

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

September 2015



Price: £1

FROM THE VICARAGE

Dear People of the Parish,

When I was ordained, every parish, it seemed, was serviced by a benign Vicar (male of course) assisted by at least two curates and life centred around the solitary parish church. Sunday School was full to overflowing with delightful young scamps eager to explore the faith. Be it a frosty winter's morn at 7.00am or a languidly warm (as it always was) August evening, Matins and Evensong was frequently a situation of 'standing room only'. Things have changed.



Most of the above (with the exception of the bit about male Vicars) is absolute tosh.

As I have (somewhat tediously) mentioned before, I have been ordained for some 35 years. The prevailing situation when I was first charged with administering the Holy Mysteries, was worried talk about decline in church membership and how do we address things. Three and a half decades on the prevailing conversation has not altered. Only this time, a sense of honesty can be discerned beneath all the PC jargon.

I, along with all other dog-collars in the Diocese of Monmouth, recently received refreshing correspondence from our Bishop. I share chunks of it with you as I consider the message to be important:

'Our current financial position is difficult to sustain because of a decrease in received Ministry Share and declining number of worshippers. We are currently operating with a substantial deficit...it is clear that we will have to seek a reduction in paid clerical posts. We are currently running on around 60 stipends and will need to bring the number down to at least 50 by 2018. (I believe the figure was close to 100 when I was first ordained. JW).

Although we are still committed to maintaining a parish system of pastoral care, it is becoming clear that the strain is being felt in many areas of the Diocese. I am therefore initiating a deployment review of the Diocese whereby each designated Ministry Area (i.e. parishes or groups of parishes) will be assessed on its viability in terms of Ministry Share raised and the actual cost of Stipended clergy and also House for Duty posts.

The Diocese can only afford a maximum of 50 stipends by 2018 and although we have tried to take account of expected retirements it is clear that we will struggle to meet this target.which means that some clergy may be asked to move from their present posts if their Ministry Area is either overstaffed or underfunded.'

Enjoy the remainder of the summer and please find the time to reflect on the above.

With every good wish and blessing.

Julian E LI White Rector of Shirenewton & St. Pierre, Vicar of Mathern & Mounton

FROM THE REGISTERS

Marriage

Andrew Orrell and Seirian Edmonds St Thomas áBeckett
Saturday 4th July 2015

Funeral

Allan Saysell 8.11.1931 - 27.7.2015
At St Thomas á Beckett on Wednesday 12th August 2015

VOLUNTEER PR CO-ORDINATOR

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is looking for a volunteer to coordinate the articles it produces for the Shirenewton Parish Magazine, the Mathern Group Parish Magazine and the Monmouth Diocesan Newsletter. The requirements are to be aware of copy dates for the three publications; to be knowledgeable about people, events and activities in the parish; and to have the personality to pleasantly button-hole people, seamlessly twist their arms and painlessly extract copy from them about the events and activities in the parish - all in time to hit the copy dates. Please would volunteers form an orderly queue and contact the PCC secretary, Bill Clark, at williamjhclark@btinternet.com

200 CLUB

There was only one 200 club draw in July and August and results were;

Carol Seale	£40
Pip Penney	£30
Dorothy Brabon	£20
Rev Nansi Davies	£10

WHIST DRIVES

It is with regret that I must announce the demise of the Whist Drives – they have been failing for some time and it has been decided that there will be no more – unless of course there is some brave soul out there who has enough contacts to re-start them in which case I shall be glad to pass on any materials that may be of use. I thank the Recreation Association Committee for their acknowledgement of the funds raised by the whist drives and I also thank Frank & Veronica Atkinson for their support over the last nine years.

Auriol Horton

Allan Saysell - a life lived well

Allan, a man small of stature but big in spirit, touched us all in different ways and left his mark indelibly on this community.

He died peacefully and with dignity on the 27th of July with those whom he loved around him, having spoken what needed to be said and leaving this life so much richer for his living.

He leaves special memories with each of us, as comfort, and a family united in grief for they have truly loved and received love. Sally, Owen and Pip, Guy and Emma Will and Maddie and Sam and Finn. Your Pa was an example to us all.

Allan Saysell was born in Newport in 1931 where his parents were in Business. Never a business man himself but one of so many varied talents.

His artistic skills were first spotted and encouraged in his Primary school and Gwent College but the intervention of the WW2 led to his early evacuation from bomb targeted Newport to Crumlin near Caerphilly and, with his brother Peter, he developed his lifelong love of sculpture and pottery through initial encounters with plasticine modelling clay.

Allan cemented his artistic career at the Newport School of Art where he graduated specialising in sculpture. However his initial musing was disrupted by his call to National Service, a time which in his later years he was able to look back on with pride and a twinkle in his eye. However piqued with poignancy during Remembrance Services and visits to the national Arboretum when he remembered close boyhood friends whom had been killed during the ill fated invasion of Egypt in 1956. Allan had been posted to Ismailia with the Royal Army Service Corp acting as a driver during the subsequent insurrection and troubles with the Moslem Brotherhood. His experience in the canal zone prompted a lifelong admiration for the National Serviceman. A keen member of the British Legion in Retirement he joined the campaign of the Suez Veterans association helping to illustrate the monthly magazine, and fighting for the award of a campaign medal which was eventually granted 50 years after the event.

