

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

September 2017



Photograph by Jane Jordan

Price: £1

FROM THE VICARAGE

Who are the lucky ones? You are going to receive two articles from me this month instead of one. I am covering Julian whilst he and Sandra are on holiday.

I have had various people ask me what is it like and how do I feel now I have been priested? I reflected on these questions and have to admit it is different from be a Deacon.

Firstly I feel so humble that I am now able to preside over the Eucharist, but by the same token I have it is also the most honourable gift one can be given to invite the Holy Spirit to come upon the Host. So when I lead the Eucharist I am on both ends of the scale, both total lowly but also feeling the privilege of being given the licence by the Church to celebrate and consecrate.

Leading up to the ordination I shared with those travelling the same journey as myself that this time, being ordained priest, I was worried and had butterflies in my stomach, I told them I didn't feel that was when I was ordained Deacon. I also had a floor of the responsibility that would go with the task of priesting. But all along the Lord was with me and I knew He wouldn't burden me with more than I could bear. As we are told in: ***Matthew 11:29 New International Version (NIV)***
29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Does this mean that taking the Lord's yoke will lead to having an easy time? No it certainly doesn't so don't kid yourselves. During my studies it has been pointed out that the translation may well mean, take my yoke because it fits well. This totally turns round the meaning of this piece of scripture don't you think? Think about it, if the meaning does mean the yoke is well fitting, then this means we can actually work harder without facing chaffs and sores.

During our retreat, which was also a time for learning, those being ordained priest shared with our guide, Fr John, that we were also very worried about taking our first Eucharist, we were afraid we would muck it up, cause mayhem etc. He set all our minds at rest by telling us to reside and perform the Eucharistic act, but do not worry about anything because it is the intent that is important. You should have seen us all, our faces brightened and we felt at rest.

When I reflected I thought how the word 'intent' used in the positive sense can help in so many areas of life. Not as a get out of goal card, like saying I had every intent of doing that! But taking that yoke of the Lord, the one that does not chaff, and saying I will carry out this task with the intent that it will turn out well, I trust in the Lord and He as the intent not to let me down.

Intent as an action and not as an excuse is a wonderful word. I will give you an example: I recently visited a charity in Port Talbot who asked my company for money to help them with their project, namely giving shelter on the Friday and Saturday night to the homeless. When we met with the leaders of the project we found they not only helped the homeless, they also helped those with drugs and alcohol problems. They set up an area in Port Talbot on a Friday and Saturday night where they offered tea/coffee and a shoulder to cry on or an ear to listen to those who we out on the town. They have a café to people to meet and take time out, and they have a church that prays for them and all that they are doing. That is a capital INTENT in action. Their intent was to help those in need, and they are, believe me, I was totally blown away.

Now I am a priest I have the intent to carry out all my duties to the best of my abilities and to be in constant prayer with the Lord asking for guidance and the Holy Spirit to help me be a worthy humble minister to the church and to our Lord.

On behalf of Julian.
Rick Hayes (curate)

200 CLUB WINNERS - JULY/AUGUST DRAW

Congratulations to:

1. Mike Penney
2. Pauline James
3. Frances Gray
4. David Prosser

Graham Lambert

ST PETERS, NEWCHURCH

The Summer Fayre on 5th August was a great success, thanks to everyone who came and supported us.

Next event will be the Harvest Festival and Supper at Church Farm on 29th September.

Join us to salute the season and see the magnificently decorated barn!
Tickets available from Sarah Stone 650672 or Liz McCombe 652957

COFFEE MORNING

In Aid Of Velindre/St. Davids

Saturday 9th September, 10am - 12 Noon

Bring and Buy, Cakes, Raffle etc.

In Aid Of Velindre/St. Davids

At Maureens Glenfield, Weyloed Lane Mynyddbach

£1.50 including Coffee and Welshcakes

Contact 01291 641524

Harvest Festival

Sunday 1st October
Family Service with
Glynis and Jane
10.00 am

Shirenewton Church.
Bring a harvest basket to
decorate the church and
to auction later!

Village Harvest Lunch

12.30 for 1.00 Earlswood Hall
Bring your family and friends for
a sociable community lunch followed by a
fun charity auction of harvest offerings.
Drinks at the bar.

Tickets: £5.00 adults
£2.00 children under 12
from:

Jane Eickhoff 01291 641716
eickhoffjane@gmail.com
Noelyn Prout 01291 641261
Sally Saysell 01291 641369

Get your tickets early!



CHEPSTOW MALE VOICE CHOIR COMES TO SHIRENEWTON

Chepstow Male Voice Choir will be giving a concert in aid of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution on Friday 22 September at St Thomas a Becket Church, Shirenewton, at 7 for 7.30pm.

Tickets £10.00 each include tea and coffee during the interval, may be obtained from Anne Octon (01291 641918), Mrs Sally Saysell (01291 641369), and from Merricks Pharmacy in Chepstow.

Please come, to enjoy a lovely summer evening concert given by our splendid Male Voice Choir, and to support our Lifeboats!

