

THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET SHIRENEWTON



Parishes of Shirenewton and Newchurch

Magazine

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	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
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	Ruth Savagar	641411
	Kath Wittington	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
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REC. BOOKING SECRETARY:	Beryl Saysell	641637
TRADCRAFT:	Marion McAdam	641316

Please send notes, discs or emails for the June magazine to Bob O'Keefe, 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) or email to bobandwenche@aol.com by Saturday 20th May for inclusion in the June Magazine.

May 2006.

Dear Parishioners,

He is risen. He is risen indeed. The great call of the Easter feast but what does it mean in today's world?

So many today are encouraged to scoff at the Christian message by a modern fad of assuming everything is pure spin. Why would anyone invent a story the outcome of which led them often to torture and death? Would you put your life on the line for a lie? The answer is a resounding no!

Easter with its filled eggs and gold wrapped bunnies offers a very different picture to the Christian one. The were no "all the king's horses and all the king's men putting a Humpty Dumpty Jesus together again. He was not in a coma only to wake up refreshed. His body was not stolen to make up a powerful story. What happened is a collision of God and this world's understanding of how things normally work. We are talking of the One who makes everything not abolishing death but making it a radical new beginning. We are the beginning of history.

ADAM	means Man
SETH	(is) appointed
ENOSH	mortal
KENAN	sorrow
MAHALALEEL	(but) the Blessed God
JARED	shall come down
ENOCH	teaching (that)
METHUSELAH	His death shall bring
LAMECH	(the) despairing
NOAH	rest."

The Bible and the Christian faith is full of surprises start exploring and enjoy.
With every good wish,
Hugh Trenchard.

God walked
Love talked
Anger crucified
Hope died
Love rose
Spirit flamed
Word spread
God remained.

There is another piece for thought from J John and Mark Stubble

“A Bucket of Surprises” –

“The Gospel message was hidden in the names of the first ten generations of humankind recorded in the earliest book of the Bible. – God’s provision for us from the beginning of history.

ADAM means Man
SETH (is) appointed
ENOSH mortal
KENAN sorrow
MAHALALEEL (but) the Blessed God
JARED shall come down
ENOCK teaching (that)
METHUSELAH His death shall bring
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NOAH rest.”

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With every good wish,
Hugh Trenchard.

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates for the next few weeks

DATE	TIME	VENUE
7th May	9.45	Sunday Club - The Chantry
14th May	9.45	Sunday Club - The Chantry
21st May	9.45	Family Service - The Church
28th May	9.45	Sunday Club - The Chantry
4th June	9.45	Sunday Club - The Chantry
11th June	9.45	Sunday Club - The Chantry

Shirenewton Sunday Club welcomes

all children from 3 years.

Do come and join us.

Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525

Glynis MacDonald 641 818

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

The winners of the March Draw were:-

176	Gloria Powell	£40
203	Winnie Jones	£30
167	Barbara Watson	£20
175	Auriol Horton	

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting held on 3rd. April 2006

The full Council was joined by Cllr. Graham Down and PC Andy Mason.

Police Report

PC Mason told us of a domestic garage break-in in the village in which a variety of garden tools and machinery were taken. An intruder was challenged at the Rhewl Farm on 11th March and at Hayes Gate Farm on 22nd March. Both incidents took place at 10:45 p.m. although it is not clear if it was the same intruder in each case. On 26th March a stolen vehicle was stopped in the village and several youths apprehended.

Matters Arising from the minutes of the previous meeting

The Memorial Monument in Shirenewton. The cleaning and re-etching of the stone is expected to be completed by 8th April.

The Mynyddbach Allotment Site. The question of ownership and responsibility for the site should allotments return remains unclear. A letter has been received detailing a range of potential objections to the allotments. Cllr. Moreton agreed to head a working group to look at the viability of the project. He will be helped by Cllr's Saysell, Harvey and Bushell.

The County Highways Department claim the vast amounts of spoil being dumped in the **lay-by at Gaerllwyd** is as a result of an increase in activity in Wentwood Forest. They confirm the lay-by will be cleared within the next month. Members were sceptical about their statement. There has been no significant increase in activity in or near the forest. It was also noted that most of the lay-bys in the County have been similarly used as dumps for waste material.

Repairs to equipment in the **Shirenewton Play Area** are expected to cost about £100-150. An estimate for painting the items in this area and the Mynyddbach Play Area is to be sought.

