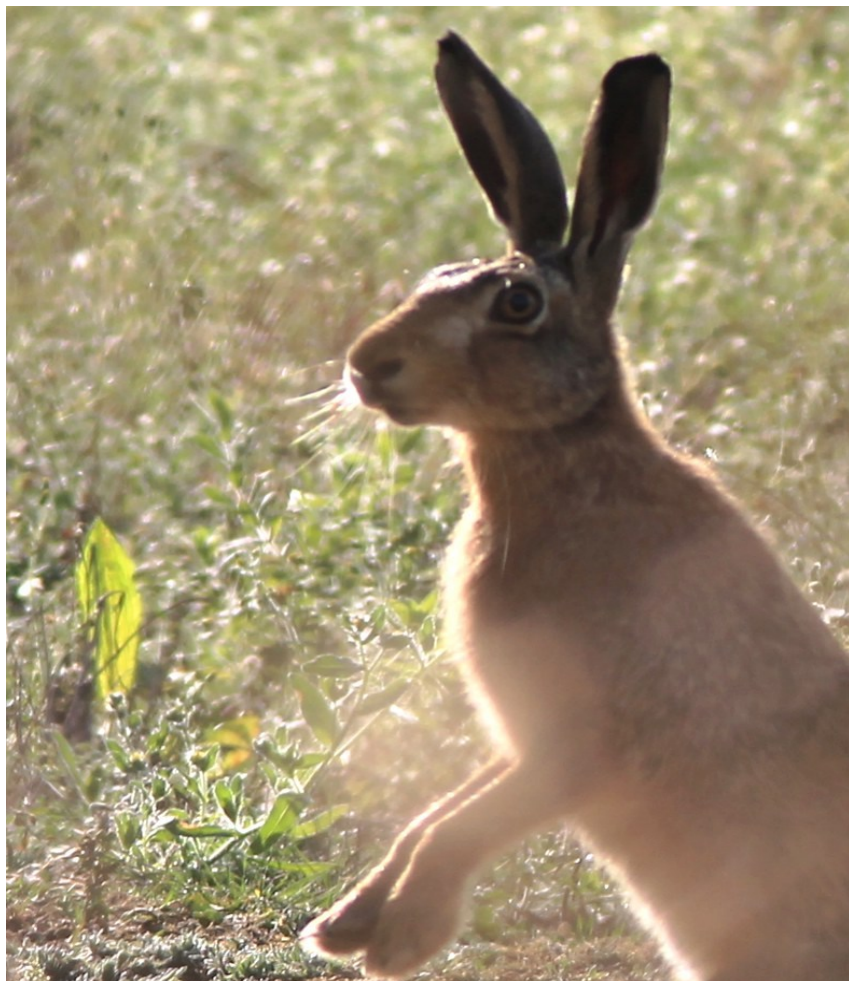


Shirenewton Parish Magazine



March 2026

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SERVICES AT SHIRENEWTON CHURCH IN MARCH

Sunday 1 st March	10.00	St David's Day Morning Praise with Hymns
Sunday 8 th March	10.00	Morning Praise with Hymns
Sunday 15 th March	10.00	Mothering Sunday Eucharist with Hymns
Sunday 22 nd March	10.00	Eucharist with Hymns
Sunday 29 th March	10.00	Palm Sunday Eucharist with Hymns

All are welcome to join us and enjoy refreshments in the church rooms after Sunday morning service

Information of all services at eleven local churches that make up the Severn-Wye Ministry Area is at www.severnwyema.co.uk

EDITING THE SHIRENEWTON PARISH MAGAZINE

NO ONE HAS COME FORWARD YET! THIS IS URGENT FOR THE FUTURE OF THIS MAGAZINE AS AN IMPORTANT VILLAGE COMMUNICATION PLATFORM

Sadly, I will be giving up editing the parish magazine after the July/August edition. I gave notice to the LCC last September that the decision by Microsoft to cease all support for Publisher (even to the extent of no longer allowing access to historic files) has informed this decision. I looked at the recommended replacement software, tried to make it work for me, and failed miserably. Microsoft, of course, recommend using Word and PowerPoint, but that is too time-consuming as a solution (I did this for another magazine some years ago which ran to about a quarter of the pages that we have).

The LCC is looking for a volunteer to take on or share the editorship, so please let me know if you are interested. Using the current software it takes me about three to four days maximum a month to edit and shape the magazine into pdf format so it is ready for the printer. There is about another half day a month involved in chasing advertisers for their annual payments. But you also get to communicate with interesting contributors, speak to the advertisers, and meet a whole new range of people in the villages of Shirenewton, Mynyddbach, Earlswood, Newchurch and beyond.

Bill Clark parishmagshirenewton@gmail.com

24-7 PRAYER

We are excited to once again offer you the opportunity of experiencing our 24-7 Prayer Room, which will be in situ at St. Christopher's Bulwark from Friday 27th – Saturday 28th March.

The 24-7 Prayer movement began in 1999 in Chichester, England. A small group of young Christians, including Pete Greig, were part of a church community seeking renewal and deeper encounter with God. Inspired partly by the Moravian "Hundred Year Prayer Meeting" (1727–1827) and contemporary charismatic spirituality, they decided to attempt a month of non-stop prayer. They converted a disused boiler room into a creative prayer space filled with artwork, written prompts and interactive stations. The intention was not to host services, but to facilitate personal, contemplative engagement.

The initiative was modest in scale but catalytic in effect. Participants reported significant spiritual impact, and word spread rapidly through emerging church networks and student ministries. Within a year, similar prayer rooms were being established in other UK towns. By the early 2000s, the model had been adopted internationally, supported by online sign-up systems and shared resources.

More than two decades on, 24-7 Prayer rooms continue to prove the original conviction that sustained, ordinary prayer can generate extraordinary transformation in both individuals and communities.

Each day is split up into hour slots which individuals (or groups) sign up for to have for their own exclusive use. You might think a whole hour praying would be too difficult, but there are multiple stations and activities out for you to choose from. In fact most people who have already used a prayer room before sign up for a 2 hour slot, as they say one hour was not long enough last time!

If you'd like to experience this world-renowned holy space for yourself, and are available for one or more hours between 11am on Fri 27th and 1pm on Sat 28th, please contact me to reserve the time you would like: Severn.Wye.MAL@gmail.com or 07754 306229

Blessings

Zoe

NEWS ON THE CHURCH MEMORIAL CLOCK

The Church Memorial Clock has been repaired and is due to be re-installed during the week commencing 2nd March 2026

24-7 PRAYER



Shirenewton Fete will be on
Saturday 13th June 2026

THE KINDNESS OF STRANGERS

At the Church's bring and share evening on Friday 20th February the Reverend Philip Averay talked to us about his amazing pilgrimage to Rome. He set out on foot from St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow on Sunday 27th July 2025 dressed in his Franciscan robes and sandals (and socks!) and arrived in Rome 95 days later. His first five days took him to Portsmouth, and thereafter he was restricted in time by his 90 day European visitor's visa. This meant that during the whole of his walk he took only one lift to make sure he reached his goal in time.

He only took with him two changes of clothes, some toiletries and his mobile phone, which he used for the mapping and translation apps, and occasional contact with his family. He relied totally on the kindness of strangers for his food and accommodation, and he was not disappointed. He remembers only eight nights when he had to sleep rough (he found cash machine kiosks were warm, dry and had power sockets). On about ten occasions his hosts for the night would refer him to a friend who lived on his route and so he was sure of a bed for the night. On all other occasions he would arrive in a town or village, find somewhere reasonably central or prominent to hang out, and start talking to people. His obvious warmth, humanity and gentleness found him many friends, invitations to meals and a place to stay for the night.

Philip enjoyed the silence of walking alone (the absence and presence of silence), and he found peace. When the maelstrom of thoughts that invaded his mind died away after walking a few miles, he found he was very receptive to peace. So much so, that when he retires, he is planning a 200 day walk to India!

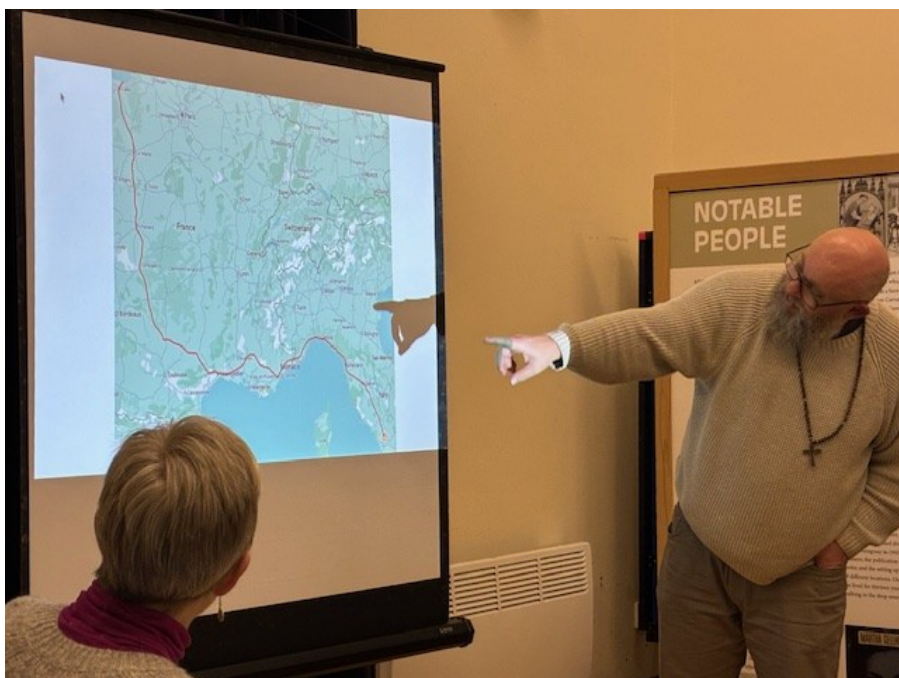
As usual for a Church bring and share, the Church room was packed with people (church-goers, people from the surrounding villages and some from further afield) and there was a huge spread of delicious food and drink to be enjoyed by all.