Despite his size Allan was a very keen rugby player at school and beyond and appeared as scrum half for Newport teens, Newport air Cadets Pontypridd and later Newport RFC youth 15 in the 1949/50 season. He never lost his love of rugby, encouraging his grandson, attending Welsh Matches well into his 80s and willing to share a few memories of a game before the Sunday service, always graciously, whether his side won or lost unless of course it was a Cardiff V Newport match.

After his military service Allan became assistant to the distinguished sculptor Hubert Dalwood who had been one of his tutors in Newport School of art but had moved to Leeds university. There Allan assisted with some of his finest creations further honing his own skills in wood, stone and metal and developing his own style.

Dalwood went on to win the Venice Biennale in 1962 but by that time Allan had turned down an offer to become Barbara Hepworth's assistant and moved into the teaching profession, first at the avant garde Tulse Hill boys school, one of the earliest comprehensives, where one of his pupils was a certain Ken Livingstone. At a party Allan met Sally Rogers for the first time, who was a fellow teacher from South Wales. Love blossomed and never faded and within a year they were married in Sally's home town of Dowlais, South Wales. They moved to Bream in the Forest of Dean when Sally took a job at Newnham on Severn C of E Primary School.

Allan had become interested in the rehabilitation of offenders through teaching craft skills and in the 1960s an opportunity arose to join a pioneering project in Gloucestershire Probation Service. Its aim was to train petty offenders in reading and writing and other basic skills including woodwork, metalwork, use of machinery and hand tools. Allan became so convinced by the success of the project that he stayed there until his retirement in 1991. He would say "It taught me that there is good in everyone if only it can be brought out." Our aim was simple – to teach basic skills and behaviour which would equip those who had had a bad start in life to get a job and become self supporting and mostly it worked". Meanwhile in his free time he remained busy in his workshop with his sculptures. Examples of his work can be seen at the National Museum of Wales, Leeds University and the Forest of Dean College and numerous private collections. He was invited to stage one man shows at Brynheiniog Gallery in Brecon and Guildhall Arts centre in Gloucester where Alan valued his work so modestly admirers advised him to add at least one nought but much to Sally's chagrin he wouldn't. Allan had an eclectic taste in music, liking modern jazz and folk music and was a regular attender at the Forest of Dean Folk club and the Sidmouth Folk festival . While he admitted he was unlikely to appear on strictly come dancing, he took ballroom dancing lessons and was an early member of the Chepstow University of the Third Age Art classes despite his head start in this department. Allan loved travel and, with Sally, he enjoyed it to the full, visiting cultures throughout the world- Sri Lanka, a favourite, six times, but also closer to home, Cornwall, the Lakes, Arran and even Ireland. From childhood Allan was a high church "Bells and smells" Anglican who loved the pomp and ceremonial of the order of traditional hymns and prayer book. He was a regular attender of the Cathedral of the Forest in Newland at the time of David Addison's ministry. Yet he was also a great proponent of a more relaxed child friendly style particularly enjoying those lead by Glynis and Jane. In retirement Allan and Sally moved to Shirenewton where they were delighted to be so quickly accepted by the local community. They both became involved in numerous village organisations—U3A, the pantomime, Church Fete etc. Allan became the Peoples warden at St Thomas a Beckett parish church spending many hours with fellow worshipper John Nicholas on maintenance work in this 12th century building. He welcomed so many into the church and saw his work on the maintenance as a form of quiet service and welcome mission, taking great pride in its upkeep and the fact that it remained open every day throughout the year. He encouraged all ages to be involved and from a personal point of view my own children learned so much under his tutelage, a teacher to the end. Recognised today by the number of young people here. Allan Saysell saw what needed to be done, saw the concealed shape in a rock, the unlocked potential in a labelled criminal, the interest in a child's eye, the slippery path prior to a funeral or flickering bulb before baptism and quietly in his own inimitable way saw it through, a job done with minimum fuss but maximum effect. An artist of life, an example to us all who will be sadly missed but whose spirit resonates in this church and in those he leaves behind. More than 100 cards have been sent to Blethyn Close with the recurrent theme being tapped - talent, modesty, gentleness and resounding with love. Thank you Allan for a life lived and shared, an example to us all, a completed and polished work of art in how we should live and love.

Many thanks.

I have been overwhelmed by the kindness and compassion shown to me during Allan's illness and after his death.

Thank you for all the offers of lifts to Velindre and Neville Hall, for the cards, letters and flowers and to all who attended his funeral at his beloved church. It is very comforting to know he was so loved here in Shirenewton where he was so happy to live.

Sally Saysell

CALL MY BLUFF SHIRENEWTON WINE TASTING

The 3rd Of July saw the wine connoisseurs of Monmouth pack the Church room to be regaled about 6 different wines sampling prodigiously of each and trying to discover whom was telling the truth. The vinosity was lead by the elegant Chaucerian utterances of Eichoff, countered by the smooth measured tones of Kevin Bounds and the pithy Arthur Daly utterances of David Cornwall which were often strangely convincing. The six wines described came from fields as far apart as New Zealand, Turkey, Argentina and France although counter claims were made that they were Chinese, Bulgarian and Welsh vineyards. Few of us were able to guess the correct wine, year of production or cost but we all had fun pontificating.

All this effort with an excellent cheese board thrown in, was to raise funds for the Church and Chepstow Street Pastors. We all learned what we should be quaffing over the summer months and also what we should avoid. We heard of the good work of the street pastors and how they keep the streets safer on a Saturday night. The format works well and the cost of the evening proved excellent value and a very enjoyable evening was had by all. I am told the three experts are already scouring the hillsides and valleys (shelves of Lidl's? and Waitrose?) for next years offerings.