Cllr's Eede and Harvey and Mrs. Jones, the Clerk, are to lead our efforts in the **Best Kept Village competition**. They are likely to convene a public meeting in the Recreation Hall and ask for volunteers to take responsibility for various tasks. They ask that you give any support that you can.

The **Village Plan Questionnaire** is expected to be distributed during May and collected / returned during June.

Planning Matters

Four Applications were received for consideration.

They were for extensions at **(1) Tantivy, Usk Road, (2) Barn Farm, Newchurch, (3) The Hollies, Mynyddbach and (4) Marls Barn, Usk Road**. After considerable discussions members agreed to recommend all four Applications for approval.

A number of **alleged breaches of Planning Regulations** regarding developments at the **former Golf Club** were discussed.

It seems a retrospective Planning Application will be submitted for the elaborate entrance gateway to the converted ex-Clubhouse area.

Unbeknown to the Community Council, planning approval has apparently been given for the re-siting of the agricultural building that was part of the original Home Farm complex.

The developers deny claims that soil and waste material has been brought to the area from another site.

There have been complaints about unacceptable and inappropriate footpath gates and stiles erected by the developers on the site of the former golf course.

We were joined at 9:30 p.m. by Mr. Ian McFarlane. He gave a brief presentation on the correct Welsh spelling and meaning of Shirenewton. It would seem the present signs are incorrect. We believe the Highways Department are prepared to amend the signs.

Matters of Local Concern

Again none were raised or discussed.

The Clerk now places the minutes of each meeting on the Shirenewton Church website under Community Council matters.

The meeting closed at 10:30 pm.

The date of the next meeting, the Annual Meeting, was set as Monday 8th. May 2006. All members of the community are invited to attend.

Peter Jones

***Editors Note:** regrettably we hear that Mr. Peter Jones has resigned from the Community Council. We would like to thank Peter for his service on the Community Council for some seven years and for diligently providing us each month for the last four years with a regular account of the proceeding of the Community Council. We do hope that his successor will continue to provide this very informative, valuable and much appreciated contribution to the magazine.*

SHIRENEWTON AND MYNYDD BACH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Literature outlining in detail the system its aim and benefits is now being delivered to households by the various co-ordinators. Permanent 'Neighbourhood Watch Area' notices are being installed at various visible entry points to the two villages. Further copies of all the literature, and a regular Newsletter can be obtained from Tintern Police station that is open between 9 & 12 on weekdays.

When the literature has been delivered a voluntary contribution of £1.00 per household is sought. This is a one off charge and not an annual subscription. We would ask if you would kindly pay that sum to your local co-ordinator.

NEWS FROM THE RECREATION GROUND ASSOCIATION

Those of you who have been up to the Recreation Ground in Shirenewton over the past few months will have noticed a great deal of building work going. It's all part of our plan to improve, extend and enhance the facilities of our village hall.

We were able to begin our project by receiving two large grants last year – one grant was from M.C.C. to help us to install toilet facilities for the disabled and the other grant was from Article 33 which allowed us to carry out our plans to refurbish the other loos and the changing rooms and also to square off the building to create a room which could be used by all but which was particularly useful to the Shirenewton Local History Society as they needed somewhere to house their growing local archive material.

A good deal of the work has been done in these areas and we hope that this phase of the improvement plan will be completed by September.

However, as the building work progressed it became apparent that if we were to continue with our plans to extend the main room of the hall and to refurbish the kitchens, then further money was needed. A further grant was needed.. So at our AGM on Thursday 30th March, it was great to tell everyone present that we had just heard that we had been successful in acquiring a grant from CFAP. We are now in a strong financial position to complete the project and we hope that the second phase will be completed around March next year.

After the main business of the AGM was over, everyone was invited to have a glass of wine and to then visit the facilities.

Shirenewton Recreation Association is looking for a Cleaner to keep our new hall spick and span. Approximately 4 hours a week. Phone 641 818 for more details

The President told members about the Wales Conference that she had attended in Newport. Gwent Federation supplied an evening of entertainment the night before, and we were very proud to have Ruth Savagar and Barbara Ourbridge in the choir. Several of us went to this concert of music, drama, and dance, and enjoyed it immensely.