**Stuart
Hammer**

Painter and Decorator
Quality work at sensible prices

07825232517



**Good
Friday
3rd
Apr**



Nature walk followed by free hot breakfast!

Join us for an Easter nature walk suitable for all ages, followed by **sausage baps & hot cross buns**, with tea and coffee at Shirenewton church hall, to nourish us at the end!



Meet at Shirenewton
Church at 9am

Please RSVP by Mon 30th
March using the QR code,
or contact Revd Zoe:
07754 306229
Severn.Wye.MAL@gmail.com
to book your place!





SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Please find extracts from the minutes of the monthly meeting held 2nd February 2026 7pm Shirenewton Recreation Hall

4 x Items for planning

DM/2025/00153 – Replacement Dwelling, White brook Farm, Bully Hole Road, Earlswood, NP16 6SA

Councillors will recall considering the original application in March last year. Whitebrook Farm sits in the upper reaches of the Mouton valley in some 0.4 acres. The immediate surroundings are mainly small traditional fields enclosed by hedgerows with occasional scattered dwellings and farm buildings. The farmhouse is a traditional smallholding with 2 bedrooms upstairs. The structure of the house continues to the left with a large store with a pitched roof slightly higher than the main roof as it stands on rising ground. Beyond the store is a further, single storey store and carport, roofed with corrugated metal sheet.

The proposal is to replace the structures with a modern 2 storey house with 4 bedrooms, 2 with dressing rooms and en suite facilities, and a lounge, study, kitchen/diner and utility room. The roof will be natural slate to east and west elevations and dark grey standing seam metal roof to north and south. Dark grey ply or grp flat roof to dining room, plant room and utility. Walls will be natural stone with mineral paint finish, smooth painted render to kitchen, with horizontal timber cladding natural finish larch boards.

A 2 storey garage is also proposed for 2 cars and a large garden store reusing the old barn doors, with a home office/studio upstairs. The garage will have natural slate roof, with roof lights, and smooth painted render walls.

The Bat report reveals the large store is a breeding home to lesser horse-shoe bats and possibly some long eared bats. To mitigate for the loss of the existing maternity roost, it recommends like-for like replacement roost (as close as possible, or better), the new roost must be available and used by bats in the summer season before original removed, the new roost must be constructed of concrete block or brick with a slate roof and bitumen felt roof liner ideally having a roof void with an apex height more

than 2.8m and a length and width of 5 m or more, minimal or no removal of vegetation, and subdued or no lighting near the roost.

MCC SUDS have objected that the application has not demonstrated a means of surface water discharge (rainwater harvesting, infiltration, watercourse, surface water sewer or combined sewer). However, as there is a watercourse within the site boundary, their view is the worst-case scenario for surface water drainage will be discharge to a watercourse.

Councillors objected pending clarification on foul and surface water treatment, external paint and finish colours, bat mitigation and the lack of a Design statement justifying the development, adding they will wish to make further comment when these details are provided.

The following comments have now been made:

Surface water drainage will be captured initially in rain butts. The overflows will be channelled to a new water detention and drainage basin with any excess going to the existing watercourse (presumably Mounton Brook).

NRW states that the site lies within 3km of the Wye Valley Lesser Horseshoe bats SSSI and Mwyngloddfa Mynydd-bach SSSI, part of the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC. Given the proximity to these sites and that the proposals have implications for lesser horseshoe bats, a notified feature of the SAC, NRW advise that a European protected species (EPS) Licence is required. The applicants had already proposed a separate building dedicated as a bat roost and this is now to be relocated under the flight path, closer to the trees to the North. It will be 6m long x 4m wide internally with a ridge height to apex of at least 2.8m, and have an earth floor. The external walls will be clad with horizontal timber boarding. The roof will be natural slate on Type 1F bitumen underfelt. A letterbox roost entrance, baffled internally to reduce light ingress into the roost and heat loss from the roost and fitted with a cowl to prevent predators and bird entry.

There is still no indication of external wall and opening colours or finishes, nor is there a Design Statement or GI proposals.

MCC's Landscape Officer has commented extensively as appears in the annex below. In brief the proposal is not acceptable because :

The existing farmhouse and attached barn are important to the visual and intrinsic character of the landscape and should not be demolished. The buildings can be viewed from the nearby lane and public footpath and contribute visually to local distinctiveness within the valley setting and to Monmouthshire's valued rural character.

The existing farmhouse and barn have not been demolished, abandoned or fallen into such a state of disrepair so that it no longer has the appearance of a dwelling. The structures are intact, albeit aging.

The replacement dwelling is not of a similar size to that replaced. The existing dwelling has a ridge line of 5.7m. The proposal is for a dwelling with

ridgeline of 7.75m, a 2m increase in height and accompanying increase in architectural mass and volume. The immediate area of the site is a settled rural landscape typical of that found across rural areas of Monmouthshire. There appear to be few traditional farmhouses of the Whitebrook farmhouse and associated barn character retained within the landscape. Traditional farmhouses and barns contribute to the distinctive character of Monmouthshire. Policy H4 – Conversion / Rehabilitation of Buildings in the Open Countryside for Residential Use, should guide the retention of the character of the existing farmhouse and barn through sympathetic conversion and appropriate modest extension.

It is also considered that the current application should be supported by a design and access statement that explains the rationale for design approach and response to current policy, together with GI statement describing how green infrastructure will be incorporated into the proposal and the step wise approach adopted as part of the design process. Light spill will need to be considered carefully and a lighting strategy will need to be provided to ensure that all external light fittings and glazed areas are appropriately designed.

Recommendation: Objection for the want of a) detail on the external wall cladding, paint and finish colours and materials, and (b) a Design statement justifying the development and (c) a Green Infrastructure Statement. SCC will wish to make further comment when these details are provided.

CLRs voted unanimously to object to this planning matter.

Annex (MCC Landscape Officer's comments)

It is considered from a Landscape and GI perspective that the proposal is not acceptable hence an objection for the following reasons:-

- The existing farmhouse and attached barn is considered from landscape perspective as being a traditional farmhouse and outbuilding that is important to the visual and intrinsic character of the landscape and should not be demolished. The front and rear extensions do not necessarily contribute to value however the main building and its relationship with the attached adjacent barn are similar to a small linear combination of farm barn and cow house. The structures which can be viewed from near proximity from the nearby lane and PROW provide:-
 - o a visual contribution to local distinctiveness within the valley setting and that of Monmouthshire's valued rural character and farming history
 - o a contribution to the cultural landscape of Monmouthshire and visually relay how farmsteads and their buildings have developed over centuries, illustrate the story of farming and settlement that can be read in the landscape
- The existing farmhouse and barn have not been demolished, abandoned or fallen into such a state of disrepair so that it no longer has the appearance of a dwelling. The structures are intact, albeit aging and showing signs of settlement, ref plan 1779(PL)02, and contribute to the intrinsic landscape setting and character

- The replacement dwelling is not of a similar size to that replaced. The existing dwelling has a ridge line of 5.7m. The proposal is for a dwelling with a ridge line of 7.75m, a 2m increase in height and accompanying increase in architectural mass and volume. The immediate area of the site is a settled rural landscape typical of that found across rural areas of Monmouthshire. There appear to be few traditional farmhouses of the Whitebrook farmhouse and associated barn character retained within the landscape. Traditional farmhouses and barns contribute to the distinctive character of Monmouthshire. It is suggested that from a landscape and GI perspective that a more appropriate approach, guided by Policy H4 – Conversion / Rehabilitation of Buildings in the Open Countryside for Residential Use, is to retain the character of the existing farmhouse and barn through sympathetic conversion and appropriate modest extension that seeks to adapt the buildings appropriately. It is also considered that the current application should be supported by:-

- a) An appropriate design and access statement that explains the rationale for design approach and response to current policy
- b) The provision of a Green Infrastructure Statement (GIS). PPW12 chapter 6 highlights that a GIS should be submitted with all planning applications and will be proportionate to the scale and nature of the development. The statement will describe how green infrastructure will be incorporated into the proposal and the step wise approach adopted as part of the design process.
- c) A landscape plan that demonstrates how development will integrate with setting, responds to the GI statement, includes SUDs and contributes to net GI and biodiversity benefit.
- d) The provision of a Landscape / GI Management
- e) The site is in a rural location and benefits from being in a shallow valley landform. Light spill will need to be considered carefully. A lighting strategy will need to be provided to ensure that all external light fittings and glazed areas are appropriately designed. CONDITIONS Should the application progress to be approved it is anticipated that the following conditions should apply if not satisfactorily provided during the application process prior to determination.

Conditions

1. LANDSCAPE CONDITION Prior to the commencement of development full and comprehensive details of soft and hard landscape works shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Details shall include:

Detailed scaled plans, showing existing and proposed levels

Proposed and existing utilities/services above and below ground.

Soft landscape details for landscaping to include planting plans, specifications including species, size, density, number and location, cultivation and other operations associated with planting and seeding establishment.

Hard landscape materials to include surfacing, SUDs, location of proposed lighting, fencing, gates, minor artefacts and structures (e.g. signs, bins, stores).

Lighting strategy Reason: In the interests of visual and landscape amenity; in accordance with Policies DES1 & LC1/5 of the Local Development Plan

2. **LANDSCAPE WORKS IMPLEMENTATION** All hard and soft landscape works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and to a reasonable standard in accordance with the relevant recommendations of appropriate British Standards or other recognised Codes of Good Practice. Planting of Trees shall be in accordance with BS8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape. The works shall be carried out prior to the occupation of any part of the development or in accordance with the timetable agreed with the Local Planning Authority. Reason: To ensure the provision, establishment and maintenance of a reasonable standard of landscape in accordance with the approved designs and ensure the provision afforded by appropriate Landscape Design and Green Infrastructure LC5, DES 1, S13, and GI 1 and NE1.

