

April 2007

Price: 50p

THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET SHIRENEWTON



Parishes of Shirenewton and Newchurch

READERS AND SIDES-PERSONS ROTA FOR FEBRUARY 2007

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
1ST APRIL	Palm Sunday 9.45 a.m.	Cynthia Smith Mike Pierce	Bernice Bowen Claire Lewis
5th April	Maundy Thursday	Caerwent Parish Church	7.30
6th April	Good Friday	Shirenewton Parish Church	2—3 p.m
8th April	Easter Day 9.45 a.m.	Sally Saysell Bob Grattan	Alan Saysell Bob Grattan
15th April	Second Sunday of Easter 9.45 a.m.	James Leney Margaret Lock	Margaret Lock Auriol Horton
22nd April	Rededication of the Chancel at Caerwent Parish Church by Bishop Dominic—		10.30 a.m.
29th April	4th Sunday of Easter 9.45 a.m.	Group Service in Shirenewton Parish Church	
6th May	5th Sunday of Easter 9.45 a.m.	Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds	Alistair Bounds Kevin Bounds

Newchurch the first and 3rd Sunday of each month at 2.30 p.m.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

INCUMBENT:	The Revd Hugh Trenchard	424984
CURATE	The Revd Nansi Davies	01633 400519
CHURCH WARDENS:	Alan Saysell	641369
	Sally Saysell	641369
	Mrs Kath Whittington – Newchurch	641600
	Mrs Susan Lenthall – Newchurch	626389
PCC SECRETARIES:	Andrew Baker - Shirenewton	641925
	David Heritage- Newchurch	641549
PCC TREASURERS:	Kevin Bounds - Shirenewton	641818
	Enid Heritage - Newchurch	641549
GIFT AID SECRETARY	Ruth Savagar	641411
CHURCH MAINTENANCE & SAFETY OFFICER	John Nicholas	641368
ORGANISTS:	Karen Millar	650521
	Ruth Savagar	641411
	Kath Whittington	641600
SUNDAY SCHOOL:	Jane Smith-Haddon	641525
TOWER CAPTAIN:	Mike Penny	650653
MOTHERS UNION:	Auriol Horton	641844
CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER:	John Waters	641449
CHURCH FLOWERS:	Maureen Moody	641524
PARISH MAGAZINE:	Bob O'Keefe	641686
200 Club	Pauline Dutton	641677

NAMES TO NOTE

COMMUNITY COUNCIL	.John Eede (Chairman)	641257
WI:	Sally Saysell	641369
SCOUTS:	Dave Richardson	620356
GUIDES:	Helen Cann	650835
BROWNIES:	Jackie Broughton	641797
CUBS:	Diana Such	650638
BEAVERS:	Gill Norris	622703
POLICE CONTACT:	P.C. Andrew Mason	01633 838111
REC. BOOKING SECRETARY:	Beryl Saysell	641637
TRADCRAFT:	Marion McAdam	641316
NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR		
S'NEWTON & MYNYDD BACH	Beverley Moore	641532
Local History Society	John Clelland	650595

1st April	Palm Sunday
2nd April	Community Council Meeting—Recreation Hall— 7.30 p.m.
5th April	Whist Drive—Recreation Hall 7-30 p.m.
9th April	Shirenewton Local History Society –Resources Session— Recreation Hall from 2 p.m.
15th April	Easter Sunday
16th April	Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall AGM 8 p.m.
17th April	Fete Committee Meeting—The Huntsman Hotel 8 p.m.
21st April	Police Surgery 10 a.m.—12 at the Recreation Hall
22nd April	Re-ordering Service of Dedication Caerwent Church 10.30 a.m. by the Bishop of Monmouth.
22nd April	Evensong with the Netherwent Singers Caerwent Church 7.00
24th April	Shirenewton Local History Society meeting— subject : Gwent Churches - 7.30 The Huntsman Hotel.
2nd May	Neighbourhood Watch Meeting 7.30 p.m. Huntsman Hotel
3rd May	Local Elections—Polling Day
19th May	Christian Aid—Ploughman's Lunch at the Chantry –12—3 o/c
7th June	Whist Drive—7.30 Recreation Hall.
9th June	Church Fete—The Recreation Field
30th June	Coffee Morning— For Marie Curie (Wales) Cancer Support Fund

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Please send notes, discs or emails for the May magazine to Bob O'Keefe at: 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) or email to bobandwenche@aol.com by Saturday 21st April for inclusion in the May magazine.

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Easter 2007.