Four members and four guests enjoyed a **Q**uad-biking day this month, thereby fulfilling one more letter in the Activities Alphabet, and getting extremely muddy in the process.

At Shirenewton W.I. we have been very lucky recently, in being able to call upon several local people to talk about their experiences. This month we welcomed John Nicholas who was able to tell us about his experiences as a dentist. John's account of studying at Guy's Hospital in London, his subsequent time at that hospital as a qualified dentist, and his experiences setting up in practice in Newport and Chepstow were full of interesting detail. How many people know, for instance, that dental students were not permitted beards, but were permitted moustaches? John was able to draw some comparisons between dental practices when he first started, with the latest developments today. His wife needs a share in any royalties he makes in the future from these stories, as Ann seemed to feature in all the best dental jokes.

GAERLLWYD WOMEN'S MEETINGS: – AT GAERLLWYD BAPTIST CHAPEL

At 2.30 p.m. on the 3rd May we will hold our regular meeting.

At 2.30 on the 17th May we will listen to the Reverend Graham Moore.

WHIST DRIVES AT THE RECREATION HALL

29 players attended the April Drive (3 players were laid low by illness and unable to attend). The next Drives are on the 4th May and the 1st June.

We start at 7.30 p.m. promptly. New players are always welcome. It is a very pleasant venue particularly during the light summer months.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton -01291 641844.

SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS' UNION

We were very sorry that our Guest Speaker, Mrs. Jean Hackett, had to cancel her visit to us in April as her Mother had fallen and been taken to hospital on the day of our meeting. However the 12 members who attended were treated to a very interesting account of Rosemary Carey's story of her early life in East Africa and we are grateful to her for standing in at very short notice. On Tuesday, 9th May we will be taking part in the Deanery Festival at St. Mary's Chepstow. The Service starts at 2.30 p.m. There will be no branch meeting at Shirenewton on the 10th May. In June we will meet in Church on the 14th at 2.30 p.m. and our Speaker will be Mrs. Ann Mills who will talk to us about Poetry in Worship. Visitors (and prospective members) will be welcome to join us then.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton (Branch Leader) – 01291 641844

FAIRTRADE NEWS

Could the environment and global warming really become issues at the top of the political agenda? This is, of course, a question a lot of people have been asking for nigh on 20 years! But perhaps . . . now!

When considering the impact of fairly traded goods it is important not to overlook the Fair Trade Mark's commitment to the environment which is a central element in the criteria for awarding the mark. I particularly remember the positive practices required for fair trade status to be given to banana production: fewer (or no in the case of organic bananas) pesticides and fertilisers and their use to be carefully monitored to safeguard the crop the plantation and the workers, a requirement to clear up the plastic routinely used to protect the growing fruit: the lowest possible prices demanded traditionally by supermarkets gave no time or opportunity for these apparently non-necessary tasks resulting in a degraded and possibly dangerous environment. Fair trade also stresses the sustainability of production.

These considerations of course come with the more traditionally understood commitments of Fair Trade to a reasonable wage, fairer conditions for workers and all the other positives.

On Tuesday evening a group is meeting in Chepstow hoping to gain the town its Fair Trade status joining the 100+ communities who have already achieved this and the 200+ who are working towards it! There is a lot of interesting info at www.fairtrade.org.uk (including how to gain the status of a Fairtrade church!) There are Traidcraft catalogues at our local Spar or contact me for details
Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

PYP– Parish Youth Page

Hiya Folks,

Along with the rest of the country, we pooches want to wish the Queen a very happy Eightieth Birthday. I wonder what the Royal Corgis gave her. It must be so difficult to give HRH something different, something special. I've been yapping to Dizzy, Hazel, Ella and all my other friends and Beany came up with a shopping list of suitable presents.

Trouble is I can't understand Beany's spelling. Help me out will you?

- 1 A ddummy wap lowet
- 2 A llew weechd nobe
- 3 An lod nisten lalb
- 4 Omes odg usci-bits
- 5 A logd leaf shrub
- 6 A ewn slap-tic doof shid
- 7 A ewn odg klabnet orf her deb
- 8 A eyrv glon kwal

. I hope the Royal Corgis also woke up nice and early and gave HRH a great rousing yapping and barking dawn-dog chorus of 'Happy Woofday'

See ya

PYP

1st SHIRENEWTON GUIDES

Guides are preparing to meet up again after the Easter holiday. We will be starting the term with a western theme party being organised by one of our Patrols - get out and dust off that Stetson! Towards the end of last term we started to prepare for camp season by practising lashings and bedding rolls. We have also looked at camp menus and budgeting which produced some interesting results!

