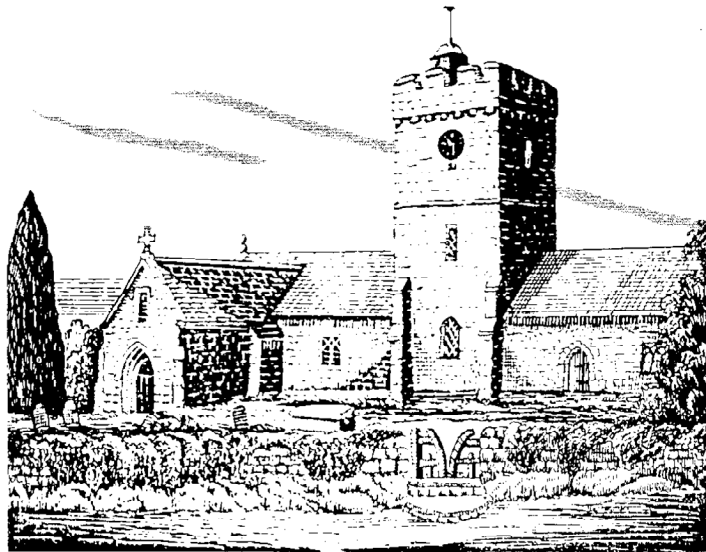


READERS AND SIDES-PERSONS ROTA FOR FEBRUARY 2007

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
4 th Feb	3 rd Sunday before Lent 9.30 a.m.	Peter Jones Jean Jones	Peter Jones Jean Jones
11 th Feb	2 nd Sunday before Lent 9.30 a.m.	Bob Grattan Margaret Lock	Bob Grattan Margaret Lock
18 th Feb	1 st Sunday before Lent 9.30 A.M.	FAMILY SERVICE	
21 st FEB	ASH WEDNESDAY	HOLY EUCHARIST	SERVICE AT CAERWENT CHURCH
25 TH FEB	1 st Sunday of Lent 9.30 a.m.	John Nicholas Ruth Savagar	John Nicholas Ann Nicholas
4 TH March	2 nd Sunday of Lent 9.30 a.m.	Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds	Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds
11th March	3 rd Sunday of Lent 9.30 a.m.	Mike Peirce Andrew Baker	Mike Pearce Andrew Baker

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



Parishes of Shirenewton and Newchurch
Magazine

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

NAMES TO NOTE

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

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

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1st Feb	Whist Drive—Recreation Hall—7.30
3rd Feb	Horse Racing Evening—Hood Hall Devauden—(See advert)
5th Feb	Community Council—Recreation Hall – 7.30
8th Feb	Local Neighbourhood Watch 7.30 The Huntsman Hotel
9th Feb	"It's Behind You" Itton Village Hall—7.30 (See advert)
12 Feb	Local History Society—Visit Archives County Hall (see notes inside)
21st Feb	Ash Wednesday—Service Caerwent Church
24th Feb	THET Concert—Oxford— See Notice inside
27th Feb	Local History Society outing to Raglan Castle and grounds. See report inside
1st Mar	Whist Drive—Recreation Hall 7-30 p.m.
12th Mar	Local History Society—Resource session—Rec. Hall from 2.00
14th Mar	Mothers Union —Recreation Hall 2.30
31st March	Choral Society Concert—St Mary's Chepstow 7.30p.m.

Chepstow Physiotherapy Clinic

Specialist in Musculoskeletal & Sports injuries

Mr. Richard Coates M.C.S.P., H.P.C. Reg.

Chartered Physiotherapist

Approved by major insurance companies

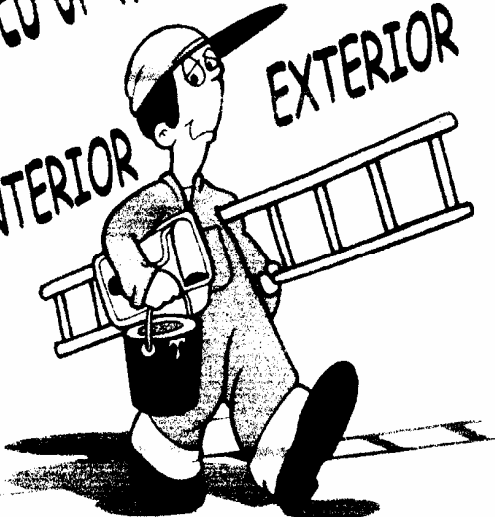
Tel: 01291 423101/07950 948734

www.chepstowphysio.com

ANDREW GORE DECORATING SERVICES

FED UP WITH DECORATING

INTERIOR EXTERIOR



ALL TYPES
OF
DECORATING
UNDERTAKEN
FRIENDLY
ADVICE
FULLY
INSURED

Call today for a **Free** estimate!

01291 625451
MOBILE 07789286357

Dear Parishioners,

It seems unbelievable that January is over and that Christmas is far behind us. I hope that the celebration that I spoke of throughout Christmas has not deserted us and that we might learn how to take it with us as the year unfolds.

The Church turns its head towards Lent which has sadly tended to be serious to the point of being gloomy. As Jesus' ministry and death are opened up to us, at every stage there should be celebration that our God cares that much that He put the whole of who He is on the line for us. Yes we are to think and be challenged but without celebration we lose the enormous power of His life and the life giving gift of love.

We are going to have a very different Lent Study this year. "Can we build a better world?" This celebrates the life, work and faith of William Wilberforce and others who, after the acrimonious debate in Parliament in 1807, secured the Act which abolished the slave trade and proceeded to outlaw slavery itself in 1833.

The course is far from being a backward looking historical journey but seeks a challenging engagement with slavery in the world today. The course has five sessions:

Slavery: then and now.

Friendship and Prayer: then and now.

Change and Struggle: then and now.

The Bible: then and now.

Redemption and Restitution: then and now.

Contributors are Archbishop John Sentamu of York, Wendy Craig the actress, Preacher and Theologian Leslie Griffiths, Sisters from the Poor Clares Convent in Arundel who were featured in the BBC's The Convent (Reflections).

I am confident this can touch many different people and build each of us up. Ash Wednesday is 21st of February and the study will begin in the week following. Depending on the interest we can always run more than one group.

Lent should feed us but as with all food it should be enjoyed.

