

Shirenewton Parish Magazine



June 2023

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THANK YOU!

A big thank you to Hannah Squires who creates the fantastic pieces of home crafted art displayed on the Mynyddbach post box. These seem to magically appear overnight to mark all major events/holiday, including last month's Coronation. It is wonderful that someone makes such an effort to do something to make everyone smile. What an amazingly talented lady.

Thank you so much from all in Mynyddbach.



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CHURCH SERVICES

Please note that all Church services start at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings in the church of St Thomas à Becket, Shirenewton. Times may vary for Remembrance Sunday and the periods over Easter, Christmas and New Year, but they will be reported in this magazine.

CHURCH SERVICES ON ZOOM

Some services will be available to join via Zoom, if you cannot attend in person. Please contact Gilly Lambert (see contact list) if you would like to be included on the distribution for Zoom service invitations.

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL (SCC) GRANTS TO THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (PCC)

The PCC is delighted to report that Shirenewton Community Council (SCC) approved the following grants at their meeting on Monday 8th August 202:

£500 contribution to the Parish Magazine printing costs

£800 contribution to grass cutting and maintenance of the churchyard and grounds

£80 contribution to the Christmas Event

The PCC is very grateful to the SCC for these grants.

SHIRENEWTON FOOD BANK

Thank you to the many people who leave donations for the Bulwark Food Bank. Donations can be left in the church but sometimes the church is not open and so the donations can be left under my veranda or by my front door or in the plastic box on my bench and then I can take them down to The Food Bank. Now more than ever, things are getting tight and your generosity is hugely appreciated by the people who operate the Food Bank from The Bridge Church in Bulwark. Thanks again,

Glynis MacDonald, The Chantry, 641 818

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FROM THE VICARAGE

Julian E LI White

This feels rather like writing one's own obituary.

Yes, I am approaching the final stage of my life as a full-time stipendiary minister of the Anglican Church in Wales. In other words, I shall retire from this position at the end of the year.

In some ways this a time for personal reflection. This could be tedious for many of you, but tough luck, I am about to wallow anyway!

I have been ordained to the Diocese of Monmouth for the entirety of my working life. Even my ministry abroad - in the Caribbean and in the USA – has been under the oversight of this Diocese. It indeed feels like a long time ago that I commenced ministry as an Assistant Curate in the parish of St. Mark, Newport back in 1979. During this time the changes have been many; not least that there were over one hundred of us 'dog collars' then as opposed to forty something these days.

I am, of course, indebted to those who have guided and sustained me during these years. Chief among them is my wife Sandra who has acted as a rock throughout. Her patience, intellect and support I appreciate beyond words.

For the past twenty-odd years we have lived, rather like Miss Haversham, in the genteel Victorian decay of Mathern Vicarage. Even this. I understand, is about to change. I am led to believe that I shall be the last cleric to dwell here since the mid 1800's (?). I further understand that the intended new Vicarage will be located somewhere near the top end of Pwllmeyric which, I suspect, will be both an advantage and an inconvenience to the new incumbent and any associated family.

There are yet more changes afoot. As you will know, the parishes of Mathern, Mounton, St. Pierre and Shirenewton have been part (since November 2022) of the newly created Severn-Wye Ministry Area centred upon Chepstow. Our Ministry Area Leader is presently the Reverend Philip Averay and we have recently heard that he intends to relinquish this position when the new cleric is appointed. He will continue to serve within the Ministry Area. Thus, changes in priestly cover and clerical residency are anticipated.

As a result, for Sandra and I, this is a time of 'winding-down'. Just recently I had a visit from the Archdeacon of Monmouth to confirm these details. When I was younger (there, I am getting nostalgic now!) such a visitation was a cause for alarm and trepidation and

cannot refuse'. This time the Archdeacon could only be described as 'sweetness and light' - an uncommon epithet which I trust is kindly received by him.

Where are Sandra and I going to live and when, precisely, are we leaving? The answer, to both, is quite simply *I don't know yet*. Of one thing (you will be delighted to learn) I am fairly confident. I have no intention of being a priest who can't let go and, mindful of the words of my training Vicar all those years ago, *When the time comes just go quietly*.