The poster for Shirefest 2017 features a dark horse's head on the left side, set against a background of colorful, abstract splatters in shades of yellow, orange, and white. The title 'Shirefest 2017' is written in a large, white, bubbly font with a black outline. Below the title, there is text in bold black font. At the bottom of the poster, there is a solid yellow horizontal band.

**Shirefest raised
£2k for Noah's ark children's hospital.
£600 in pop up gazebos for
Shirenewton Primary PTA.**

**Thanks to all our sponsors
Mainly
Like Landrover, Hicks logistics
Bull transport, Monmouth timber**

Philip Moles, JP,

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Seventeen intrepid souls and two dogs met at Shirenewton Church on Rogation Sunday to walk the parish bounds. This year we walked the north east route down the lane by the Huntsman Hotel and along the brook until you come to Panta Cosyn, crossing the Usk Road and on up to Earlswood with great views of the Severn Estuary and beyond. Then all down hill to the village where a welcome cup of tea was waiting. We have a written record of this walk taking place in the 1750's, so long may it continue for a few more hundred years.

May was a busy month for the society as we joined Cardiff Archaeological Society and Monmouthshire Antiquarian Association to visit Runston medieval village which is situated half way along the Crick Road. We visited the chapel which retains significant architectural details, including finely jointed blocks in the chancel arch and small Romanesque windows, which points to it being built in the early 12th century. Documentary evidence reveals that the chapel was built by the Normans shortly after their conquest of south-east Wales. However reference is made to the presence of a village on the site as early as 10th century. To the north side of the chapel lie the remains of a small medieval fortified manor house. Quite a few interesting finds have been made at the site including a late medieval copper alloy cross depicting the crucifixion of Christ. Well worth a visit.

We also visited Tredegar House, where we were given a tour of behind the scenes, showing the immense restoration work that is being carried out to the fabric of the building. The National Trust are in the process of replacing the roof, visitors are able to climb up to the roof and view the restoration. This is an unique sight as hopefully the roof will not need renewing for at least another 200 years.

We had a treat in store for us in July when Dr Elen Jones gave us a talk entitled 'Lady Llanover'. Augusta Hall (nee Waddington) was born in Llanover near Abergavenny and inherited the Llanover Estate where she lived with her husband Benjamin Hall (*Big Ben* was named after him) she was well known for championing the Welsh language, her bardic name was Gwenynen Gwent, (The Bee of Gwent). She was one of those formidable ladies who was emerging at that time who led a very busy and influential life and lived to ripe old age and is buried in Llanover church alongside her husband.

Dates for your diary:

Monday, 11th September, Archive Meeting at the Recreational Hall,
2.00 pm 5.00pm

Tuesday, 26th September, Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel, 7.30 pm
Talk entitled, '*Boil a Mouse in Urine*' given by
Malcolm J Watkins

Everyone welcome at the above events

FAIRTRADE NEWS AUGUST 2017



With all the seriously depressing news at the moment those who believe that 'we are going to hell in a handcart' might seem perfectly justified in their belief. However, as with most aspects of life, things are rarely all black – or all white! Hans Rosling and Johan Norberg are 2 very well-respected purveyors of statistics who point to many examples of the world becoming a much better, safer and enjoyable place for most of its inhabitants. In 1820 94% of the world's population subsisted on less than \$2 a day (in today's money), in 1990 it was down to 37%, and now, guess what, it is 10%. Still absolutely grim . . .but! Discussing the 'good old days' at the Shirenewton Market yesterday I decided that the very word 'dentist' was enough to make me rejoice in the fact that I am alive now – and of course go back a hundred years or so ago and I would already have seriously outlived my life expectancy (if you see what I mean!). Modern business has, of course, brought its own injustices. However, slave-produced sugar, cotton etc was hardly a kinder business model. Knowledge and information is key. Perhaps if those 18th century God-fearing citizens of Bristol had really understood what slavery meant, the system might have been abolished or abandoned sooner.

And so to Fairtrade palm oil! This cheaply produced ingredient is to be found in every room of your house – from pizza to toothpaste. The vast majority of palm oil production strips the earth of its natural flora and animal life and its workers are exploited. FT palm oil has returned production to Ghana (where it originated) and now another supplier of FairPalm known as Natural Habitats, based in northern Ecuador has come under the independently verified Fairtrade logo. Biodiversity is respected – at least 15% of the plantation is left uncultivated and many farmers are seeing the value of organic production. FT of course guarantees proper wages and working conditions. Check for the FairPalm logo on products – or better still the FT logo!

Nowadays of course almost everyone has the means to obtain information, if they are interested. Everyone should be interested! Business does not need to exploit its producers and workers – unscrupulous people in positions of power should be held to account!

As ever I urge you to consider the provenance of all that stuff we all buy!

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

National Prayer Weekend

We're joining in on Saturday 30th September with prayer stations in the Church between 2 and 4 pm



There are two really good ways to get involved:

Make a nomination for inclusion on a prayer station:

We will have six prayer stations set up in Church and we'd like you to nominate people, events, organisations or just about anything or anyone, you feel would be helped by the power of prayer and the sharing of God's love!