Which reminds me of a devout Irishman who after church every Sunday would withdraw to his local pub and order three pints of Guinness. Then he would drink one after another and go home. The Landlord thought this rather strange and eventually asked him why? He replied that he had two brothers living in Australia and they had pledged to remember each other in this way. After a few weeks the man only ordered two pints and the landlord asked if one of his brothers had died. "To be sure no. You see its Lent and I've given up alcohol for Lent!"

Perhaps we could "take" up something this Lent and the Study should prove worthy.

Hugh Trenchard

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates for February

Date	Time	Venue
4th February	9.45	Chantry
11th February	9.45	Chantry
18th Febraury	9.45	Family Service—Church
25th February	9.45	Chantry
4th March	9.45	Chantry
11th March	9.45	Chantry
18th March	9.45	- Mothering Sunday—Church
25th March	9.45	Chantry

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

Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525

Glynis MacDonald 641 818

mangetout or sugar snap varieties. These can be just as hardy however, especially if you aim to grow the round seeded varieties earlier in the year and the wrinkly ones later in the season If you don't know what I mean, have a look at the loose ones for sale in any good nursery or garden centre and you will see.

The theory is that the wrinkly ones are more prone to rot in cold wet conditions – more creases for water to sit in! As with the beans I will make a sowing over the coming months, again inside the greenhouse. To achieve best results I will use a 1.4 metre length (just over four feet) of roof guttering. This will be filled with a peat / soil mixture, sprinkled with seeds and then these covered by a thin layer of the same mix. The reason for this is that peas don't like being moved once they get established. When it comes to planting time it is easy to rake a groove in the vegetable bed, the same size as the guttering section and then just slide the soil and plants into the groove.

I have already bought the potato seed for this year and these are currently on trays in the conservatory to encourage them to chit (sprout). As with last year I have only bought first early and salad types, as the main crop are too easy to buy in bulk later on. I intend to plant some of these in one of the beds in the tunnel in order to get some extra early crops. I will also be sowing some early salad crops, such as lettuce, radish and a few carrots. Again these will be grown on in pots or the greenhouse border. Talking of which, I noticed that the strawberry plants that I put in containers are now looking as though they are well established. I need to bring these in to the big greenhouse in the next week or two, so that they can start to grow on. These should then provide lovely juicy fruits several weeks before those planted outside. Mmmm. I can taste them already!

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

grow even bigger, or the greenfly multiply more than ever. I find this all a bit rich when, at the end of the day, the bulk of the produce that we buy in the supermarkets is totally bug free and seemingly in perfect condition (well usually anyway!). They didn't get that way without an array of chemicals far stronger than anything that is available to amateurs! Yes I know that some of the reasoning behind all these bans is the very fact that we are amateurs and aren't trained to handle, store and use the chemicals etc. but!

I remember some months ago dealing with a Defra investigation officer over an illegal tree felling case that I was dealing with. He was being run ragged by some "importers" in the north of the country. Apparently there is a very large scam going on where these guys are importing tonnes of chemicals sprays etc. from eastern European countries, for resale in this country. OK so far, but the issue being that all these chemicals were banned by the EU many years ago for even professional use!

Purpose of the story? Even more reason to get outside, dig up the lawn, or at least the excuse for one, and start growing your own fruit and vegetables! The global warming thing is a huge issue though and it may be that we start to grow the more exotic varieties over what we are probably more used to, but at the moment this is a few years off, apart from a little experimentation.

Although it is only mid January, the time is going on enough to suggest that as things are, the winter isn't going to get too bad this year, despite what we were being told a couple of months ago (famous last words on my part!). Thoughts are already turning to starting seeds off, although it will be little to start with. Starting with vegetables the most hardy tend to be peas and broad beans. The beans will be planted into individual pots and although started off in the greenhouse, they will soon be moved out into the cold frame once they reach the third leaf stage. If not they soon get drawn up and weak and never make such good plants, often being taken out by black stem rot. I will only grow enough plants for a double row across the raised beds, so about 18 plants will do. These will then be followed by further sowings every two to three weeks until middle of May in order to provide a succession of plants. Well that is the theory anyway, unfortunately reality often kicks in and some sowings get missed out! I don't bother growing "normal" peas, but rather grow

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

During February and March we will be collecting subscriptions for the 200 Club for the year April 2007/2008. The prizes for this year will be:- 1st £40, 2nd £20, 3rd £20, and 4th £10 with extra prizes at Christmas. Half the money collected is distributed as prize money. The following will collect the £10 per number subscription;- Barbara Davies, Pauline Dutton, John Nicholas, Peter Jones.

It would be much appreciated and a great help with the collection process if you could give your subscriptions to your normal collector as you see them over the next couple of months, otherwise someone will call on you before the end of March. If you are not a member and would like to join, please call me on 641677 or Barbara on 641553.

I would like to thank our collectors for all their hours spent walking around the village collecting subscriptions and also to Auriol for checking and banking the money. Thank you all as always for your generous support.

Pauline Dutton

Parish Magazine

Annual subscriptions of £5.00 for the 10 copies for the next twelve months become due in February. Would you kindly arrange to pay your regular "News boy / girl" during this period.

Our thanks go to all those that distribute the Magazine throughout the parish. Thanks also to Paul and Anne at the Village Shop for their contribution in selling the magazine.

FROM THE SHIRENEWTON CHURCH REGISTERS

A memorial service was held for Jackie Shaw on the 20th January

A Thank You

Jackie Shaw

Andrew Shaw and the family would like to express their sincere thanks for the great warmth and support they have received from the local community following the recent very sad loss of Jackie. This is helping to give them much strength during these extremely difficult times.

Sincerely
Andrew Shaw

ST PETER'S CHURCH, NEWCHURCH

Our carol service held on the 17th of December was very well attended and particularly we were pleased to welcome new members to our congregation on that occasion.

Our thanks once again to John Waters for conducting the service. It was also nice that Don and Kath's grandson Lewis accompanied the congregation for one of the carols.

Our normal Christmas service was also well attended and many thanks to everyone who continues to support us.