3. **LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE** A schedule of landscape maintenance for a minimum period of five years shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to works commencing and shall include details of the arrangements for its implementation inclusive of roles and responsibilities. All planting, seeding or turfing comprised in the approved details of landscaping shall be carried out in the first planting and seeding season following the occupation of the building (s) or the completion of the development, whichever is the sooner, and any trees or plants which within a period of 5 years from the completion of the development die, are removed or become seriously damaged or diseased shall be replaced in the next planting season with others of similar size and species. Reason: To ensure the provision of amenity afforded by the proper maintenance of existing and / or new landscape features. **INFORMATIVES**

DM/2025/01452 - Garage Conversion to 1 Bed Dwelling House, Yew Tree Cottage West, Old School Hill, Mynydd Bach, NP16 6RN

Councillors will recall the application last year framed as a Garage Conversion to 2 Bed Dwelling House. In essence the existing building had an extra storey added.

SCC objected to that application on the grounds:

1. The application flies in the face of previous planning consents imposing conditions limiting the height of the garage to 4.5m and tying the use of the extension to storage purposes ancillary to Yew Tree Cottage.
2. The proposal does not satisfy policies H2, 3 or DES1 and in particular DES1 (l) in that it does not ensure that existing residential areas characterised by high standards of privacy and spaciousness are protected from overdevelopment and insensitive or inappropriate infilling.
3. Road safety is compromised. The site is on a very narrow lane at a busy road junction with a safe to school route without any provision for parking or turning around off road
4. The additional storey will render the rear of the building prominent in the rural landscape and prejudice neighbouring properties' privacy

5. Materials and colours for the roof tiles and rendering are not specified

6. The enlargement of the building changes the street scene from detached houses to a terrace row with the proposed additional storey standing out extraordinarily. SCC reserved the right to make additional comments when provided with these details.

The revised application no longer adds a storey. The garage door at the front is replaced with 3 windows, and the door at the rear is replaced with a patio window. The front part becomes a living room and the rear a bedroom, with the lower storey as the kitchen diner.

Whilst the revised plan does not increase the height of the garage, the application still contravenes the previous planning condition tying the use of the extension to storage purposes ancillary to Yew Tree Cottage, nor does it satisfy policies H2, 3 or DES1 and in particular DES1 (l) in that it does not ensure that existing residential areas characterised by high standards of privacy and spaciousness are protected from overdevelopment and insensitive or inappropriate infilling.

No parking provision is shown either for the application site nor for Yewtree Cottage to which the previous planning consent tied it. Neighbours complain that Weyloed Lane is narrow, unsuitable for large delivery vehicles and busy particularly at school start and finish times.

Materials and colours for the roof tiles and rendering are still not specified.

There is no Design statement justifying the development, nor, as pointed out by MCC's Ecology Officer is there a bat and nesting birds survey, the site being close to optimal habitat for bat species.

Welsh Water has objected as there is insufficient capacity in the public sewerage network.

Recommendation: Objection on the grounds that:

The revised application still flies in the face of previous planning consents imposing conditions tying the use of the extension to storage purposes ancillary to Yew Tree Cottage.

The proposal does not satisfy policies H2, 3 or DES1 and in particular DES1 (l) in that it does not ensure that existing residential areas characterised by high standards of privacy and spaciousness are protected from overdevelopment and insensitive or inappropriate infilling. There is a fundamental difference between a garage in which to store vehicles and a self contained dwelling.

No details have been provided for parking on site nor for the parking at Yewtree Cottage

Road safety is compromised. The site is on a very narrow lane at a busy road junction with a safe school route without any provision for parking or turning around off road

Materials and colours for the roof tiles and rendering are not specified

We support Welsh Water's objections on the grounds that there is insufficient capacity in the public sewerage network.

We reserve the right to comment further when the above details are provided.

Cllrs voted unanimously to object to this planning matter

Modified or removal of condition, DM/2025/01111 Oxpool Barn, Lower Argoed, Shirenewton

SCC considered this at the meeting in January and commented:

SCC objects to the removal per se of any of the conditions set out in M08655 and requests that:

Condition 4 stands until MCC is satisfied that the removal of the internal sections of wall does not affect the structural integrity of the building.

Condition 6 be varied to substitute Drawing 1649(10)C with dwg no 2437/202a.

Condition 7 be varied to substitute Drawing 1649(11)D with dwg no 2437/203a but otherwise should stand as written since grey ridge tiles are stipulated.

Condition 8 be varied to stipulate the rainwater goods be black.

Condition 9 requires LPA approval of the roof lights, but no particular type or manufacturer is stipulated. The condition should stand as written.

MCC is further requested to take note that:

Work on the barn conversion is believed to have started only in July last year, beyond the 5 year period permitted by M08655, when the application site was stripped of undergrowth and the barn roof removed, which would have displaced flora and fauna including many protected species of wild life, particularly bats, great crested newts and dormice in the breeding season. It has been reported to SCC that there were in the immediate vicinity an abundance of bats, great crested newts and dormice prior to the work.

Given the lapse of time since the original consent, SCC would expect to see a retrospective planning application seeking to validate the work so far carried out so that all aspects of the conversion could be considered. Furthermore, SCC is disappointed that the site works had commenced prior to the December report which was limited to a 'Preliminary Ecological Appraisal' and to species including bats with a 'Preliminary Roost Assessment' and 'Daytime Bat Walkover' survey, and that the survey was carried out in winter in daytime when there would be the least wildlife and vegetation activity. A full appraisal should be conditioned, were MCC minded to approve the application, along with extensive remediation to compensate for the extensive loss of flora and fauna, its destruction having taken place in the midst of the breeding season, in contravention of the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

SCC would be grateful to receive a copy of MCC's biodiversity and ecological comments and reserves the right to submit additional comments in the light of these.

Councillors will have noted that MCC has now confirmed it is satisfied there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that work on the development began in about 2010 and that the planning consent remains in force.

Councillors will also have noted the explanation received from the Applicants as to the clearance of the site and their ecology proposals.

It has now been brought to Councillors' attention that some considerable distance from the original barn a large concrete and breeze block foundation has been commenced. The access to it was originally taken through the hedge on Argoed Road but was clearly visible from the field behind. The concern is that this is not referred to in the current application and no information is provided as to its intended use. Councillors may wish to seek assurance as to its purpose and whether a planning application is appropriate.

Recommendation: SCC welcomes the explanations received from MCC's planning officer and the Applicants. SCC's comments on conditions 4, 6, 7, 8, and 9 still hold, and a full bat and bird nesting survey should be conditioned, as should a comprehensive landscaping and planting scheme, were MCC minded to approve the application.

SCC would be grateful to receive a copy of MCC's biodiversity and ecological comments and would be grateful if the recent installation of a large concrete and breeze block foundation could be investigated as this is not referred to in the application.

SCC reserves the right to submit additional comments when details regarding the above are received.

Clerk to respond to this planning matter.

DM/2026/00052 - Tyna Rhos Usk Road Earlswood Shirenewton - New access onto highway. Including driveway to barn and to new future house. Part of the road approx. 75 sq. metres will be in the adjacent field so will need change of use.

Tyna Rhos stands to the right-hand side in a large plot opposite the Bully Hole Bottom turning on the Usk Road and looks across the Moun-ton valley. The applicant's plans indicate that a planning application for the barn extension will be submitted as soon as possible, and that there is to be an application for a new 3 storey house, the existing house and out-buildings to be demolished.

The existing house is served by a rough tarmac track from an entrance off the Usk Road directly opposite Bully Hole Bottom Road. The application shows that a new entrance will be created some 30m down the road. It is unclear whether the existing entrance will be closed off nor whether the tarmac will be removed and the route remediated as grassland or garden. No sight lines are shown for the new entrance. The new entrance will have gates set back some 13m from the road.

The new road forks to the right to serve the house, being 3m in width and gradient of 1:17. The left fork is 4m and 1:12.5, formed in an S shape to climb the gradient and in so doing it will be sited in part in the adjoining field. It would appear from the applicant's certificate of ownership that the applicant owns that field.

There is no Green Infrastructure statement nor bat and bird surveys. Whilst there has been a pre-application consultation with MCC its contents are not disclosed on the planning website. Councillors may be concerned that this application is made ahead of applications in respect of the house and barn.

Recommendation: Objection on the grounds that:

1. This application and the proposed applications for a new house and barn extension should be considered simultaneously as the outcome of those intended applications may require changes to the driveways shown on this application, bearing in mind that no demolition or site clearance work in regard to the proposed new house and barn extension is permissible until consent is granted for them. Were MCC nevertheless minded to grant consent we would request conditions that no development under such consent can proceed until a full planning consent has been granted for a newbuild house and barn extension.

2. No sight lines are shown, it being acknowledged that Usk Road is a category B highway subject only to the statutory limit of 60mph.

1. There is no Green Infrastructure statement nor any newt and other protected species survey, nor any proposal for the removal of the existing entrance driveway, re-hedging the resulting gap on the Usk Road border, nor the remediation and restoration of the land under the existing driveway.

2. The section of driveway outside the red site line should be included within the application site.

SCC reserves the right to comment further when the above details are received.

Cllrs voted unanimously to object to this matter. Action Clerk to notify all of above

Other items;

Memorial clock repair – Clock has been completed, awaiting a date for reinstallation.

Traffic events –Accidents reported,

Speeding incident involving car driving into a wall in Gaerllwyd - Police attended

A lorry was stuck on bank – Police attended

B4235 Car on tipped onto side - Police attended

26th Dec Bike incident in the area, Air Ambulance attended

2nd Jan incident with van

14th Jan incident on Ditch Hill.

Cllrs discussed speeding in the village, Clerk to contact MCC to arrange a walk through, with Community Councillors to address speed and dangerous driving

Noticeboard for Mynyddbach – Delivered awaiting installation
Funding Grant for Litter Picking Equipment - Resolved to apply, then place equipment in telephone box in the Village Action: Clerk to arrange

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT FEBRUARY 2026

County Councillor Brown advised:

Individual Cabinet Member Decision 14th of January 2026

The above meeting covered the museum service collections rationalisation, annual health and safety report, the revoking of the air quality management area order 2005 for Usk and the Welsh Church Fund meeting 3 2025-2026 (with details of the grants approved). The reports of the meeting can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=147&MIId=6229>

People Scrutiny Committee 21st of January 2026

The Committee covered the Elective home education and children missing education policy. The reports can be seen at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=304&MIId=6153>

Cabinet 21st of January 2026

The Cabinet approved starting a statutory consultation on the change of age range for Durand primary school from 3-11 to 4-11, the proposed change being due to the significant surplus places. The Cabinet reports also covered the Sale of 2 farm cottages at Leechpool holdings as surplus to needs, section 106 allocations for Church Road and Crick and the Draft Revenue and Capital Budget.