Thank you for your support. I hope to ramble on in a few editions of this magazine for the next few months,

With every good wish and blessing.

Julian White

FOR THE REGISTERS

The funeral took place of Lyndon George Martin (1937-2023) on 16th May 2023. The service was conducted by the Reverend John Waters.

VERONICA ATKINSON

Veronica Atkinson and family would like to thank everyone who kindly sent them cards of sympathy on Frank's death.

He would have been very moved, as were we all, by the lovely messages and the memories you had of him.

Thank you so much from us all.

Veronica Atkinson

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to Hannah Squires who creates the fantastic pieces of home crafted art displayed on the Mynyddbach post box. These seem to magically appear overnight to mark all major events/holiday, including last month's Coronation. It is wonderful that someone makes such an effort to do something to make everyone smile. What an amazingly talented lady.

Thank you so much from all in Mynyddbach.



SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the Annual and ordinary meetings in May 2023.

Annual Meeting:

Councillor Butterworth was re-elected as Chair and Councillor Catherine Martin as Vice Chair for 2023 - 24.

Chair's Report on 2022/23

I would like to thank the Community Council Clerk and my fellow Councillors for all the time and work they have put in over the past 12 months.

This period is the first following the reduction of the number of Councillors from 10 to 7 following the Boundary Commission review. Following the election on 5th May 2022 we had only 5 Councillors but in August co-opted Gary Mitchell and in September co-opted Cathie Martin as Councillors to the vacant seats.

During this Council period the following activities were carried out:

1. Due to the complexities of the pay roll following changes to NI, tax and back pay following the pay award to SLCC, the council agreed in June to employ the services of Chepstow Accountancy Services Ltd for all pay roll accounting.
2. The wooden noticeboards at Earlswood Hall and Gaerllwyd bus stop were, after many years of maintenance and repair, in a poor state and have been replaced with new aluminium noticeboards.
3. Planning permission was granted by Monmouth County Council for the hard path project however the project was paused following the opposition to the project mainly by residents of properties overlooking the Recreation Field and the subsequent withdrawal of support by the Recreation Association over the proposed inclusion of trees and run off areas for the football pitch. It was agreed the Recreation Association would conduct a survey regarding the facilities at the Recreation Field which was held in February 2023. No specific question about the hard path was included in their survey. The grant obtained from NLHF was returned in December.
4. Shirenewton Primary School Council were asked to consider what new equipment they would like to see in the children's playground at the Recreation Field in place of the existing climbing bars which are to be replaced due to age and condition. The School Council reported back their preferred choice of an in-ground trampoline in January.

5. The video conferencing equipment was finally installed in the Recreation Hall following the delivery and installation of a new cupboard designed to hold and protect the TV screen and equipment. Several hybrid meetings have now been successfully held by the Community Council and the TV has been used as a presentation display for a talk held by the Shirenewton WI.

Over the period of this Community Council, we received 11 planning applications for consideration. The ultimate decision on a planning application is made by Monmouthshire County Council however, we can make a recommendation after taking into account our local knowledge, the information presented to us in the application and the views of local residents presented at our meetings. The Community Council recommended approval for 8 applications, Monmouthshire County Council have approved 10 applications with 1 application being withdrawn.

During this period among the numerous activities the Community Council has carried out there have been several incidents reported to MyMon for multiple issues ranging from rusted signposts and blocked footpaths to numerous potholes.

Monthly Meeting:

Annual grants to local organisations

Application forms are now available for local organisations to apply for grants from the Community Council's 2023/24 budget. If you would like an application form, please email clerk@shirennewton.org.uk.

Please note the closing date for returning completed applications is 26th June 2023.

Planning applications considered:

1) DM/2023/00216 The Grove Cottage, School Road, Earlswood, Shirenewton

Modification of front elevation to existing house, Internal bathroom modifications and associated works, including introduction of PV panels.