GARDENING CORNER

Another New Year! I'm still trying to get my head around the last one as it appeared to go out in a blaze of glory – plenty of rain, plenty of wind! No winter, but plenty of autumn and spring all thrown in together. Here we are in the middle of a new month and yet more of the same. As I sit writing this there is high winds and lots of rain – again! Some of the really high winds before Christmas damaged the tunnel cover but this was to be expected. It was after all a “four seasons” cover and this coming summer would have been its seventh, so you could say that we have had our monies worth! The centre of the tunnel is still in place, but both ends have gone, as has the timber frame that supported the doors either end. These have been in place for some 16 years, so again we can't complain. I have cut new timbers ready for when the weather improves. The fact that there is still some shelter inside the tunnel has meant that I have been able to keep the timbers dry and treat them with timber preservative. This will hopefully ensure that I don't have to replace them again. On this track record I'll be seventy odd and may be looking to put my feet up a little by then! We are having a small amount of building work done at present and with all the rain, you will no doubt appreciate that there are copious amounts of mud around. The result of the work will mean that we will lose part of the garden near the ponds, but I had hoped that I could move the soil, with the associated plants, to another area of the garden. At the moment this seems less likely to happen, as you can't even stand up out there!

Of course the one thing that all this mild weather will mean is that many of the pests and diseases will survive the winter, ready to attack our gardens next year. This could spell disaster for many of our plants both flower and vegetable. I'm not a great believer in using chemicals, but will resort to their use when it really becomes necessary. Unfortunately I don't have the time to spend hours hand-picking caterpillars off the greens, or squeezing greenfly or blackfly on the beans or roses. In recent years the EU has banned a lot of propriety treatments used by amateur gardeners. Those that are now available are very limited and of the few I have used to date, I have found them wholly worthless. Bug killers just seem to make the pesky caterpillars

IF YOU THOUGHT LIFE WAS TOUGH TODAY!

HOW LIFE WAS IN THE 1500'S SOME INTERESTING FACTS

The next time you complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it. Some interesting facts from 500 years ago.

Most people got married in June because they took their annual bath in May so still smelt pretty good. However, they were becoming slightly more odorous, so the bride would carry a bouquet of flowers to hide the pong. A custom that is continued today. You'll never think the same when watching a wedding.

Baths consisted of a large tub filled with hot water. It was the man of the house's privilege to take the first bath in the clean water, followed by the sons and men, who were followed by the women and then the children. Lastly were the babies, by which time, as you may imagine the water was so dirty you could lose someone in it. Hence the expression—"Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

Houses had thick thatched roofs—thick straw piled high, with no wooden lining underneath. It was a wonderful place to keep all kinds of creatures warm, including bugs of all kinds and mice. When it rained the roof would become very slippery and small animals like dogs and cats would slip off—From which we get "It's raining cats and dogs". While inside the house obviously there were other problems in keeping the bed clean from bugs and other vermin. Hence the bed with 4 posts and a large canopy came into being. You still think of it now as a piece of decadence? Look at the ceiling above it first!

The floor of many houses was of earth. Only the wealthy would have something other. Hence the expression—"Dirt poor".

In wet weather the slate floors of the wealthier folk would get slippery, so they were covered with straw, but this could slip out through the door. Hence a piece of timber was placed across the doorway and we have:- "A threshold".

And finally this time: The cooking was done on a large pot that always hung over the fire. Every day the fire would be lit, and things would be added to the pot. The diet was mainly of vegetables as they did not get much meat. Leftovers remained in the pot which would cool overnight to be reheated with more vegetables the following day and so on. So from this we get the rhyme—"Peas pudding hot, peas pudding cold, peas pudding in the pot nine days old".

Church Extension Time Capsules

We intend to bury 5 (yes - that's right five) time capsules in the church extension. Why so many?. Well firstly we want to be around for a party in 10 years time but then we also wanted to leave a legacy

Capsule 1: 10 years; The 10 year time capsule represents forward planning for a party all of the fund raising committee are hoping to be at! In ten years time we will open the 1st time capsule and see how life has moved on.

Capsule 2: 50 years; None of the fund raising committee expect to be at the opening of the 50 year time capsule in 2057. Even our kids will be getting on a bit. Will someone still be maintaining a Church website? Will websites, as we know them still exist or will they have developed into 'information'. Remember it was only 12 years ago that anyone other than computer geeks had an email address.

Capsule 3: 100 years; The one thing we know is that life will be very different in 2107. We anticipate people gathering to open the time capsule from 2007. Imagine the fun we'd have (not to mention the party) if we were about to open a time capsule from 1907 this year.

Capsule 4: 200 years; We can't begin to image what life in the year 2207 will be like. Yet we hope that a gathering of people will have a party and open the time capsule we leave for them.

Capsule 5: infinity; This time capsule will be buried with no opening date. Who knows when it will be opened.

You can be part of history. More details will emerge over the next few weeks on our plans for the time capsules but look for some exciting competitions, voting on what is included in the time capsules and details of how you can include items in the time capsule. There will also be a big 'sealing' party at some point!

To guarantee your name (or your families name) in the time capsules you can sponsor a brick. The complete list of sponsors will be included in each time capsule. Additionally there will be further opportunity only open to brick sponsors.

Visit the Church Website for more information.---
David Cornwell

SPONSORSHIP OF FLOODLIGHTS AND FLAG

Shirenewton Church is grateful to the following sponsors:

Mike & Jan Peirce for sponsoring both the Floodlights and the Flag for the month of November.

John Nicholas for sponsoring both the Floodlights and the Flag for the month of December.

Briefcase consulting for sponsoring for the month of January

Mr. and Mrs Cornwell for the month of February

Mr. and Mrs B. Priest for the month of March

Note:

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

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

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH - LOOKING OUT FOR OTHERS

The Sunday Club Christmas Fair on Sunday 3rd December raised **£285** for the Tigers Club in Uganda.

Singing Round The Village Christmas Tree Raised **£85.00** – again for the Tigers Club

Sunday Club went to The Priory on Friday 21st December – Llandogo to perform to the elderly people the Christmas story

The Christingle – raised **£357** shared equally between The Children's Society and The Archbishop of Wales Fund for Children

Church isn't always dull!!! Thank you to every one who helped.

Forever Health

Clare White Fitness Consultant and
Personal Trainer

Circuit Training

Thursday 7.30-8.30 pm

Earlswood Hall Price-£3.00.

Challenge yourself with innovative

Exercise stations,

alternating muscular strength, endurance, agility, core,
speed and aerobic activities.

(Fun and Friendly Fitness).

14+ year olds welcome

14/15 must be accompanied by an adult price-£2.00

16+years unaccompanied £3.00

CONSULTATION.

Clare White(Personal Trainer).

Home No 01291 641804

WANT TO LOOSE WEIGHT?

CRACK A PERSONAL FITNESS CHALLENGE?

NOT SURE WHERE OR HOW TO START?