Budget proposals 2026/7- Council Tax In Cabinet report 21st of January and Drop in Sessions

The Cabinet report on the draft revenue and capital budget proposals for 2026/7 provides details of the financial proposals and the proposal for a 5.95% increase in Council Tax. There is a budget gap of just under £1m which the Council hopes to fill with grants. It recommends the use of Capital receipts of £2,707,500 to fund revenue costs as well as an increase in discretionary fees and charges of at least 3.8% as outlined in appendix 6 of the report.

The consultation on the draft revenue budget proposals will run online until the 18th of February 2026. The consultation on the budget can be found on the Monmouthshire County Council website under Let's Talk Budget and Priorities. There are Budget Drop-in sessions in the local area at Chepstow Library from 11am to 1pm on the 10th of February and Caldicot Library on 10am to noon on the 12th of February 2026.

Details of the Cabinet reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=303&MIId=6170>

County Council 22 January 2026

The County Council approved the diary of meetings for 2026/7 with an extra budget meeting in March 2027 to correspond to the extra provisional budget meeting included in the diary for March 2026 and a report was approved on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

A motion was put forward by Cllr Paul Pavia and approved by full Council on the Chepstow Infrastructure and to reaffirm that addressing traffic congestion in and around Chepstow remains a strategic priority for Monmouthshire County Council. The meeting was cut shorter due to a council member being ill in the meeting with the motion on the budget not proceeded with and the Council questions answered by email.

The reports and full details of the motion can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=142&MId=6127>

Special Performance and Overview Committee 27th of January 2026

The Committee considered a report on Fixed Term School Exclusions which continues to increase and were higher than the previous 2 years, most exclusions were for 5 days or fewer with the average length of 1.5 days. The figures for permanent exclusions were also considered in the report. All permanent exclusions come through an Inclusion Panel which allows for multi-agency decision making about next steps and monitoring. The school health research network covered work led by Cardiff University on pupil well-being including how many children exercised and had breakfast.

There was an additional Business Strategic Risk Assessment with a table with various risks including high, medium and low risks for Monmouthshire County Council. High risk was shown in relation to the Council's financial side that some services will become financially unsustainable in the short to medium term due to increasing demand and continuing financial pressures. As well as a high risk that some infrastructure and assets may become inoperative in the medium term due to insufficient capital funding available to sustain the level of maintenance needed. The reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MId=6088>

Place Scrutiny Committee- 28th of January 2026

The Committee considered the Draft Cultural Strategy and action plan and consider how it seeks to champion cultural activity and create sustainable and inclusive cultural growth in Monmouthshire.

There was also a report on Biodiversity and resilience, to scrutinise the Section 6 of the Environment Wales Act 2016 report to Welsh Government to comply with that legal requirement. The requirement places a duty on public authorities to seek to enhance biodiversity where it is within the proper exercise of their functions.

The reports can be found at the following link:
<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=143&MIId=6088>

AOB and ward reports:

Cllr I Martin – Reported low flying aircraft from Caerwent Army Barracks Action; Clerk to contact Caerwent for an update on future flying activity.
Cllr G Todd – Nothing extra to report. Requested Clerk to rearrange meeting with MCC & Devauden CC Action: Clerk to contact all parties.
Cllr Butterworth: Nothing new to report
Cllr G Mitchel – No issues to report.
Cllr C Martin – Nothing extra to report
Cllr S Todd – No issues to report.
C Cllr Brown - Nothing extra to report.

To agree the date of the next meeting
Councillors agreed the date of the next meeting on Monday 2nd March 2026 at 7.00pm by public meeting in Shirenewton Recreation Hall or remotely via Google meet.

Contact the Clerk to the Community Council E-mail: shirenewtoncc@gmail.com



Upcoming series...

Sundays 7:00–8:30pm

At St.Christopher's, Bulwark

15th Feb–22nd Mar: Join us to explore the name of God, YHWH (in Hebrew, left:), and the ancient Shema prayer:

*"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God,
the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God
with all your heart and with all your soul
and with all your strength."*



Plus!
coming
soon...

24/7 prayer
room
27th & 28th
March

Vacancy on Shirenewton Community Council

Shirenewton Community Council has 1 vacancy for a Councillor in the Shirenewton & Mynyddbach ward

If you think you would like to be a Councillor and are over 18 years of age, contact the Clerk by email at shirenewtoncc@gmail.com

What is a Councillor?

Councillors are elected to represent an individual geographical unit on the council, known as a ward or parish. They are generally elected by the public every five years. Between the elections if a Councillor seat becomes available it can be filled by the Council Co-opting the applicant onto the Council. 1 seat for Co-option is available.

What do Councillors do?

Councillors have three main components to their work.

1. **Decision making** – Through meetings and attending committees with other elected members, councillors decide which activities to support, where money should be spent, what services should be delivered and what policies should be implemented.
2. **Monitoring** – Councillors make sure that their decisions lead to efficient and effective services by keeping an eye on how well things are working.
3. **Getting involved locally** – As local representatives, councillors have responsibilities towards their constituents and local organisations. These responsibilities and duties often depend on what the councillor wants to achieve and how much time is available, and may include:
 - Going to meetings of local organisations
 - Going to meetings of bodies affecting the wider community
 - Taking up issues on behalf of members of the public

How much time does it take up?

Quite often councillors say that their duties occupy them for about an hour a week. Obviously, there are some councillors who spend more time than this – and some less, but in the main, being a community councillor is an enjoyable way of contributing to your community and helping to make it a better place to live and work.

You will be supported in your role and will be expected to undertake training. You should be comfortable working electronically. You should have a positive outlook and a can-do attitude and be willing to work as part of a team. If after reading this notice you are interested in applying, please contact the clerk to the council using the above details.



**Shirenewton
Community Council**

Value of the Month

Love

Value of the Month - Love

When we act with love, we show kindness, patience, and understanding. We listen carefully, help others when they need support, and celebrate each other's successes. Love isn't just about the feelings we have for family and friends, it's also shown in the thoughtful choices we make every day.



Love encourages us to treat everyone with respect, to value differences, and to include others so no one feels left out. It reminds us that our words matter and that simple actions like a smile, a thank-you, or a helping hand, can brighten someone's day.



Year 3 - Week beginning - 1st February 2026

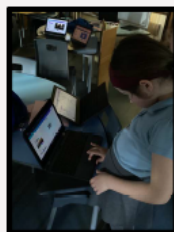
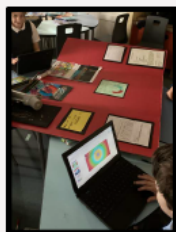
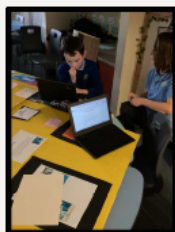
More children moving up in swimming again this week! It's so wonderful being able to see their confidence grow each week, overcoming their personal challenges and succeeding in the pool.

We are now on the home stretch with the Science Fair. We have been reflecting back on our success criteria this week, completing things we had forgotten to include and striving to produce the best displays we can.

Year 4 - Week beginning - 1st February 2026

In literacy, we have continued developing our instructional writing. We have generated lots of imaginative ideas and have been working on improving our sentences by using fronted adverbials and drop-in clauses. It has been great to see how much more confident we are becoming with structuring clear, detailed instructions.

In our topic work, we are still busy preparing our Science Fair display boards. We have been making sure they are packed with interesting information, bold headings and eye-catching designs so they will really stand out on the day. We are looking forward to sharing our hard work with everyone soon.



Newsletter

Year 5 - Week beginning - 1st February 2026

This week, we've had an amazing time learning even more about space. One of the most fascinating things we discovered is that space is a vacuum — which means there is no air at all. To help us understand this idea, we carried out a fun experiment using a bottle, some marshmallows, and a bicycle pump.



When we removed the air from the bottle, something surprising happened: the marshmallows expanded and grew bigger. Without air pressing on them, the tiny air bubbles inside the marshmallows were able to stretch out. It was a brilliant way to see how a vacuum works right in front of our eyes.

We also went on an amazing trip to the library, where we met the author Claire Fryer. She helped us begin creating our own stories using a selection of random objects she had brought with her. These unusual items sparked lots of imaginative ideas and creative thinking.



Year 6 - Week beginning - 1st February 2026

This week we were lucky enough to have safety internet session with Alex, our Gwent Heddlu back Officer. We enjoyed thinking about which online games are suitable to play. We need to be responsible online and respect the rules that are put in place to protect us.

We have also enjoyed working independently in groups, investigating Newton's Third Law - for every action (force) there is an equal and opposite reaction - by making balloon rockets and using them to test and answer our questions. We have also observed how matter behaves in a vacuum to understand how the human body reacts in the airless world of space.



SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

Our first meeting of 2026 saw John Burrows give us a talk on the 'Rise & Rise of Iron'. Which mapped out the local involvement, here in Wales, at the start of the industrial revolution. It was a full house and good to see all our members.

Dates for your Diary:

Annual Dinner Wednesday, 25th February at the Tredegar Arms

Archive Meeting Wednesday, 11th March at the Church Room

March Meeting Tuesday, 31st March, Speaker: Dr David Collard
Title: Alfred Russell Wallace

Our meetings are held at the Church Room, unless otherwise stated, at 2.00pm (During the winter months)

Archive meetings start at 2.00pm – 4.00pm and everyone is welcome.



