

**THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET  
SHIRENEWTON**



**Parishes of Shirenewton and Newchurch**

**Magazine**

**Readers and Sides Persons for September 2006**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>READER</b>	<b>SIDES PERSON</b>
3rd Sept	12th After Trinity	Sally Saysell Mike Barnes	Andrew Baker Mike Barnes
10th Sept	13th After Trinity	Bob Grattan Barbara Davies	Bernice Bowen Bob Grattan
17th Sept	14th After Trinity	Margaret Lock Auriol Horton	Auriol Horton Margaret Lock
24th Sept	15th After Trinity	<b>Harvest Festival – Family Service</b>	
1st Oct	16th After Trinity	Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds	Alistair Bounds Kevin Bounds

**Newchurch Every Sunday at 2.30 p.m.**

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

**NAMES TO NOTE**

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

**SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

7th Sept	Whist Drive – The Recreation Hall – 7.30 p.m.
7th Sept	Circuit Training Sessions –Restart at Earlswood Hall – 7.00 p.m.
10th Sept	Sunday Club – new term starts – 9.45 a.m. The Chantry.
13th Sept	Local History Society – Resource session – 2.00 The Rec. Hall.
16th Sept	Shirenewton – New Recreation Hall 'Open day'.
16th Sept	Newchurch – September Fayre – St Per's Newchurch.
17th Sept	"Casanova" at Itton Village Hall. (See block advert for tickets)
24th Sept	Shirenewton Church –Harvest Festival & Lunch.
26th Sept	Local History Society meeting – The Huntsman 7.30
2nd Oct	Community Council – 7.30 p.m. Recreation Hall.
3rd Oct	S.O.D's – Panto meeting 7.00 p.m. Earlswood Memorial Hall.
5th Oct	St Peter's – Newchurch – Harvest Festival.
7th Oct	St Peter's – Newchurch – Choral Evening with the Dean Singers.

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Please send notes, discs or emails for the October magazine to Bob O'Keefe at: 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) or email to bobandwenche@aol.com by Wednesday 20th September for inclusion in the October magazine.

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September 2006.

Dear Parishioners,

Some places are quiet but here within our four parishes no one told us and the summer has been marked with so many delightful occasions and filled with so much energy and joy. Llanfair and the garden party at Pen Hein, Caerwent, in roasting sunshine at Ty Melys, Shirenewton with the "Wheeler Three" and an exhausting but fruitful £8000 bike ride and following Bernice's £1000 for Velindre, Ruth Savagar raised £520 for St David's Foundation and Thelma More £775 for Marie Curie, while 14year old Kate & 13 year old Maddie Stanley raised £1155 running the Potters Half Marathon with her uncle and grandfather for Cancer Research UK. As if that were not enough the Alpha Supper in Caerwent was a great success and the course will begin mid September. To cap it all the weather smiled on the Caerwent Show where the Sunday Club re-taught us the story of Noah accompanied by a donkey, a camel and a family of Llamas.

I must also mark the retirement of Emlyn Powell from the University in Caerleon he has been and will continue to be a faithful and respected contributor to the life of the Parishes and his work and skill as organist we too often take for granted. We shall be sad to lose Richard and Rosemary Parsons, this might be the last public opportunity to thank both of them for their contribution to the life of Llanfair Church and in Richard's case to the sterling work he has put in to the affairs of all four Churches. We wish them well for their future. I know Bob O'Keefe would want to thank all those who helped put the last magazine to bed whilst he was in hospital particularly Stu Dutton. I may have missed someone or something if so please accept an advance apology.

No one can fail to have been deeply concerned after the alleged plot to cause mayhem in the skies. I know many either lost or had their holiday spoilt, others their businesses disrupted. We worry, too, when panic takes over and fear caused discrimination and suspicion. It has been heart-warming and hopeful to see the Muslim community in Cardiff and Bristol provide opportunity for fun and understanding in gatherings last weekend. One of the central tenets of Islam is "to show mercy to every living creature". Extremists of any religion can and often do attract more publicity than anyone else. The example Jesus

and do attract more publicity than anyone else. The example Jesus leaves us is brilliantly summed up in a passage I came across the other day.

A true believer is:

Strong enough to be weak,  
Successful enough to fail,  
Wise enough to say "I don't know."  
Serious enough to laugh,  
Rich enough to be poor,  
Right enough to say "I'm wrong."  
Mature enough to be childlike,  
Planned enough to be spontaneous,  
Controlled enough to be flexible,  
Free enough to endure captivity,  
Knowledgeable enough to ask questions,  
Loving enough to be angry,  
Great enough to be anonymous  
, Responsible enough to play,  
Assured enough to be rejected,  
Stable enough to cry,  
Victorious enough to lose.

### **SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB**

The winners of the draw for July / August were:

Number		
42	Liz Drake	£40
47	Noelyn Prout	£30
169	Wendy Baker	£30
122	Kevin Bounds	£10

Hopefully the birds keep well away until they ripen. Talking of birds it has been very weird in this respect this year. Regular readers will know that I pitch a never ending battle against birds (especially blackbirds and jays) and squirrels. The netting on the fruit cage had been completely trashed last year by squirrels and I bought wire netting earlier on this year to replace the hole ridden net. Not surprisingly I didn't get around to putting this on before it was too late yet when the crops were ripening I didn't see one single squirrel of blackbird in the cage, despite all the holes! The same is holding true with the other fruit trees as well, as bird damage seems to be minimal at present. I can't believe that it is down to the three cats being on the prowl all the time!