We tried to end the term on a high note by venturing out on a night hike. We met up at St. Arvans church and made our way via Rogerstone Grange and Pen y Parc into Chepstow Park Woods. After the steep climb we had a break at the viewpoint and made use of "Les's seat". When our family first moved to the area I was introduced to many local walks by Les, a volunteer Wye Valley warden who was a font of knowledge, had huge patience with children and a wicked sense of humour. He would have approved of our noisy party! Here we also took time out for Koala to take her Promise as a Leader and then Emma (her daughter) to make her Promise as a Guide. Unfortunately we will be losing them both soon as a work move will relocate them back to Yorkshire. After our break we made our way through the woods in the gathering darkness to end up in Devauden. Well done to our navigators Caroline and Clara who were given the task with no warning and coped admirably.

Yours in Guiding

Kestrel Helen Cann tel. 01291 650835
Kitten Amanda Turner
Koala Rachel Gough
Zebra Tracey Ashton

BROWNIE REPORT

CHOCOHOLICS

The spring term ended with a meeting organised by the young leaders, Alice and Becky, which is always lots of fun - even more so when it involves chocolate!. The evening saw the Brownies competing in 'Smartie' relay races, dressing in strange clothes for the Mars Bar game and Alys amazing us all by getting all the questions right in the chocolate quiz (even the ones the leaders couldn't answer!). The evening ended with the traditional Easter egg hunt - which is always entertaining - mainly because the leaders can never quite remember where the Easter Bunny said she left all the eggs!

We're all looking forward to the summer evenings and lots of outdoor activities.

Jackie Broughton - Guider in Charge -

THE CHURCH FETE

Preparations are now well in hand for this years Annual Village Fete in aid St. Thomas A Becket Church's funds. Funds the Church badly needs not only for the planned extension, but to meet the every day running and maintenance costs.

In addition to the usual attractions the Fete Committee have managed once again to organise some new attractions that it is hoped will add to the interest and entertainment of what we are told is one of the finest village fetes in the County. It is also a great village social get-together.

Following the Fete, once again there will be a dance and supper at the Huntsman Hotel, see the advertisement for details.

All those who have kindly offered to organise and help run stalls are invited to the next Fete meeting on the evening of Friday 12th May at 8.000 o/c at The Huntsman Hotel.

COFFEE MORNING IN AID OF VELINDRE HOSPITAL

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TOO A COFFEE MORNING

AT

21 CLEARVIEW, SHIRENEWTON

ON

20TH MAY FROM 10 A.M. – 12.00

**AT £1.00 PER PERSON INCLUDING COFFEE AND
WELSH CAKES**

BRING AND BUY, RAFFLE PLANTS AND MORE

FOR FURTHER DETAILS RING

MRS. B. BOWEN ON 641235

Kids Ad Lib

Present

Merlin and the Legend of Treenwyd

A Tale of Mystery Magic and

Misunderstandings

Thursday 22nd June

Friday 23rd June

Saturday 24th June

at

Earlswood Hall

For more details ring:

Glynis MacDonald 641818

**Come and see 70 local young people in this
world premier production!**

Shirenewton PTA

Spring has sprung!

Time to clear out all of the clutter from
Your cupboards!
In preparation for our

Car Boot Sale

On

Saturday 13th May

At

Shirenewton Primary School

2 - 4 p.m.

£5 a car

ST PETER'S CHURCH, NEWCHURCH

We would like to thank all those who attended our Music and Poetry evening on the 23rd of March.

Grateful thanks are also due to John Waters who oversaw the "proceedings" with his usual good humour and professionalism.

Everyone who attended said how much they enjoyed the evening and the refreshments that followed.

Fortunately the Newchurch weather was kind to us and the church was virtually full.

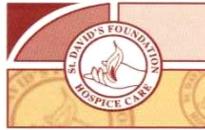
The generous proceeds were added to the Tower Restoration Fund.