Concern was expressed of the modern design of the frontage and whether this was appropriate to the character of the dwellings in the vicinity. After debate Councillors unanimously resolved to make no objection to the application.

2) DM/2023/00430 Woodland View, Old Road, Pen Y Cae Mawr, Monmouthshire

Proposed glazed infill extension to create reception and living area.

Whilst appreciating that the proposal would not be visible from the highway Councillors were concerned that converted barn's original footprint had been enlarged under the 2018 consent by some 30% and the current proposal would add another 25% or so. What had been a one bedroom conversion for tourist letting could become a 3 bed residential home. Councillors therefore queried whether the proposal was in breach of the intention of Planning Policies H4 H5 and supplemental guidance on

these policies. Councillors unanimously resolved accordingly :

Whilst SCC does not object to the appearance of the proposed addition given it cannot be viewed from the roadside, there is concern at over-development and inappropriate development contrary to the above Policies and Guidance. SCC requests this aspect be considered by the Planning Officer. In addition, were MCC minded to approve the application, SCC requests that the consent conditions reaffirm the withdrawal of the general permitted development order.

3) Pre-application consultation – Coombe Farm

The erection of 2 additional poultry units and associated infrastructure on established poultry unit.

Councillors raised the following concerns:

- a) the heightened risk of seepage from the manure into the ground and the nearby stream. Councillors seek reassurance as to its management and ongoing monitoring.
- b) the positioning of the manure heap, and frequency and location of field spread to reduce odour for the occupiers of the farmhouse and the neighbours. It was also noted that the EU atmospheric levels would be exceeded in regard to the farmhouse.
- c) the lack of detail concerning any ancillary accommodation for the additional full time employee if necessary to live on site.
- d) no indications were given as to consultation with neighbours
- e) the absence of further calculations for quickening flock cycles now in some cases as little as just over 1 month and how the consequent increase in manure output noise smell and transport movements would impact on the above concerns.

This response is subject to further consideration and comment by SCC on receipt of the planning application.

Appointment of Mrs D Reid as Clerk of the Council

Councillors ratified the appointment of Mrs D Reid as Clerk of the Council and as RFO with effect on commencement of employment on 1st June 2023.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT MAY 2023

County Councillor Brown advised:

Cabinet on the 5th of April 2023

The Cabinet considered a report on the rapid rehousing plan to tackle homelessness, the details of which can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?Cid=144&MIId=4987>

Place Committee on the 19th of April 2023

The Place Committee considered a report on the Public Spaces Protection Order, next stage of the draft PSPO, in relation to dog fouling in public space areas.

There was also a report on the Monnow Street design project following public engagement and communication.

In terms of the forward work programme for this Committee, it is noted that on the 25th of May there is expected to be a report on transforming Chepstow masterplan. And on the 6th of July 2023 reports on the Local Transport Plan and the Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP).

The link to this Place Committee on the 19th of April can be found here:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=303&MIId=5669>

County Council on the 20th of April 2023

The County Council on the 20th of April put forward the Corporate plan, following several draft versions. There were a number of motions and questions raised including the Welsh Government proposed plan to cut the bus emergency funding which would impact local services, a question about the Travellers in Chepstow Leisure car parks and a question on toilets for the new Abergavenny school.

This Council:

Recognises that Monmouthshire's bus services reduce private car journeys, help tackle rural isolation and are key to aspirations of an integrated transport network alongside the South Wales Metro.

Is gravely concerned that the Welsh Government's withdrawal of the Bus Emergency Scheme funding on 24th July 2023 will see buses in Wales reduced to a 'skeletal' service. Resolves to intensively lobby the Welsh Government to protect Monmouthshire's bus services, especially in rural areas where they are a lifeline for our residents.

The above motion put forward by Cllr Richard John was unanimously approved by the Council.

The County Council reports for the meeting on the 20th of April 2023, can be seen at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=143&MIId=5015>



Shirenewton
Community Council



Councillor Gary Mitchell

My name is Gary Mitchell I am 60 years of age and feel privileged to reside in this wonderful area of Shirenewton and since August 2022 I have been a Councillor for our local Community Council.