Dear Parishioners,

Lent is over and new birth erupts around us, albeit with a wintry reminder of how strange our weather is becoming. Easter shouts at us to value every possibility of newness. It calls us to celebrate the life giving power of God and to rejoice with all those we love but no longer see, that Jesus also died but through Him death is not the end but rather the beginning of a life we cannot experience here. Life with God for ever.

There are so many symbols of Easter which just will not do. Little bunnies, chocolate eggs, flowers growing from bulbs, chicks hatching from eggs – yes they are all lovely but sadly they miss the point of Jesus' resurrection. Resurrection is what it says life out of total death. When ever we face the awesome power of death we can all feel shattered and torn apart, such is the agonising weight of loss. God gave us His own Son who experienced all that we can, was despised taunted and murdered on a brutal cross, died there and was buried and then and only then did He rise from the dead. Not resuscitated, not in a coma for several days only to wake up again but restored by the power of the One who makes and remakes all things. It is to that new life that God beckons, calls and invites to share. No one is lost to God in death we are all called to be part of His unending celebration of life. We are called also to renew ourselves in Him now. When ever things look black, impossible, bleak, when we feel that we doubt God's very existence, look to the Easter message. It will help us to use the present and through it all transform both our today and our tomorrow.

May I issue an invitation to all four parishes and I do not just mean people who attend our churches.

On April 22nd Bishop Dominic will celebrate the Eucharist and re-dedicate the re-ordering of Caerwent Church. The only services that day will be in Caerwent. The Eucharist and re-dedication at 10.30a.m. and on the evening there will be a fully sung Evensong with the addition of the Vivaldi Gloria featuring the Netherwent Singers at 7,00p.m.

We would hope that everyone will take the chance to meet Bishop Dominic and enjoy the day

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates for This Term

Date	Time	Venue
22nd April	9.45 -	Chantry
29th April	9.45	Group Service—Church
6th May	9.45	Chantry
13th May	9.45	Chantry
20th May	9.45	Family Service—Church

New Term Starts 22nd April

*Shirenewton Sunday Club welcomes
all children from 3 years. Do come and join us.*

Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525

Glynis MacDonald 641 818

Christian Aid Week 13th - 19th May 07

Christian Aid 'Ploughman's Lunch'

Come and share a meal on Saturday 19th May

Individual £5.00

Family £15.00

Concessions £3.00

All money to go to Christian Aid

Complimentary glass of wine - or mug of tea or coffee

Just pop into The Chantry between 12.00 - 3.00
and help yourself to a Ploughman!!

Glynis and Kevin 641 818

cucumbers that require the longest growing season possible. I spoke to my father last night to be proudly told that his tomato plants are already 6 inches tall. Don't you just love parents with their encouraging words! You may remember that I'm going to try growing some of the lettuces in trays this year. These are the special leaf varieties that can just be cut and they come again, producing more leaves in a week or ten days time. By staggering the sowings hopefully I will be able to get a continuous supply. That is always the theory, but sadly this is not always the practice. Other priorities are the French and broad beans, along with the mangetout peas. The last couple of years I have actually sown runner beans on the 1st April, but I'm going to leave this for a couple of weeks longer this year, otherwise we will have the usual glut of beans as everything matures in exactly the same week! The potatoes have sprouted well on the conservatory windowsill. I'm hoping that I can get at least some of these planted this weekend as well. I have just one early variety this year, but also two 'salad' varieties. These are very versatile as they can be used for things other than just salads! Don't expect them to mash down, but they do make very good sautéed, roasted or fried potatoes. They also seem to be a bit more resistant to slug attack, which must be a bonus! In the flower garden the main work revolves around the spring clear up. The under gardener has already cleared a great deal of old material that has been doing a sterling job at protecting young growth during the recent cold spell. I'm satisfied that this can now be removed without too much trouble. Leave it in place for too long and it harbours young slugs and snails that do a grand job at eating all the new succulent growth as it pushes through anyway. At the moment there are few weeds in some of the beds. These need removing as soon as possible. There will undoubtedly be a few losses among the flower plants, but we have some new varieties waiting in the wings! Still must get on otherwise nothing will get done! Happy gardening until next month.

Steve Hunt.

pick up a rabbit tail that the cats had left behind it will mean that I'll have to revert to a small soft paint brush. It will still do the job just as well and hopefully by the time that the fruits begin to swell, they will be back inside a cover again. This has been ordered and is hopefully available to be collected this weekend from my brother's nursery in Dorset. We still have to fix the frame however and clear up the other messes that the storm created. All in all this will take a good day to complete the tasks, but it is a day that we can ill afford.