Results in the vegetable garden needless to say have also been up and down.

Early crops fared well and we had excellent results from lettuce, courgettes, beans and peas that were ready before the heat. Runner beans and broad beans started well but then faded as the flowers fell off due to lack of rain. We are picking small handfuls now and then but we won't be embarrassed with beans this year! Carrots have been a complete waste of time and even the experiment of using French seed has failed! Never mind try again next year! Salad crops have been a bit of a mixed bag. Early lettuces for example were good but later ones just couldn't stand the heat and were burnt in situ. The cucumbers started well and we were picking every day lovely mini sized fruits, but then red spider mites took hold and turned the leaves to papery shells almost over night. This spread to a couple of neighbouring melons, but having stripped the cucumbers out of the greenhouse, these appear to be recovering a little. In the tunnel the tomatoes have been doing well and we have been picking cherry toms for a long time. The plum toms are just coming but seem to be taking forever. This was French seed again so maybe we need to have a re-think and try "local" seed. The peppers and melons seem to have enjoyed the heat experience though and we are steadily working our way through these. We made our first batch of tomato soup this week, which was rather lush! Apart from the celery and stock cube all the ingredients came from the garden. When you sit down and savour such things is the time that you reap your reward for all the hard work that has gone into the garden.

It's still raining outside so nothing to be done apart from watering the tunnel! I will sit down later and thumb through a couple of seed catalogues. I need to order the garlic and onion sets for over-wintering. The raised bed is already prepared and the sets will be planted in early October. I recently dug up all the garlic bulbs from last years' effort along with the last of the onions. Both have been getting picked steadily through the summer and this is the best way of using them, as only the garlic will keep until the end of the year. Well must get on. Happy gardening until next month.

**Steve Hunt.**

## GARDENING CORNER

Normally at this time of year there is plenty of colour in the garden with heleniums, crocosmia, asters and dahlias still in full bloom. Not so this year here at Barn Farm. The exceptionally hot, dry weather has completely killed, in some cases literally, the efforts of many of the flowering plants. Everything was going well until the hot spell in July that saw plants blooming and either scorching or wilting in the heat. One neighbour commented on how much she was looking forward to her prize collection of roses coming out in bloom, only to see them flower and finish in three days! Instead the garden is very tired and dull looking, but there is little that can be done. The under gardener has been busy cutting back the herbaceous geraniums as this will allow them to shoot out again and allow a degree of re-blooming. Other than that it will be a bit of tidying up and forgetting things for this year. It would be all too easy to give up gardening altogether at this stage but it pays to persevere as the rewards can be good, sometimes very good.

The same problem was repeated elsewhere in the garden. In the fruit cage we had a good crop of raspberries set and these were really looking well. They did start to fill and ripen nicely but as the ground water started to evaporate away so did the fruit and many ended up being scorched on the canes. It is the sort of year that if you grew grapes you would end up with sultanas! The same was repeated for all of the cane fruits and even some of the blackberries, which normally ripen early September, blackened and then burnt in the July sun. Normally I wouldn't be ready to cut the old raspberry canes down and tie the new ones in until autumn time but this will be done now at the first opportunity. Usually by this time of year the new canes are so lush and long that you have to struggle to get into the fruit cage, but this isn't the case, as lack of water has reduced them all to probably two-thirds their normal size.

The fruit trees have been a bit of a mixture when it comes to success and a lot will depend on how much rain we get over the coming days. At the moment it is thundering and lightening as I write this. Good job I'm working "off-line" as the storm is right over the top at present. It is very reminiscent of the storms we have experienced in France. No doubt a sign of the times. Fruit trees, yes now what have we had with them? Well for the first time ever we picked several large pots of cherries. These were lovely and juicy and sweet, but then we did pick them before the heat-wave really started. We have just started picking the first plums and these have also proved to be very good. There is a bumper crop of apples and pears and this is where it will be essential for some rain now. At the moment many are smaller than they should be but will fill over the coming few weeks if conditions are right. In hindsight I should have removed more of the fruit early on but just didn't get the time. Normally the "June drop" would help in this task. This is the natural phenomenon when small fruit-lets drop off the trees and usually leave you with nothing! In one or two cases the crop has been so heavy that the tree itself has been damaged under the weight with branches breaking, or in one case the tree falling over. The one tree that has benefited from the heat has been the fig at the back of the garage. This wall is almost south facing and no doubt temperatures here would have exceeded 100 degrees on each sunny day in July. This has really grown away and has a wealth of figs on it at present. Hopefully the birds will keep well away until they ripen. Talking of birds it has been very weird in this re-

## SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates to the end of term

DATE	TIME	VENUE
Sep 10	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
17	9.45	Sunday Club and Outing TBA
24	9.45	Family Harvest Festival - Church
Oct 1	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
8	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
15	9.45	Family Service - Church
22	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
29	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
Nov 5	9.45	Sunday Club – The Chantry
12	10.45	Remembrance Service – War Memorial
19	9.45	Nativity Rehearsal The Chantry
26	9.45	Nativity Rehearsal The Chantry
Dec 3	9.45	Nativity Rehearsal and Advent Mini Fair
10	9.45	Nativity Rehearsal The Chantry
17	9.45	Nativity Rehearsal The Chantry
22	tba	Nursing Home Nativity - tba
24	9.45	Nativity Dress Rehearsal - Church
24	4 pm	Nativity and Christingle - Church
Jan 7	3 pm	Sunday Club Party – Earlswood Hall