Christian Aid Week Sunday 14th May - 21st May

THE CRY OF THE CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTOR

It's horrible knocking on people's front door

Explaining the reason you're there
Handing the little red envelope over
Shuffling and waiting to help the world's poor.
We'd rather go organise raffles.
A soup kitchen or just write a cheque.
It old fashioned and not cost effective.
Indeed, it's a pain in the neck
We know you support loads of charities
The Lifeboats and Red Cross and more
But spare us a thought and a couple of quid
To help fight the poverty war.



St. DAVID'S FOUNDATION HOSPICE CARE

April 2006

Annual Severn Bridge Walk

Sunday May 7th will see St. David's Foundation Hospice Care's and St. Anne's Hospice's annual Severn Bridge Walk. The charities are inviting local people to join in and support their local hospice services.

At 5 miles, the walk is difficult enough to be challenging, but still easy enough so that people can take part without any special training. People of all ages and abilities are welcome to take part, entry is free and we are looking for participants to raise as much sponsorship as possible. There will also be a prize for best fancy best dress.

Walking is a great form of exercise; brisk walking burns around 150 calories per half hour, as well as boosting energy levels and reducing stress.

The sponsorship money raised on the walk will help St. David's provide care and support to people across our local communities.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact the St. David's Foundation Fundraising Department on 01633 271364 for an application form.

For further media information, please contact:

Julie Hilton

St. David's Foundation

Tel: 01633 271364

Some Notes on Cancer in Wales:

1. Each year, over 15,000 people are diagnosed with cancer in Wales and over 8,000 will die of the disease (source: Welsh Cancer Surveillance Unit).
2. St David's Foundation Hospice Care provides free specialist care to 2,000 people with cancer or other life-threatening illnesses and their families in the counties of Newport, Monmouthshire, Caerphilly and Torfaen.
3. St David's Foundation Hospice Care was founded in 1979 after local Heulwen Egerton and others were concerned that Gwent people had no access to local hospice care and raised funds.
4. Today St David's Foundation Hospice Care provides its services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and includes:
 - A team of 38 nurses, including clinical nurse specialists and hospice at home nurses, helping people remain in their homes for their care and working alongside NHS practitioners
 - Two day hospices in Torfaen and Caerphilly
 - A family support team
 - An in-patient bedded unit
 - A complementary therapy service
 - A resource centre in Chepstow
5. £3.4 million worth of services are provided free to the local community, with 80% of funds raised through public donations.

Church Fete Page

Post fete Hop

STARGAZING IN MAY '06

The seven bright stars of the constellation of the Plough are overhead in mid-evening. Its classical name is Ursa Major, the Great Bear. The W-shape of Cassiopeia lies to the North. Both of these constellations are called circumpolar because they never set below our horizon. Leo the Lion which can be seen in the southerly sky is further from the North Star and is below the horizon during the Summer.

The very bright planet Jupiter lies low to the South. Saturn lies in the West in the evening sky and is yellowish in colour. As Mars travels further away in its orbit it is becoming fainter and lies to the West, to the lower right of Saturn. It's in line with the bright pair of stars called Castor and Pollux in the constellation of Gemini, the Twins. The planet Venus is a brilliant Morning Star, rising in the east at around 4 in the morning. The morning of 24th May sees a stunning sight in the dawn twilight, with the crescent Moon lying directly above Venus.

Comets are very unpredictable. Comet Schwassmann-Wachmann 3 may be visible as a fuzzy blob on the night of 12/13 May in the constellation of Cygnus. Cygnus, the Swan is shaped like a cross and is in a North-Easterly direction. But no promises! Its wonderful name means it was the third comet spotted by two astronomers called Schwassmann and Wachmann before anybody else saw them.

An illustrated version of this article can be found at :

<http://www.uskastronomicalsociety.org.uk/index.htm>

Dave Thomas

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEB SITE

Planning holidays, re-furnishing, buying software or games, hardware and tools, books and music, making business travel arrangements, hotels, flights, airport parking – don't forget they can all be booked through the Church Website. Many of the companies shown will enable you to make substantial savings, and the Church will benefit at no cost to you.

Please use it: - www.shirenewtonchurch.com

THE BELLS, THE BELLS

For the Queen's 80th birthday on Friday 21st April the bells were rung from 5.00 p.m. until 8 p.m. Shirenewton Bell Ringing Team were joining in with the nation-wide ringing celebration as requested by the palace.