We have six Stations:

- Our world
- Our country
- Our church
- Our community
- Our suffering
- Our departed

Yes, the titles are deliberately vague! Nothing and no one is excluded from God's love and healing power.

If one of these titles inspires you to think of something you'd like included you can send in your nomination to church@shirenewton.org, or you can drop it into the box that will be in Church from 1st September by Monday 25th September. Be sure to indicate clearly which station your nomination is for.

Your nomination could be as simple or as detailed or descriptive as you like. It could be a photo, a name, a drawing, a paragraph explaining your choice, a prayer, a cutting or an evocative object. There is no age limit to this either!

Come along on the afternoon to pray:

The church will be open, as it always is, all day, but our focus is from 2 to 4pm. We used prayer stations on Christian Aid Sunday and found them very helpful, so we are re-using that great idea! Tour the stations, take as long or as little time as you like, pray for many of the entries on each Station or just one.

Explore how to pray by talking to other participants there or picking up one of our free leaflets.

There will also be an area set aside for quiet contemplation and centred prayer.

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available in the Church Rooms during the afternoon.

Still puzzled?

The service on Sunday 24th September will be introducing the Weekend and hopefully providing some inspiration. Why not join us at 10 am?

Would you like to become a member? If so, email: membership@samfal.org | www.samfal.org

 /samfalnatureserve



Volunteer Work Group Needed

Do you have 3 hours per fortnight to spare?

Do you like working outdoors?

SAMFAL Nature Reserve (between Mynyddbach and Shirenewton) urgently needs a committed regular volunteer group to maintain the fields.

Tasks will include: fence line clearing, bracken and bramble clearing, scrub clearing, balsam clearing throughout the year. Think of it as a no-fee out-door gym!

I'm looking to form a group to meet every other Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 12:30 or thereabouts.

No previous experience is necessary, you just need to be reasonably fit, and able to cope on rough ground. If you have experience with a brush cutter or chainsaw that would be a bonus. The most important requirement is the desire to help keep these beautiful fields an open, flora and fauna rich site. If you would like to give it a go please get in touch with me, Jane Smith-Haddon.

email: **fieldgang@samfal.org** or telephone: **01291 641 525**

To find out more about SAMFAL take a look at our website: **www.samfal.org**

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the July 2017 meeting (there was no meeting held in August)

URGENT

Vacancies on the Community Council

As three Councillors did not stand for re-election in May there are currently three vacancies for co-option by the Council – 2 in the Shirenewton ward and 1 in the Mynyddbach ward. Also following a recent resignation, there is a second vacancy in the Earlswood ward. The Council now has four vacancies and it is important that these are filled by local residents who are interested in the surrounding community and wish to join the Council – **if that means you** - please contact the Clerk (details below).

Planning applications considered:

1. DC/2017/00568 Hill View Cottage, Shirenewton

Discharge of conditions; 3 (additional drawings), 4 (external finishes), 5 (drainage), 8 (landscaping), 11 (archaeological scheme) and 13 (building regulations). Relating to DC/2012/00631.

Council was unable to make a recommendation as it does not have the expertise in drainage, building regulations, etc. Council was of the opinion that the Planning Department has the expertise in these areas to decide whether planning conditions have been met and should be discharged according to current policies and guidelines.

2. DC/2017/00734 Millbrook Stable, B4235 Mynyddbach to Mounton Brook, Itton (KM). To build a wooden double garage.

Council received a member's report on a site visit made and noted that the application is for a wooden garage approximately 18' x 18' x 9' at ridge. The exact location of the proposal is unclear but it appears to be on top of the mill race to Pandy Mill. The site is laid down to grass on two levels and some excavation could be required, there are also several wooden sheds on site including a double garage not shown on the site plan.

Council recommended approval with the condition that no significant excavation is made to the mill race to level the site without a further planning application.

3. DC/2017/00607 Bluebell Farm, Blackbird Farm Road, Earlswood (ILM)

New vehicular access to northern boundary of site to Old Road.

Councillors received a member's report on a site visit made and noted that owing to the late notification and lack of communication details online it had not been possible to contact the applicant's agent to clarify some aspects of the application.

The reason for the new access is that the owners are in dispute with a neighbour over the existing access from Bluebell Farm Road. That access is fronted by 2m wooden gates and a similar height wall. The view from the road currently is of the unspoilt open countryside of the Castoggi valley with Wentwood Forest beyond. The land drops gently down and the applicant's house and buildings are visible only to the extent of their rooflines.

Council recommended refusal of the application on the following grounds:

1. The proposed development contravenes Policy S13 (iii and v) as it does not respect local distinctiveness or the character of the site and its surroundings;
2. It further contravenes policy DES 1 as it would give an unacceptable risk to the quality of the landscape;
3. It is unclear whether the existing hoggin access laid albeit innocently in contravention of planning, would be removed;
4. The existing access is adequate and a dispute between neighbours is not a reasonable justification for a planning application to be made.