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

***Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525***

***Glynis MacDonald 641 818***

## A Few Dates for Your Diaries.....

..... *I know it's difficult to believe - but Glynis and Jane have been doing a bit of forward planning for once. However, whether they'll live up to these expectations is another matter.....!*

- |        |       |   |
|--------|-------|---|
| 17 Sep | 11ish | <b>Joint Sunday Club Outing</b> after church<br><i>Not sure where we're going yet..... Gynis's garden is nice at this time of year I'm told</i>   |
| 24 Sep | 9.45  | <b>Family Harvest Festival</b> A short service followed by the Harvest Lunch.<br><i>Don't forget to bring your harvest goodies to the service</i>   |
| 12 Nov | 10.45 | <b>Remembrance Parade and Service</b><br><i>This will start at the War Memorial and then continue in church. We hope all the uniform brigades will be able to come.</i>                                 |
| 19 Nov | 9.45  | <b>1st Nativity Rehearsal</b><br><i>There are only six rehearsals so please make a big effort to come to all of them if you'd like to be in it. (See "Sunday Club Dates" for other rehearsal dates)</i> |
| 3 Dec  | 11ish | <b>Advent Mini Fair</b><br><i>Sunday Club will be holding this fair in church after the service to raise money for the Tigers Club.</i>   |
| 17 Dec | 5 pm  | <b>Village Carols Around the Christmas Tree</b><br><i>Held in the Tredegar Arms car park for about three quarters of an hour.</i>   |
|        | 7 pm  | <b>Group Carol Service</b> Caerwent Church  |
| 24 Dec | 9.45  | <b>Nativity Dress Rehearsal</b> in church<br><i>there will be no morning service</i>  |
|        | 4 pm  | <b>Service of Nativity and Christingle</b> in church  |
| 25 Dec | 9.45  | <b>Christmas Family Service</b> led by Rev Nansi  |
| 7 Jan  | 3 pm  | <b>Joint Sunday Club Party</b><br><i>probably at Earlswood Hall</i>   |

## SATURDAY JULY 14<sup>th</sup>:

*Mendelssohn's "ELIJAH"*  
CCS Orchestra  
Charlotte Ives (soprano) Sian Menna (alto)  
Christopher Bowen (tenor) Edward Price (bass)  
St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow

Tickets are available for all concerts through Chepstow Bookshop, and choir members. The Society is grateful to everyone who in any way is helping to "spread the choral word" and thus enabling programmes such as above to be performed in Chepstow.

## Itton Village Hall – 'The Night Out Scheme'

*Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2006*

*7.30 pm*

*Casanova*

*Presented by the international touring group Ophaboom – described in one press report as the theatre's answer to The Simpsons. 4 half-masked characters give a performance of thwarted love, unpaid debts and daring deception in a scandalous and scurrilous manner. Not for children!*

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Refreshments. Raffle. Ample parking . disabled facilities.

*Supported by the Arts Council for Wales*



**MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL**

**Chepstow Choral Society** commences rehearsals for its new 2006/2007 season on **Wednesday September 6<sup>th</sup> at Chepstow Leisure Centre, 7.30pm.** The programme for the season is in place and some outstanding soloists have already been booked (see below). This season promises to be one of the most ambitious in the Society's history, and the Society is proud to be able to offer Chepstow a programme of choral singing which would rival that of many larger and more affluent choral societies throughout the country.

With this in mind, the music team and committee of CCS is extending and invitation to any person who would like to become a singing member. Prospective members will be asked if they have experiences of choral singing, musical background, and may be required to give a voice test to the musical director to be assessed for which vocal section is most suitable. Please contact Assistant Musical Director Marjorie Duerden (tel. 01291 623310) for information and details. All prospective singers are encouraged, but CCS will be particularly delighted to welcome a few tenors and basses!

\*\*\*\*\*

**2006/2007 PROGRAMME**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 10<sup>th</sup>:** *CHRISTMAS MUSIC and CAROLS*  
*St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow,*  
*3.00pm*

**SATURDAY MARCH 31<sup>st</sup>:** *MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK*  
*With CCS Orchestra. To include:*  
*Pergolesi : "Stabat Mater",*  
*Haydn: Missa Brevis in F*  
*Vivaldi: "Gloria"*  
*St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow*

**FROM THE REGISTERS**

**A SERVICE OF HOLY MATRIMONY WAS HELD ON:-**

28th July for Elizabeth Claire Bishop and Paul David Roberts.

Claire and Paul were thrilled that the bells were rung and send their thanks to the bell ringers.

**BAPTISMAL SERVICES WERE HELD ON: -**

25th June, Alex Owen, son of Derek John and Elizabeth Anne Owen.

2nd July, Izzabella Rose Louise Bailey, daughter of Nathan James Lewis and Rebecca Lewis Bailey.

15th July for Rhys William Pryce, son of Neil Wayne and Claire Alexandra Pryce.

30th July for Morgan Joseph Stones, son of Richard Gregory, and Tracey Anne Stones

**A FUNERAL SERVICES WERE HELD:-**

On the 19th August for Florence Hilda Hughes – born 1917 died 2006

On 21st August for Avril Fawsitt – born – 1948 died 2006

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**WHIST DRIVES AT THE RECREATION HALL**

31 players attended the Drive on 6<sup>th</sup> July and 30 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August, the latter being held in the refurbished Committee Room as the main hall was virtually gutted!! However, although it was a squeeze no one grumbled and we are all looking forward to the completion of the works.