ST. PETER'S NEWCHURCH

Fun Day Report

On Saturday, 18th July, St Peter's Fun Day was held at Church Farm, next door to the church. The day dawned sunny, with a brisk wind as stalls and tables for refreshments were stocked and organised. The plant and cake stalls were groaning with produce, the raffle prizes were displayed, the bouncy slide was in place and the people started to arrive. Tractor and pony rides got under way, the barbeque and the urn were hot, and Hannah, Danny and George, regular young attendees, took turns in the stocks to have wet sponges thrown at them. In between times Danny manned a stall of games such as guess the number of sweets in the jar and throwing a ping pong ball into a jam jar to win a prize. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves enormously, and people relaxed and chatted over cups of tea and burgers as they kept an eye on children clambering up then hurling themselves over the top and down the slide, before shooting off the end amid much laughter. It was a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours whilst supporting St Peters. The day raised £1133 towards church funds, and everyone who attended gave most generously: thank you. Danny's stall, which he manned continually mostly on his own, remarkably raised over £90, which just shows what dedication and imagination can do!

The church is extremely grateful to the local community who work tirelessly to ensure the success of every event, and thanks go especially to Howard and Sarah Stone who allowed their garden to be taken over for the day, providing parking in the adjoining field.

Forthcoming Events

Thursday, 17th September Harvest Festival 7pm at Church Farm

And now for something completely different!

The traditional Harvest Home will be celebrated this year with a café service in the barn at Church Farm, followed by a ploughman's supper and sale of produce in aid of the church. For further information and tickets contact Liz McCombe 01291 652957. Adult £7.50, child £3.50 (Includes a drink)

Saturday, 7th November Autumn Fayre at Earlswood Hall 11am – 4pm

Christmas present ideas galore and the *best* raffle: come and join us for shopping and refreshments, sampling St Peters congregation's renowned baking on the way!

Sunday, 20th December Carol Service

St Peters presents!

Carols, readings and other contributions to get you into the Christmas spirit and celebrate the birth of the Lord. Will the donkey attend again.....or have we gone the extra mile to source a camel this year?

From the Registers

Funeral 2nd July

Eileen Morris

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the July/August meetings

Planning applications considered in July

DC/2015/00674 The Marls Farm, Earlswood

Erection of single storey garden room.

Council noted that the proposal is not visible from the road or near neighbours.

Also that materials used will be as existing. Recommendation: Approval.

DC/2015/00137 Ty Hendre, Earlswood

Portal frame agricultural hay and machinery store

Council raised the following observations and points:

- the construction is of metal and wood with no electricity connection, for the storage of hay and machinery,
- the property Ty Hendre is in a dilapidated state that the owner wishes to restore.
- ensure the proposal complies with Policies LC1 (New built development in the open countryside), RE4 (New agricultural and forestry development) and LC5 (Protection and enhancement of landscape character).
- an objection has been made from a neighbouring property that the shared driveway/road which is maintained by both properties is unsuitable for additional farm/agricultural machinery - this needs to be investigated.
- that the Public Rights of Way report dated 16.6.15 be taken into account, that if approved, a condition be included that RoW 190 is kept open to the public and any damage caused by construction traffic be made good to at least public footpath standards.

DC/2015/00688 Residential development of land East of Shirenewton

Council acknowledged that this development has been approved but

recommended refusal of this application, with the following observations:

- Five residential units is over development of the site causing cramming. The size of the site is roughly equivalent to that of a neighbouring development of three houses.
- Access should be relocated to avoid the removal of a long length of ancient hedgerow which is outside the LDP line.
- The increased and unacceptable concentration of traffic from this and another proposed development on the road junction with Killenny Road.
- The LDP line was altered to allow the building of the four previous houses and it is now proposed to be altered again to accommodate access.

DC/2015/00206 New Shire Farm, Old Usk Road, Shirenewton

Retention of pillars and gateway.

Council recommended approval of this retrospective application.

DC/2015/317 Little Mill, Bully Hole Bottom

Conversion of existing barn/games room/workshops to single family dwelling.

The Council's recommendation was for approval with the following observations:

- Access is down a steep hill with a narrow bridge over the brook.
- This is the first water mill in a run of seven down the Mounnton Brook.
- All buildings are as if time has stood still.
- The mill race is all intact, beautifully laid out and well landscaped.
- If approved, conditions should be included to ensure the buildings are sympathetically restored; that window and doorway openings are retained; also the external stone steps;
- that the proposal is limited to a three bedroomed property;
- that ground levels and the mill race are retained intact;
- that near trees and hedges are retained to encourage the bat habitat;
- that the existing public footpaths 31 and 63 are kept open to the public at all times;
- that the Council will pursue contact with the Conservation Officer for possible listing of the mill building for heritage purposes.

County Councillor G Down gave feedback on the Informal Hearing held on 17.6.15 for the Rhewl Farm solar park. Mon CC Planning Committee had originally recommended approval, but at the Hearing Planning Officers offered no objection, the Appeal was lost and the application approved. C Cllr Down confirmed that the site would remain as a greenfield site after the 25 year lifespan of the solar park. Council supported the suggestion that Mon CC Chief Executive is to be questioned on the above process.

DC/2015/00707 The Oaks Farm, Red House Lane, Shirenewton

Erection of a barn/stable for the keeping of horses.