CONTACT CLARE WHITE FOR A

FREE CONFIDENTIAL CONSULATATION

Mobile No : 07890646998

Swiss Chalet for Holiday Rental

Haute-Nendaz in the Valais, Switzerland.

Part of the '4 Vallées and Verbier Ski arena'

A charming traditional Chalet with stunning views over the Alps.

3 double bedrooms sleeping up to 6 people.

Less than 1 km from the resort centre and the main cable car.

Ice skating and excellent skiing with over 412 kms of marked pistes and 92 lifts.

Summer, Walking, Mountain Biking, Paragliding and Swimming.

For all chalet details visit: -

www.theglitzicompany.co.uk/chalet

Or contact Chris and Lesley on 01291 650614

For all the Very Special Stationary visit

[Www.theglitzicompany.co.uk](http://www.theglitzicompany.co.uk)

Nick Bruce

**Treesurgery &
Grounds Maintenance**

***From Oak Trees to Grass
& Everything In Between***

NPTC Qualified Fully Insured

44 Severn Crescent, Garden City, Chepstow, Monmouthshire NP16 5EA

Tel/Fax: 01291 630246 Mobile: 07929 302651

Shirenewton Community Council meeting 8th January 2007

It was a wild and windy night but there was a big turnout from both Community Council members and the public.

PC Mason gave his report which included:-

a burglary at stables in Earlswood

a break-in at a local hotel, but nothing taken.

two road traffic accidents, the tragic fatal accident in Weyloed Lane and a hit and run in Shirenewton (the driver was later traced and gave a positive breathe test).

Complaints about groups of off-road bikers spotted in the Earlswood area

PC Mason was keen to encourage Community Council members and the public to register with www.police.uk in order to receive information and alerts direct from the police by telephone, email or text as this will be replacing the current telephone service to Neighbourhood Watch. The website also includes contact details for the police in Gwent.

Police Surgeries will be starting on 20th January 2007 at 10.00 am at the Recreation Hall and will be held on the third Saturday of each month. PC Mason and a Community Councillor will be available to discuss any policing issues or concerns that residents may have.

Planning

1. The Tan House was first on the agenda with over 60 objections received by planning department to date, the meeting discussed the various objections raised by members of the public at the meeting and the councillors themselves. The Community Council will recommend rejection of the application for the conversion and new buildings and the implicit change of use.

2. Seaview Nursery – widening of existing driveway and removal of a tree. No objections, recommended approval.

3. Great House Farm – retrospective planning application, another one which raised strong feelings from both the public and the councillors. Recommendation that the application be rejected.

4. Golf Club – retention of lamp-posts, recommend rejection of application.
5. 1 Clearview – single storey kitchen extension, recommended approval.

Other items of interest

1. Shirenewton & Mynyddbach Fields Association. The landowners have agreed to sell 11 acres of the 'green wedge' to the association. Total project costs are around £100,000 to buy the land, re-introduce a meadowland, provide fencing and improve existing hedges and paths. They are applying for various grants to cover the costs but need seed funding to get the charity up and running, prior to grants being realised. £300 grant was approved and the Council will provide a letter of support to the association to help with their grant applications.
2. Recreation Association lease is due for renewal, but there's a complication with the old cricket club shed. The remnants of Shirenewton Cricket Club want to retain rights to it in case they re-form at some point in the future. Subject to resolving this issue, with the help of the community council who own the land, it was agreed to extend the lease on the same terms for another seven years.

Next meeting 5th February at 7.30 in the Recreation Hall

CHINESE NEW YEAR FIREWORKS

February 18th marks the first day of Chinese New Year. It may interest you to learn that the coming year is the year of the Pig and will be Year 4704 according to the Chinese calendar (although some apparently argue it's actually Year 4705).

However, the main reason for this notice is that the Chinese contingent of Mynyddbach will, naturally, be celebrating. Consequently you may wish to warn your pets that they can expect fireworks at approximately midnight on Sat 17th February as we welcome in the New Year.

Gōngxǐ fācái (or as you will usually see it written 'Gong Xi Fa Cai').

EMOTIVE GARDEN DESIGNS



Innovative Design Concepts
Full Working Drawings
Advisory visits, Planting Plans,
Free Initial Consultation

Sue Bullock
Tel: 01291 641245
Fax: 01291 641713
email: *Sue.Bullock@btinternet.com*

Mary Vittle

B.Sc. D.Pod M MchS

STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST

Home Visits

Tel. 01291 624458

Why not try Reflexology!

Reflexology is a therapeutic and relaxing treatment using gentle pressure over the feet.

A full session lasts approximately 1 hour and provides treatment for specific health problems such as migraine, stress, backpain and arthritis, followed by a relaxing massage with essential oils or a soothing foot lotion.

For more information contact
Annabel Hancock MRxS
Clinical Reflexologist
01291 650309


OVENCLEAN®
UK's Leading Oven Cleaning Service

Caustic free cleaning products.
Removes grease, fat and burnt on carbon deposits.
Fully trained oven technician.
We also clean hobs, extractors (including replacing filter) and microwaves .
Totally safe eco-friendly cleaning solution individually prepared for each customer.
No fumes, no mess, no bother- just spotless results every time.
To book an appointment please call **(01291) 427244**

**£5.00 OFF AN OVEN CLEAN WHEN YOU MENTION SHIRENEW-
TON PARISH MAGAZINE WHEN BOOKING**

SOD's - SINBAD & THE GOLDEN CHALICE

Once again the Sod's team produced a sell out panto production at Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial hall with this year's Panto; Sinbad and the Golden Chalice.

The Hall entertained some 600 people over the three evenings. The performances were once again well up to the standard of those set in previous years. The standards achieved by the group would make many a professional company feel envious. With a cast of more than forty, including some twenty odd youngsters, many of whom are still at primary school, all performed brilliantly. How the production team achieved this high standard from a relatively small catchment area is remarkable.

As with all good pantos, it had all the essential ingredients. An imposing king, in this case—Sultan and of course a sultana, the wicked villain without whom there could be no hissing and booing, the slightly overdressed dame, and of course no panto can possibly take place without ta glamour element; and that came in bucket loads, with the beautiful Princess Shazir and her equally lovely maid Jazmeen, pursued and won by the heroes, Sinbad (Karen Millar) and the heartthrob of the group, Sinbad's loyal friend Abdul. Of course it all ends happily ever after. The heroes win the lovely ladies, the villain gets his comeuppance by wedding the Dame.