Eileen O' Dwyer



HOME CARE

Private Carer/Home help
07795 689791



*SHIRENEWTON LOCAL
HISTORY SOCIETY*

*If you are interested in local history,
why not join our society!*

*We meet once a month at St Thomas
a Becket Church Room*

*We have a small village archive that
members are able to use.*

*We arrange visits to historic houses
and gardens.*

*We are a friendly group and look
forward to meeting you.*

*To contact us for more information:
secretary@*

shirenewtonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 1090167



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

SATURDAY MARCH 21st 2026
St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow, 7.30pm

***“GLORIOUS MUSIC FROM VENICE TO
VIENNA!”***

A. VIVALDI -- “GLORIA”
T. ALBINONI - -Oboe Concerto Op 9 no 2
F. SCHUBERT --- MASS in G
W.A. MOZART --- Motets

CCS ORCHESTRA
(Leader – Paula Kempton)

MAISIE RAE O'SHEA (Soprano)
MOLLY BEERE (Mezzo-Soprano)
LAURIE STANDISH HAYES (Tenor)
MATTHEW WELCH (Bass)

ANGELA WILLIAMS -- Oboe

GRAHAM BULL -- Musical Director
Tickets £15.00, u/18s and students free, from Choir
members, Chepstow Bookshop, www.eventbrite.co.uk



A sale of quality pre-loved 'stuff' on Saturday 7th March at 2pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall

In support of

READY STEADY GO
Activity Club Supporting Young Children with Autism

Clothes, Kids Clothes, Books, CDs, Toys, Games, 'Odds & Sods', etc.

No entry fee for buyers/visitors. Tea & Coffee available to purchase

Tables are £5. Limited availability. Contact Joanne by WhatsApp on 07715 764182 or email: joanneswc@hotmail.com for more information & to reserve a table.

Note: all proceeds to Ready Steady Go. Table allocation priority will be given to those who are donating their takings or at least a good percentage of their takings to the charity.

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

Another exciting month has passed by and Bill's email noting that the Parish Mag deadline slipped into my inbox. Luckily, I was prepared as I'd had a calendar reminder pop up several days earlier!

People have asked me how I get the material for this column. The answer is quite simple. Every day I get a couple of techie news feeds into my inbox. I peruse the headlines and read any potentially interesting articles. If I think it is of sufficient interest to add to this column, I add it to my 'articles of interest' document and there it remains until the deadline approaches. The same for the MSM (Mainstream Media i.e. newspapers).

So, at the risk of boring you with yet more AI stories, you could be forgiven from reading the MSM that AI is taking over the world and people are being thrown out of jobs as a consequence. And yet, researchers at Yale University suggest that there is very little evidence of this actually happening. This is backed up by a study of Danish workers which determined that AI had no material impact on wages or jobs. The report in The Register noted that: "AI cheerleader Microsoft recently added fuel to the fire with a report on jobs most likely to be affected by AI, only to later distance itself from the blaze by noting, "our study does not draw any conclusions about jobs being eliminated".

This has led to the term 'AI washing' whereby companies are blaming layoffs on AI to project a "progressive image" to investors, when the job cuts are, in fact, driven by other economic factors. It is obviously a complicated area. Some argue that AI is making a significant impact on the jobs market and the research is wrong because the data is lagging the reality.

A Harvard Business Review article on the subject (published in Jan this year) notes that it's not quite as straightforward as it might seem. They further note that AI typically performs specific tasks and not entire jobs. However, they do note that some companies appear to be making job cuts in anticipation of AI's benefit. In other words, companies are making decisions to reduce headcount before they see the benefits of AI's impact. It further notes that there is evidence that companies participating in such anticipatory cuts are having to re-hire. As they say, the jury is out!

Following up on the Government's controversial 'age verification' requirements as part of the Online Safety Act. As my loyal readers will know, I've generally been cynical about this and have previously noted that any age verification service would be a hackers' magnet. Well, The telegraph recently reported that Discord, a messaging app originating out of the gaming community, reported that over 70,000 'Government ID images' may have been leaked after hackers broke into a third party age verification service it used.

The problem with these Government initiatives are that there are easy ways around the restrictions which any tech savvy person would know

and any non-tech savvy person can identify with a basic search. As I noted last year, following the introduction of the Online Safety Act, VPN take-up has skyrocketed with daily downloads reported up 1,800% at one point. Now the government is examining ways to prevent children from using VPNs. As noted by some concerned providers, the simple fact is that, while dressed up as 'age verification', what they are being asked to do is 'identify verification'. Campaigners are noting that "A law like this would require everyone to identify themselves in order to use a VPN. This would pose a risk to whistleblowers, violate human rights, and represent yet another step toward an authoritarian society."

Finally, an interesting article on macro political shenanigans. In late January, The Register reported that EU companies and Governments have belatedly woken up to 'digital sovereignty' and are trying to reduce and ultimately remove their reliance on US based cloud providers which are subject to US law and therefore US Government whims. Currently it is estimated that Europe cloud dependency is ~90% based on US cloud infrastructure.

Apparently, Airbus is one of the companies leading the charge and have a project to migrate its mission-critical applications to a "sovereign European cloud." Catherine Jestin, Airbus's executive vice president of digital, said: "We want to ensure this information remains under European control."

For consumers, there are European based providers. Pcloud is a well-regarded Swiss-based cloud storage provider. For email there is Proton mail. I have accounts with both. For other options visit: <https://european-alternatives.eu>

We live in interesting times! Safe browsing

David Cornwell

Webmaster www.shirenewtonchurch.com

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We guarantee a minimum of 8 items in the medium boxes (suitable for 2-3)
and 10 items in our large boxes*

25 places of world significance within 25 miles of Shirenewton

12. Wireless Radio Telegraphy, Marconi, and the Titanic



Line of first radio transmission over water from Flat Holm Island to Lavernock Pt.

24 miles Southwest of Shirenewton is **Lavernock Point**, overlooking the island of **Flat Holm** in the Bristol Channel, which is visible from the Recreation Ground at Shirenewton; and 19 miles West of Shirenewton is the village of **Gelligroes**, **South of Blackwood and Pontllanfraith**. Both places are of world significance in the history of wireless radio telegraphy communication.

Lavernock Point and Flat Holm

It may not seem remarkable today in the era of mobile phones and instant communications but before the mid C19th there were no telephones, no telegraph, and no wireless radio messaging. Eventually by the late C19th there were well established telegram systems crossing continents and under-ocean telegraph cables, and an emerging telephone system – all connected by wires. The ubiquitous telegraph pole was, and is, as much a symbol of the C19th as the railways, but there was no wireless radio wave communication system. Today radio waves are vital for our mobile phones, radios, televisions, and computer systems, and air and sea travel. Following many experiments in the late C19th, practical commercial application of radio wave communication started just 19 miles away at Lavernock Point, near Cardiff and Penarth.

The first demonstration of wireless telegraphy by radio waves across water in the world took place on 13 May 1897 24 miles from Shirenewton across the 3 mile stretch of water between Flat Holm in the Bristol Channel and Lavernock Point on the Glamorgan coastline, by Guglielmo Marconi, an Italian born British national who had moved to Britain in his youth with his parents. Marconi's mother was Irish – the granddaughter of the founder of the Jameson Irish Whisky distillery – and so settling in the UK (which included Ireland at the time) was not unusual. Marconi's experiments were backed by the Engineer in Chief of the British General Post Office, Welshman, Sir William Henry Preece and Marconi was assisted by George Kemp, a Cardiff Post Office engineer.

Marconi's experiments in South Wales were soon extended to greater and greater distances, over the next 5 years, and within a few years Marconi's radio wave telegraphy was installed on ships across the world, and the worldwide Marconi Company was established in the UK.

So how does Gelligroes near Blackwood, South Wales, and a mill building 19 miles from Shirenewton, fit into world wireless radio telegraphy history?



The Mill at Gelligroes near Pontllanfraith and Blackwood, and the Blue Plaque

In 1912 there was a young Welsh amateur radio enthusiast called **Arthur (Artie) Moore** who had set up a network of radio aerials on the hillside above Gelligroes wired up to a listening facility in the barn next to his home, a mill at Gelligroes. On the night of 15 April 1912 Artie Moore picked up distress signals from the Titanic. Artie Moore reported it immediately to the Police but was

not believed, although there wasn't much that could have been done locally. Two days later when newspaper reports were available, the Police confirmed that the signals reported by Artie Moore in South Wales genuinely were Titanic's distress signals from 2,200 miles away in the North Atlantic.

The distress signals were in Marconi company code 'CQD' because many radio operators on other ships would be Marconi employees, but it had already been agreed internationally that the new 'SOS' code should be introduced at sea. During the transmission of Titanic's distress signals the telegraph operators switched from the Marconi code to the first major use of the now internationally recognised 'SOS' signal, and Artie Moore had received both sets of signals. Marconi was so impressed with Artie Moore's amateur achievement of receiving signals from over 2,000 miles away that he offered Artie a job and Artie worked at Marconi for many years.

The rate of progress in telegraphy in 15 years was enormous. In 1897 the wireless signal from Flat Holm to Lavernock Point travelled 3 miles across water. By 1912 even an amateur wireless telegrapher, Artie Moore, with home-made equipment received signals from over 2,000 miles away across water.

No telegraph poles in the Atlantic Ocean so **wireless** radio telegraphy was vital.

Sadly, there was nothing which could be done for the passengers and crew of the sinking Titanic from the signals received in South Wales even if Artie's report had been believed straight away, but it appears that the first person in the world on land to know about the Titanic being in distress was this 25 year old Welsh amateur wireless pioneer Artie Moore who picked up the signals on his home-made wireless receiver in South Wales, 19 miles from Shirenewton.



John Burrows

Next month: 13. *The Fortress - Caerleon*

TAKE AWAY
OR DINE IN



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FOR 40 YEARS

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QUALITY CATERING FOR EVERY OCCASION

WEDNESDAY'S DELICIOUS VARIETY

Mid-week cravings satisfied! Explore a rotating selection of chef-inspired dishes.

FRIDAY FISH & CHIPS

The ultimate tradition. Fresh fish, crispy, golden-fried favorites to start your weekend right.

SUNDAY ROASTS & MORE

Take the stress out of Sunday and let us do the cooking.