The weather has dried enough to get on the garden now, but with the air so cold there will be little to gain. I have therefore decided that it will be best to leave this work until next month. Instead we need to get into the greenhouse and start the seeds on. This is the latest that we have ever been with our seed sowing exploits. I'm sure that they will still catch up in the long run though, especially as we are unable to give them any early protection with both the tunnel and cold frames well and truly out of commission. We have purposely cut back on the number of flower seeds that we have bought this year. We have got to the stage with both of us working full time that we just cannot spare the time to look after them to the extent that they require. The selling of these plants has always been put towards the development of the garden. This year we intend to take stock of what we have done so far and decide how best to take things forward. We have always tended to manage things on a shoe-string and made do where ever necessary. What seed we have will be going in over the next two weeks.

At the moment it is the vegetable seed sowing that is the priority. Provided the weather is OK this weekend I'm going to put some carrot and the parsnip seed in one of the raised beds. I'll initially protect this with either horticultural fleece or polythene sheet to try and encourage them to get going. The fleece would be ideal, as it is very light and lifts up as the seedlings germinate. However the downside is that the cats like to sharpen their claws on it, but I might persuade them to leave it alone by various means! Other key sowing will be the salad crops, especially tomatoes, peppers, melons and

A Note for your Diary

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL

Saturday 22nd September

Sunday 23rd September

FROM THE REGISTERS

24th March a Memorial Service was held for the life of Mr. John Derek Banks followed by the interment of ashes.

The Parochial Church Council acknowledge with gratitude the kind legacy received from Mr. Banks.

14th March a Service of Baptism was held for Jack Charlie Paterson, the son of Ricard Angus and Victoria Paterson

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

The Winners of the March Draw were:

Ticket no	Winner	Amount
104	Charlotte Moore	£40
159	Ruth Savagar	£30
101	Avril Smith	£20
144	<u>Martin Hughes</u>	<u>£10</u>

Church Fete

9th June- the date of "The Fete" - is fast approaching.

Next Fete Committee meeting is on Thursday 17th April at 8.00 p.m. in The Huntsman Hotel. We need your support, and if you are interested in participating and have some new ideas you are always welcome. The Fete committee is not a closed club, so come and make a difference to this great community event.

St Peter's Church, Newchurch

Reminder

Palm Sunday Service 1st April at 3.p.m. not 2.30p.m.

Easter Sunday Service 8th April at 2.30.p.m.

Thereafter 1st and 3rd Sunday at 2.30 as previous indicated.

From St Peter's—Newchurch Registers

The marriage took place between Catherine Horton and Paul Turrell. We wish them a long and happy marriage.

GARDENING

The weather continues to be unpredictable, although with the blackthorn now fully in flower we are suffering at the hands of our usual 'blackthorn winter'. Every year without fail we get a clod snap just as the blackthorn flowers. In fact thinking about it I cannot actually remember a year where we haven't had a 'final fling' from a dying winter at this time. I'm sure this will be the last notable cold spell, apart from the odd night that is!

The tales of woe continue in the garden. I have a feeling that this year will turn into one that is best forgotten for a number of reasons, but time will tell. With building work well behind schedule and the day job taking too much of my time (!), I have still not made a start outside, or inside for that matter. Fortunately the under gardener has at least made a start in the fruit cage and managed to prune out all the old raspberry canes. There are still some too many for tying in, but the final ones will be cut as we go along the rows, when we have a better idea of spacing. Normally these are tied in roughly every four or five inches (10 – 12 cms.). Any canes that are too long will then be trimmed off just above the top wire. I used to bend these over and then weave them in but found that we ended up with a lot of mildew and fruit rotting off. Whilst we trim and tie, we will also weed as well and then top dress with a good layer of manure. That should see them right for a bit! The rest of the cane fruits will also be sorted out and tied in at the same time. This is when the 'thorn-less' blackberries come into their own, although having said that I'm sure the breeding out of the spikes has resulted in a great loss of flavour. We have a New Zealand variety that is meant to be the best of both (no thorns and tasty), but this is a new variety and as yet haven't had the benefit of a crop. The strawberries that were planted in pots have been lifted into the greenhouse and these are showing signs of benefiting from the warmer conditions. Although no longer protected from the elements the apricot and peach trees that are planted in the tunnel are just coming into flower. I'll try and get these pollinated when they are fully open. As the under gardener refused last year to

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SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

As the holiday season approaches be sure to book your holidays (or at least your car parking & hire cars) through the Church website. We feature HolidayAutos (car hire) and Holiday Extras (car parking, airport hotels and lounges). We also now have got British Airways and a few other travel sites in the Travel & Holidays section. Remember it costs you nothing extra to use the church website and the Church benefits.