Our next Drives are on 7<sup>th</sup> September & 5<sup>th</sup> October – both at the Recreation Hall on a Thursday starting promptly at 7.30 p.m.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton -01291 641844.

### **ST. DAVID'S FOUNDATION**

On behalf of St David's Foundation Hospice Care I would like to thank all those who supported the "Cream Tea" at Mynyddbach. Including donations the sum of £520 was raised which will help to maintain the service of the above in this area.

Many thanks also to the wonderful team of helpers who worked so hard to make it a really enjoyable afternoon.

Ruth Savagar

### **MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE**

In July, the annual Coffee Morning was held in Tan House Court. £775 was raised, which will help provide care to patients in their own homes, this year alone, 15,000 cancer patients have received care through Marie Curie.

I would like to thank everyone who attended and gave so generously with their time, items for sale and donations. Special thanks go to all the helpers, without whom it would not have been possible to have had such an enjoyable successful morning.

Thank you  
Thelma Moore

### **A THANK YOU FROM THE EDITOR**

My sincere thanks to all who visited me and sent me cards and greetings during my recent unexpected stay in hospital. It really was most unexpected, touching and generous.

My special thanks to Stu and Pauline Dutton, who managed to access my computer and finish the part completed magazine and get it printed.

Thanks also to Jane Smith-Haddon for initially undertaking the job of completing the task and then unfortunately finding herself in the same situation as my wife in having to rush her husband Bill into the Royal Gwent to occupy the bed I had just vacated. Fortunately Bill, like me is now on the road to recovery, and we are both about back to as normal as either of us ever were or likely to be.

Bob O'Keefe

### **GWENT BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2006**

### **JUDGES SCORING SHEET**

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Name of Village: *Shirenewton*

		max mark	awarded
1	<i>The appearance and condition of the village centre village green, playing- field , church-yard/ cemetery, bus shelter, surrounds.</i>	35	30
2	<i>Conditions of hedges, fences and walls adjacent to and surrounding buildings and gardens; the cleanliness of verges.</i>	20	18
3	<i>Tidiness of flower and vegetable gardens, allotments and the neat appearance of outhouses and sheds.</i>	20	18
4	<i>Bonus marks for general appearance of the village including conservation areas (noting the absence of litter and unsightly refuse dumps). Marks for unsightly garages/petrol stations or other commercial properties should be deducted from any bonus marks awarded.</i>	25	16
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>82</b>

### JUDGES COMMENTS:

The Church grounds were very well kept.  
The area around the shop was very clean.  
The play area and tennis courts were very good and even with the building work, the Village Hall was tidy.

This is a very attractive village with a lovely atmosphere so it was disappointing to find so much litter around the War Memorial. The car park was particularly bad since, in addition to the litter of cans, bottles and paper we saw a bed and a wrecked car!



### OFFA'S BIKERS THANK YOU

Offa's Bikers, comprising Mark Broughton, Kevin Bounds and Dave Cornwell, successfully completed their Dee to Wye of Wales cycle ride at the end of July.

Thanks to Rob Duckham for driving us to Prestatyn in not much over two and a half hours, leaving us with a two and a half day ride home. I think journey times work the other way round with racing pigeons, but notwithstanding serious amounts of training (!) and close to Olympic standard levels of fitness (!!), two and a half days it was, spent mostly going up hill. It felt as though Chepstow should be at least 5,000 feet above sea level!

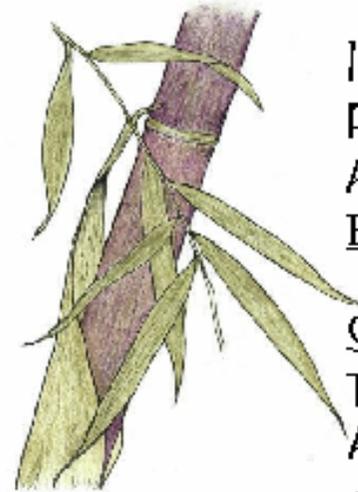
The ride was a spectacular celebration of the 200 miles of Welsh border country - beautiful without exception from Flintshire to Monmouthshire. The sun shone on us for two days as we followed and regularly crossed Offa's Dyke, over the Clwydian Range and through Clun Forest. Even the rain soaked stretch of the Black Mountains was breathtaking (in every sense!!). Take a look at the Church website to get a feel for what we saw.

When the will weakened very occasionally, our £8,000 incentive remained, and we would like to thank everyone who sponsored us for providing such a strong sense of purpose. People have been extremely generous in support of this event, and Offa's Bikers are delighted with the outcome - a significant contribution to our Church Extension Fund and some wonderful memories.

Thank you all very much.

Mark Broughton

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## Mary Vittle

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**Clinical Reflexologist**  
**01291 650309**

## ***Community Council Notes***

### **From Your Community Council Correspondent Meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 06**

Ever seen Citizen Kane? I saw myself as the eager new young reporter ready to Make the News surrounded by tapping typewriters, the air thick with cigarette smoke, and, wearing my green visor, I would tear off my first report with a flourish...

Moving swiftly on, I attended my first Shirenewton Community Council meeting on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July and was warmly welcomed by most of the councillors. My first move was to be ... swiftly moved on... to a separate table. The reason being that not only must I be independent of the community council but that I should be seen to be independent.

**Police Report.** Business began by PC Mason giving the local crime report. The bad news was that there had been three break-ins in the area including one at Earlswood Hall but the good news was that the Neighbourhood Watch was gaining in momentum. We were given a timely reminder to keep garden sheds secure and locked, as this is prime time for lawn mowers etc to be stolen.