Join us for a classic Sunday experience. From perfectly slow-roasted meats or vegetarian alternatives, there's something for the whole family.

OUR MENUS CHANGE WEEKLY

Selection varies weekly based on fresh availability. Check Facebook to see what's cooking this week!

EVENTS & OUTSIDE CATERING

Planning a gathering?

We provide professional catering services tailored to your needs:

Celebrations: Anniversaries, Birthday Parties, and Hog Roasts.

Respectful Service: Compassionate catering for Wakes and memorials.

Any Venue: From garden parties to community halls, our Outside Catering team brings the flavour to you.

YOUR FOOD, YOUR WAY

Dine In: Enjoy our friendly atmosphere and fresh-off-the-stove service.

Take Away: Hot, fresh, and ready to go when you are.

Heat at Home: Grab our Cold Options to stock your fridge and enjoy a premium meal on your own schedule.

You can find us at

USK ROAD, SHIRENEWTON, NP16 6BU

You can contact us by email

HUNTSMAN.SHIRENEWTON@GMAIL.COM

You can check out our website

HUNTSMANHOTEL.CO.UK

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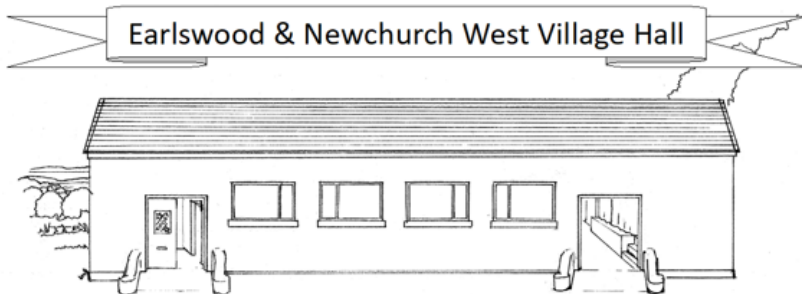
THE HUNTSMAN HOTEL NEW PAGE

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TIN SHED
BAR & DECK



Sea Shanties

FRIDAY 13th March, 6.30pm

The Port of Bristol Shanty Crew are singing up a storm!

- ❖ Tickets £15 - includes hot meal
- ❖ Bring your favourite drinks (glasses provided!)

07889 762 840 / booking@earlnew.com

Upcoming Events

May, 16th Plant and cake sale

Event proceeds are used to keep the hall running! Thank you for all your support.

would you like to
knit & natter
or
crochet & chatter

whether you would like to learn or have been twiddling yarn for years, bring your yarn and come chat with like minded people

1st and 3rd thursdays
monthly in the Carpenters
Arms at 8pm

Holy Communion in the Welsh language



O ddydd Sadwrn Gorffennaf 12fed ac yn fisol bob ail ddydd Sadwrn am 9.30 y bore, ymunwch â ni ar gyfer Cymun Bendigaid yn yr iaith Gymraeg yn eglwys y Santes Fair Cas-gwent.

9:30am on the second
Saturday of the month
at St.Mary's Chepstow
Starting on 12th July

First language Welsh and Welsh learners, all welcome!
Service sheets will be bi-lingual. Excellent opportunity for learners to practice listening, reading and speaking skills!

For more info please contact
Zoepimentel@cinw.org.uk



EARLSWOOD HALL SEA SHANTY EVENING

*Featuring
Port of Bristol Shanty Crew*



Fish Pie

Cottage
Pie

Vegetarian
Option
Available

13th March, 6:30pm



Bring
Your Own
Drink

TEENAGE
CANCER
TRUST

Tickets £15 per person available from 07889 762840

Shirenewton W.I.

‘Monmouthshire – The Best Place to Retire to in Wales’

This was the title of the presentation given to Shirenewton W.I. by our February speaker, Jackie Strong, who is the Older Person's Champion for Monmouthshire.

In many ways, Jackie was speaking to the converted as we all know what a great place Monmouthshire is to live, whatever age you are. But there is always more to do and new initiatives to support the needs of the over 50-year-olds living in Monmouthshire. With 28% of Monmouthshire's population being over 60, Jackie has her work cut out, listening to the needs of older people and helping them to shape the place they live in.

Jackie's role is varied and ranges from ensuring that housing provision in the county reflects the needs of elderly residents, both in local new builds and helping people to stay in their own homes as they age. The Care and Repair service promotes independent living for the elderly by advising and making modifications to help keep their houses safe and warm. Care and Repair can help elderly residents find local contractors who are reliable and trustworthy to work in their homes. As the older person's champion, Jackie also promotes schemes to help people stay fit and healthy, financially secure and actively engaged in their communities as they grow older.

A Caldicot resident and local County Councillor, Jackie has been involved in several local initiatives. She has campaigned to get free pill dosettes (tablet holders) re-instated for Caldicot residents, and promoted and helped to get funding for a new friendship group in Caldicot to support people who have been recently bereaved. She has also worked to improve the local environment for the elderly by endorsing the extension of the Caldicot Greenway into Caldicot Castle, providing safe, level walking paths and access for wheelchairs.

Public transport is another area that Jackie is particularly involved in. Although there are various schemes like the Grass Routes bus service and the Bridges Car Share scheme in Monmouth which supplement the bus and train provision, it was generally agreed that better public transport, particularly in rural areas, was needed.

It was an evening which promoted much discussion amongst our members about the local provision for elderly residents. As promised, Jackie listened and noted our views.

At our next meeting on Thursday 12th March at 7.15pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall, we shall be celebrating Shirenewton W.I.'s 74th birthday with a buffet and quiz. Please note there is a charge of £15 for the buffet. If you would like to know more about our W.I. then please contact either Angela Gray at angela.deepweir@btopenworld.com or Jane Butterworth at janeb247@gmail.com (641704)

CHEPSTOW
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HOMECRAFT
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ITTON VILLAGE
HALL
WEDNESDAY 22nd
APRIL 2026
1030-1200 a.m. £5

*No other woman is a
bride for her own sake
both itself and friend. And*
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(DipABRSM, CELTA, LMusTCL,
MISM, BA (Hons), MA, PhD, FHEA)

*love English tuition from
secondary school level
husband to postgraduate
and
music theory, piano and strings
tuition*

*And it must follow as the
night the day. Thou canst
not then be taken for a man.*
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rachelcross.co.uk
rachelecross6@gmail.com

LIFE SAVING DEFIBRILLATOR



DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

(Cabinets do not require codes, they are unlocked although they have a key pad)

Carpenters Arms (on the Usk road)
Huntsman Hotel (on the Usk road)
Recreation Hall (Shirenewton village)
The Tredegar Arms (The Square, centre of Shirenewton)
Great House Farm complex (off Old Road), Earlswood (north)
[repair.decrease.fussy]
Earlswood Hall (Earlswood)
Shirenewton School

Gardening Corner

Gardening Corner

Another month has gone by and you won't need me to state the obvious about the continuing amount of rainfall! We blame the weathermen entirely, as last year, when we were still in the clutches of the ongoing drought, they merrily said that what we now needed, was a wetter than normal winter. Well done weathermen! It is clearly way too wet to be doing anything very much that entails having to get on the ground itself. Even with our raised beds, the soil itself is so saturated, that there is literally nothing that can be done. We are fortunate in that we still have the greenhouses and tunnels to be able to work in. Work in the smaller greenhouse has been started with the heated propagators being turned on. Initially this was just the very small one, starting off with tomatoes, salad leaves and some sweet peas. Once these had germinated and grown a little (after about three weeks), I decided to turn the large propagator on and turn the smaller one off. The larger one has two separate areas, one with a cover and one without. The one with, is used for the trays of fresh sown seeds, and has a thermostat that ensures that a constant temperature is maintained, which is ideal for germination to take place. Currently, there are trays of various flowers, broad beans, onion sets (just to get them going), sweet peppers, courgettes, squashes, cucumbers and some early sweetcorn. The other part still has the warming element in the sand, but no cover. This is used for bringing on any germinated seeds, as their bottoms (roots) keep warm, but the tops stay cooler. This is where the tomato seedlings are growing on. I've found that this area prevents the very tender young seedlings from being drawn up too high and becoming weak. Weaker seedlings are more prone to disease or damping off, whereas 'harder' growing conditions usually make them much more robust. As the seedlings grow, they will be potted up into small pots (usually 8 centimetres in diameter,) which will then get transferred onto the open bench in the same greenhouse. This benefits from the residual heat from the propagating bench, which results in slower but healthy growth. As the weeks pass by and temperatures improve, these pots will then be moved on, into either the larger greenhouse, or one of the tunnels, and may even be planted out, depending on what the crop is. As space becomes available in the propagator, further crops will be sown, and the gaps will get filled up. All this carries on week by week, until obviously everything finds it's way outside into their designated spots. Meanwhile in the big greenhouse, the first crop has been planted, more as an experiment. Three rows of early broad beans have been planted out (these were sown in pots in December) as a trial, to see if we can grow some super early tender beans. We also have several over-wintered Chrysanthemums in pots, which are now shooting out well. These shoots will be removed and transplanted into pots, covered in plastic bags to retain moisture, and then placed in the propagator. The cuttings will soon send out roots, after which time, the pots will be removed, the covers taken off and then each rooted cutting will be re-potted into a 10 centimetres pot for growing on.

In the small tunnel, we are just clearing the two beds and adding some rotted manure ready for the next crops in a few weeks' time. We still have one or two over-wintered cabbages and Brussel sprouts plants, providing a few meals, so are loath to remove everything. With the winter being relatively mild, we still have fresh leeks and lettuce leaves providing meals, as well as the stored potatoes, onions, shallots, garlic and the last of the squash, which is amazing really. The potatoes are starting to shoot out in their sacks now. Some of the more advanced 'shooters' are now being selected and these will be planted into 5 litre pots of compost, to get some really early 'new' potatoes on growing. These will remain in pots until growth is well advanced, at which time, they will be planted out into a tunnel or the large greenhouse, covered with horticultural fleece (just in case we get a late frost) and left to get on with it. This should provide us with our very, earliest new potato crop some time in May. The large tunnel is currently housing a lot of plants, that we had potted up and which needed protecting from the incessant rain. Empty beds are being manured and will then be planted up. The first will be garlic, broad beans (both already in!), and then lettuce leaves (in the next week or so), followed by calabrese.