Council noted that there were no objections from neighbours, however it had been mentioned that green would be a more appropriate colour for the finish of the barn, rather than black. Recommendation: Approval.

Items of local concern –

Applications for grant funding from the 2015/16 budget.

Applications for grant funding from the 2015/16 budget were considered and approved as follows:

Shirenewton PCC	£250	Contribution towards upkeep of churchyard
Shirenewton PCC	£50	Christmas celebration - Carols around the Tree
St Peters Church, Newchurch	£60	Contribution towards replacement guttering
SLHS	£100	Contribution towards digital projector

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Mon County CAB £60 Annual contribution
Earlswood Hall £300 Contribution towards fixed costs
Earlswood Valley/Hope Churches £150 Contribution towards upkeep
Recreation Association £300 Contribution towards CCTV.
Shirenewton Playgroup £100 Contribution towards nature garden.

The monthly police report for August

There had only been minor incidents during the month and two calls to Brookacre.

There was an update on traffic issues on the B4235, with white lines being installed from the new houses on the site of the old forensic science lab, to the end of the council houses on Usk Road in order to slow down the traffic. (Date of white lining to be confirmed).

A police operation for safety education on the B4235 is being planned for the end of August.

The Clerk also read part of the recent Inspectors blog, which confirmed the above.

Election of two co-opted Councillors – interest has been shown in one vacancy, but there is still a vacant position for the ward of Shirenewton – **if you are interested in applying for this vacancy, please contact the Clerk** (details below).

Update on traffic calming proposals.

Traffic calming scheme to begin on 3 August for 4 weeks, alongside BT who will also be in the area at the same time laying broadband cables (this will include intermittent road closures). Meeting to be arranged with Highways regarding this and other traffic issues.

Dates of next meetings: Monday 7 September and Monday 5 October at 7.30pm at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton. The first 15 minutes of meetings are open to the public to raise issues with the Council.

Find more information in the draft copy of the minutes on the Community Council notice boards. Previous minutes of meetings can be found on the Council's website www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk

**Contact the Clerk to the Community Council -
Mrs Hilary Counsell
Tel: 01291 421307
E-mail: Shirenewtoncc@gmail.com**

In Safe Hands

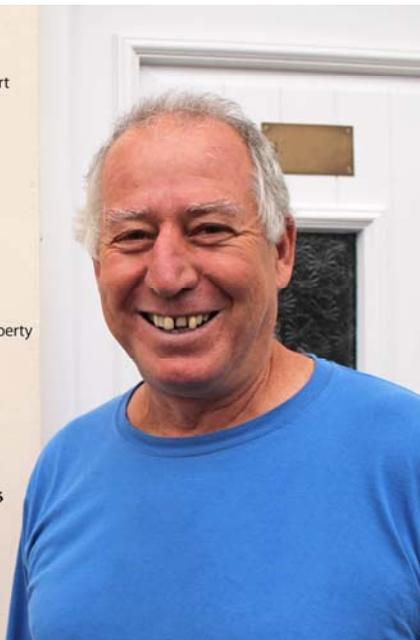
If you live in Monmouthshire, are aged over 55 and need support to live independently in your home, Safe Hands may be able to help you with:

- Accessing 24 hour emergency assistance through an alarm
- Support after illness or a spell in hospital
- Using home equipment to help you live independently
- Support following a bereavement
- Claiming benefits, paying bills and budgeting effectively
- Filling in forms and managing post
- Maintaining or making new links in your local community
- Applying for housing, moving home or settling into a new property
- Finding social and leisure activities in your local community
- Learning new skills such as using computers and the internet

Safe Hands is a free service run by Monmouthshire Housing Association and is grant funded by Monmouthshire County Council's Supporting People team.

If you or someone you know could benefit from Safe Hands support service please contact Rachal Collins on **01495 767176**

*Please note Safe Hands does not provide personal health care.



CAN YOU HELP PLEASE ??

The Lunch Club in Chepstow, organised by Churches Together, at the Methodist Church Hall, urgently need more volunteers to help in the kitchen preparing and serving a three-course meal each Thursday during term time. On a rota basis, most helpers only come for a 2 or 3 hour session once a month, and we have up to 40 elderly local people each week who really enjoy both the home-cooked meal and the companionship.

There is always plenty of chat and laughter in the kitchen as well as the hall, and we all find it a rewarding experience - we do have several gentlemen volunteers as well as ladies.

I currently have 3 or 4 slots to fill for the Autumn Term rota due to volunteers retiring, ill health, grandparent duties, their own elderly parents, etc. so please contact either Sandy (Tel 629488) or Pauline (Tel 625896) or myself, Lynda Ker (Tel 625711) for further information as soon as possible.

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

The intriguing title for our June talk was 'The Beyond in our midst: the Archaeology of Eternity in Roman Caerleon' given by Dr Mark Lewis. The talk was accompanied by illustrations of the recent finds in Caerleon and the reconstruction of the contents of a high status tomb that was found when developing land near the town.

Our July meeting saw Naylor Firth's talk entitled 'The History of Itton'. We only just squeezed everyone in to the Huntsman, it was really a full house as the speaker and the title of his talk was of interest to our members. It was a comprehensive history starting from the geology of the area to the history of the present day, the research and presentation was excellent.

I think we ended our 2014/2015 year on a high and look forward to the beginning of the society's fourteenth year is the hope that this high standard continues.