I have now been blessed to live here for a shade over 4 years. I am originally from Bristol and lived there for most of my life before I departed to pastures new to the southern US state of Georgia and the big city of Atlanta. After happily living there for a shade over 3 years, sadly my dad's health was impacted by his ongoing dementia, and I thought it was time to return home. The home I set up with my wife Jacqueline was in Chepstow, as she was working for Lucozade Ribena Suntory in Coleford and it was midpoint between our work locations.

During our time in Chepstow our family grew to include a couple of horses that we kept in the area of Newchurch and we always said wouldn't it be great if we could keep them in our back yard as it would make for an easier life. So, we sought out a new home that would accommodate all of us in one place and we were so lucky to come across such a property on the outskirts of Shirenewton.

So, we have settled here in Shirenewton, and our family has grown to include a dog Mia, a cat Saffie, along with some chickens and ducks.

We did enjoy travelling, often to the sun or city escapes and we even had a go at Skiing in Lapland. However, it's not so easy now to get away due to the family (animals) but I often say it's like being on holiday here (when the sun is shining of course).

We also do enjoy a nice meal or drink out and have missed local TA but have enjoyed the Huntsman and look forward to the TA reopening shortly. I am in full time employment and have worked for a large American paper-board and packaging company for close to 34 years.

As a new member of the council, I look forward to having the opportunity to meet many of you and helping out in the community in some way.

CHEPSTOW MALE VOICE CHOIR SUMMER CONCERT

with special guests

Wyedean Gospel Choir

Saturday June 10th @ 7:00pm

at St Mary's Priory Church Chepstow

Tickets available from; Chepstow Leisure Centre,
Chepstow Library, Choristers,
Paul Waters 01633400295
or on line at Eventbrite.co.uk

Tickets
£12 each

www.chepstowmvc.co.uk

Shirenewton Church and School Fete Saturday 10 June 2023

Family Fun Dog Show

Entries from 2.00 at the dog show ring - £2/dog/class

Competition begins promptly at 2.15 pm

- 2.15 The Prettiest Bitch and the Most Handsome Dog
- 2.35 Dog with the Waggiest Tail
- 2.45 Best Child Handler – 2 Age Groups;
Child: SCHOOL YEAR 3 OR BELOW
Child: SCHOOL YEAR 4 AND ABOVE
- 3.05 Dog with the Best Trick
- 3.20 Best Fancy Dressed Dog to include;
DOG THAT LOOKS MOST LIKE ITS OWNER
BEST PIRATE DOG
- 3.40 Best Six Legs (Dog's 4 and Human's 2!!)
- 4.00 Dog judge would most like to take Home

Thanks to our sponsor



Come to Shirenewton Church Fete!

On Saturday 10th June at The Rec

Pirate-themed procession around the Rec field at 1.45pm

Fete to be opened at 2pm by

Capt. Jack Sparrow



Come along and meet Capt Jack!

**Cakes, Fun Dog Show, Welly Wanging, Skittles,
Coconut Shy, Plants, Grand Raffle, Bottle Tombola,
Books & Toys and lots more**

Beer, Pimms, Burgers, Ice-creams, WI Teas

**Local Bands, Displays of interest to the community,
Pirate Puppet Show, Balloon Magician, Vintage vehicles**

Bring your friends and family for an afternoon of community fun.

Proceeds of the Fete for the upkeep of our village church

**SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FETE
(SATURDAY 10TH JUNE 2023)**

**Bottle Stall
TUESDAY 6th JUNE and THURSDAY 8th JUNE
ARE BOTTLE DONATION COLLECTION DAYS**

From 6pm on Tuesday 6th June and Thurs 8th June, we will be collecting bottles and cans of wine, spirits, beer, soft drinks etc. throughout Shirenewton and Mynyddbach for the Bottle Stall.

Please donate generously. It would help us greatly if you could check that the bottles and cans are within the recommended 'use by' date printed on the bottle or can.

