the drive goes green and slippery, and very little grows on the bank, although we have a fantastic show of primroses and bluebells before the leaf comes on the trees. Farmers aren't allowed to cut their hedges until the end of August these days, unless the hedges need cutting for road safety reasons. If this is the case, they are permitted to cut earlier, and in fact my understanding is that it is their legal duty, to do so. I have noticed several 'warnings' in papers that the same rules apply to garden hedges, but I cannot believe that the legislation was ever meant to include these as well. Most gardeners cut their hedges by hand or with hand held machinery, so any damage to potential bird nesting sites is minimal or non-existent. I can't believe the original EU legislation meant garden hedges to be included, more a case of 'gold-plating' by DEFRA and possibly other interested parties. However, to be on the safe side, I did a walk along survey of the hedge in question. It is small but sits atop a bank, and it is does not have dense growth, due mainly to the overshadowing trees. I did find two nests, but these were clearly old and not in use. There were no new, active nests, so cutting began in earnest. I left the mile long challenge until the 1st September to make a determined start. If you are scratching your head, I estimated last year, that I have approximately one mile of hedge boundary and internal garden hedges that I cut by hand each year. I wasn't looking forward to making a start on this seemingly never-ending task, simply because my health, and that of the Assistant Head Gardener, has not been good this year and we have been struggling to keep on top of everything. This was topped off, by us both contracting Covid within two days of each other (the first time ever I hasten to add, so we had done pretty well up until that point!) This has taken some time to get over, but we are pretty well there now. The fact that two darling grandchildren arrived for a nine day stay over the school holiday, both with snotty noses, some four days before falling ill, probably has nothing to do with this – but we will never know, and neither do we care. It had to happen eventually!

So, two weeks ago, the one-mile challenge got under way, starting with all the garden hedges, then the neighbouring bridleway/footpath, then the other side of the drive (from the original bank top hedge) and finally the top field hedge. As I sit writing this, I have just a part of the top and the roadside of this field hedge to do, about a morning's work, and that annual task will be completed. I'm pretty chuffed with myself, and everything is starting to look much tidier, although I noticed that the first hedge to be cut, now needs a second cut, as the bramble and hawthorn has all shot out again. Painting the Forth road bridge springs to mind! The task wasn't easy this year as I left it longer than normal, and this meant,

along with the damp, but mild conditions, the hedge growth was much longer and thicker, making it much harder for the hand-held machines to cope. Another reason why I would argue that garden hedges probably were never intended to be covered by the legislation! If you haven't started your yet, don't worry. There is plenty of time to cut them and no weather is really unsuitable, unless you have conifer hedges and the weather is frosty. If that is the case then leave well alone as the conifer foliage will get 'burnt', resulting in brown edges which don't look good.

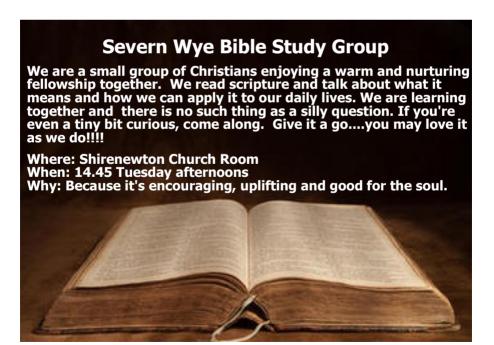
You won't need me to tell you that the year generally, has been a very difficult one for gardeners. The initial cold weather, along with the never-ending wet weather, has resulted in poor growth and incessant snail and slug damage. That first, very early frost we had last month, was a bit of a shock. I've never, ever known a frost that early, but fortunately it was only the car windscreens frozen solid when I went outside, and the plants nearer to the ground seemed to have escaped completely. We chose early on in the year not to enter any of the local shows, due to health, which turned out to be a very good call. When show days arrived, we looked at what we might have had, if we had attended, and the answer was very little. We didn't go to either Usk or Chepstow shows on the day, but feedback we have heard since, was that entries were way down in the horticultural tent, and the quality was not brilliant. Hopefully things will improve next year as these shows are an icon of our country life, and we mustn't let them disappear.

With a period of dry weather, we have both been out weeding and cutting down in the flower borders and raised vegetable beds, and have started making a good inroad into this task. Now it has turned wet again, attention has turned back to the greenhouses and tunnels. Although crops have grown reasonably well in the shelter of these structures, slugs and snail have still been a pain. Although they are easier to control. I have been using organic slug pellets when necessary, but they are more successful when you don't have to worry about rain, and of course wildlife generally (other than the pests) can't get access, so the pellets are more successful. On the other hand, we have had bad problems with mildews and moulds, and have lost a lot of tomatoes in particular, with the fruits literally just rotting off before they ripen. We have grown one variety, Gigantomo, which as the name suggests, were always grown for the 'largest tomato' class. This year they have grown so mishappen, and have rotted at the sight of the first dull, damp day. I have vowed not to bother with them again!