In September we will be having an 'Open Meeting'. The speaker for the evening will be Frank Olding who is the chair of the Monmouthshire committee for the National Eisteddfod 2016. The Eisteddfod will take place in Abergavenny in August 2016. The talk will be entitled 'Place Names of Gwent'. I'm sure if you've heard Frank talk before you will want to attend, as his talks are very amusing as well as informative. There will be a charge of £3.00, all proceeds will go towards a donation to the National Eisteddfod.

Dates for your Diary:

Monday, 14th September Archive Meeting at the Recreational Hall at 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm (drop in session)

Tuesday, 29th September 'Open Meeting'. Frank Olding will be giving a talk entitled 'Place Names of Gwent' Tickets will be available.

£3.00, 'phone 641376.

Monday, 12th October Archive Meeting at the Recreational Hall at 2.00 pm- 5.00 pm

(drop in session)

Tuesday, 27th October A.G.M. at **7.00 pm**, 7.30 pm Talk entitled 'Post Reformation Tomb slabs' given by Professor Maddy Grey. Not to be missed.

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Everyone welcome at the above events

Further information on our web-site: www.shirenewtonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk

Cymdeithas Cymraeg Cas-Gwent
&
Shirenewton Local History Society
will be holding a joint meeting at the
Huntsman Hotel
Shirenewton

on
Tuesday, 29th September
at
7.30 pm

The talk will be entitled
'Place Names of Gwent'

(in English)

given by

Frank Olding

Tickets £3.00

available 'phone 641376

All proceeds to be donated to the
Nation Eisteddfod (Monmouthshire)

2016

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FAIRTRADE NEWS



'The Indian peasantry, the largest body of surviving small farmers in the world, today faces a crisis of extinction. Two thirds of India makes its living from the land. The earth is the most generous employer in this country of a billion, that has farmed this land for more than 5000 years. However, as farming is delinked from the earth, the soil, the biodiversity, the climate and linked to global corporations and global markets, and the generosity of the earth is replaced by the greed of corporations, the viability of small farmers and small farms is destroyed. Farmers suicides are the most tragic and dramatic symptom of the crisis of survival faced by Indian peasants'

Rice is the key component in the diet of millions of people worldwide. Like most imported basic commodities its presence here in the UK is taken for granted, and little thought is given to how it is produced. There has been a great deal of publicity about the high rate of suicide amongst Indian farmers. Indeed the title of Dr Jalees article is 'Farmers' Suicides in India'. Do look at the article if you are interested. It is a long, detailed and fully referenced account of the catastrophic situation for hundreds of millions of Indian peasant farmers. Our own dairy farmers are in something of a similar situation.

In the face of such apparently overwhelming problems it is all too easy to abrogate responsibility. Yet as consumers we have tremendous power. Some of the most culpable supermarkets have now been forced to say that they will pay a proper price for milk.

As far as rice is concerned, I rarely see fairly traded rice in the shops. BUT of course Traidcraft has it - white and brown basmati. It comes in kilo bags but if you decide you don't like it you can return it (to me !) I doubt that you'll want to, it's just very good rice, I've been using it for more than 20 years. Why not give it a try?

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

Coffee Morning

In aid of

Velindre Hospital

Raffle - Bring and Buy - Bric-a-brac

5th September

10:00 am till 12:00 noon

£1:50 entrance fee

Maureen Moody

"Glenfield" Weyload Lane Mynyddbach



STARGAZING

The seven stars of the Plough can be seen in the northern evening sky whilst the "W" of the constellation Cassiopeia lies to the northeast. The constellation Pegasus includes a large square that lies to the south. How did the ancient Greeks manage to see the shape of a winged horse in a square of not particularly bright stars?! The Summer Triangle made up of the bright stars Deneb, Vega and Altair continues to dominate the night sky to the South. Deneb forms the tail of the constellation Cygnus, the Swan which lies pretty much overhead. Its brightest stars form a cross against the background of the Milky Way, a dense band of faint stars from the north-east to the south-west. The Milky Way can be seen particularly well from a dark sight.



In the evening sky, the slightly yellow planet Saturn is very close to the horizon in the south-west during twilight. It is to the right of a bright reddish coloured star called Antares. On the 19th the crescent Moon is just to the left of Saturn.

Autumnal Equinox occurs on the 22nd, when day and night are both 12 hours long. Traditionally farmers working late into the evening to gather their crops are aided by the light of the Harvest Moon – this year this is the Full Moon of 27th September. It's the closest Full Moon to the Autumnal Equinox.

SAMFAL



We are back in September

Please:

- *Shut the gates*
- *Pick up your Dog Poo and place it in the bin provided by the Spout Gate*
- *Keep your Dog on the lead*

SHIRENEWTON W.I JULY & AUGUST 15



The July meeting was a 60s to 80s sing a long, loosely described as a karaoke, a pop quiz for each era led to much discussion.

In preparation for the August meeting a planning meeting was mainly involved in the number of glasses that can be served out of one bottle of wine! The August meeting was a BBQ hosted by Carol Jones. All were welcomed with a Pimms, very civilised.



The committee organised and cooked the food, provided a choice of wine (5-6 glasses per bottle), non alcoholic drinks were also available. A good time had by all.



Our best wishes to Claire Lewis for a speedy recovery after donating a kidney to her husband's cousin, what a marvellous thing to do, a brave lady, the transplant was a total success.

On a sad note we would like to take this opportunity to pass on our condolences to Sally Saysell, (former W.I president) on the death of her husband, Allan, who sadly passed away in July.