**Allotments Scheme** *There was some confusion over the land and it's ownership. Well I got confused.*

**Play Ground Business** The council members spent a lot of time on the playground horse. This much loved nag needs some attention and the council agreed to pay for the repairs. However the horse repairer is unwilling to paint faces and I was charged with requesting - via my report that a painter of smiley faces of the equine kind be found. As I was not allowed to speak out at the meeting, I couldn't tell whether this is a paid position or a voluntary activity.

**Village Plan Questionnaire** The results are still being collated as disappointingly only a third of the questionnaires had been returned. But it would seem that the most common cause of concern is that of

  
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the speed of the traffic through the village. If you still have your form, please could you drop it in at the Shop?

**The Stiles at the Ex Shirenewton Golf Course.** Routh Rorke of M.C.C. Footpaths has informed the Community Council that she has received a number of complaints from members of the public concerning the number of styles and the type of stiles that the new owner has erected along the routes of the footpaths over the ex golf course. She has approached the new owner with a view to encouraging him to replace them with more appropriate stiles to allow easier access.

### ***Planning Applications***

**T'yr Ywen Weyloed Lane** - Alterations and extension - Approved

**Seaview Nursery** – Barn conversion to dwelling. Approved with reservations.

### ***Vacancy on Community Council***

There is a vacancy for a councillor for the Newchurch West Ward. Contact your local councillor or Carole Jones the Clerk for more details if you are interested.

Details about bills, bins, bolts, and banks were briefly discussed.

I am aware that because of the timing of this month's community council meeting, I will miss the deadline for the parish mag for the July/Aug issue so my first report is definitely going to be yesterday's news.

The Spectator. Aka Glynis MacDonald

## **COOKERY CORNER**

*My mother used to write recipes for the local paper 40 years ago, many of the recipes I still use, this is one of them. I serve it with cheese.*

### **Apple Cheese**

*Apples  
Water  
Sugar*

*A few cloves and a couple of pieces of cinnamon bark tied in muslin (optional)*

*Wash the apples cut out specs and bruises - don't peel or core them, but cut into lump and put into a large saucepan. Pack in well and just cover with*

*water. Bring to the boil and simmer until soft and cooked. Put through a sieve or mouliqrater.*

*Measure the puree and to every pint add 3/4 lb. Sugar. Add spices and boil well, 1/2 teaspoon butter added helps to remove the scum. Stir often so that it doesn't burn. When it is light brown test on a cold plate it should just set and a skin form.*

*Remove the spices, and pour into jam jars.*

---

*While looking through a very old book called 'A New Domestic Encyclopaedia' on how to clean marble I came across many ideas and tips under laundering I found:-*

*Laundry Aprons: - Water will not rundown plastic aprons and drip if a thick strip of old towelling is stuck or sewn round the hem of the apron.*

*Oh, and if if moisture has evaporated in your bottle of smelling salts, a few drops of ammonia added to the crystal will revive them a little.*

Once again our thanks to Caroline Davies for these pearls of wisdom.



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## ***From Your Community Council Correspondent*** **Meeting held on Monday 7th August 06**

As it was the summer holidays, it was a small meeting – and short.

**Police Report.** PC Mason reported that there were two crimes within the area: a car in a forestry carpark where the occupant was using cannabis, and also on the theft of 3 radios taken from 3 cars in the Bayfield area on the night of 18<sup>th</sup> July. PC Mason also reported that there had been 3 road traffic accidents on the Usk Road, one involving a motorcycle near the Carpenters Arms where minor injuries were sustained, one which involved a motor cycle and a Mondeo near the Gaerllwyd crossroads where serious leg injuries were sustained and the third was a hit and run at Prys gau Bach involving a telegraph pole.

### **Clerk's Report.**

**Allotments Scheme.** Despite strenuous efforts by the Clerk, it has proved difficult to get information from the MCC Allotments Department. They do not respond to email, telephone or letter, so not a lot of progress has been made. Well none actually.

**The Recreation Playground** This is now looking very good but the poor old horse is still out of action – it's uppers are fine but it seems that in the fetlock department, all is not well. So no riders please. The other major concern is the invasion of the Mole. No sooner has one hillock been thumped down than another one appears. It was agreed that something has got to be done about these pop-ups.

Also a nice new big rubbish bin has been installed at the play area but users of the play area are to be politely requested by a large sign to take their used nappies home with them. There will also be a large sign to that effect.

**Stiles at the ex Shirenewton Golf Course.** If the owner does not respond to MCC's request to replace the stiles, then notice will be served.

**Mynyddbach Play Area.** The clerk has been successful in obtaining a £1000 grant, which will provide for a wooden picnic table and bench.

**Results of the Best Kept Village.** The village had favourable comments but did not win because of something unsightly in a car park. But the church won First Prize in the 351 – 1000 'Best Churchyard' category.

**Village Plan Questionnaires.** I was asked if I would mind mentioning the

Village Questionnaire. If you still have yours could you please hand it in to your local councillor or to the village shop. If you've lost it or made mistakes or didn't have one perhaps you could contact Carole Jones for a replacement.

### **Planning Applications**

#### **Cherry Orchard, Earlswood**

Proposed garden room extension - Approved

**Change of Name** Kauai House, Earlswood will now be known as Ash Grove.

### ***Vacancy on the Community Council***

Why not take the plunge and become a local councillor? There is still a vacancy for Newchurch West. Contact Charles Eickhoff (chairman) or Carole Jones (clerk) for more details.