I hope to have a 'new look' shop front up in the near future. Watch this space.

As you may know we have launched a Sunday Newspaper service whilst the village shop is closed (see the note below). It's a pilot and we will give it a few weeks to see if it catches on. To those you are 'digitally disadvantaged' (i.e. don't have the Internet) either ask a friend to order for you or volunteer to run a 'paper & phone' based system.

You will be responsible for collecting orders, cash collection and letting me know on a Friday evening how many papers of what type are required.

On a different subject (but still the internet!) you can make your life so much easier by doing stuff online. A couple of websites I use, and which save me endless hours of queuing at the post office.

The Royal Mail online postage service (www.royalmail.com). You can actually order online and print postage a label on your printer. Can't be bothered to get to a post office? Go the website, enter the details of what you want to post (size, weight, where its going {including overseas}) and then pay online. The site gives you a PDF file (which is your postage and address label) which you can print to a sticky label or to a plain sheet of paper and attach it to the letter/package/whatever. I just print to plain paper, tape the label on and chuck it in the village post box. No queuing at the post office. The website looks like it was designed by a committee but is useable and, once you've worked out how it works, is easy to use. Another favourite is the online Road tax system. It just works. For a government department - what can I say. Follow the process, enter the details and two days later the tax disk arrives through the post. Can't beat.

Happy surfing.

David Cornwell - Webmaster.

SUNDAY PAPERS DELIVERED TO THE VILLAGE

Yes you can now order your Sunday Papers online at the Shirenewton Church website and then collect them from the Shirenewton Church porch from 11:00am each Sunday. Visit www.shirenewtonchurch.com for more details.

Note: your order must be placed by midnight on Friday to secure papers on Sunday. There is a small mandatory donation for this service.

Check out the website for full details and to order online there and then.

SPONSORSHIP OF FLOODLIGHTS AND FLAG

Shirenewton Church is grateful to the following sponsors:

Mr. and Mrs B. Priest for the month of March & Mr. Hugh and Mrs Pauline James for the month of April

Note:

Sponsorship costs £50 per item (i.e. floodlights or flags) per month. Recognition of your sponsorship will be shown in the parish magazine, in the Church porch and on the Shirenewton church website: (www.shirenewtonchurch.com) which will maintain an ongoing historical list of sponsors. Your name and a brief (reasonable) message will be published.

To sponsor either the flag or the lights please contact Kevin Bounds, John Nicholas or David Cornwell; on 641818; 641368 or 641614.

Community Council Meeting of Monday 5th March 2007.

Local Police

PC Mason did not attend the meeting nor send in a report, so details of February's police and any criminal activity will have to be covered in the April issue.

Planning Applications

Just one application required consideration at this meeting. For a separate entrance from the road and a new driveway to access 'Ardnog' which is the house adjacent to the Grondra with whom it currently shares a drive. There was extensive discussion on this matter and eventually the council

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decided to recommend rejection as an additional access on to the road at point was considered a hazard.

TAN HOUSE WAS COVERED IN THE CLERK'S REPORT AS BELOW

Financial Matters

A request from Chepstow Citizens Advice Bureau for an increase in contribution was deferred until the next budget meeting.

The external audit of the council's 2005/06 accounts had taken place with no issues raised by the auditors.

Items of Local Concern

The Village Plan, is now in draft form ready for circulation to the council members for their comment and feedback, it will be finalised by the end/ or shortly after of the financial year. It incorporates information from the questionnaire sent out last year and will be available for anyone who is interested (*not sure how it will be made available but will try to find out for next month's report*).

A report is being finalised for submission to the Welsh Assembly on the many deferred applications and breaches of planning at the Shirenewton Golf Club development which run counter to MCC's own planning guidelines.

A member of the public gave an update on her complaint to MCC against development at Great House Farm, the case has recently been reviewed by an 'independent' reviewer within the council, their report is awaited.

Signs approaching Earlswood and Mynyddbach have been/will be requested to identify entrances to each village/community.

Dog Fouling, this problem seems to be particularly bad around the church and Blethyn Close. MCC now have a warden responsible for chasing guilty dog owners with powers to prosecute if necessary. Apparently Poop-scoop bags are available from One-Stop shops, if any dog owners require them.