Other items of interest

Community Speedwatch initiative

Council was advised by County Councillor Louise Brown that the Speedwatch scheme is on hold at present as a review of speed and traffic issues is currently taking place by the Police, GoSafe and Mon CC. County Councillor Brown suggested that the police/GoSafe attend a future Council meeting at the appropriate time to explain the commitment needed from residents.

Temporary closure of Blacksmiths Lane – notification received from Mon CC on 15 August that the lane will be closed from Monday 21st August up to Saturday 7th October for structural repairs to the length of the wall.

Grant aid from the 2017/18 budget.

The following applications were received and grant aid agreed as listed.

Organisation	Amount of grant
Shirenewton Church	£300
Shirenewton Recreation Association	£300
Earlswood Memorial Hall	£300
Shirenewton Local History Society	£100
Earlswood Valley/Hope churches	£120
St Peter's Church, Newchurch	£60
Shirenewton Playgroup	£100
Monmouthshire County CAB	£60
Mr C Eickhoff (VSO)	£100
Shirenewton Scout Group	£200

Continued on page12

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Next Community Council Coffee morning – will be held at the Village Market in the Recreation Hall on Saturday 21 October from 10 am – 12 noon. Please come along to enjoy coffee and cake also to meet and talk to your local Councillors.

Council Website – Apologies to all who have tried to access the website recently. There have been significant and long running problems with the website which have now been resolved and a new and improved website will be available soon.

Dates of future meetings – Monday 4 September and 2 October 2017 at 7.30pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend and may speak with the Council for the first 15 minutes of each meeting.

Find more information in draft copies of the minutes on the Community Council notice boards. Previous approved 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

RUNNING RACE 17 SEPT IN EARLSWOOD

On Sunday 17 September, Chepstow Harriers will be hosting the Wentwood Woodlark running race for the 4th year. This is an 8 mile 'multi terrain' race, which means it is mainly on footpaths but with some tarmac stretches. The field will be relatively small, around 80-100 mostly local amateur runners.



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, Cadira Beeches and Five Paths again, before splashing through the ford next to New Mill and following a footpath and then the top road back up to the Village Hall where the finish will be located. The course will be marked and well marshalled.

The race costs from £10 to enter in advance, and details can be found on the Chepstow Harriers website.

[Wentwood Woodlark - Chepstow Harriers Running Club](#)



SHIRENEWTON VILLAGE MARKET DATES FOR 2017

**EVERY THIRD SATURDAY OF THE MONTH FROM
10-12**

AT THE REC HALL.

***YOUR MONTHLY ONE STOP SHOP FOR LOCALLY
GROWN, PRODUCED AND HANDCRAFTED
ITEMS.***

ENJOY COFFEE AND CAKE IN THE CAFÉ.

JOIN US TO SHOP AND SOCIALISE!

16TH SEPTEMBER 2017

21ST OCTOBER 2017

18TH NOVEMBER 2017

16TH DECEMBER 2017

CHRISTMAS MARKET



MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL

Registered Charity no 1127098
www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk

CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd-Music Centre Wales and
Making Music – The National Federation of Music Societies

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY – NEW SEASON 2017/2018

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY will commence their new season on Wednesday September 6th in Chepstow Leisure Centre (Drama Studio) at 7.30pm.

This first rehearsal will be a general "welcome back" one to members – and a very warm welcome to new members!

The Society's AGM will take place on Wednesday September 13th, following a shortened rehearsal.

*CCS looks forward to another season of varied, challenging and enjoyable singing. **There will be an "Open Rehearsal" on Wednesday October 18th, 7.30pm** which will be an invitation to all who feel they may like to "come along, listen --participate in the rehearsal if desired – learn about us and meet our membership, enjoy some light refreshments -- and hopefully stay and join us as a singing member!*

*Our first major concert of the season will be the annual **Christmas Music Celebration, which will take place in St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow on Sunday afternoon, December 10th, 3.00pm.***

Future programme dates

Saturday April 21st 2018, 7.30pm, St Mary's Priory Church – Spring Concert with Organ and Brass Ensemble. Music includes works by John Rutter ("Gloria" and "Te Deum"), CH Parry ("I Was Glad", "Blest Pair of Sirens"), Stainer, Holst and Vaughan Williams

Wednesday July 4th 2018, 7.00pm Chepstow Arts Hall –a "Summer Celebration" Concert with music to suit the date and occasion !

EVEN IF YOU READ THIS AFTER SEPTEMBER 6TH, OUR OPENING REHEARSAL, PLEASE DO NOT FEEL YOU CANNOT COME ALONG! We would love to see you!

Further information: www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk
or telephone Marjorie on 01291 623310

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SHIRENEWTON SUPER SATURDAY

SATURDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2017

2.00 TO 7.00 PM

**AT SHIRENEWTON RECREATIONAL
HALL & GROUNDS**

EVENTS INCLUDE - TEA & CAKE, CHILDREN'S
TREASURE HUNT & GAMES, LIVE MUSIC, OPEN MIC
SESSIONS, BAR & BBQ.