The next meeting will take place at the Rec on Monday 2nd October at 7.30pm

The Spectator – Glynis MacDonald

### **POTTERIES 'ARF MARATHON**

The Potteries 'Arf Marathon is run every year around Stoke on Trent. Over a thousand runners complete the 13 and a half mile course, both competitively and to raise money for different causes. This year the race was on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> June. Kate and Maddie Stanley took part in the race as part of a relay team with their Uncle Andy, and Grandad, Steve. The team was running in memory of Kate and Maddie's Granny, Sue Carrott, who died of cancer last year. Their team came 17<sup>th</sup> relay team out of 29 teams and completed the course in less than two and a half hours. Together they raised £1155.35 in sponsorship money for Cancer Research UK.

A great big THANK YOU to everyone who sponsored them!

Kate Stanley

### **EARLSWOOD AND NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL NEWS**

## *SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY*

*Registered Charity No. 1090167*

For our July meeting we visited the archaeological dig at Trellech.

Stuart Wilson, who bought a field at Trellech in search of a medieval lost city, gave a very interesting guided tour of what he has found so far. He has discovered a large building covering 225 square metres which seems to be a manor house with chapel, and also has two courtyards, one internal and one external. The building dates from around 1250 and includes two large entrances, a fireplace and stone lined well.

Dorothy Brabon has been holding Resources Sessions at the Recreation Hall which have been well attended and will continue throughout the year. We have now moved into the extended room in the Recreation Hall and this will be our permanent home for our resource materials.

Thanks to Shirley Bonsey and Diana Charles who manned our stall at the Chepstow Show on the 12<sup>th</sup> August. A lot of interest was shown in our exhibits.

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](http://www.shirenewton-history.co.uk).

Our meetings for the coming months are:

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September - Resources Session with Dorothy Brabon at 2.00 p.m. Recreation Hall

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September- 'The mystery of Jack of Kent And the Fate of Owain Glyndwr' by Alex Gibbons at 7.30 p.m. at The Huntsman Hotel

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October- Resources Session with Dorothy Brabon 2.00 p.m. Recreation Hall.

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MONMOUTHSHIRE • FOREST OF DEAN • VALE OF BERKELEY

Hello readers. Some good news from the hall committee this month.

First congratulations to Lyndon and Mary Jones who celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary at the Hall on 6th August, with a fair number of local people helping them celebrate.

The Hall has thanks again to Glynis's efforts received a substantial grant. This is to eliminate the huge problem we have had for many years with the flooding of the car-park and the basement / cellar area of the Hall. Once this problem has been solved we will be in position to have floor beneath the stage concreted over, dry wall the area, and concrete over the area that was originally intended to be a skittle alley.

Now this huge space in the basement would be ideal for storing props and scenery. S.O.D.S, Kids Ad Lib and the Young Farmers accumulate a great deal of very important 'stuff' which is vital for the next pantomime or play – not just the small items such as the 500 suitcases of old costumes but also for the larger items such as the Panto Dame's accoutrements. But a basement isn't much use when it resembles a swimming pool.

Taking on a project of this size is pretty expensive. So in May the committee applied for a grant to help undertake this work and in July we were delighted to hear that we had been successful in obtaining funding from CEDS – The Community and Economic Development Scheme 06/07

We are hoping to start work on this project in October by tackling the drainage of the carpark and basement first before we get under way with dry lining under the stage. These are exciting times for Village Halls. It seems that people in high places are beginning to recognise the value of having a local, thriving well maintained (and not flooded) Village Hall.

As part of our fund raising activities there will be a 'Country & Western Dance' with music supplied by the 'High Ace Band' from Norfolk. They are one of the top country & western band who perform in the area and the Forest of Dean, so please come along and help us have a great night. Tickets are only £6.00 form any committee member, telephone no's: 650779; 641818 & 420270

## **SHIRENEWTON NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**BASED AT CHEPSTOW POLICE STATION**  
**TELEPHONE NUMBER 01633 642 068**

At a meeting held on 8 August at the Huntsman P.C. Andrew Mason reported several recent incidents including the theft of money from the home of an elderly lady in Llandogo by a man posing as a water board official and several road traffic accidents on the B4235 Usk road involving motorbikes.

A small amount of cannabis was also seized from the occupant of a car in a local lay-by.

Beverley Moore reported on the Neighbourhood Watch AGM held on 6 June at Trellech where the guest speaker was Jon Brown of the safety camera unit. A request was passed on for the telephone numbers of co-ordinators to be placed on the Parish website and/or on local noticeboards, but it was decided to place just one main contact number in the Parish magazine.

P.C. Mason reminded the meeting of the "Bobby Scheme" whereby elderly or vulnerable local residents may be eligible for the free fitting of window or door locks, safety chains, etc.

The next Neighbourhood Watch meeting will take place on 9 November at The Huntsman.

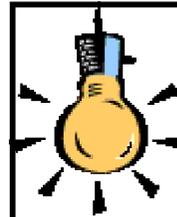
Contact Beverley Moore on: 01291 641 532

## **LOWER WYE VALLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM**

The Team consists of the following officers:

PS 289 Martin Griffin - Supervisor  
PC 363 Andrew Mason - St Arvans, Devauden & Shirenewton Wards  
PC Mark Madley 331 - Chepstow Town & Kingsmark Wards  
PC 32 Mike Cowburn &  
PC 750 Mick Stone Larkfield, St Christopher's, Thornwell & Mathern  
PCSO 49 Julian Phillips – PCSO 70 Andrew Jones

The responsibilities of the Neighbourhood Team are to engage with their respective communities through Community Councils, businesses and other groups and individuals, to respond to local concerns and issues raised by adopting a 'Problem Solving' approach and liaising with other agencies who have an interest in a particular issue.