The next meeting will be held on 10th September, Operation Christmas Child, all ladies of all ages are welcome.

GARDENING CORNER

It must be age. The year's are definitely getting shorter – or is it just me? Here we are and it's nearly the end of August as I write this page. The gardening year is winding down and we are well and truly into the 'harvesting' phase. As usual some things have done well, others not so well, whilst others still have been a complete and utter abject failure! The first crop of broad beans and peas are now drying and will provide next year's seed. Why? Well that very brief hot spell, (remember it?) took its toll resulting in these crops suddenly maturing and making them too 'old' before we realised. We don't like wasting any of the produce, but do draw the line at eating crops that have gone too far and take ages to chew! Although only brief the hot weather also burnt some of the tomato leaves and resulted in a couple of trusses not setting, resulting in wilted flowers falling off the plants. At temperatures well in excess of 100 degrees in the tunnel I guess this is hardly surprising. It also resulted in the loss of a lot of the apricots and nectarines in the tunnel falling off the trees which is a little heartbreaking when you have worked hard to get them to this point, but ultimately has resulted in the fruit remaining actually growing to a larger size, so not all bad news.

Outside in the vegetable beds, we have harvested the garlic, shallots and red onions, as well as the early potatoes and salad potatoes. Most of these have performed well and slug damage to the potatoes has been minimal this year, so better quality spuds and overall a very good size too. The main onion crop is still in the ground, but the tops are now dying off, so first dry day they will be lifted and dried off properly in the shelter of the greenhouses. We have continued to pick the later peas and broad beans, and the runner and French beans have now started to crop as well. The first carrots sown were a failure, with slugs eating everything off before I realised. I have re-sown a couple of further crops, both outside and inside the tunnel, so hopefully something will come of them! Carrots are one of our favourite vegetables but sometimes I wonder if all the hard work is worth it, given they are relatively cheap to buy. But we persevere, as there is nothing better than popping down the garden, pulling a few roots and them then appearing on your plate less than 30 minutes later. The fact that they haven't been sprayed with anything nasty is a bonus.

In the greenhouses and tunnels the tomatoes have been doing OK and we have made several lots of passata sauce and tomato soup, which are now stored in the deep freeze. I think at long last, after trying many varieties over the years, we have found three of the best. For picking and eating 'Golden Cherry' has proved to be the sweetest we have tried. For roasting in the oven as vine tomatoes, drizzled with oil and garlic, then 'Nimbus' has proved extremely tasty, whilst for passata and soup the appropriately named 'Big Mamma' has done fantastically well. This latter variety is very 'meaty', so very little water when cooking down, and are of a good size, with some of the biggest weighing probably $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pound each, hence the name. The flavour is excellent, so what more could you wish for. The peppers and cucumber plants have been producing steadily, and I noticed yesterday that the red hot chilli peppers (the crop not the band), are funnily enough, turning red, so we will be able to infuse some olive oil with them shortly to make our own hot chilli oil. We have done this for the last couple of years and has proved an excellent product – just don't use too much unless you want your head blown off! We did dry some peppers three years ago and turned them into 'flakes', which, as you need so few of them, are still going strong – literally!

The semi-retirement is starting to show results now and am starting to catch up on many jobs on the 'list'. We extended our property some 10 years ago which resulted in a stream and pond being affected. The pond has been degenerating over the years and the area around it has resembled a builder's yard since the work was completed. What made it worse was a particular plant that we had bought to grow in the margins of the pond. I bought this as it had straight stems and would allow damsels and dragonflies to crawl out of the water to burst into adult life. This was all well and good but no-one said how invasive it was, with its underground roots spreading everywhere, resulting in them actually puncturing the liner of the pond. The task was to try and dig all this out so it couldn't root again. This took some two weeks to complete. Whether it has been a success we'll have to wait and see, as it is impossible to remove every last bit. I've filled in the pond and surrounding area with a mixture of soil and manure from our stockpile. This has all been levelled out and the area planted up with flowers from our plant crèche. All it needs to finish off is the construction of a low wall, and a short bit of path, which will take us to a covered seating area. This area hasn't been used for years and in fact reminded me, whilst watching Chelsea Garden show earlier this

Continued on Page 22

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year that probably the last time I sat there was with Anne Marie Powell, the garden designer, with glass in hand following the end of some filming she was going for a series on Channel 4. Now that was a long time ago!

It has been a mixed year for the bees and it is likely that there will be little in the way of honey this year. In fact I received notice from Fera's National Bee Unit, this week warning beekeepers that bee inspectors had discovered a number of hives that have either died, or were in a poor way, because of starvation. The main nectar flow has now finished, and there is little forage left for the bees. We need more flowers and less 'sterile' farming crops to help them, but this isn't going to happen anytime soon. You may remember that the four hives I had over-wintered OK, and started reasonably well. Despite efforts to stop them swarming, all four hives did eventually swarm. Two failed, because the queen either failed or had died, and the bees couldn't replace her. These swarms were not big, so it was not worth trying to re-queen them. Instead I shook the bees out of the hives to fend for themselves. Most of them would be adopted by the other hives, so it's not as cruel as it sounds! Two of the hives that swarmed then lost their queens. At first I thought the new 'virgin' queen was yet to start laying, but when no sign of any eggs appeared I had to do something about it as the hives were still strong. Fortunately the one hive had noticed and they had managed to turn some young cells into queen cells. These were scattered over several frames, so I lifted one out, shook the bees off, and placed the frame in the hive that had no prospect of surviving. This worked with a new queen hatching in both hives and now laying well. I'll need to keep an eye on the food available though and will have to start feeding if things are not looking too good. Happy gardening until next month.