Shirenewton junior ringers are active members of the KIDS. RING. OUT. A group of young ringers within the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association of Church Bell ringers. This group has just won The Worshipful Company of Founders' 2006 Prize for the encouragement of young ringers. The prize is £500 and will be awarded by the Master of the Ancient Society of College youths and a representative from the Bell Founders' company. We are hoping this event will take place on July 1st at St. Woolos Cathedral in Newport. The kids rung out some quarter peals in celebration. Over Easter the Llandaff and Monmouth D.A.C.B.R. hired a mobile belfry and took in to St Fagan's Museum of Welsh Life for 3 days. Over 1000 visitors tried their hands on the ropes over the weekend.

The belfry was accompanied by a display including contact details for visitors in their home areas. Pip spent the whole 3 days over there in her capacity as Public Relations Officer for the Association. Charles and Claire joined us on the Sunday and had a picnic lunch with their family and French exchange student. The little bells are difficult to handle but this did not prove a problem for Claire, next time we looked around she was giving her Mum a lesson on the ropes!

A LITTLE MORE OF THE HISTORY ON EARLSWOOD AND NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL CONTINUED FROM LAST MONTH

In those early days and for many years following there was a full programme of entertainment organised by the Entertainment Committee, which included Whist drives, Women's Clubs, concerts dances, annual fete, gardening club, etc. These took place regularly, some weekly. The dance brought in crowds, many travelling from outside villages by bus. A crowded hall with no bar. One of the rules of the time being no alcoholic drinks, but the people still came time after time.

Below is the programme for the Earlswood & Newchurch West Fete in 1954.

EARLSWOOD & NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL

A Grand Autumn Fayre

Will be opened in the above Hall at 3 p.m.

On Saturday October 16th. 1954

Various Attractive Side-shows

Including: ~Bran Tub, Wheel of Fortune, Darts, Skittl
The Donkey, Craft, Bottle and Lemonade Stalls, etc.etc.

HOME CRAFT COMPETITIONS (Open to all)

1. Best six welsh Cakes.
2. Best six Jam Tarts.
3. Best Pot of Home-made Jam.
4. Best Floral Decoration.
5. Open to school children only) Best Miniature Garden.

Prizes in the above classes ~ First Prize: 4/- (20p)
Second Prize 2/- (10p)

Entries take at The Fayre.

Fee for each entry: ~ 3d (1-1/2p)

Refreshments at moderate charges.

Prize Draw will take place during the afternoon.

Admission: - Sixpence (2-1/2p)

Admission Tickets with lucky No.

Available only before Oct. 15th.

CHILDREN ~ Watch out for the special visitor.

The Fayre Dance will follow 8.30 to 12 p.m.

It is good when Newchurch West is not left out of the hall title, as when one thinks of the efforts made by many from that area and of course the first concert in the Hall was given by the children of the Newchurch West School

Once again our thanks to Mrs. Isabel Morgan for this piece of local history.

In Honour of Stupid People

In case you needed further proof that the human race is doomed through stupidity; here are some actual label instructions on consumer goods.

On a Sears hairdryer -- Do not use while sleeping.

On a bag of Fritos -- You could be a winner! No purchase necessary, coupon inside pack.

On a bar of Dial soap -- "Directions: Use like regular soap."

On some Swanson frozen dinners -- "Serving suggestion: Defrost."
(But, it's "just" a suggestion.)

On Tesco's Tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom) -- "Do not turn upside down." (Whoops - a bit late, huh!)

On Marks & Spencer Bread Pudding -- "Product will be hot after heating."

On packaging for a Rowenta iron -- "Do not iron clothes on body."
(But wouldn't this save me more time?)

On Boot's Children Cough Medicine -- "Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication."

On Nytol Sleep Aid -- "Warning: May cause drowsiness."

On most brands of Christmas lights -- "For indoor or outdoor use only."
(as opposed to...what?)

On a Japanese food processor -- "Not to be used for the other use."
(now, somebody out there, help me on this. I'm a bit curious.)

On Sainsbury's peanuts -- "Warning: contains nuts."

On an American Airlines packet of nuts -- "Instructions: Open packet, eat nuts."

On a child's Superman costume -- "Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly." (I don't blame the company. I blame the parents for this one.)

On a Swedish chainsaw -- "Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands or genitals." (Oh help me was this really happening somewhere?)

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

At our March meeting we were given a very interesting talk on 'The Gwent Levels in the Roman Period' by Ian McFarlane. We thank Ian for standing in at very short notice when our scheduled speaker was unable to attend.