Bollards at open space in Mynyddbach have been requested by a resident after joy riding in the area caused a significant amount of damage. There

was lots of debate on a suitable solution, but eventually it was deferred until the next meeting when PC Mason should be present for comment/ideas and to give MCC time to determine what action to take to make good recent damage.

Clerk's Report

The Cricket Club shed. A meeting with Council members & what remains of Shirenewton Cricket Club has taken place but the issue is still not resolved to anyone's satisfaction.

Allotments – no progress this is still with the officer at MCC, to be escalated.

Tan House planning application, still no date for the hearing and the planning officer dealing with this up until now has just left MCC.

Shirenewton Golf Club. Washing lines - the enforcement officer was unable to get access to the development as he couldn't get past the electric gates! However Beacon Estates have said they will send out a letter to residents to remind them not to erect washing lines.

Lighting – Not yet known whether Beacon estates will appeal against the decision on the lighting or remove the lights.

Tredegar Arms, the licensee leaves late March, likely to be turned into a restaurant (no change of use required) so will be closed for refurbishment. *(as we go to press this is already underway).*

Wind Turbines, the council had sought clarification on the planning requirements. At present it depends on the size of the turbine and whether it's fixed to the wall, roof or is free standing. The government has said it will relax the development restrictions on domestic wind turbines but has not taken any action to date.

AOB

Closure of the shop was a regretted by all at the meeting, who hoped it would be sold quickly and re-opened.

Next meeting is at 7.30 p.m. on 2nd April 2007.

Caroline's Cookery Corner

Cheating at Cooking:

Years ago _ actually about 20 years I had a book called something like "How to cheat at cooking" I think it was by somebody called Delia ---- but I might be wrong so do not quote me !Anyhow I am best cheat at cooking.

Every day Wayne, Max & I take lunch to work – I prefer soup or salad, Max anything filling & Wayne anything he can get!!!

Ok the cheating bit:

For a simple soup - buy either a tin of consommé or those ready stocks, plus a ready cut up thingy of Chinese vegetable packs - boil together & instant soup. If no Chinese vegetable, just add noodles.

Obviously fresh vegetables can be added. I always try to add something like peppers or spring onions.

Salad (I have to say I would not like to eat this) one day I found a packet of ready to cook rice in my larder. One of the children had obviously bought it to take back to University, put the rice in a microwave for about 2 minutes, and add cooked chicken, chopped celery, spring onions, red peppers, sultanas & cucumber.

If making dressing, make loads and keep in a screw top jar it keeps for ages.

A salad I like is simply washed watercress bed (or whatever you fancy) a hard pear, peeled cored & cut into chunks topped with cottage cheese and mayonnaise. I like a bit of tomato salad on the side with French dressing.

Cheats Dinner Party. First course blend a tin of consommé with a touch of garlic and Philadelphia Cheese, some chives put into individual ramekins and serve with toast.

For a cheats pudding. Buy roll out sweet pastry line a flan tin and bake. Make pastry cream by mixing together 4 eggs, 4 oz sugar, 2 oz flour. Mix well, heat 1 pint of milk and add to the mixture return to the saucepan & stir constantly until the mixture has bubbled. Remove from the heat and add a few drops of vanilla essence. 4 oz of butter and leave to cool. Put into the pastry cases; add fruit, something like chopped strawberries, kiwi fruit, raspberries, grapes peaches, and nothing too soggy. It looks impressive and everyone thinks you have worked for hours.

Once again our thanks to Caroline Davies



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SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS UNION

Our 2nd meeting of the year was held in the Recreation Hall on Wednesday, 14th March when 11 members and 2 guests heard an interesting and revealing talk on Tina Williams' involvement with the Charity "Hope and Aid Direct".

Tina is a local volunteer from Cwmfelinfach who personally drives and delivers Humanitarian Aid in the form of food and emergency supplies to those in greatest need and as she will be travelling again to Kosovo at Easter with Aid for the many thousands of refugees who are living in makeshift shelters with very few belongings we were able to contribute a car load of dry goods, bedding, towels and other goods to the items already donated. She told us that on the appointed day, she and her co-driver with their loaded lorry, will meet up with other lorries at Dover and form a convoy for the 5 day journey across Europe. They are not able to leave their lorries unattended during this time and there is no five star accommodation on the journey or at the journey's end. They are often subjected to unreasonably long delays at Border Crossings although they have never been stopped from taking the aid into Kosovo. Local members of the Charity direct them to the distribution points where the aid will be sorted into piles suitable for different sized families and will be given directly to the families on the day they arrive. As Tina has been to Kosovo several times she has been able to make personal contact with some families and arranged for help with medical needs. In order to make this commitment she had to buy the lorry and raise the funds for fuel and sustenance for herself and the co-driver during each three week trip and she tries to make at least one trip a year. We were all impressed by the sincerity of her endeavour. A BIG THANK YOU to those who supported our appeal for bedding etc – the degree of support exceeded our expectations.