So it is very much a case of all hands-on deck, where we can. On the not so wet days, I have managed to get on and prune all the roses. These have now all been manured around. I have noticed that they are already shooting out. If you haven't had the time to do this chore yet, don't worry. Just prune as soon as you can. Roses are very forgiving and will soon recover. If you are unsure how much to prune, then err on the generous side. Too much, is better than too little! The other job I have managed to complete at long last is the various hedges. Again, there is still time if you haven't managed this chore yet – just remember the birds nesting, although I have already said my piece on this previously! This year's hedging exercise did highlight an unsavoury part of human behaviour (as well as their pets). I have never really noted it to any great degree in the previous 37 years of living here at Barn Farm but this year was exceptional and comprised of what seemed like endless numbers of drinks tins, sweet/chocolate wrappers, cigarette boxes all thrown into our hedge or into the field behind. We can pick these up, and Felicity did, but having to keep an eye out for dog poo, before you move a step, is not acceptable anywhere, but it seems it is becoming more of an issue in the countryside. Our lane seems to have been discovered, and used as a short cut, but vehicles, so the rubbish may be a result of this. There seems to be a general move amongst some of mankind to treat the countryside generally as a dumping ground. We have certainly seen other locals, clearing up, especially in and around Shirenewton, and they do a grand, if maybe a dangerous job, but this shouldn't be necessary. The dog poo is clearly down to the animal's owners. Moan over, enjoy the picture of spring below!!



Too late for this year, but we did manage a trip out to Colesbourne (G3 9NP) to see the snowdrops, cyclamen and hellebores this year (picture above). They have limited days when they are open, but well worth a visit. Book online only. As usual, *happy gardening until next month, Steve and Felicity Hunt.*

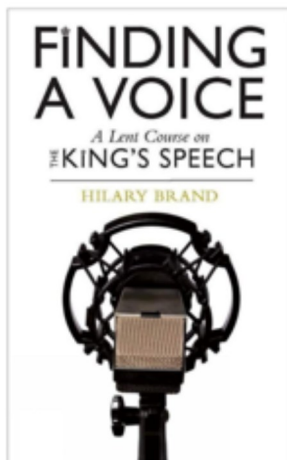
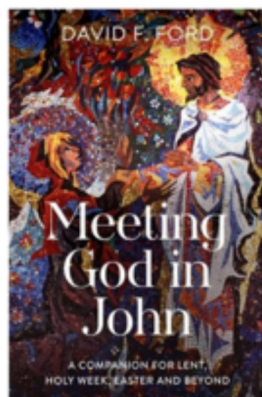
Severn Wye Ministry Area

Lent Courses

“Meeting God in John”

Monday Evenings
23rd Feb until 23rd March

7pm @ St Christopher's
Church



“Finding a Voice”

Every Tuesday
24th Feb until 24th
March
2:45pm

Contact Carol for meeting
location each week: 07380 992494

SHIRENEWTON VILLAGE MARKET NEWS

Our Christmas Market raised £239 for LATCH from the café profits, raffle & donation from table fees, but a **whopping £537.75** has gone to the charity as there was Match Funding & Gift Aid added – thank you! It was worth all the effort from everyone!

Official Donation Receipt

Thank you for supporting LATCH WELSH CHILDREN'S CANCER CHARITY with your generous gift through Big Give.

A message from LATCH WELSH CHILDREN'S CANCER CHARITY:

Thank you for your support. Your donation is really important to us and will help us fulfil our campaign.

Tax receipt for your gift to LATCH WELSH CHILDREN'S CANCER CHARITY

Thank you for your gift to LATCH WELSH CHILDREN'S CANCER CHARITY, for the "Latch Welsh Children's Cancer Charity" campaign. LATCH WELSH CHILDREN'S CANCER CHARITY is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales with charity number 1100949. This receipt certifies that no goods or services were provided in return for your contribution.

- Donation date: 4 December 2025, 08:42 GMT
- Donor: **Shirley Ayres**
- Total for LATCH WELSH CHILDREN'S CANCER CHARITY: **£537.75**
- Donation: **£239.00**
- Gift Aid: **£59.75**
- Match Funds: **£239.00**

Donation reference: **pi_3SaY1aKkGuKkxwBN0XtOlpuY**

Reference on credit/debit card statement: Big Give LATCH WELSH C

Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in December:

1. Angharad Thomas
2. Cheryl Lloyd
3. Alex Baker

Shirenewton Church Food Bank News

As ever, the volunteers at the food bank in Bulwark were very pleased to see us when we walked in with our donations and they wanted me to thank everyone who donates to the food bank, wherever they donate. Actually, the volunteers were more than pleased, they actually gave me a cheer! And it's not often that that happens when I walk into a local establishment. (As some of you may know...) "Here comes Olive" they cried. Yes, I know, my name's not Olive but it is because, on occasion, a humongously large jar of pitted olives which are dangerously close to their sell-by date has been donated and apparently, when you are down on your uppers, a large jar of aging olives is not top of your shopping list. Pasta, rice and cornflakes, yes tinned fruit, meat, fish and veg, yes. Olives and gherkins? Not so much. So because there is no place to store oldish olives, they offer them to me, and I am in the odd position of distributing them about the Shire. Which is a bit weird. Same with gherkins, as they are not so useful when your children are hungry but on the other hand, I refuse to be called 'Gherkin'. Thanks again everyone. Donations still needed in these difficult times. **Olive.** aka **Glynis**
PS. Next edition maybe I'll tell you of some other niche offerings people have donated.

Severn Wye Ministry Area - Our services for March 2026 – for Ash Wednesday and Holy Week services, see below

		1st March	8th March	15th March	22nd March	29th March
	Service Time	St David's Day 2nd Sunday of Lent	3rd Sunday of Lent	MOTHERING SUNDAY	5th Sunday of Lent	PALM SUNDAY
St Mary's Priory, Chepstow	8.00	Morning Prayer	Said Holy Communion	Said Holy Communion	Said Holy Communion	Said Holy Communion
	11.00	Sung Holy Communion	Sung Holy Communion	Sung Holy Communion	Sung Holy Communion	Procession of Palms*
St Christopher's, Chepstow	9.30	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	10am Group service at Priory
St Peter's, Newchurch	17.30	Holy Communion		Café church		
St Tewdric, Mathern	9.00	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
St Peter, St Pierre	11.30	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
St Andeonus, Mounton	10.15	Holy Communion	Morning liturgy	Holy Communion	Morning Prayer	Holy Communion
St Thomas a Becket, Shirenewton	10.00	Morning Prayer	Sung Holy Communion	Sung Holy Communion	Sung Holy Communion	Sung Holy Communion
St Arvan, St Arvan's	10.00	Sung Holy Communion	Sung Holy Communion	Sung Holy Communion	Sung Holy Communion	Sung Holy Communion
St Deiniol, Itton	11.30		Morning Prayer		Holy Communion with hymns	Holy Communion with hymns
St James, Devauden	9.00			Family service		
	16.00	Family Holy Communion				
St Mary's, Penterry	11.30	Holy Communion				
Holy Cross, Kilgerrwg	11.30					
Saints and Young Saints @ St Christophers	19.00	Puddings and Bible Study	Puddings and Bible Study	Puddings and Bible Study	Puddings and Bible Study	Puddings and Bible Study

Services more suited to families and children highlighted in orange

Non Holy Communion services are highlighted in green
*Procession of Palms starts at the Methodist Church (Bus Station) at 10am, and is followed by Eucharist in the Priory at 11am

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Timetable from 1 September 2024

Saturdays

0712	0922	1200	1700
0717	0927	1205	1705
0725	0935	1213	1713
0726	0936	1214	1714
0727	0937	1215	1715
0734	0944	1222	1722
0741	0951	1229	1730
0747	0957	1235	1736
0755	1005	1243	1744
0803	1013	1251	1752
0813	1023	1301	1800
0820	1030	1308	1807
0824	1034	1312	1811

Sorry, there is no Sunday service on route 63

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MARCH

Sunday 1st
7.00—8.30 p.m.

Explaining the Name of God
St Christopher's Church, Bulwark

Monday 2nd
7.00 p.m.

Shirenewton Community Council meeting
Shirenewton Recreation Hall

Monday 2nd
7.00 p.m.

Lent Course
St Christopher's Church, Bulwark

Saturday 7th
2.00 p.m.

Ready Steady Go—sale of pre-loved stuff
Shirenewton Recreation Hall

Sunday 8th
7.00—8.30 p.m.

Explaining the Name of God
St Christopher's Church, Bulwark

Monday 9th
7.00 p.m.

Lent Course
St Christopher's Church, Bulwark

Wednesday 11th
2.00 p.m.

Shirenewton History Society Archive meeting
Shirenewton Church Room

Thursday 12th
7.15 p.m.

Shirenewton WI's 74th birthday party
Shirenewton Recreation Hall

Friday 13th
6.30 p.m.

Sea Shanties
Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial Hall

Sunday 15th
7.00—8.30 p.m.

Explaining the Name of God
St Christopher's Church, Bulwark

Monday 16th
7.00 p.m.

Lent Course
St Christopher's Church, Bulwark

Saturday 21st
7.30 p.m.

Chepstow Choral Society Concert
St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow

Sunday 22nd
7.00—8.30 p.m.

Explaining the Name of God
St Christopher's Church, Bulwark

Monday 23rd
7.00 p.m.

Lent Course
St Christopher's Church, Bulwark

Tuesday 31st
2.00 p.m.

SLHS Alfred Russell Wallace by Prof David Collard
Shirenewton Church Room

APRIL

Wednesday 15th
2.00 p.m.

Shirenewton History Society Archive meeting
Shirenewton Church Room

Wednesday 22nd
10.30—12.00 a.m.

Homecraft Section Coffee Morning, Chepstow
Agricultural Show at Itton Hall (£5 entry)

Tuesday 28th
2.00 p.m.