Your support will be very much appreciated. If these dates are not convenient and you would like to donate bottles and cans, please contact Janet on 641783

On the Day of the Fete

CAKE STALL

The legendary Cake Stall is back! All donations of home-made cakes, biscuits, breads, plus Homemade Preserves will be very much appreciated.

Please drop these off directly at The Cake Stall on the field between 11am and noon on 10th June

BOOK & TOY STALL

Donations sought of Books/DVDs for the book stall, or any usable and complete Toys, Games or Puzzles

PLANT STALL

Donations of plants also gratefully received – flowers, vegetables, ground cover – all welcome!

Please could you kindly drop Plants, Books, Toys in the verandah area in front of the Hall on the morning of Saturday 18th June between 9.30am and noon.

Your contributions will be very gratefully appreciated.

SUMMER FETE GRAND PRIZE DRAW

Raffle tickets are now available for the grand prize draw to be held at the Summer Fete on 10 June. **Don't miss out** on the opportunity to win one of our wonderful prizes, which include:

£100,00 in John Lewis Vouchers, £100.00 cash, Afternoon Tea for 4 people at Ego@The Groes Wen, Penhow, a £50.00 Amazon voucher, £20.00 voucher for Newchurch Farm Shop, a 4 Ball Golf Day at St Pierre, a £25.00 voucher for The Two Rivers at Chepstow - plus many other great prizes.

Tickets cost just £1.00 each, £5.00 for a book of 5.

If you would like to buy any tickets and support our village fete, then please just text me, ring me, email me or just ask me if you see me walking my dog around the village.

Thanks, Aileen.

07814 451943, 01291 641459, aileendoggett@btinternet.com

Raffle Prizes so far:

1. £100.00 John Lewis Vouchers.
2. £100.00 Cash.
3. Afternoon Tea for 4 people at Ego@ The Groes Wen, Penhow.
4. Amazon Vouchers, £50.00.
5. Spirit Hamper.
6. 4 Ball Golf Voucher at St Pierre Golf and Country Club.
7. Luxury Hamper with wine, champagne, chocolates, biscuits, candle.
8. Molton Brown Bath/ Bodycare Set.
9. Voucher for Newchurch Farm Shop (£20.00).
10. Bottle of Glenfiddich Whisky.
11. Meal Voucher for The Two Rivers at Chepstow. (£25.00).
12. Two tickets for Chepstow Races.
13. Voucher for Deacon's Florist (£20.00).
14. Voucher for The Savoy Theatre, Monmouth (2 Cinema Tickets/ £13.00).
15. Basket of Flowers.
16. Butcher's Voucher for £20.00.
17. Chepstow Garden Centre Voucher. (£10.00).
18. Box of Chocolates.
19. Voucher for the new Sultan Indian Dining Restaurant, Shirenewton

Shirenewton Church

Summer Fete

Saturday 10th June

Glynis and Jane are on the cake stall again this year and we would love you to put on your pinnies and start baking for us toot sweet.

We are on the scrounge for: Cakes, Muffins, Biscuits, Cookies, Scones, Buns, Breads, Marmalade, Preserves, Jams, Jellies, Pickles & Compotes(?)

If it is helpful, you can drop your goodies off at The Chantry on the Friday before the Fete or just deliver them on the day to the Cake Tent over at the Rec