ANOTHER BIG THANK YOU to those who supported the MU "Make a Mother's Day" Campaign by personal donations; to our group of churches for their encouragement; and to the Brownies for making cakes for

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

Mothering Sunday. The last report from Mary Sumner House stated that over £100,000.00 had already been received with more expected especially where donations had been "gift-aided".

A News Release from the MU dated 7th March 2007 stated that two of the most popular gifts, the anti-malaria treated mosquito nets (£5) and the Essential Aid Kit of food, bedding and cooking utensils (£28) have enabled MU to finance emergency relief for thousands of families in cyclone stricken Mozambique. £15,000 has already been sent to Niassa and Lebombo districts where the cyclone and heavy rains have brought devastation to communities in the northern regions, particularly in the area around Lake Malawi. Here hundreds of homes have collapsed and 1,500 families have been made homeless. MU volunteer in Mozambique, Helen Van Koevering, was thrilled that MU could make the first response in the area. As a result 680 families have already been supplied with mosquito nets, essential in this highly endemic area for malaria, food supplied and chlorine for water purification. Further funding will enable the distribution of essential drugs, roofing plastic, soap and tents in which to house patients. Seed for replanting crops will also be a priority. Two MU workers are being employed full-time to maintain the programme as it is estimated that the water levels will be high until mid-May. The support generated by the "Make a Mother's Day" campaign will ensure that MU can help many more families in the year ahead (further information is on the MU website at www.MUE.org)

Our **next meeting** will be held at **The Recreation Hall on Wednesday, 11th April at 2.30 p.m.** when Mark Lewis (a curator at Caerleon Museum) will tell us about the Life of St. Tathan (Patron of Caerwent and Father of all Gwent) – from past experience he will quickly have us caught up in his own enthusiasm for the subject.

Friends and visitors are welcome to join us.
Auriol Horton, Branch Leader. 01291 641844.

For our February meeting Daphne Pearson kindly stepped in at the last minute when our scheduled speaker was unable to make the date. Daphne gave a very interesting talk titled 'Local lad makes good in Elizabethan London. The talk was mainly about William Walters of Skenfrith who became attorney to Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford.

Dorothy Brabon has been holding Resources Sessions at the Recreation Hall which have been well attended and will continue throughout 2007.

You can now find out all about us and view this year's programme by logging on to www.shirenewton-history.co.uk.

Our meetings for the coming months are:-

Tuesday 27th March- 'The Silures' by Ray Howell-
7.30pm Huntsman Hotel

Monday 9th April- Resources Session with Dorothy Brabon
2.00pm Recreation Hall.

Tuesday 24th April- Gwent Churches by Edith Evans-
7.30pm Huntsman Hotel

Wednesday 14th May- Resources Session with Dorothy Brabon
2.00pm Recreation Hall

Sunday 13th May- Rogation Sunday Walk- Meet 2pm at the
entrance to the Church

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EARLSWOOD AND NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL NEWS

Hello readers, welcome to the latest news from the Hall.

There is very little to report other than an update on the progress with the general refurbishment work that is continuing at the Hall.

The committee are still waiting for the new bar doors to be painted. A room thermostat has now been fitted in the Hall that will now provide better control of the heating. The boiler has been serviced and repaired and raised to ground level. At the same time, four new radiators have been fitted in the basement. These should enable the renovated storage area to remain dry, and the items stored there free from damp. The work in the basement area and the improvements to the drainage system is now nearing completion.

The floor in the up-stairs projection room is being repaired, and repairs to the perimeter fence are complete.

We have been fortunate to secure a further grant that will enable us to continue with the ongoing enhancements to the Hall facilities.

The appointment of new trustees to the Hall is in hand and an announcement will be made shortly.

There was some discussion regarding future events at the Hall, and another Jazz night and "Old Time Music Hall" were among the items proposed.

Finally, the AGM will take place on Monday 16th April at 8 p.m. at the Hall, where all are welcome.

The Tan House Pub

Stargazing in April '07

The constellation of Leo the Lion lies to the South. Unlike most constellations, Leo really can be pictured as its namesake. This constellation represents the lion killed by Hercules as the first of his labours. Leo's mane is made up of a backwards-shaped question mark with the bright star Regulus forming his front paw. Off to the left are three stars which make up the lion's hindquarters. The star at Leo's tail is called Denebola, which is Arabic for "the lion's tail".