SLHS Relic and Relic Cults by Prof Maddy Gray
Shirenewton Church Room

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FAIRTRADE NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

Fairtrade products promote sustainable livelihoods, fair wages and ethical production. Fairtrade initiatives help farmers improve the quality of their products and also helps them to cope with the climate crisis. The changing climate often exacerbates the occurrence of crop disease and many of our basic commodities are vulnerable because of 'modern' farming practices which emphasised overall production to the detriment of the environment and sustainability : a race to the bottom.



The Fairtrade Foundation has produced a list of the top 10 FT products:

- 1 Coffee. The largest fair trade product category, ensuring farmers receive a fair price and support sustainable production.
- 2 Cocoa/Chocolate. Supports better livelihoods for cocoa farmers and helps fight child labour in the industry.
- 3 Tea. Widely available with FT certification, supporting communities in Kenya, India and Malawi.
- 4 Bananas. A top selling item, providing consistent income for small scale farmers and better working conditions.
- 5 Cotton (Clothing and Textiles). Ethical fashion, bedding and home goods produced without exploitation or the overuse of chemicals.
- 6 Sugar. Sourced from cooperatives that provide social premiums for community projects (chosen by the farmers themselves)
- 7 Spices and Herbs. Includes cinnamon, turmeric, cardamom, vanilla (extremely complex to produce – most products do not contain real vanilla!)
- 8 Nuts and Oils . Including items like shea butter, cashews (hugely difficult to harvest and prepare!) Palestinian almonds and olive oil.
- 9 Flowers and Plants. Ensures safe working conditions and fair wages for a group which is often widely exploited by large companies.
- 10 Gold and jewellery. Supports small-scale miners in an industry that is generally rife with exploitation.

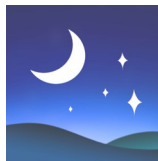
We currently have ample evidence that the very rich and powerful often care very little for the vast mass of ordinary people. 'Only the little people pay taxes' is an infamous quote attributed to the billionaire hotelier Leona Helmsley during her 1989 trial for tax evasion. She was convicted. Would that they all were!

Meanwhile, look out for B corps and especially the Fairtrade mark : a guarantee of ethical, sustainable production.

'You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make' Jane Goodall.

Marion McAdam 641316 msm316@gmail.com

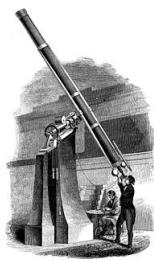
STARGAZING



The bright planet Jupiter lies to the South in the evening sky. It is pretty much directly above Sirius this month, and is close to the Moon on 26th. The Moon is Full on 3rd March – it is fully illuminated by the Sun. It is at Third Quarter on the 11th March when half of the surface of the Moon is illuminated by the Sun.

Much the brightest star in the sky, Sirius can be seen to the South, below and to the left of the constellation Orion. The name “Sirius” is derived from the Greek word meaning scorching. For the ancient Egyptians the appearance of Sirius coincided with the annual flooding of the Nile Valley, vital to growing crops. This event was of such importance to them that it marked the beginning of their year.

The pair of stars high above Sirius and Orion is part of the constellation Gemini, the Twins, and they are called Castor and Pollux. In mythology Castor and Pollux were the twin sons of the Queen of Sparta. Castor was mortal, but Pollux was not – his father was none other than Jupiter, who had paid a clandestine visit to the Queen. When Castor was killed in battle, Pollux pleaded to be allowed to share his immortality with his brother; this was granted, and both boys were placed in the heavens. Gemini is crossed by the Milky Way – the dense belt of stars that make up our own galaxy. The Vernal Equinox occurs on 20th March, when day and night are equal, with exactly 12 hours between sunrise and sunset. This is a useful day for getting your bearings right as the sun rises due east and sets due west wherever you may be.





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The editor reserves the right to print free content and free advertisements in black and white and at the size the page layout requires

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Severn Wye Bible Study Group

We are a small group of Christians enjoying a warm and nurturing fellowship together. We read scripture and talk about what it means and how we can apply it to our daily lives. We are learning together and there is no such thing as a silly question. If you're even a tiny bit curious, come along. Give it a go....you may love it as we do!!!!

Where: Shirenewton Church Room

When: 14.45 Tuesday afternoons

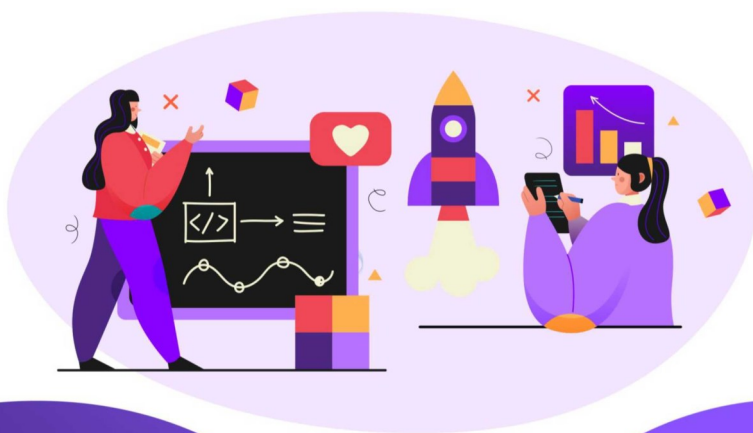
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LOCAL CONTACTS

Severn Wye Ministry Area

Ministry Area Leader	Zoe and Barney Pimentel	severnwyema.co.uk 07754 306229
Team Vicar	Fr Michael Gollop	01291 622 064 frmichaelgollop1@gmail.com
Team Vicar	Reverend Philip Averay	01291 620980 revphilipaveray@gmail.com
Associate Priest	Reverend John Waters	07836 585 250
Ministry Area Leader's Warden	Ros Downes	
Ministry Area People's Warden	David Carne	david-carne@outlook.com 07887 853479
Ministry Area Lay Co-Chair	Hilary Hillier	
Ministry Area Treasurer	Kevin Higgs	

Church of St Thomas à Becket, Shirenewton

Lay Eucharistic Minister	Gilly Lambert	07821 725 690
Church Warden	Aileen Doggett	01291 641 459
Church Warden	Andrew Baker	01291 641 925
LCC Secretary	John Montague	01291 329 481 jmontyvet@hotmail.co.uk
LCC Treasurer	Graham Lambert	01291 641 175
LCC Members	Janet Horton	01291 641 783
	James Leney	01291 641 271
	Wendy Montague	01291 329 481
	Sally Saysell	01291 641 369
	John Burrows	01291 641 845
	Jane Smith-Haddon	01291 641525
Organists	Karen Millar	01291 650 521
	James Leney	01291 641 271
Tower Captain	Mike Penney	01291 650 653
Saysell Centre Booking	Will Smith-Haddon	07977 281 147 churchroombooking27@gmail.com
Safeguarding Officer	Andrew Baker	01291 641 925
Church Flowers	Maureen Moody	01291 641 524
Parish Magazine Editor	Bill Clark	01291 641 783
Parish magazine distribution	Jane Smith-Haddon	01291 641 525
200 Club	Aileen Doggett	01291 641 459

Ministry Area Council Representative

Wendy Montague 01291 329 481

MP/Monmouth CC & Community Council Representatives (as at October 2025)

Shirenewton Community Council

Clerk: Jan McLagan

shirenewtoncc@gmail.com

Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Ward

Philip Butterworth (Chair)	01291 641704	philip.b@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
Catherine Martin (Vice Chair)	01291 329610	cathie.m@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
Gary Mitchell	07979 913555	gary.m@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
Sophie Todd	07766 524709	sophie.t@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
Vacancy		

Earlswood and Newchurch Ward

Ian Martin	07467 176977	ian.m@shirenewtoncc.org.uk
Geoff Todd	07855 301806	geoff.t@shirenewtoncc.org.uk

MCC for Shirenewton

Louise Brown	07598 979719	louisebrown@monmouthshire.gov.uk
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Member of Parliament

Catherine Ann Fookes	catherine.fookes.mp@parliament.uk
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Member of the Senedd

Peter Fox MS	Peter.Fox@senedd.wales
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Police and SPCO Contacts

In an emergency 999;
To report an incident to the Police 111
To contact the Local SPCO Toby Wall [email:Toby.Wall@gwent.police.uk](mailto:Toby.Wall@gwent.police.uk)

Other Local Organisations

Beavers	Julie Hitchcock	01291 650548
Church Fete	John Burrows	shirenewtonfete@gmail.com
Earlswood Hope	Mr Raymond Jeremiah	01291 641726
Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall		
Chairman	Becca Allen	07889762840 chair@earlnew.com
Treasurer	Geoff Todd	07855301806 treasurer@earlnew.com

Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel

The Reverend Gordon Gresswell 07570992890

Gaerllwyd Baptist Recreation Association Mrs E Remnant Brooklands, Usk Road NP16 6SA
Beverly Lyndsay 07798 780971

Recreation Hall booking beverlylyndsay@btinternet.com
St Peters Church Newchurch Beryl Saysell 01291 641637 saysellberyl@gmail.com

Enid Heritage 01291 622708
enidheritage@gmail.com

Shirenewton Local History Society

Dorothy Brabon 01291 641376
brabonnl@hotmail.com

Gwent Wildlife Trust Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Meadows
(previously SAMFAL) 01600 740600

Shirenewton Play Group Beverly Lindsay Shirenewtonplay-group@gmail.com

Shirenewton Primary School Mr Nick Penn, Head Teacher 01291 641774
shirenewtonprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Shirenewton Toddler Group Sarah Parker 07971 783434

Shirenewton Tennis Association

Andy Orrell shirenewtontennis@gmail.com

Fairtrade Marion McAdam 01291 641316
msm316@gmail.com

Womens Institute (WI) Angela Gray (President)
angela.deepwier@btopenworld.com
Jane Butterworth (Secretary) 01291 641704.

*If you know of any changes or omissions please contact the Editor Bill Clark
Telephone 01291 641783 or email parishmagshirenewton@gmail.com*

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