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**ST PETER'S CHURCH, NEWCHURCH**

SEPTEMBER FAYRE

AT NEWCHURCH

SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER AT 12 P.M..

SOME STALLS

CREAM TEAS, HOT DOGS, ETC.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING AND SUPPER

ON

THURSDAY 5TH OCTOBER AT 7 P.M.

COME AND ENJOY AN EVENING WITH THE DEAN SINGERS

(BACK BY REQUEST) AT NEWCHURCH

ON

SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER AT 7 P.M.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Use **999** to report an incident that requires an immediate response from the police.

Use **01633 838111** to report all other incidents that will be recorded and allocated to a police officer to deal with.

Only use the Neighbourhood Watch phone number **01633 642068** to make personal contact with or to leave a non-urgent message for the officer named above. This office is not permanently staffed but messages are generally picked up on a daily basis.

Chepstow Police Station has *Response Officers* working full 24 hour shifts to respond to your calls. The Station itself is open to the public Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. These hours can be extended when staffing allows.

**EARLSWOOD & NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL**

**Presents**

**COUNTRY & WESTERN NIGHT**

On

**Friday 6th October 2006**

8.00 'til late

**THE HIGH ACE COUNTRY BAND**

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**650779; 641818 & 620270**

**Shirenewton Recreation Hall**

**Open Day**

**Come and see Shirenewton's New Improved Village Hall!**

We've got new bigger rooms, new shiny showers, new sparkling loos, new neater storage, new tidier carpark and a new modern kitchen,

Why not come along and see!

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September**

**10.00 - 4.00**

There will be lots of fun Activities

Mike Gambold and His Hawk

Bouncy Castle

History Society 'On Display'

Teddy Bear Treasure Hunt

Penalty Shoot Out

Bulb Planting

Face Painting

Fun Rounders Match at 2.00

And Free Refreshments

All this was made possible by the generous grants from Monmouthshire County Council, Article 33 and CFAP

## **SHIRENEWTON W.I.**

The Summer Garden Party was held on a warm July evening, and for the first time for several years members were able to remain outdoors for the whole event. Mr Ernie Jones' garden was pristine and colourful. The quizzes, based on information to be found in the garden gave a great deal of enjoyment, and the strawberries and wine were the finishing touch.

Seven members, led by Jenny Bonner, entered the Homecraft group section in the Chepstow Show. The title they were given to work on was 'Tea for Two, fit for a Queen.' These members had good fun planning their entry and trying out different recipes. The final display depicted a traditional tea table with a casually deposited crown resting on candelabrum. The members won first prize with an unprecedented full marks.

We would welcome more competition with this local event next year. Tutshill W.I. were our only competition; with a innovative take on the title, they presented 'Tea for Two, fit for a Queen' in a set representing Danny La Rue's dressing room. You don't need to be a W.I., any group can enter, although only two people set it up on the day. If you are interested please telephone 641621 and we'll make sure you have the relevant information before next year's show.

The Summer Dinner was held at the Woodland Tavern in Llanvair Discoed. A good turn out of members secured a successful evening, and the dinner was excellent.

In September five ladies, who are members of Shirenewton W.I., are planning to tick 'S' off the alphabet list of activities with a Scuba Diving taster session at Caldicot Leisure Centre. This event has been organised through Caldicot Sub-Aqua Club, who will be offering one to one tuition. They are looking for two more ladies to join them in the pool. Telephone 641765 for more information. It is an ideal opportunity to find out if you like Scuba Diving before you go on that Caribbean holiday this winter!

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### **GAERLLWYD WOMEN'S MEETINGS**

#### **AT GAERLLWYD BAPTIST CHAPEL**

At 2.30 p.m. on 6th September our speaker will be Mrs. Joan Carr.

At 2.30 on 20th September we will hold our regular meeting.

## **THE BELLS THE BELLS, THE BELLS,**

Ringling has been a bit sparse over the last month or so due to summer holidays. The esteemed ringling master was away in Canada and North America together with Pip on a ringling tour with 26 other intrepid Brits.

Full circle ringling UK style is largely confined to former colonies. We rang the bells in Quebec, Calgary, Vancouver, Chicago, Mission City, Victoria and Kalamazoo.

A letter arrived while we were away from Buckingham Palace. The Queen acknowledged the peal of Plain Bob Minor rung at Shirenewton to celebrate her 80th birthday.

Activity is now picking up again, we had 16 ringers to our practice on Friday! The Kids. Ring. Out. Group held a Grandsire Doubles course (a five bell method, a method being a sort of music or sequence) to which 3 of our girls attended, Jenny Millar, Kate Stanley and Claire Eickhoff.

The K.R.O. a diocesan based group organised by Pip, won a nation wide prize for 2006 presented by The Worship Company of Founders for the encouragement of Young Ringers. The prize was £500 and thus ensures future events and educational material into the next year.

Finally for all those historians out there, this year is the 250th anniversary of the casting of the back four bells at Shirenewton. They were cast in 1756 by William Evans of Chepstow who resided at Boscobell House (now a dentist's surgery). To commemorate this a peal will be organised later in the year.