The singing and dance sequences by all, especially the younger members of cast were of a standard to match the rest of the production; well choreographed and trained. All accompanied by our own live "Orchestra" led by Richard Kubiak, who was also responsible for the musical direction.

The whole production was well supported by a team of some forty people. With an accomplished technical team supplying a set of stage scenery; sound, lighting and special effects; including the band of ladies that manned the kitchen for the three evenings preparing refreshments, serving and clearing up for the six-hundred folk that attended. Congratulations to the whole SOD's team for once again treating the community to three wonderful evenings of entertainment. There were far too many stars shining to name them all in this limited space.

On a side note: SOD's and their sister group Kids Ad Lib have contributed a large part of the profits from these events to the Hall fund for the re-furnishing and renovation of the Hall.

Kids Ad Lib

Starts on Monday 5th March!

**Working towards a production on
Thur 21st Fri 22nd, and Sat 23rd June**

But what will it be?

**If you are interested in finding out
more please ring:-**

Karen Millar 01291 650 521

Glynis MacDonald 01291 641 818

glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

Also Adult Helpers

very warmly welcomed!

GAERLLWYD WOMEN'S MEETINGS

Will be held at: -

2.30 p.m. on 6th February

and,

at 2.30 on 20th February

When we will hold our regular meeting. Speakers to be
confirmed

Caroline's Cookery Corner

This month we are thinking about vegetables after the overeating at Christmas, turnips are not the most popular vegetable but they are fantastic when cooked like this.

Glazed Turnips (to serve 6)

3 lbs of small young turnips

2 oz butter

1 tablespoon of caster sugar

¼ pint of stock

Peel the turnips and cut them into halves horizontally, cook in sufficient cold water to cover for 15 minutes. Drain the turnips thoroughly.

Butter a wide based pan thickly with 1 oz of the butter.

Place the turnips cut side down in the pan, sprinkle evenly with sugar, season and pour in the stock down the side of the pan.

Spread the remaining butter over a large piece of grease proof paper and place this over the turnips tucking it around them and place over a medium heat. When boiling reduce the heat to low and continue cooking until the liquid is reduced to about 2 tablespoons, serve very hot with remaining juices.

Brussels Sprouts

A much underrated vegetable for a winter salad slice in food processor, add grated carrot, chopped walnuts, sliced celery, apple and red onion. To serve at the last minute toss in French dressing.

Parsnip

Possibly one of my favourite vegetables mashed with butter, cream and parsley is a fabulous vegetable, grated and layer with knobs of butter, salt and pepper baked in the oven but one of the most popular is curried parsnip soup, I have recently found out the best way is to roast the parsnips first, peel, slice the onions fry in butter or oil add curry powder of paste, roasted parsnips, stock when everything is cooked puree, season and add cream.

Once again our thanks to Caroline Davies



Garden Maintenance & Tree Surgery



Over 10 years experience at commercial and domestic grounds maintenance.

NPTC approved tree surgery.

All aspects of tree work undertaken.

Tree & Shrub Planting, Hedge Trimming,
Hedge Laying, Agricultural & Domestic Fencing,
Turfing / Seeding, Rough Areas Cleared,
Rubbish Removal.

Lawn Care:

Weed Control, Spraying,
Grass Cutting, Strimming,
Scarifying, Aerating,
Fertilizing.

Competitive Rates, Free Quotations.

Contact: Daniel or Matthew Haines
01633 400548, 07930 893680, 07930 893678

SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS' UNION

OUR NEXT MEETING will be on WEDNESDAY, 14TH MARCH AT 2.30 P.M. AT THE RECREATION HALL.

Our Theme for 2007 is Faith in Action and through our programme this year we hope to demonstrate it and show that throughout its worldwide membership of 3.6 million in 77 countries the MU is continually putting its faith in the love of Jesus Christ into action caring for all families (including fathers) whatever their faith or lack of it. This year the MU is running a National Campaign (the expenses for which will come from members' subscriptions and not from donations received).

MAKE A MOTHER'S DAY.

Make a tangible difference to the lives of mothers around the world. By choosing a special gift for your mum, or in memory of her, you can help another child's mum in tough circumstances.

Just choose the gift you'd like to buy, fill in the form (which will be available during February in Church or from the MU branch leader), and return it direct to the address on the form by the 2nd March and you will be sent a beautiful specially designed card with details of the chosen gift. You can personalise and send the card or keep it in memory.

Your gift will be used by the MU to continue building dignity and self-worth in people, families and communities in 77 countries, demonstrating God's love for them in practical ways.

The gifts are under the following headings:

£5. will buy an insecticide treated mosquito net which will help reduce over 1 million malaria-related deaths each year.

£8. will fund a place in a parenting group for a struggling mum.

£12. will support a grandma as she sustains her family by supplying seeds and training for the family in sustainable agricultural techniques – this directly helps HIV/AIDS affected families.

£16. will help Prison Support work that helps build vital bonds between a parent in prison and his/her child.

£28. will provide an essential aid kit giving a lifeline of crucial supplies such as grain, pots and pans, sleeping mats and blankets to families who have literally lost everything through natural disaster or fleeing conflict. (all this for the average price of a floral delivery for Mothering Sunday).

£37. will train a community birth attendant to help stop preventable deaths in childbirth.

£100 will support an MU trainer – Knowledge is power the saying goes. Around the world women are being empowered through community initiatives. MU Community Trainers are working with groups to raise knowledge of HIV/AIDS care, literacy skills and teach good practice in nutrition, hygiene and agricultural skills. The skills learnt help women to become independent, valued within their communities, and overcome poverty and stigma.

The MU guarantees that your gift will be used where it is most needed and mothers all around the world will be grateful for your generosity.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS CAMPAIGN.

Auriol Horton, Branch Leader. 01291 641844

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

We had two very enjoyable meetings in December. For our Christmas meeting we visited the Tabernacle Chapel at Penhow and were given an interesting talk on the history of the chapel, followed by the traditional mince pies. Our second meeting was the annual trek up Gray Hill to witness the winter solstice. We were particularly lucky as the sun actually made an appearance! This was followed by a well deserved breakfast.

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

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

Our meetings for the coming months are:

Tuesday 30th January- Open quiz night & raffle 7.30pm Huntsman Hotel

Monday 12th February- Visit to Records Office 12.30pm Main Car Park, County Hall.

Tuesday 27th February- 'Raglan Castle Gardens' by Elizabeth Whittle 7.30pm Huntsman Hotel.