The seven stars of the Plough lie pretty much overhead. It is one of the "circumpolar" constellations that are always above our horizon.

Venus is very bright in the evening to the west, where it is setting roughly 4 hours after the Sun. It's worth looking for on 10-12 April when Venus lies close to the Pleiades star cluster.

The planet Saturn lies near Leo. Much brighter Jupiter is appearing above the horizon in the south-east late in the evening at the end of April. Saturn is becoming fainter whilst Jupiter is getting brighter. This is because Saturn is moving away from Earth whilst Jupiter is approaching.

The crescent Moon lies to the right of Venus on 19th April, and on 25th April it is near Saturn. Wasn't the Lunar eclipse back in early March splendid? The curved shadow that Earth casts on the Moon during the eclipse was one of the Greek philosopher Aristotle's reasons for considering Earth to be spherical rather than flat.

An illustrated version of this article can be found at: <http://www.uskastronomicalsociety.org.uk/index.htm>

Dave Thomas

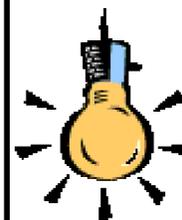
Just a short note from us both at the Tan, to let the village at large know that you are stuck with us for the time being!

As you may know, there was interest in changing the use of the pub and we have received a serious financial inducement to terminate our lease early. We have declined this offer, as it is our intention to remain the landlord of your favourite pub for the foreseeable future.

You have all been incredibly warm and supportive to us, and my family and I have decided that we would like to spend the remaining 17 years of the lease, living and working in the village.

Thank you to everyone for your patronage, a warm welcome awaits you all at The Tan.

Steve & Tina Lacey



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Will be held on
SATURDAY JUNE 30th
6, Tan House Court



Girlguiding UK

1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES.

We are fast approaching the end of another term and hoping for good weather for our last meeting which will be a night hike from Devauden to Shirenewton.

In the last month the girls have made peace pendants, embroidered Mothers Day cards (did any mother actually receive one?) and looked at the rights and responsibilities of young people and the importance of having a name and being a unique individual. We must thank members of the Trefoil Guild who helped us with the sewing – they enjoyed the evening and are quite happy to help whenever we need them. Caroline returned to Guides and ran a very interesting session on her hobby of lifesaving as part of her Baden Powell Award. Thank you all.

Next term we will be preparing for the fete and camp – first responses suggest we could be taking most of the unit away for the weekend. We also hope to get out and about in the village with the lighter evenings.

Yours in guiding,

Kestrel	Helen Cann	650835
Kitten	Amanda Turner	650763
Zebra,	Tiger, Bumble, Bee and Koala	

BROWNIE PAMPER EVENING

One week at Brownies we had a pamper evening. We had our nails painted and shaped. Our hands were massaged which felt very relaxing. We made a face pack from yoghurt, honey and oats and put it on our faces! It felt cold and squidgy. We learned about how sleep and healthy food are very important to us. At the end of the evening we did some soothing yoga.

... by the Brownies

And even the leaders felt relaxed by the end of the evening!

I would like to thank the members of Shirenewton Church congregation who supported the Brownies cake sale on Mothering Sunday. We made £20.26 which will be donated to the Mother's Union appeal to Make A Mother's Day, helping mums in difficult circumstances. We are hoping to buy an essential First Aid kit.

Last but by no means least I would like to thank the Brownies for making and selling their cakes - Well Done!!

Jackie Broughton – Guider in Charge

EARLSWOOD & NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL

**THE AGM FOR EARLSWOOD & NEWCHURCH WEST
MEMORIAL HALL**

WILL BE HELD AT THE ALL AT

8 P.M.ON MONDAY 16TH APRIL

**ALL THOSE THAT ARE INTERESTED IN THE FUTURE OF
THE HALL ARE WELCOME**

THE BELLS - THE BELLS.

Shirenewton bell ringers have had a quiet month. Numbers have been low at practice nights and on certain Sundays mainly due to half term holidays from school and families flying off to the ski slopes this situation is not set to last as 3 new young ringers will be starting to learn during the Easter Holidays. Hannah and Thomas Leney plus Christopher Eickhoff will take intensive lessons on tied bells (the clapper is tied so that there is no noise outside the tower) until they have sufficient control over the bell to join us at our main practice.

On Mothering Sunday Glynis joined us and mothers and daughters rang a short touch for the morning service. Unfortunately, we did not have sufficient mothers to ring all six bells.