*BRING A PICNIC, BUT MAINLY BRING YOURSELVES FOR
A FUN PACKED DAY!*

SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR DETAILS

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

Welcome back after the summer break! I hope everyone is suitably refreshed and ready for the run into Christmas!

The good news is that the shopping portal has to date (late August) earned the Church £430 so far this year. As always, that is cash paid into the church bank accounts.

My summer techie project has been understanding and installing CCTV. I've put in an IP system - basically one which operates on standard networking and internet protocols. It loop records to a 2TB hard drive and the images and recordings are accessible anywhere in the world via my laptop, tablet and phone. It's been an interesting learning curve and I've had to extend my house network by crawling around in the loft, etc. I'm happy to share my thoughts and what I've learnt with interested parties.

I can't think of any interesting tech stories over the summer. Certainly nothing grabbed my attention sufficiently for me to make a note of it as being suitable for Parish Magazine material!

So, instead, I thought I'd re-visit the WannaCry attack which, you may recall, crippled the NHS and caused massive damage/inconvenience, etc in May. You may also recall that, in the June magazine, I suggested that the main issue was people were continuing to run the old XP operating system. Well it turns out that almost all WannaCry victims were running Windows 7 (98% - Kaspersky Labs) and that Windows XP computers were mostly immune to WannaCry because, when hit with the most common type of attack, they simply crashed without installing anything. So, it seems that XP's famous 'blue screen of death' (BSOD) was, for once, a welcome sight for users.

A key twist in the story is that it has since transpired that the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) had already discovered the vulnerability, but, instead of alerting Microsoft, they used it to create an attack vector for their own purposes. Despite this Microsoft had independently identified the issue and issued a patch in March. It appears that the main reason that so many Windows 7 PCs were affected was simply that, firstly, it's still the most common operating system of the windows variants (~50%) and secondly that people hadn't patched their Windows 7 systems with the Microsoft update. So the lesson is: keep your operating system up-to-date. Turn on automatic patching and don't ignore messages suggesting you need to re-boot to update!

For those smug Mac users, don't think your immune. Whilst it is generally accepted that Macs are more secure than Windows PC (mainly because of the controlled nature of the Apple ecosystem compared with the open system of the Windows environment), numerous Mac viruses and Mac-specific attacks have been documented. So, you guys need to be on your guard as well!

Please keep using the shopping portal (www.shirenewtonshop.com) as all those small referral fees do really add up!

Safe browsing Webmaster. David Cornwell



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07930 893678

A photograph showing a large stack of firewood logs, cut into sections, piled together. The logs are of various sizes and colors, ranging from light tan to dark brown, indicating they are seasoned.

Firewood for Sale

**Barn Stored Seasoned
Logs for Sale**

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GARDENING CORNER

Here's hoping that you have all had a good summer break and that the weather was kind to you. It seems as though the British weather did what it always does best – changes to particularly unseasonal weather the minute the school holidays start. You have my sympathies if you had a fortnight in this country under canvas, but then I guess, as always, it depends where you were as some areas were a lot better than others. The wind and rain, more akin to autumn than summer, certainly took its toll in the garden, turning what was already a difficult year into a very difficult one!

I mentioned last time that I have been trying a few new varieties of plants this year. The sweet potatoes had got off to a late, and very slow start and I was wondering just how successful they might be. The tunnel is now very much like the 'Day of the Triffids', and I'm beginning to wonder whether I should have planted them further apart and in more space. If the potatoes turn out to be as rampant then we will hopefully have a good crop, but then again it might be all top and no bottom! It is a similar story with the water melon. I planted eight along the length of the larger greenhouse and they grew everywhere – and I mean everywhere! Amongst the foliage a number of melons have 'set' and these are swelling up – the largest is now the size of a small football. There are some twelve melons in total, so not a huge crop, but enough for us to enjoy without being fed up with the sight of them! For some reason the foliage has now started to wilt. The roots are fine so the plants haven't rotted off, but hopefully they will continue to survive long enough for the fruits to finish developing for eating. The new blue potatoes are showing a lot of promise. The skins are blue but the actual potato flesh is white. They are meant to make one of the best roast potatoes around. Having had some I can certainly vouch for that claim!