Thanking you in advance Glynis 641 818

glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

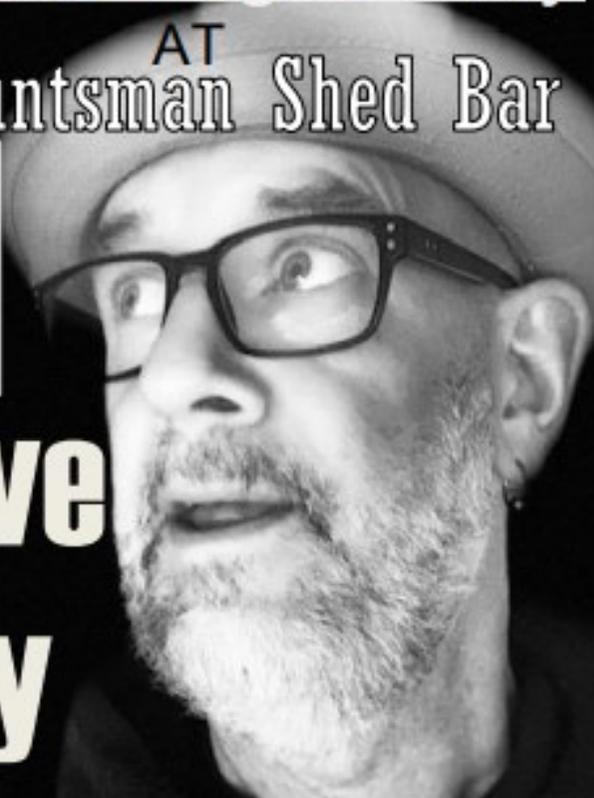


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AT
The Huntsman Shed Bar

Saturday
04-06-22
8:00pm
onwards



**Steve
Bray
Entertains??**

Audience Participation Encouraged, If Not Expected!!

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

For those of you wondering where my parish mag articles had disappeared to, the answer is: I'm busy. I now have exactly 32 minutes to knock out this article.

Last article I discussed ChatGPT from OpenAI and provided some examples of its capability. Specifically, an article and a poem. I also promised to address the question of whether ChatGPT is malevolent. After all, aren't Isaac Asimov's "Three Laws of Robotics" applicable? For those unversed in Asimov's laws they are:

1. A robot may not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm.
 2. A robot must obey orders given it by human beings except where such orders would conflict with the First Law.
- A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.

A key issue appears to be the belief by some people that the answers offer by ChatGPT are factual and the 'absolute truth'. They are not. Responses are based on the model's training data which is, broadly, the publicly accessible information on the internet. As such it is entirely possible and even probable that ChatGPT will generate responses that may be misleading, inaccurate, or controversial.

There are several examples where people have persuaded ChatGPT that $2 + 2$ does not equal 4! Further examples have made the MSM whereby people have asked Chat GPT for information on themselves only to find it appears to have made stuff up. One journalist was told that he was dead with ChatGPT, when asked for evidence, providing links to non-existent obituaries in the Guardian. The journalist in question, Alexander Hanff, points out that if, for example, a bank or building society were to base its decision on the provision of a mortgage on responses from a system which relied on a ChatGPT backend, it could be quite harmful.

Hanff notes that, following several people advising ChatGPT that he is very much alive, it no longer tells people he is dead. If people can manipulate ChatGPT to report that $2 + 2$ does not equal 4 and it can be 're-trained' to believe that Mr Hanff is alive, Hanff notes that the model is clearly open to manipulation and questions what a hostile nation state such as Russia, Iran or China could do if it wished to cause chaos.

So, it's the old answer of 'garbage in, garbage out'. The output is based on the training data, the way questions are posed and other information gathered. AI such as ChatGPT is in its early stages and getting a lot of hype. However, as with all early stage systems it is still very fallible and must be used with care.

Safe browsing

David Cornwell
webmaster

SEVERN WYE MINISTRY AREA

Praying Together

JAMES 5:16

"The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results."

2ND AND 4TH MONDAY OF EVERY MONTH
7.30 TO 8.30 PM

PRAYING TOGETHER FOR OUR MINISTRY
AREA AND OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

**St Christopher's Church,
Bulwark, NP16 5AF**

Shirenewton W.I. Egyptian Mummification



Cat Mummies

Shirenewton WI's Egyptology scholar Angela Gray gave us another of her fascinating talks this month on how and why the Egyptian's preserved their dead. A bit of a gory topic you may think, but Angela's talk was tasteful, informative and beautifully illustrated.