---

### **AVRIL FAWSITT 21ST AUGUST**

Thank you to everyone for all the kind tributes and condolences for Avril .

We were overwhelmed by the number of friends at the church service and comforted in the knowledge that we are surrounded by so many caring people.

Bless you all.

Les Fawsitt and Family

## **STAR GAZING IN SEPTEMBER 06**

The Summer Triangle made up of the bright stars Deneb, Vega and Altair continues to dominate the sky to the South. Deneb forms the head of the constellation Cygnus, the Swan which lies pretty much overhead. Its brightest stars form a cross against the background of the Milky Way. The constellation Pegasus includes a large square that lies to the south. The Plough can be seen in the Northern Evening sky whilst the "W" of Cassiopeia lies to the Northeast. The brilliant planet Jupiter is not far above the horizon in the Southwest after sunset.

Venus and Saturn can be seen in the dawn sky to the East, with Venus much the brighter. A very thin crescent Moon appears near Venus in the early morning of 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Of the nine planets in the Solar System, Pluto is the most distant. Recently there has been some discussion on whether it deserves to be called a planet at all, principally because it's quite small, being no bigger than the Moon. A spacecraft called New Horizons was launched in January that will reach Pluto in the Summer of 2015, and should give us a much more detailed view of this distant planet.

Dave Thomas

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**Mike Gambold: 641773**  
mike.gambold@googlemail.com

## **FAIRTRADE NEWS**

As a fully paid up member (£2 !) of the Steering Committee to make Chepstow a Fair Trade town (you can join too!) I am delighted to report that the town has almost fulfilled the necessary criteria. Shops have been encouraged to stock fairly-traded goods and quite a few local businesses have indicated that their employees use fairly traded coffee and tea during their breaks. The campaign has also made the local press and we hope that the public has become more aware of the issues involved in fair trade. Of course I would be pleased to hear of any other 'fair-trade activity' locally.

The new winter Traidcraft catalogue has just been published with an ever widening range of craft, fashion and food items. I feel strongly that a lot of people just associate Fairtrade with tea and coffee and maybe chocolate (although that's a start!) but I hope many other products will soon become just as accepted. Rice, pasta, nuts, dried fruit, muesli, sugar, bombay mix - why not give some of these a try! Some of the new food products in the winter catalogue are After 8-type mints (dark chocolate), Jasmine Green Teabags and caffeine-free Rooibos teabags.

As ever contact me for more info. New catalogues will be available soon.

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.cpm

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## **SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS UNION**

Seven members joined members of St.Arvals MU as guests of Marcia Hoskins at her home in St.Arvals where we enjoyed her usual excellent hospitality and had a discussion on "Keeping Sunday Special".

On Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> August 7 members met in Church for half an hour to celebrate Mary Sumner's Day (Mary Sumner was the founder of the MU). Coffee was served from 11.30 to 12 while we watched a power point presentation of the MU visit to Dublin at the end of May and also of the Overseas Awareness Event at Cwmbran in June followed by Midday Prayers. In September our meeting will take place on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> in the Monmouth Diocese MU Quiet Garden at "Windrush" Coed-y-paen, the home of Mrs. Joan Stickland, when Chris Carey will lead us in worship and Holy Eucharist.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton (Branch Leader) – 01291 641844



## The Parish Youth Page PYP

Pyp has gone to visit her relations and friends in a round the world trip  
On her journey she came across some 'Pointless Instructions'

**ON A BLANKET IN TAIWAN:**

'Not to be used as protection from a tornado.'

*On a helmet mounted mirror used by US cyclists:*

'Remember, objects in the mirror are actually behind you.'

*On a bottle-top of a flavoured milk drink:*

'After opening, keep upright.'

*On a packet of crisps:*

'You could be a winner. No purchase necessary. Details inside.'

*On a packet of peanuts:*

'Warning - contains nuts.'

*On a Korean kitchen knife:*

'Warning: keep out of children.'

*On a string of Chinese Christmas lights:*

'For indoor or outdoor use only.'

*On a Japanese food processor:*

'Not to be used for the other use.'

*On the bottom of a tiramisu dessert*

'Do not turn upside down.'

**ON A SUPERMAN COSTUME**

'Wearing this garment does not enable you to fly.'

## Yes it's time for the S.O.D.S !

### What's the Panto going to be this year?

Come along to Earlswood Hall - 3rd October at 7.00 to find out!

**We need:**

costume designers, sewers, prop makers, scene changers, car-parkers, set constructors, set painters, make-up artists, scenery shifters choreographers, press releasers, publicity people, ticket sellers, programme producers, refreshment co-ordinators, musicians, lighting and sound engineers, in fact Uncle Tom Cobby and all.

We also need actors and actresses. We have room for everyone - from lead roles to the third standard bearer on the left. No previous experience necessary.

For more details ring Glynis on 641 818

### NEW YEAR'S EVE 2006

**THE 2005 TO BE SUCH A SUCCESS THAT THE VENT IS TO BE REPEATED  
AGAIN THIS YEAR**

**THE FORMAT WILL BE VERY MUCH THE SAME AS LAST YEAR  
DANCING TO LIVE MUSIC & DISCO  
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**ALTHOUGH TICKETS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE PLEASE REGISTER YOUR  
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**OR**

**TONY BENDALL ON 641303**

**IT WAS A COMPLETE SELL OUT LAST YEAR, SO DON'T LEAVE IT TOO  
LATE**