Before the weather turned bad the heat had made its impact in the garden with many of the flowers finishing early or dying out long before their time. The sweet peas were planted at the top of the garden, too far away from the water supply and so they struggled from the start and gave up the ghost before the middle of July. The tops of the tomatoes in the large tunnel had been completely burnt off, but then the thermometer did hit 120 degrees on one day. I cut the burnt ends off and the plants survived and are still continuing to produce tomatoes at the moment. Whilst the dry weather continued I managed to keep on top of the weeds and the vegetable beds, although I say so myself, were looking really good. I had to call a halt to the weeding of the last flower beds because it had got too dry. Any weeding activity would have resulted in the flowers themselves suffering. Now of course it is raining on and off and the ground is too wet to be able to do anything, so the weeds will have to wait. I haven't weeded these beds properly for several years so couch grass has started to run rampant, as well as buttercups and meadow grass. I've decided to cut my losses and will leave them well alone for the time being. Instead I will completely dig the beds out in the autumn, removing all of the flower plants and dividing up the larger clumps. I'll try and remove all of the bits of couch root that I can and then replant in what will hopefully be clean ground. Weeding between the flowers whilst leaving them in the ground gets rid of the immediate problem, but any bits of couch that are left in amongst the flower roots will simply reshoot and you will be back to square one in no time at all. The drastic action will also help me to right a few issues, as some plants are definitely in the wrong place. Some of this is down to my bad 'design' (not that I actually design anything as such!), but the main reason is that several of the beds started off quite small and were gradually extended over

time. This resulted in a number of shorter plants that were once near the edge of the bed, being stranded in what is now the middle, so they can't be seen. So these will be dug out and replanted near the edge and the taller species replacing them in the centre. There are one or two 'thugs' as well, which are now running rampant and suffocating some of the other, more notable species. These will be removed completely and the ones that are suitable for flower arranging will be replanted in an area at the bottom of the garden where they can do their own thing without causing too many problems.

We both love going to the local agricultural shows (rather than the more touristy orientated affairs) and have always admired the horticultural tents, as well as the handicrafts and floristry tents. Until last year we had never had a go ourselves, but that changed at the Chepstow show when the flower arranger in the house entered a couple of flower displays and I had a dabble in the vegetable competition. We both had some success with the flower arranger doing well, winning the best exhibit in the show for her pedestal arrangement. I won three sections with a couple of seconds and thirds as well. This wetted the appetite and so this year we decided to raise the game a bit and enter a few more classes. We always knew there was a lot of hard work involved, not just in growing the produce in the first instance, but actually picking everything and then trying to find three or five vegetables, for example, that actually look similar in shape and size. There was a lot of frustration from the vegetable perspective. The courgettes had turned into marrows and no two looked remotely the same! The tomatoes I'd pinned my hopes on started off ok and I found three that looked good. I needed six for the class, and the rest it turned out had all split. This was not looking good. I had a little more success with the French and the runner beans, but it took several pounds in weight of runner beans to find two lots of five that looked reasonable. Carrots were a waste of space, the beetroot had holes, but the onions and shallots were a rallying point so some classes were looking good. It took all day to get everything dug and sorted out. The flower arranger was busy cutting flowers in the garden, but it was noticeable how the hot weather had dealt a major impact on the availability. The sweet peas as mentioned had failed the alsoemarias had flowered and finished as well whereas these had formed the mainstay of last year's arrangements. Thank heaven for gladioli! But she managed to find enough to make four displays.

I mentioned last time that the bees were driving me mad. Some swarmed and although all were collected safely a number chose not to hang around and disappeared before I could get them in a permanent hive. The better hives have managed to get good supplies of honey stored and hopefully I will have good news for next month. One hive that had a drone laying queen died out despite my best efforts to save it, and so far I have lost two more where the bees, ably supported by a growing wasp population decided that they would start robbing the honey from a couple more hives, which have collapsed as a result. This bee-keeping lark can be seriously frustrating at times! How did the show go? We did alright in the end. The flower arranger won two trophies and I won the best display in the horticulture tent (with several other successes as well) so all the hard work was worth it. Time to plan for next year

Happy gardening until next month. Steve and Felicity Hunt.

EARLSWOOD COMMUNITY

HOG ROAST

Friday 22nd September 2017

7.00 pm at Earlswood Hall

Come and share in an evening of Food, Fun and
Entertainment with Friends and Neighbours.

Cost £8

*The after-dinner speaker will be Ivor Williams who lives and
works among the farming community in the Brecon area.*

Musical Entertainment will also be provided

Tea & Coffee will be provided -

You are also invited to bring your own drinks (wine etc) if you wish

To book tickets, or further enquiries :

e-mail: earlswoodcommunity@btinternet.com

Tel / Text 07743 024348 or ask at any of the chapels
below.

*This event is being hosted by the joint Churches and Chapels
of Earlswood, Gaerllwyd, Llangwm and Penycaemawr
providing the opportunity for all of the community to meet
and get to know their neighbours, whether they have lived in
the area for generations or are relatively new to the district.*

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOURS ?

Several of us have been concerned lately that although we live in such a beautiful part of the country we do not know many of the people here, whether we are people who have lived here for many generations, or have moved into the area and left family and friends behind.

We have been aware that those of us who attend the local churches and chapels have a wider network of friends and acquaintances but we are missing the contact with our neighbours.

Is it our natural reserve or the fear of "not wanting to be a nuisance" that prevents us from reaching out?

Several of us have been concerned that as some of the population ages more of the younger people who move in have very busy lives and have to go out to work to sustain families and live such busy lives that there is little time to get together to know neighbours with differing lifestyles. We have therefore taken the initiative and have organised a COMMUNITY HOG ROAST. We are hoping that we will get a good response from a wide range of people who live or work in the Earlswood area (including the outlying districts).