Monday 12th March- Resources Session with Dorothy Brabon 2.00pm Recreation Hall.

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

Shirenewton Church Website and Shopping Portal **www.shirenewtonchurch.com**

Well Christmas has been and gone and the New Year now seems a long time ago. Many thanks to all who purchased via the Church website.

Almost all the stores featured on the Church website now have sales running so please do your sales purchasing through the shopping portal - remember it costs you nothing, you get all the same deals as if you went directly to the merchant's website and the Church gains some commission for referring you.

As you start thinking about 1/2 term get aways, Easter holidays and even summer holidays remember that the Church website features lots of travel companies. I can personally recommend companies such as Holiday Autos (car hire), Holidays Extras (which offer discounted parking at the airports) and eBookers. There is also travel insurance and other related stuff available.

Please also remember that if you buy directly from the merchant without going through the church website (for example, by clicking on a link in an email newsletter) the church will not benefit. So please remember to access the merchant's website via the church website - yes its an extra click or two, but think of the benefit those extra clicks provide. Its looking like the website delivered in excess of £400 to Church funds last year.

On the technical side I try and keep the 'be a whizz' section up-to-date. If there are any subjects you want me to cover let me know. However, I can not emphasise strongly enough that you must have up-to-date virus protection and spyware protection at all times. See my recommendations on the website. Bear in kind that some infected machines can not be economically repaired. In fact, I was asked to look at a good friend's PC before Christmas. It had over 100 separate viruses on it and the registry was severely corrupted.

Rather than re-install everything (which would take hours and for which they didn't have the original disks) they opted to purchase a new machine. How old was the old one? Two years old!

A prosperous 2007
David Cornwell—Webmaster

EARLSWOOD AND NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL

Have you seen the basement of Earlswood Hall? No? Well, it's fantastic! The committee and SODS are very pleased indeed with the improvements. It isn't quite finished – new windows have to be installed – and the floor will be painted but wow! The problem of surface water has been resolved, the central heating boiler is now no longer threatened by flooding and now there is a huge dry space where the committee can safely store their chairs and tables down there. SODS can store their giant beanstalks, glass slippers and the wicked Queen's magic mirror. And Kids Ad Lib will be able to store their vast numbers of swords, bows and arrows and hatchets that seem to be required for most of their productions

In filling out the CEDS (Community and Economic Development Scheme) grant application forms – which as you can imagine is a whole bundle of fun, the guidelines state that Monmouthshire County Council aim to contribute to ways of improving the quality of life in Monmouthshire by offering the chance to help groups and organisations to bid for funds so that they can realise their ideas and projects. And I think the MCC deserve a bit of good publicity. The grant of £19,000 has gone a long way to improving the facilities that Earlswood Hall can offer to the local community. And how wonderfully that was demonstrated this W/E. So many people were involved in the Pantomime, so many people came to see it and so many people had a great time up at Earlswood Hall.

To book Earlswood Hall – contact Glynis on (01291) 641 818

A night at the races in Devauden!



Come and join in the fun at the Hood Memorial Hall on Saturday 3rd February at 7.30pm.
First race at 8pm.

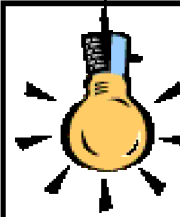
Purchase a horse for the night for only £5 and possibly become a prize winning owner!



Tickets cost £2 and include a light supper, the bar will be open and there will be a raffle.

To reserve your place in the grandstand and/or owners enclosure please telephone Helen on 01291 650835.

Funds raised are for St James, Devauden



Need an Electrician

Friendly and professional service
by qualified local tradesmen with over
twenty years experience.

For anything from an extra socket to a full
rewire

Phone Mark on
641296 or 07790 869737(mobile)

For a more personal approach to insurance, pensions & Investments

To find out more call Fran Fitzpatrick
on 01633 413571

Visit our local office,
3 Langstone Business Park,
Priory Drive,
Langstone,
Newport,
NP18 2LH

Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.



NFU Mutual

It's an NFU Mutual understanding

GWILYM RICHARDS

and Co. Chartered Surveyors

AUCTIONEERS • VALUERS • LAND & PROPERTY AGENTS

rental expertise

town, village and country

houses, cottages and flats

tenants referenced

rents guaranteed

full management

introduction only

rics approved client accounts

working for you

CHEPSTOW (01291) 627 500

Showroom at 30 High Street, Chepstow (within Archer & Co)

MONMOUTH (01600) 860 300

The Estate Office, Pant Glas, Llanishen, Chepstow, NP16 6QQ

www.grichards.co.uk www.rightmove.co.uk

MONMOUTHSHIRE • FOREST OF DEAN • VALE OF BERKELEY

STARGAZING IN FEBRUARY '07

The constellation of Orion the Hunter, lies directly to the South. Four bright stars represent his shoulders and legs whilst a further three form his belt. Above Orion and to the right is a very bright orange star called Aldebaran. It's the brightest star in the constellation Taurus, the Bull and marks it's eye. In classical times, the Greeks saw the constellation as Zeus disguised as a bull. Taurus is a member of the Zodiac, the twelve constellations which the Moon and planets travel through in a year. Looking further upwards and to the right you will see a small cluster of stars. These are called the Pleiades. With the naked eye, people can usually see six or seven stars in Pleiades. However, some people with better eyesight can see more. The cluster contains more than 200 young stars born some 50 million years ago, which means they are only one hundredth of the age of the Sun, our local star. Aldebaran means "the follower" in Arabic, as it rises above the horizon after the Pleiades.

The planet Venus is the brilliant Evening Star setting in the West between 7 and 8 in the evening. The Moon is near Venus on the evening of 19 February.

The much fainter planet Mercury may be spotted after sunset as the sky gets darker, to the lower right of Venus.

Saturn lies to the southeast. It is yellowish in colour and lies to the bottom right of the backwards question mark that forms the head of the constellation Leo, the Lion. The planet is close to Regulus, the brightest star in Leo. Saturn is the brighter of the two. On 10 February Saturn is at its closest point to Earth, 1200 million kilometres away.

Jupiter is very bright in the southeast in the early morning. The crescent Moon lies to the lower right of Jupiter on the morning of 12 February.

Dave Thomas

1st Shirenewton Guides.

Happy New Year to you all. As I write this we are preparing to recommence Guides after the Christmas break. Tonight the Young Leaders are organising a joint evening with the Brownies and we are having a masked ball (with lots of food too!).