Steve and Felicity Hunt.

RUNNING RACE 6 SEPT IN EARLSWOOD

On Sunday 6 September, Chepstow Harriers will be hosting the Wentwood Woodlark running race for the 2nd year. This is an 8 mile 'multi terrain' race, which means it is mainly on footpaths but with some tarmac stretches. With a field of around 80 mostly local amateur runners, the winners last year were international elite Ironman triathletes Tom Lowe and Chrissie Wellington!



The race is based at the Earlswood Village Hall. It starts at 11am, on the road just below Earlswood Village Hall. The runners head down to Cribau Mill and then up Grey Hill. From the summit they descend to do a loop through Wentwood visiting Five Paths, Cadeira Beeches and Five Paths again, before splashing through the ford next to New Mill and following the road back up to the start. The course will be marked and well marshalled.

The race costs from £10 to enter, and details can be found on the Chepstow Harriers website. Runners can enter on the day, in Earlswood Village Hall, and all are welcome. Tea and cake will also be served here for all runners after the race. The organisers would be grateful if residents could try to avoid using the road between the Village Hall and the top of the Cribau Mill path between 1030 and 1115, and then the stretch from New Mill, past the chapel and up to the Village Hall between 1145 and about 1230. Marshals will be positioned at most of the important corners, so they will be able to provide a 'status report'. Spectators are more than welcome, at the start / finish or anywhere along the course.

Many thanks

Richard Newhouse
The Old School House



CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL.

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SEPTEMBER 2015 -- JULY 2016

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY will commence rehearsals for the forthcoming 2015/2016 SEASON on WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2nd at CHEPSTOW LEISURE CENTRE (Arts Hall), 7.30pm - 9.30pm

The Society welcomes new members in all voice sections at the start of this new season –IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SING, WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!! We do not have a formal audition policy – no-one is excluded from singing membership on grounds of lack of previous choral experience. The Society particularly welcomes male voices –four part mixed choral singing cannot happen without them! Prospective members should contact Marjorie Duerden (01291 623310, or through our website link). Marjorie will then be able to give you all the information and details.

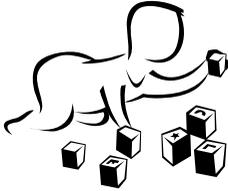
Our first event in this new season will be a Patrons and Guests Evening, on WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21st, 7.00pm. Any non-Patrons for a small donation. Please come along –the programme will be a highly entertaining mix of popular classic items –and a medley of some popular music from the last 50 years, followed by refreshments and a glass of wine/soft drinks.

Why not log on to our newly-revamped website and find out more (www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk) --- and help us to continue to encourage choral music in our community, perform 3 concerts each year (Christmas, Spring and Summer) and to support the aspiring musicians of the future. M.Duerden

FUTURE CONCERT DATES 2015

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21st 7.00pm –Patrons & Guests Evening Concert, Arts Hall, Chepstow Leisure Centre –with light refreshments
SUNDAY DECEMBER 13th, 3.00pm – Christmas Music, St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow –seasonal choral items, family carols, readings, organ music

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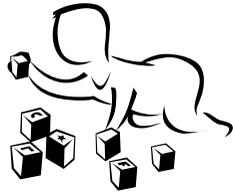


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SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer break – booked via the church website shop (www.shirenewtonshop.com), of course!

So let's start with a quiz. What do, allegedly, bankers, UN staff and Vatican staff have in common?

Drawing a blank? Well they are all, allegedly, among the 37 million clients of the Ashley Madison website which have been recently leaked onto the 'Dark Web'. For those of you who, despite all the publicity surrounding the case, claim to have no knowledge of what the Ashley Madison website is (yes, yes we do believe you – honest), it's a website which enables married people to arrange discreet extra marital affairs – or, as it turns out, not such discreet affairs!

Earlier in the summer (end of July) you may recall Mohammed Ali was found guilty of trying to buy the deadly poison, ricin, from the Dark Web unaware that his source was an FBI agent! In fact the 'Dark Web' is increasingly appearing in the mainstream media – even, now, the Shirenewton Parish Magazine.

So what is the Dark Web? Personally, I've never visited – too busy maintaining the church website you understand! But, as with all things internet, it is of interest to me. Not only 'what it is', but also how does it work? Is it different to the web I know? Who is on it? Why? Etc.?

Well the answer, it seems, is that it is a hot bed (so to speak) of sex, drugs and neo-Nazis. So if you want to learn how it came about (clue: it was created by a USA intelligence agency), what the Tor browser is, what you can buy on The Silk Road II, and, perhaps surprisingly, why it seems to be an excellent example of the efficient market, I strongly recommend this video on YouTube: <http://tinyurl.com/ncypr4l> (alternatively search YouTube for: "Jamie Bartlett, Light and Dark on the Internet: The Register Summer Lectures, 2015").

It's a 40 minute overview which I found fascinating. I suspect you will as well. Jamie is a compelling speaker and it's mainly non-technical. Warning: adult language and themes are present throughout!

Moving on.

I continue to develop the new look website although progress has not been as fast as it may have been. Blame the reasonable summer which didn't throw up many wet and windy weekends or, I guess more accurately, I was out of the country for those wet and windy weekends. Pictures of the fete will appear in due course – I promise. As a reminder the 'church' and 'community' sections are complete. I'm working on the fund raising section.