Angela explained that the Egyptian's had been mummifying their dead as early as 3,500 B.C. and continued until 300 A.D. The purpose of mummification was to preserve the corpse and create an image of the deceased fit for eternity. As with most civilizations and cultures, it was only the elite and royalty who went through this process. In the earliest forms of mummification, the body was buried in hot sand, but as the Egyptian civilization and religion developed, more intricate forms of mummification evolved. This involved over 40 days of treatment of the body before it was anointed with oils and resin, received cosmetic treatments such as wigs and artificial eyes, adorned with jewellery before being wrapped in linen.

The mummy masks (possibly the one we are all most familiar with is Tutankhamun) were to protect the head. The Egyptian's believed that if the deceased were to lose their head in the afterlife, then they would lose their power of speech and senses. The heart was also preserved as this was deemed to be the site of memory and intelligence, rather than the brain.

Animals were also mummified, including bulls, cats, dogs, falcons and lizards. The Egyptians believed that these animals had qualities that they wanted to emulate e.g. strength, rebirth, nurture and procreation.

Our meeting ended with a 'surprise competition' to create our own mummy. You never know what to expect in the W.I. So, bonus points if you can recognise this mummified W.I. member.



Our next meeting is quite different we meet for a Wildflower Meadow walk in Trellech at 6 p.m. on Thursday 8th June, followed by a meal at the Lion Inn.

Jackie Broughton

If you would like to find out more about Shirenewton W.I, then please contact Jane Butterworth at janeb247@gmail.com or Diane Ashton Smith (01291 628838)

Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in May:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Jodi Johnsey-Smith | 2. Charlotte Broughton |
| 3. Penny Owen | 4. Veronica Atkinson |

STARGAZING



The Constellation of the Plough lies high in the evening sky to the north-west. The curve of the handle of the Plough points down to a bright red star called Arcturus. Above and to the left of Arcturus can be seen a semi-circle of stars making up Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown. The W-shape of Cassiopeia lies in a north-easterly direction. Leo the Lion, its head shaped rather like a reversed question mark, can be seen in the west. Cygnus the Swan lies in the eastern sky. It is one of the most distinctive constellations, often nicknamed the Northern Cross.

At the beginning of June the very bright planet Venus is North of West and close to the stars Castor and Pollux. Orange-coloured Mars is to the left of Venus. As the month progresses Venus and Mars get closer to the horizon and become dimmed by twilight as they get closer to the setting Sun. The new Moon is a fine crescent and close to both planets on 21st June.

Sometimes it is possible to see satellites in the night sky. The International Space Station (ISS), carrying a crew of astronauts orbits the earth constantly. It is particularly bright since it is about the size of a football field. You can check a satellite is not an aeroplane – planes carry their own lights so provided it's clear it should be possible to follow a plane to the horizon. Satellites can only be seen when they are in sunlight – so they appear and disappear well above the horizon quite abruptly as they leave and enter the Earth's shadow. The time zone used on board the Space Station is GMT. The windows are covered during night hours to give the impression of darkness because the station experiences 16 sunrises and sunsets a day.

On the 21st June the Earth's axis is tilted towards the Sun to its greatest extent giving the longest day or summer solstice in the Northern Hemisphere.



THE ELVIS PRESLEY SHOW

STARRING
IN PERSON

**KEITH
DAVIES**

THE AWARD
WINNING
ABERGAVENTNY
ELVIS

HOGROAST & SALAD

BAR IS OPEN

MUSIC THROUGHOUT THE EVENING



EARLSWOOD & NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL
SAT. JUN. 17TH

1 SHOW - NIGHT - 7:00 P.M.

BOOK TICKETS ON 01291 641150

TICKETS £20 EACH OR TWO FOR £40



CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL.

CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd – Music Centre Wales and Making Music. Registered Charity no. 1127038

SUMMER CELEBRATION CONCERT WEDNESDAY JULY 5th, 7.00pm

***CHEPSTOW SCHOOL ARTS HALL
Guest Soloists from Opera Box, Bristol.***

A programme combining two highly entertaining pieces – "Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo" (Flanders and Horovitz), and "The Zoo" – a new and original Musical Folly in One Act, with music by Arthur Sullivan and libretto by Bolton Rowe.