Neither of us are big You Tube or social media generally, fans. We have way too many better things to do. That said, the Assistant Head Gardener does follow the day-to-day happenings of Georgie Newbery, a flower farmer down in Somerset. Georgie grows all her own flowers, and has built-up a very good reputation, supporting home grown flowers. She runs courses and visits during the year and has written several books, all of which are well worth attending or buying if you are interested in

growing and picking flowers. We have been on a visit, and it was quite enlightening how much you can grow in relatively small areas. Go to www.commonfarmflowers.com to tune in if you would like to view. Her answer to slug problems was to buy some ducks, and very effective they are too apparently! I, on the other hand, also follow one similar site, that of John Harrison, who produces an Allotment Garden Newsletter every week. John is in North Wales, and has written about the many trials and tribulations of growing this year. He has produced a number of quite readable books / booklets and has recently started selling a limited quantity of vegetable and herb seeds, which he has actually expanded this year due to demand. Go to www.allotment-garden.org

The advantage is that the seed quantity is more appropriate to small time growers (five, tens etc.) and are generally either 99p or £1.29 per pack. The choice is limited, but that is where I will be heading next! DT Brown are a major seed company, especially for vegetable seeds and it is also worth looking at their catalogue/website as they have also started a quite sizeable range of 99p packets, but limited to the standard, well tried and tested varieties, which is not necessarily a bad thing. Time to go shopping! Happy gardening until next time, Steve and Felicity Hunt.



STARGAZING



The constellation of Cygnus the Swan lies pretty much directly above. It is in the shape of a cross – in fact it is sometimes called the Northern Cross. According to legend, Jupiter the king of the Gods changed himself into a swan when he wanted to visit Leda, the wife of the King of Sparta. In memory of the episode, he placed a swan in the sky.

The seven stars of the Plough are to the North and the four stars forming the Great Square of Pegasus lie to the South.

Throughout October, there are three planets in the evening sky. Slightly yellow Saturn lies to the South. Brighter Jupiter is in the South-East, sitting to the left of the bright star Aldebaran, the two forming a triangle with the Pleiades star cluster. Mars is orange and lies just above the horizon to the East at the end of October. The Gibbous Moon (it's three-quarters illuminated) is above Jupiter on the 20th and is at third quarter (half illuminated) close to Mars on the 23rd.

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

The evenings are drawing in, providing glorious views of the night sky at relatively social hours. This is particularly true after the clocks go back on 27th October, giving extra darkness in the evening.



Shirenewton W.I.

Bugs and Beasties – the Gene-ius World of Genomics



Janet Horton, one of our W.I. members, gave us a most illuminating talk on her involvement in the extraordinary world of genomics. Even if genomics isn't a term that you are particularly familiar with (me included), most weeks we hear news of developments in research into the treatment and transmission of diseases, cancer treatment, inherited diseases and the ageing process.

Janet works for the Wellcome Sangar Institute in Cambridge, where some of the best scientists from around the world are studying different aspects of genomics. She works in genomics surveillance, liaising with governments and organisations to monitor diseases and how they spread. Although not a scientist herself, Janet and her team look at the output from the scientific research and identify ways in which these discoveries can be put to valuable use in the real world. She says that her role involves asking a lot of questions, and I'm sure that getting to grips with this mind-blowing science must be incredibly demanding.

So why does this work matter?

Janet explained that this research is a race against time. Malaria kills 608,000 people each year. The malaria parasite is becoming increasingly resistant to treatment and pesticides. Climate change also has resulted in the mosquitoes now appearing in urban settings and during the day.

Dengue fever, Zika virus, Lyme disease and West Nile virus are already present in Europe. We all remember the breakthroughs that the scientists made during the Covid pandemic to enable us to have a better understanding of the transmission of Covid and aid the development of the vaccine.

Janet's talk opened up a whole new understanding of this ground breaking work and we are very grateful to her for giving us this opportunity. The only downside for Shirenewton W.I. is that Janet can't make our Thursday evening meetings as she is working in Cambridge!

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 10th October at 7.15pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall,** with a talk by the Friends of the Newport Medieval Ship

Jackie Broughton

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 Angela Gray at angela.deepweir@btopenworld.com

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Another month has flown by and another reminder from Bill has appeared in my in-box. Well, the good news is there is always something to write about in tech land. So here goes ...

In early September a Daily Mail headline read: Password reset scams happen every SEVEN minutes - are you at risk?

It went on to report that about 70,000 password reset attacks happen each *week* and that this is over a 400% rise year-on-year. The basis of the attack is that the attackers send you a password reset email from a domain which appears to be one you use (perhaps your bank, or similar). It's easy to generate these emails and to make them *appear* to come from a trust domain. However, if you click on the link and complete the details all you are doing is giving the hackers your password (they will always ask for your old password). The way to guard against such scams is (i) never respond to an email password reset request that you didn't initiate. (ii) don't click on random links in non-colicited emails and

initiate, (ii) don't click on random links in non-solicited emails and (iii) enable two factor authentication for important sites.