Our aim is to provide an evening where we can relax, meet people and share in food and fun. Families and individuals can come together and enjoy an evening together.

Look out for the posters, flyers, or a friendly knock on the door offering tickets for the event.

WHAT?	EARLSWOOD COMMUNITY HOG ROAST
WHERE?	EARLSWOOD MEMORIAL HALL
WHEN?	FRIDAY 22 nd September.
WHY?	Because we want everyone to feel part of the community they live in
COST ?	£8.00

If you would like to be involved in this exciting project, or can help in distributing flyers, or knocking on doors in your neighbourhood please e-mail:

earlswoodcommunity@btinternet.com

THE BELLS, THE BELLS

The Shirenewton ringers have traditionally arranged two tours each year to visit different parts of the country and ring the bells in that area. One tour takes place in the summer and the other in the winter. Touring around is a common activity for ringers and the majority of towers welcome visitors.

The summer tour, known as the Summer TT (as we aim to ring at Ten Towers (TT) on the main day) was slightly earlier than usual this year held on the last weekend of June – in the past the 3rd weekend of August. Our mission this year was to visit South Shropshire and Montgomeryshire around the market town of Bishop's Castle. And it just so happened this corresponded to the mid-summer celebrations of the town – but more of that later.



Initially 9 ringers assembled at our chosen base on the Friday afternoon at the campsite behind The Powis Arms in the village of Lybury North, south of Bishop's Castle. Tents and a gazebo were erected and then off to ring at the local church – a very pleasant ring of 6 bells. The ringing room was accessed by an almost vertical wooden ladder. After this we travelled to the nearby village of Clunbury to ring their six bells, also requiring an almost vertical climb up a steel ladder. The traditional fish and chip supper was then sought and 4 ringers headed to the chip shop in Bishop's Castle to make and collect the order (un) fortunately suffering a slight delay as the order was freshly cooked requiring a sojourn in the Three Tuns Brewery Tap next door – the oldest continuous Brewhouse in the UK. By now the ringers numbered 10 and after supper 4 more appeared eating their supper in The Powis Arms.

Saturday dawned bright and another ringer arrived making 15 in all. After a light breakfast we headed out to Chirbury [6 bells], Montgomery [6 bells], and then Church Stoke [5 bells] – here the bells are not rung regularly and the ground floor ringing chamber seemed to be used as a dumping ground so we were required to remove chairs and, flower stands and ring around redundant radiators and other detritus. The bells were difficult to ring being a challenge to some of our newer ringers. Then we headed to Forden [6 bells] and completed the morning at Berriew [8 bells]. Then to an excellent lunch at The Horseshoes before heading off to ring at Leighton [6 bells]. Originally we had been told that ringing would be restricted to just 20 minutes but as it turned out this was the day of the church fete and we were encouraged to ring for as long as we wished. Some ringers took the advantage of the preview afforded to examine the stalls before the official opening of the fete, particularly raiding the plant stall. Our strict timetable did eventually curtail the ringing and we headed off to Westbury, Worthen, Pontesbury and finally Pulverbatch – all 6 bell rings.



The tour complete for the day we then headed back to the camp for our grand BBQ and as the evening chilled we converted one of the BBQs into an impromptu camp fire. On the Sunday morning after bacon bap breakfast we headed into Bishop's castle. We had been invited to join the local ringers to commence the midsummer festivities which take the form of a Rush Cart Parade and quite an event it turned out to be. The bells were rung from 10.30 until 10.55 when the Rush Cart was drawn down the main street by the local firemen preceded by dancing girls and women and then accordions, tambourines and Morris Men. The procession then proceeded up the church path and into the packed church which had been beautifully decorated with flowers and greenery. The service was attended by a slightly startled Bishop of Hereford (admitting this was his first experience of this amazing event). We were entertained by more singing and dancing including reels, clog dancing and a very accomplished local primary school choir. After the service the congregation left behind the singers and dancers to be met with cakes, beer, cider and beef burgers! The significance of this event appears to be the changing of the rushes as a floor covering in days of yore probably mingled with more pagan links to midsummer festivities. This was a very jolly and memorable event well worth witnessing if you are in the area around midsummer and possibly wort emulating! Afterwards back to the campsite for packing up and returning back to Wales. In the evening we were all guests of Pip and Mike Penney for a post-tour celebration. Another truly memorable Summer Tour.

M.D.Penney

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.

The slightly yellow-coloured planet Saturn can be seen in the evening sky just above the horizon to the south. In the dawn, the brilliant planet Venus lies to the east. The Moon is close to Saturn on the 26th and is a very fine crescent just below Venus on the 18th.

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 6th September. It’s the closest Full Moon to the Autumnal Equinox.



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Nerys's Natty Nosh

My daughter recently had a baby shower at our house. I and a



group of her friends secretly prepared various afternoon tea dishes. It was a great success and I am happy to announce that my daughter had a healthy baby boy.