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

We have recently launched our web site so 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 25th April-Faerie Lore in C18th Monmouthshire by Frank Olding at 7.30pm Huntsman Hotel

Wednesday 10th May-Resources Session with Dorothy Brabon 2.00 p.m. at the Recreation Hall

Sunday 21st May- Rogation Sunday walk enacting the ancient ritual of beating the Bounds. Meet at Shirenewton Church at 2.00 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the Church following the walk.

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Answers to Pyp's quiz

The Royal Corgi's Birthday List for Suitable Presents for
H.R.H is finally unscrambled.

- 1 A muddy paw towel
- 2 A well chewed bone
- 3 An old tennis ball
- 4 Some dog biscuits
- 5 A gold flea brush
- 6 A new plastic food dish
- 7 A new dog blanket for her bed
- 8 A very long walk

Cookery Corner

Mayonnaise really is very easy to make – in fact it takes all of 3 – 4 minutes. Make sure the bowls and whisks are dry.

Whisk two egg yolks with about a flat dessertspoon of Dijon mustard – keep whisked up and add enough oil (I use sunflower oil) until the mixture is as thick as you want it. Add either a squeeze of lemon juice or a dash of wine vinegar and season.

For a sauce for prawns, add extra lemon, dashes of cream, tomato sauce and Tabasco sauce.

For tartare sauce, chop up capers, gherkins, parsley and a pinch of turmeric. I actually use my own pickled cucumbers and hasbean.

Cumberland Sauce:

Rind and juice two oranges & one lemon.

1/2 lb. Red -currant jelly; 2 wine glasses of port;

1/2 tea-spoon of ginger; pinch cayenne and salt.

Use a potato peeler to peel the fruit and cut into thin match-stick strips and blanch in boiling water for 5 minutes, drain off.

Melt the jelly and add the port, fruit juices, spices and boil for 15 minutes, add the peel and heat through.

Serve hot or cold.

Thanks again to Caroline Davies



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Gardening Corner

My apologies to those of you who might have wondered whether I have been suffering from verbal diarrhoea over the last few months! I hadn't realised that a computer problem (it can hardly be me after all!) had meant that you have been subject to some three and a half pages of "Gardening Corner" instead of the normal two. I was beginning to think that it was me getting slower on the keyboard – not that I was writing twice as much! Never mind back to gardening.

Well it has certainly been an upsy, dupsy sort of year so far on the weather front. With bitterly cold weather continuing well into April the garden came to a sudden halt. Our first daffodil opened on the 23rd March and not the usual 1st and I'm sure everything else just said, "blow it" and assumed it was winter again. Fortunately I was miles behind with seed sowing and working the raised beds, but this looks as though it will be a blessing in disguise! Any earlier and the young plants would have been spoiling in the greenhouse as there was no way that they could be moved outside or planted in the ground. As it is things are looking good. The first vegetable plants are now in their individual cells and will be ready for planting out at the end of this month. More tender specimens such as tomatoes, melons, cucumbers and sweet corn have been potted on into larger square pots and hopefully they will be content there until it is time for planting out in the tunnel and greenhouse beds. There are still one or two late seeds to sow on the hot bench but otherwise this task is all but done for another year. The under gardener has been strutting her stuff and managed to keep pretty well up to date with her pricking out duties. At the moment both greenhouses are full to the brim with young plants so lets hope that the weather now begins to warm up a bit.

In the flower garden a week of dry weather has meant that the annual chore of weeding the beds could start in earnest. There is a long way to go yet, but it is satisfying to see nice clean beds, freshly dug over. What we don't want now is some warm and wet weather as this will mean that the weeds will start to grow again and it will be like painting the Forth Road Bridge. By the time we get to the end it will be time to start all over again! As usual the under gardener is going in front and cutting down all the old growth, with the "boss" following on behind weeding and digging. I have now got a mountain of horse manure up the field that will be attacked with vigour shortly and spread over the flowerbeds as we go. I have a feeling that this summer may turn out to be a dry one so the need for feeding and mulching will be more important than ever. Initial indications are that we appear to have lost quite a few plants in the borders, although at this time of year it is often misleading

quite a few plants in the borders, although at this time of year it is often misleading as young plants soon grow into big and what you think is a large open space just disappears. I have a lot of new plants waiting in the wings to go in the gaps, but I am resisting the temptation to plant them at the moment. I love to see borders bulging with as many flowers as possible but I'm sure I lose some as a result of them being suffocated by other, more vigorous varieties.