Please keep remembering to do your online shopping via shirenewtonshop.com as it really costs you nothing and the church benefits.

Safe browsing --- David Cornwell Webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com

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NERYS'S NATTY NOSH



My daughter Caryl and her friends meet up once a week for “dinner club”. Each member takes it in turn to cook a two course meal - a bit like “Come Dine with me”, but without the ratings. They have set up a website blog for viewers and fellow food fanatics to read. Here I am sharing a recipe that Caryl adapted and created for her friends.

Indian Butter Chicken Skewers

This is an adaptation of the traditionally indulgent, calorie-laden dish from Northern India. Usually consumed with buttery Naan bread and a black lentil daal. This is a virtuous, summery, dairy-free version, which I will be accompanying with a fresh salad and pitta breads. When you first cast your eyes upon this recipe, it looks pretty complicated and time consuming, however, the great thing about it is, that the vast majority of it can be made ahead of time. The chicken was marinated in the two marinades; I then removed the chicken pieces and placed on skewers, then refrigerated overnight. I then made the sauce and placed the chicken skewers under the grill when I was ready to serve. Easy!

Ingredients

Marinade 1

- 1.2 kg boneless skinless chicken
- Juice of 1 lemon
- Pinch of salt
- 1 tsp. red chilli powder

Marinade 2

- 6 cloves
- 10 peppercorns
- 1" stick of cinnamon
- 2 bay leaves
- 10 almonds
- 2 tablespoons of coriander seeds
- 1 tablespoon of cumin seeds
- Seeds from 4 pods of cardamom
- 1 x 500g pot yogurt
- 1/4 tsp. turmeric powder

For the sauce

- 1 tbsp. coconut oil
- 2 chopped onions
- 4 garlic cloves
- 1 inch ginger
- 400ml of tomato passata
- 500ml of chicken stock
- 2 tbsps. Dried fenugreek leaves
- single cream (to garnish)
- Coriander leaves to garnish



Method

1. In a bowl mix the chicken, lemon juice, salt and red chilli powder. Cover and marinate for an hour in the fridge
2. Meanwhile, heat a pan on a medium heat and gently roast all the dry ingredients for the second marinade (cloves, peppercorns, cinnamon, bay leaves, coriander, cumin and almonds) until they darken slightly.
3. In a NutriBullet blender add the toasted spices, the cardamom seeds, turmeric and yogurt. Blend until smooth, and then add to the chicken. Marinade for as long as possible (at least an hour).
4. When you're ready – remove the chicken from the mix, and place on metallic skewers, ready to go in the oven. Cook thoroughly (around 20mins at 180°C). I like to get a few little bits of char on them to add to the flavour, so just put them under the grill for a couple of minutes each side.
5. Turn off the oven, and place the pitta breads in to warm up whilst you serve



Meanwhile - for the sauce

1. Heat the coconut oil in a pan on medium heat and add the onions, until they go a pale golden brown colour.
2. Add the ginger and garlic, and fry for a further minute
3. Now add the tomato passatta, chicken stock, dried fenugreek and the yogurt mix.
4. Cook on a simmer, until the sauce thickens (around 20mins)
5. **Garnish** with coriander leaves and a dash of the single cream

Tips:

- I've made this before with chicken breast alone, and found that it dried out under the grill. It's better to make with thigh meat, or a combo
- You could add the skewered chicken into the sauce to make proper butter chicken and serve with rice and naan
- Any leftover sauce can be kept for a couple of days in the fridge, or frozen for another day and with the addition of some prawns or paneer, would make another delicious dish!



Caryl also made a cardamom panna cotta for desert, which is available to view on their blog: www.diaryofthedinnerclub.wordpress.com Twitter: @dinnerclubdiary

Enjoy!

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Womens Institute (WI) Jenny Bonner 01291 641929

DIARY DATES

Sept.	Event	Location
6 11:00am	Chepstow Harriers Race Day	Wentwood Area
7 7:30pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
10 7:15pm	Shirenewton Women's Institute	Recreation Hall
14 2:00pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
17th 7:00pm	St Peter's Church Newchurch Harvest Festival & Ploughman's Supper	St Peter's Church Church Farm
19 10:00am	Village Market	Recreation Hall
29 7:30pm	Shirenewton Local History Society Open Meeting	Huntsman Hotel
October	Event	Location
5 7:30pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
12 2:00	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall

Readers and Sides Persons St Thomas a Beckett Church, Shirenewton

Date	Sunday Service	Readers	Sides Persons
September 6th	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Mark Broughton Glynis MacDonald	Mark Broughton Glynis MacDonald
September 13th	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Kevin Bounds Margaret Lock	Kevin Bounds Margaret Lock
September 20th	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	Bob Grattan Jane Tomlins	Bob Grattan Jane Tomlins
September 27th	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton

You may not be aware that for one Sunday a month we now have a service of Morning Prayer (Matins) rather than Holy Communion, to provide a little variety and because some people may prefer that style of worship. Thanks to our intrepid organists and other enterprising musicians who lead the singing, we are able to sing hymns and canticles. The service is a little shorter than usual but can be very beautiful. It may be more suited to you, if you don't wish to participate in communion for any reason. Why not check out the Diary Dates to find out when Matins is on and come and join us?



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EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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The views expressed are those of the contributor.

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