This year is the 60th anniversary of our Welsh guiding headquarters in mid Wales – Broneirion – and we have been given the opportunity to work towards a special diamond badge to celebrate the occasion. We intend spreading this throughout the year to give as many girls as possible the chance to gain it. We are looking for a willing volunteer for about an hour to teach us how to jive (or even hand jive) – can anyone help?

At the end of January we are going away for a couple of girlie days to pamper ourselves as, due to leader commitments, we didn't get away in November. This has proved very popular with the girls and I think nearly the whole unit is attending. The idea is a peaceful and tranquil weekend where we all come back relaxed, refreshed, rejuvenated and beautified – we shall see, it is a tall order!

The usual packed programme of activities has been planned but we are always grateful for people to share their skills or hobbies with us. If you feel you can help then please contact me for further details.

Yours in Guiding,

Kestrel - Helen Cann—01291 650835

BROWNIE REPORT

We are looking forward to enrolling 6 new girls into Shirenewton Brownies this month. Some of our other Brownies are hoping to earn their hostess badge at the enrolment meeting. This is just one of the 56 badges the girls can work towards in Brownies. 'The hostesses' will be welcoming our guests, making table decorations and providing refreshments and entertainment for the evening. After all that I think they deserve a badge!

Jackie Broughton
Guider in Charge,
1st Shirenewton Brownies

THE BELLS - THE BELLS- THE BELLS,

The ringers have had a busy Christmas. First, ringing to welcome in Christmas Day at Midnight Mass, then up bright (well some of us not quite so bright) and early on Christmas morning to ring for family service. We muffled the bells and mournfully rang out the old year and then having taken the muffles off, rang cheerfully to welcome the New Year in.

At this time of the year we ring with the ropes downstairs so the ringers can be seen while they ring. On New Years Eve there was quite a crowd in the church. The ringers "fired" the bells. Firing is when the bells all ring simultaneously and is rung for celebration. It is technically quite skilled as individuals have to "hold up" and wait for other bells or quickly "check in" and ring before other bells. Our ringers now are sufficiently advanced to have this capability. First we rang "rounds" 1,2,3,4,5,6, then into firing but after the firing not back into rounds but straight into "Queens". The order in which the bells strike in Queens is 1,3,5,2,4,6. Then we fired again and then this time back out into rounds. There was also singing, fireworks and the Last Post played on a cornet to add to the festivities.

On December the 29th Claire Eickhoff rang her first quarter of Grandsire Doubles on a working bell. This means she can now competently ring 2 methods on 5 bells (doubles) and she will now move on to learning methods on 6 bells (minor).

The back four bells at Shirenewton were cast in Chepstow by William Evans in 1756. Mike our Tower Captain decided a peal should be rung during the 250th anniversary year. So on 28th December a peal of Plain Bob Minor was rung in 2hrs 37 mins. Charles Eickhoff and Bob Millar rang in it, for both of them it was their first peal, so big congratulations to them. The other ringers were Mike and Pip Penney, plus Barry Hayman and Peter S Bennett from St. Woolos Cathedral.

We had our Winter Ringing Tour on Saturday 6th January. Seventeen ringers comprising Shirenewton Ringers and visitors visited the Ross-on-Wye area ringing in 7 towers and having lunch in The Lough Pool Inn in Sellack (recommended). After the ringing it was back to Earlswood for celebration, food and wine.



Chores R Us

Is there anything more likely to add a bit of sparkle to your life than a clean and tidy home?

O.K. apart from Robbie Williams, a bar of Galaxy and Mary Poppins babysitting!

Sadly, we can't conjure up Robbie or Mary but we can wave a wand over the jobs you hate - dusting, ironing, polishing, scraping chewing gum off carpets – you name it we've done it.

Chores R Us offers a flexible, reliable cleaning service so put your feet up, grab the phone and give us a call.

01291 641596
07793 083723

WROUGHT IRONWORK

Decorative, Ornamental or Functional

Gates, Railings, Furniture, etc.

Mike Gambold: 641773
mike.gambold@googlemail.com

Itton Village Hall

Friday 9th February 7.30pm

The 'Tales from Beyond the Border' Storytelling Company
present:

'It's Behind You'

Stories by candlelight for dark winter nights.

Using traditional pantomime stories, a different interpretation may be put upon some well-loved characters:

Is Red Riding Hood sweet and innocent?
Should Aladdin have an ASBO and not a lamp?
Intrigued? Come along and find out.

Tickets at door: £6.00 adults £3.50 Students.

Refreshments (small charge), Raffle. Disabled facilities.

Sponsored by the Arts Council for Wales.

NEW YEAR EVE CELEBRATIONS

Again this year the New Year was seen in with a lively village party at the Huntsman Hotel. It seemed as though a very high percentage of the village population were in attendance at what seemed to be a highly successful evening.

The Function room was taken over for dancing with the appropriate music supplied by that celebrated local disc jockey Peter Burke. Who manages to select the music absolutely right for the groups present. He was supported by two talent ladies—Hannah's North Gate Duo. Meanwhile in the main lounge a very vocal sing-along was taking place led by that trio of local musicians and stalwarts of community singing, Jane and Bill Smith-Haddon, along with Stu Dutton, who again know all the right numbers for a rousing occasion.

A splendid buffet had been laid on by Phil Mole the "Mine host". All in all a highly successful evening, so thanks must go to all that organised the event.

LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The National Police Organisation is introducing a new service: – POLICE UK. This informative facility is available to everyone, not just for Neighbourhood Watch members. If you would like to receive messages and alerts from the police then please register your details on: - [www. police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

You can register this either on-line by going onto the police.uk web page and clicking on the Registration box (lower right hand side of the front page); Or by ringing the freephone telephone number 0800 5877 472 and an operator in Community Safety Dept will input your details for you. You have the option of receiving a message by telephone, mobile, text (SMS) or email. Make sure you select the ones you want, all if you wish. To receive text message select SMS. For any further information or concerns please contact either PC 363 Mason at Chepstow DD 01633 642358 or one of the local NHW co-ordinators.

VILLAGE SURGERIES - POLICE AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Joint surgeries will be held in the Shirenewton Recreation Hall on every third Saturday of 2007, between 10am and 12noon. Your Neighbourhood Police Officer, PC Andrew Mason, will attend and he will be joined at each session by a community councillor. No prior appointments are required and we will be there to discuss any community concerns or issues.