Talking, as we were about two factor authentication, there are various options for two factor authentication. The one used will depend on the individual website but, in addition to text messages, many websites are using authenticator apps. These generate a unique 6 digit code (an OTP – One Time Password) that you need to enter as you log-on. So, instead of the OTP being texted to you, you go into an app on your phone and view it there. The question is, of course, when you get the OTP via an app, how do they know it really is you and tie the two together?

The answer is quite fascinating. The authentication apps use what is called an TOTP (Time-based One Time Password). So, the code in the app is time limited – typically 30 – 60 seconds. The way that these are set-up is usually via using the app to scan a QR code delivered from the host website. The QR code contains a secret code (typically based on the current time at scanning) which only the app and the host server know. So, if you log-on, the host server will generate the OTP it thinks the app should be generating. If it matches you are in. If not, you aren't.

Some argue that two factor authentication using authentication apps is more secure that an OTP sent to your mobile. They argue this because to get access to the OTP hackers need physical access to your phone. This need for physical access eliminates the SIM swapping fraud (where fraudsters persuade a mobile operator to send

a new sim at their address with your number) because even if they have a new sim with your number, they don't have access to the authentication app.

So, as a reminder, 'Sim-swapping' fraud is on the rise. A considerable amount of account security these days depends you being in control of your own phone. If a fraudster can convince your mobile provider that they are you and you've lost your phone/sim and to send out another sim card to their address, they have you digital life in their hands.

Therefore, it is really important to keep a sharp eye on your phone and check any unusual activity. Don't ignore any message from your provider (but make sure that they really are from your provider) and, if you suddenly lose signal and a re-boot doesn't get it back, be worried and contact your service provider immediately. To prevent such attacks (in so far as you can), have strong passwords and security questions with your service provider. Do not use information which fraudsters can get from your social media such as pet names, car types, etc.

On that happy note, safe browsing.



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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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 1st Harvest Festival

3.00 p.m. Gilgal Chapel, Llanvaches

Sunday 1st Café church

3.30 p.m. Shirenewton Church Room

Monday 2nd Shirenewton Community Council meeting

7 p.m. Shirenewton Recreation Hall

Wednesday 11th Little and Large (WaterAid)

7.30 p.m. Itton Village Hall

Thursday 12th Shirenewton W.I.—Bugs and Beasties

7.15 p.m. Shirenewton Recreation Hall

Thursday 19th Men's curry night 7.30 p.m. Shirenewton Sultan Harvest Supper

7 p.m. Chapel Farm, Newchurch

Thursday 26th Harvest Supper

7.00 p.m. Church Farm, Newchurch

Thursday 26th Ladies curry night 7.30 p.m. Shirenewton Sultan

Saturday 28th Village Market

10.30-12.30 a.m. Shirenewton Recreation Hall

Sunday 29th Craft, cake and conversation (for ShAMBLES)

2.00 p.m.-4.00 p.m. Recreation Hall Harvest Festival

3.00 p.m. Earlswood Valley Methodist chapel

OCTOBER

Sunday 1th Café church

3.30 p.m. Shirenewton Church Room

Sunday 6th Harvest Festival

10.00 a.m. St Thomas à Becket Church, Shirenewton

3.00 p.m. Hope Methodist chapel

Saturday 12th ShAMBLES opening night party and art trail

6.30-9.00 p.m. Shirenewton and Mynyddbach

Sunday 13th ShAMBLES art trail

From 6.30 p.m. Shirenewton and Mynyddbach

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER continued

Thursday 24th Men's curry night 7.30 p.m. Shirenewtón Sultan Men's curry night Thursday 31st 7.30 p.m. Shirenewton Sultan

NOVEMBER

Sunday 10th Remembrance Sunday

11.00 a.m. War Memorial /St Thomas à Becket Church,

Shirenewton

Mens curry night Thursday 21st Shirenewton Sultan 7.30 p.m. Thursday 28th Ladies curry night Shirenewton Sultan 7.30 p.m.

DECEMBER

Wednesday 11th Chepstow Choral Society concert Chepstow School Arts Hall

Sunday 15th Christingle Service St Peter's, Newchurch 4.30 p.m. Tuesday 24th Christmas Carol Service St Peter's, Newchurch 4.30 p.m. Wednesday 25th Christmas Day Service 10.00 a.m. St Peter's, Newchurch

severnwyema.co.uk



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

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

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

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



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Published: by The Church of St. Thomas à Becket Shirenewton

Editor: Bill Clark 01291 641783 email: parishmagshirenewton@gmail.com

The cost of the Magazine is £1.50 per issue/10 issues for £14.

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

Monthly copies are available at the Church.

Previous editions of the magazine are available online on the Church website at www.shirenewtonchurch.info.

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Deadline for the November 2024 issue is 9:00 a.m. Monday 28th October 2024