Menu

- * **Sandwiches**
- * **Glamorgan Sausage Balls**
- * **Quiche**
- * **Pakorras**
- * **Hummus, crudit es**

Nerys's Natty Nosh

- * **Scones, cream, jam**
- * **Chocolate covered strawberries**
- * **Biscuits**
- * **Chocolate mousse**
- * **Cup cakes**



Clementine Cake Serves: 8-10

Approx. 375 grams clementine (approx. 3 medium-sized ones)
6 large eggs
225 grams white sugar
250 grams ground almonds
1 teaspoon baking powder

Method

1 Put the clementine in a pan with some cold water, bring to the boil and cook for 2 hours. Drain and, when cool, cut each clementine in half and remove the pips. Put the clementine - skins, pith, fruit and all - in a food processor and blitz.

2 Preheat the oven to gas mark 5/190°C/375°F. Butter and line a 21cm / 8 inch spring form tin.

3 Add all the other ingredients to the food processor and mix.

4 Pour the cake mixture into the prepared tin and bake for an hour, or when a skewer will come out clean; you'll probably have to cover with foil or greaseproof after about 40 minutes to stop the top burning. Remove from the oven and leave to cool, on a rack, but in the tin. When the cake is cold, take it out of the tin.

Serve with segmented oranges, cream or as an alternative coconut cream.

Enjoy!

Thanks to Elizabeth Sanderson for the recipe



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SHIRENEWTON W.I JULY '17

'The importance of bees' by Steve Hunt. An excellent talk by our very own local gardener and bee keeper. It was engrossing to hear how the mood and behaviour of bees can be affected by the weather. Some little factoids of the busy bees...flies the equivalent of 3 times around the world to produce 1lb honey; a single bee takes 3 weeks to produce 1 teaspoon of honey; the average speed of a bee is 17mph, and many more interesting facts, too many to mention in this little report.



August '17

We dined out at the Tredegar Arms, the meal was enjoyed by all the members who were able to attend. The T.A put together a menu that catered for all tastes. An excellent evening, enjoying each other's company with a good deal of chatter and laughter.



Next meeting 14th September, Reflexology with Annabelle Hancock

Contact: Diane Ashton-Smith (President) 628838
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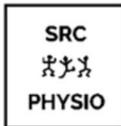


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Safeguarding Officer	Lynn Morcombe	01291 641 671
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	Vacancy	
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	Beverley Moore	01291 641532
Mynyddbach Ward	Vacancy	
	Ian Moore	01291 650766
Newchurch West	Ian Martin	01291 650014
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	Ken Morton	01291 650268
MCC for Shirenewton	Louise Brown	07598 979719 clairebrown@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Member of Parliament	David Davies	020 7219 8360 daviesd@parliament.uk

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Shirenewton & Mynyddbach Beverley Moore 01291 641532

Earlswood Sue Leat 01291 641207

Other Local Organisations

Beavers Julie Hitchcock 01291 650548
Brownies Bev. Leaf 01291 641680
Jaci Crocombe 01291 641681

Church Fete

Earlswood Hope Mrs Sylvia Jeremiah, Mr Raymond Jeremiah 01291 641726

Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall

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Jane Butterworth (Secretary) 01291 641704.

DIARY DATES

Sept.	Event	Location
2nd 2—7:00pm	Shirenewton Super Saturday	Recreation Hall & Grounds
4th 7:30pm	Shirenewton Community Council	Recreation Hall
9th 10am	Coffee Morning	Glenfield Weyload Lane
11th 2—5pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
14th 7:15pm	Shirenewton Women's Institute	Recreation Hall
16th 10—12 noon	Village Market	Recreation Hall
17th 11am	Wentwood Woodlark Race	Lane below Earlswood Hall
22nd 7pm	Hog Roast	Earlswood Hall
22nd 7 for 7:30pm	RNLI Concert by Chepstow Male Voice Choir	Shirenewton Church
24th 10am	National Prayer Weekend Introduction	Shirenewton Church
26th 7:30pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Hutsman Hotel
29th	Harvest Festival and Supper	Church Farm Newchurch
30th 2—4pm	National Prayer Weekend	Shirenewton Church
Oct	Event	Location
1st 12.30pm	Shirenewton Church Harvest Festival Lunch	Earlswood Hall
21st 10—12 noon	Village Market	Recreation Hall
21st 10—12 noon	Community Council Coffee Morning	Recreation Hall

St Thomas áBecket Church Shirenewton Readers and Side Persons

Date	Sunday Service	Readers	Sides Persons
3rd September	Trinity Twelve	Bob Grattan Diane Marlow	Bob Grattan Diane Marlow
10th September	Trinity Thirteen	Mark Broughton Glynis MacDonald	Mark Broughton Glynis MacDonald
17th September	Trinity Fourteen	James Leney Jane Smith-Haddon	Jane Smith-Haddon Clare Lewis
24th September	Trinity Fifteen	Andrew Baker Sally Sayell	Clare Lewis Graham Lambert



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The views expressed are those of the contributor.

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