The next Local Neighbourhood Watch meeting will be held at the Huntsman Hotel on Thursday 8th February at 8.00 p.m.

THET (The Tropical Health and Education Trust)

Reg. Charity No. 800567

THET (Tropical Health and Education Trust) aims to improve health care in poorer countries by providing skills training to frontline health workers in Ghana, Malawi, Uganda, Ethiopia and Somaliland.

THET responds to the needs identified by its overseas partners and supports locally driven training and projects. Links have been created between some NHS Trusts and their counterparts overseas. One such Link is the Southern Ethiopia-Gwent Health Link at Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny.

THET believes strongly in practical aid, training medical and nursing students from these countries, who then return home to work. Money for this, and for visits by consultants and doctors to these countries for training purposes is raised by fundraising events such as concerts, appeals, donations, events etc. THET receives DOH support, and several high profile national organisations are now actively involved, including the British Council, Band Aid, Comic Relief, the Royal College of Physicians, The Wellcome Trust, the Nuffield Foundation, BBC 4 Radio Appeal, the British Embassy (Ethiopia) and High Commission (Ghana) to name but a few, as well as smaller but equally committed groups such as various churches and businesses.

In 1981, Professor Brian Duerden made his first visit to Ghana for a six-week training course for Ghanaian medical students, and this was followed by several more visits, and an on-going commitment to the charity, believing it to be a first class way of helping third world medicine, and being impressed at the minimum administration costs (the THET offices in London are remarkable for their lack of glamour!). He approached Moira, Josee, Roger and Marjorie to see if they were willing to put together a concert and Mansfield College, Oxford has agreed to let their beautiful chapel be used for this event, waiving their usual costs.

*IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN COMING TO SUPPORT THIS EVENT,
PLEASE CONTACT - brian.duerden@dh.gsi.gov.uk; tel: 01291 623310*

Tropical Health and Education Trust

SATURDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2007, 7.00PM

at Mansfield College, Oxford
Music for Health

a celebration of music across four centuries

Brahms: Four Serious Songs

Butterworth: Six Songs from 'A Shropshire Lad'

Loeillet: Sonata III in F major

Ball: A Summer Day **MacIlwham:** Highland
Suite

Vivaldi: Variations on 'la Follia'

(Roger Martin (*baritone*) Marjorie Duerden
(*piano*)

Moira Fraser-Hook & Josee Beeson (*recorders*)

Tickets: £10 (students £5) I

including wine/refreshments

Contact: brian.duerden@dh.gsi.gov.uk; Tel: 01291
623310



MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL

SATURDAY MARCH 31st:

MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK

With CCS Orchestra.

Katherine Bond (soprano)

Caryl Hughes (mezzo-soprano)

Pergolesi : "Stabat Mater",

Haydn: Missa Brevis in F

Vivaldi: "Gloria"

Albinoni: Adagio

St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow, 7.30pm

Tickets are available for all concerts through Chepstow Bookshop,
and choir members.

PROGRAMMES SUCH AS THESE ARE WORTHY OF YOUR
SUPPORT...AND WITH THAT SUPPORT WE KEEP CHORAL
SINGING ALIVE IN CHEPSTOW.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CHORAL SOCIETY BY AT-
TENDING OUR CONCERTS, BRINGING FRIENDS TO OUR
CONCERTS OR MAYBE BECOMING A PATRON.

SHIRENEWTON W.I

The first meeting of 2007 coincided with the first night of the pantomime and as a number of our members were involved, only ten members and two guests attended. We started the meeting with a minute's silence to remember Olwyn Morgan who had been a member some time ago. We heard that we were well represented at the Gwent W.I. Christmas service by five members, three of whom were in the choir. Winnie Jones reported back about the resolutions to go to the Annual General Meeting in London

Our speaker Neville Waters had been High Sheriff for Gwent in 2002, the Queen's Golden Jubilee Year. He gave us a very amusing and informative lecture. High Sheriffs were appointed first by King Arthur and have continued to the present without a break even during Oliver Cromwell's Commonwealth. It is now an honorary post but still nominally has the same powers, keeping the peace, administering justice, executing writs and presiding over elections. In earlier times they were also tax collectors for the Monarch. The taxes were placed on a chequered board which is the origin of the word Exchequer, the sums collected by each Sheriff were notched on a tally stick which was split longitudinally. One half of the tally stick, the foil, went with the taxes, the counterfoil was held by the Sheriff.

Mr Waters explained about the clothes he had to wear which included black stockings. A previous sheriff advised him that tights were more comfortable and the best place to buy them was Mothercare. Each time we see a man in court dress, we will wonder where the stockings came from!

He brought with him his ceremonial sword, as well as other items and albums of wonderful photographs of his year in office that Mrs Waters handed round.

WHIST DRIVES

We started the New Year with 8 full tables although illhealth prevented the presence of several regular players. We hope they will soon recover and the weather will be kind to us for the next two Drives on Thursday, 1st February and Thursday, 1st March starting at 7.30 p.m. promptly. We look forward to seeing both old and new players at The Recreation Hall.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton – 01291 641844

February already! How are those New Year's Resolutions going? Why not make a couple of extra ones - that are easily kept! e.g. Try a couple of new fairly-traded goods! And eat more (fairly-traded) chocolate! - it's excellent quality i.e. has got lots of real cocoa in it (not reconstituted grease) and therefore lots of iron!

There are some exciting new and very healthy products available e.g Organic Jasmine Green Tea and the wonderful chewy Fruit Snacks (just strips of pear, peach and nectarine) - 50p a packet (half a pack = one of the notorious 5-a-day!).

When I started buying this stuff - about 15 years ago? - I must confess that I thought that any right-thinking person not on their uppers (at least all my acquaintanceship) would be converted over night. How wrong I was! The collective gods of Tescasda and their wretched BOGOF/10 p off offers brainwash people into thinking that ALL THAT MATTERS IS CASH! And now they seek to appease our green sensibilities with biodegradable plastic bags! May they rot!

As ever contact me for info or a catalogue or ask in our Spar (which now also stocks 'my' superior mint thins!)

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

KIDS RING OUT

A Big thank you to all the people who donated money to The Kids Ring Out run round ring.

We raised an amazing £1,622.00 for the Archbishop of Wales Fund For Children.

Tom Mitchell from Earlswood who rings at Shirenewton is going to present Bishop David Yeoman with a huge cheque on the 10th of February at Rumney Church hall at 1.15.