I did manage to cut some hazel sticks from a hedging job that I did the other week and put these, wigwam style, into one of the raised beds. I had managed to keep my autumn sown sweet peas free from the attentions of field mice this winter and these are now planted at the base of the each wigwam. I usually use bamboo canes for this job, but the sweet peas never seem to grow up them very well as they rely on twining leaves as opposed to stems, like runner beans. The hazel sticks look much more the part, very rustic, and with rough bark, hopefully the peas will get a better grip and grow skywards unlike the usual effort, which is horizontal to the ground, unless they are continually tied up!

The spell of dry weather has allowed me to get the first raised beds in the vegetable patch sorted out and planted up. Most of the over-wintered garlic and onions have survived but aren't looking too happy. I have mentioned that these onions are best used in the kitchen straight from the ground, as they don't keep very well. I have therefore planted some sets this last week that will hopefully mature a little later and should keep well into the winter if stored properly. I have also managed to sow the first seeds so most of the carrots, all the parsnips and the first of the radish and beetroot are now, hopefully, germinating away in the ground. I intend to erect a barrier to try and stop the carrot root fly doing any damage this year so I'll let you know how things go. This spell also meant that I could get the potatoes in as well. This year I only bought one lot of first earlies and another variety of French salad potatoes. I received delivery of the asparagus crowns I have been waiting for as well just before Easter. Unlike the first lot that I planted from a firm in Suffolk these were lovely plump crowns with really strong growing buds already showing so I am hoping for great things. The first were pretty rotten before they went into the ground and I think it was wishful thinking on my part that they would survive and grow. Two out of twenty did, but at twenty-five pounds I should have followed my first instinct and complained. Too late now me thinks! I did complain later when I ordered some fruit trees and blueberries from the same company and they sent me a five-pound voucher. As the blueberries have rotted off anyway I'm still out of pocket. Lesson learnt is not to use them again!

You may remember that I planted peach and apricot trees in the tunnel. These are now in full flower and need pollinating. I did try and persuade the under gardener to go around dusting the flowers with a rabbit tail, but this fell on stony ground. Fortunately one of the cats had bought a bunny back that they had caught and after all three cats had fought over which was going to have dinner there was only a tail left. All very convenient and just what was required. I'm not sure whether it was just the thought of the tail that but the under gardener off or just idleness? I'll have to think of an equally therapeutic job for her to do! The trees are planted in raised beds and to make best use of these I am going to plant the rest of these with strawberries. The beds need topping with manure but there is little room left without removing some of the soil that I am loath to do. Instead I have decided to bolt another three-inch wide piece of timber to the edges to raise these up and then fill the extra space with manure. I have a drip water system that will then be spread around the bed to water both the trees and strawberries and once the latter have been planted I intend to cover the whole bed with ground cover to stop weeds growing, keep the strawberries clean and keep moisture in. We won't get much fruit this year but hopefully next will be another thing. With a new tunnel cover due to go on and new doors it will hopefully mean that we will have a bumper crop of early berries. We will just have to eagerly anticipate them for another year so lets hope that the wait is worth it and that they taste better than ever! Blow, its started raining now so that is the weeding put on hold for a few days – what was it I said about the Forth road bridge! Never mind, back to the greenhouses and a bit more potting on. At least it means that I can keep an eye on that under gardener and make sure she is pulling her weight!

Happy gardening until next month. **Steve Hunt**

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 4th May Whist Drive – The Recreation Hall – 7.30**
- 8th May Community Council AGM The Recreation Hall 7.30 p.m.**
- 12th May Church Fete Committee meeting – The Huntsman 8.00**
- 23rd May Neighbourhood Watch Meeting the Huntsman Hotel 7.30**
- 20th May Coffee Morning – 21 Clearview – 10.00 a.m. on**
- 27th May Wind in the Willows at Itton Hall – 3.00 p.m.**
- 12th May Fete Committee Meeting Huntsman Hotel 8.00 p.m.**
- 10th June Church Fete – The Recreation Field from 2.00 p.m.**
- 16th June Fete Helpers get-together at the Church – 7.30 p.m.**

Readers & Sides Persons