The local youth ringing group Kids Ring Out held a fun ringing day on Saturday 18th March. This was designed to bring together some of the less experienced youngsters the morning session was held at Shirenewton and consisted of 3 workshops.; rope splicing; hand bells; and ringing on the simulator. After lunch at the New Inn in Pwyllmeric the group moved on to ring at Penhow and later joined the Monmouth Branch practice at Trelleck. 6 children from Usk, Mathern, Rumney and Shirenewton participated including our Tom Mitchell. It was a good day, confidence and skill were gained and new friends made. Jenny Millar and Claire Eickhoff joined us as helpers.

Pip Penney

SHIRENEWTON WHIST DRIVES

37 players enjoyed the Drive on the 1st March with refreshments suitably reflecting St. David's Day.

The next two Drives will be on the 5th April and 7th June respectively. Unfortunately the Hall will be in use as a Polling Station on the 3rd May so there will be No Drive on that date. Don't forget we start at 7.30 p.m. promptly at The Recreation Hall.



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FAIRTRADE NEWS

Gwent Police Local Neighbourhood Watch

It is the time of the year when various organisations deliver and leave on the doorsteps of homes the various "Yellow Pages" type directories. Should you be aware that your neighbours are away, please help reduce the risk of burglaries by removing the directories until your neighbour returns.

The next Neighbourhood Watch meeting is 2nd May at 7.30 in the Huntsman Hotel

SHIRENEWTON W.I

March 2007

Shirenewton WI celebrated its 55th birthday this month. The committee organised a supper with entertainment in the Recreation Hall, to mark the occasion. Sally Saysell donated the wine for the event, to mark her own birthday. We were delighted to welcome James Leaney and Karen Millar, who played for us during the meal. Later James and Karen contributed towards a musical quiz by playing snippets of well known tunes, and lastly accompanied the ladies as they finished off the evening with a sing song.

A rolling projection of WI photographs created much interest. The photographs were all taken during the last year, and demonstrated the wide variety of WI pursuits.

Members who had visited the touring exhibition in Newport Museum were proud to report that it included a cup, saucer, and plate donated by Shirenewton WI. These items and one other place setting are all that survives of an earlier china collection used by Shirenewton WI. It is a pale translucent green and embellished with the WI initials.

Earlier in the month some members of the W.I. organised an evening of 'Inn Games' at The Carpenters. We were grateful to the gentleman from the Village Bar who taught us how to play 'Shove Hapenny' properly; but we still managed to play this game with very little skill.

Our next meeting will be on April 19th at 7:15pm in the Recreation Hall. Dr Naylor Firth will be giving a talk on the National Parks of the USA. and visitors are welcome.

Here is some interesting info gathered from the magazine Fair Comment (Spring 2007) produced by the Fairtrade Foundation.

FAIRTRADE AND CLIMATE CHANGE **TRUE OR FALSE?**

Most Fairtrade products are transported by air — **FALSE!**

Fresh flowers are the only Fairtrade product to be routinely transported by air. Most Fairtrade certified products are shipped - per mile international shipping is less carbon intensive than trucking within the UK!

Food miles are the biggest element in a product's carbon footprint.

FALSE!

Transportation is usually a small proportion of the overall carbon footprint of a product, which also includes the method of growing and production, how and where it is sold, the customer journey, the packaging, consumption and final disposal.

Buying locally is always better for the environment - **FALSE!**

Whilst buying in season from sustainable local producers can be a very positive way of reducing impact on the climate, it's important to consider not just where a product comes from, but how it has been produced, including use of land, chemicals, hothouses or natural resources. Research has found that a flower grown in Kenya and flown into the UK emits five times less carbon than one that has been industrially hot-housed in the Netherlands. Many every day items such as sugar cane, cotton, bananas, cocoa, coffee and tea are grown in tropical climates of developing countries with minimal use of carbon producing energy.

Buying Fairtrade products can help to tackle climate change — **TRUE!**

Buying products from developing countries is vital for their economic and social development and provides a livelihood for millions of farmers and workers. With premiums from Fairtrade farmers can implement environmental protection. Coffee farmers in Costa Rica have replanted native trees to prevent soil erosion and have purchased ovens that are fuelled by coffee hulls and the dried shells of macadamia nuts. In India tea farmers have invested part of the Fairtrade premium in a solar-powered heating system for the local health centre.

Interesting isn't it? Do contact me for Fairtrade info : Marion McAdam on: 641 316 [msm316@gmail](mailto:msm316@gmail.com)