"Captain Noah" is a well-known and highly entertaining cantata in popular style of the Old Testament story of Noah and his Ark, with a moral for our times! –and "The Zoo" will provide much enjoyment in the idiom of G&S and is a complete light-hearted piece of fun, utilising chorus and five soloists –the setting is the local zoo where some drama evolves in front of an interested crowd of zoo visitors and onlookers (the CCS Chorus!)

COME AND ENJOY A LOVELY LIGHT-HEARTED EVENING –and with drinks and light refreshments afterwards!

Tickets (£10, students u/18s free) available from Choir members and Chepstow Bookshop. For further information, please see our website –www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY

Conductor - Graham Bull

Piano - Richard Kubiak

Wed July 5th 2023 @ 7.00pm

Arts Hall, Chepstow School

Captain Noah & His Floating Zoo

Michael Flanders & Joseph Herovitz



The Zoo

Arthur Sullivan & Bolton Rowe



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www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk

Nerys's Natty Nosh



Celebrating King Charles 111 Coronation.

I hope you all had a memorable time celebrating King Charles 111 coronation. We certainly did as a family.

I prepared a little celebratory buffet for the family.

We had: -

- Roast ham
- Parma ham
- Pork pies
- Boiled charlotte potatoes
- Spicy prawns
- Coronation chicken
- Coronation rice salad
- Greek salad
- Caprese salad
- Coleslaw
- Salad leaves
- Spicy hot smoked salmon in mayo
- Tomatoes
- Lemon trifle
- Cake and pastries
- Fruit



I made shortbread biscuits and decorated them with melted dairy free chocolate. They went down a treat with the family.



Ingredients

- 125g Butter/ dairy free Margarine
- 55g Caster Sugar
- 180g Plain Flour/ brown rice flour
- 60g Ground Almond

Method

Pre-heat oven to 180C (Gas Mark 4)
Rub in the Flour and Margarine/ butter in a bowl until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add the sugar. Add the Ground Almond. Press to mixture to form a ball.
Gently roll out the mixture and cut into desired shapes.

Bake in the preheated oven for about 20 minutes or until firm to the touch and very lightly brown.
Cool then Pipe with melted chocolate. Deliciously Moreish.



My favourite meat has to be chicken. It's so versatile, healthy, low in fat and quick and easy to prepare.

Health benefits of Chicken.

1 Chicken is a very good source of lean, high-quality protein.

2 In older people, the proteins present in chicken also help against bone loss.

3 Chicken is a rich source of niacin, a B-vitamin that helps protect the body against cancer.

4 The trace mineral selenium is found in

good quantities in chicken. It is an essential mineral required by many major metabolic pathways, which includes the thyroid hormone, defence systems, and immune function of the body.

5 Vitamin B6, present in chicken, plays a crucial role in maintaining a healthy body.

6 Chicken meat is a good source of phosphorus, which is a very essential mineral for the body. Phosphorus helps maintain the health of teeth and bones, and the healthy functioning of the kidneys, liver, and the central nervous system.

These are **dairy free chocolate and vanilla cupcakes.**

I thought I would try the new Pure Olive dairy free spread to see how it would fare. I was happy with the result.

I pre- heated the oven Gas Mark 4/ 180C.

I weighed the eggs first (I used three) and then added the same in weight of Sponge flour, Pure Olive and muscovado sugar. I added 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract and a teaspoon and half of baking powder. Mixed all together for a minute in the mixer. Placed in cupcakes and added a few dairy free chocolate drops on top. Baked for 20 minutes. Good result. Find more recipes @facebook Happy Recipes to share or Instagram art2plating. Cookingfast---cookingslow. Baking-4thefamily.





THE CORONATION
OF KING
CHARLES III IN
LONDON AND THE
SHIRENEWTON
CELEBRATIONS
ON
THE RECREATION
FIELD.



Gardening Corner

The good news is all of our House Marten nests are now full. We have lots of birds flying around at present, which is a sight that we love to see, but there is no sign of any 'real' nests being built. With the weather so unpredictable and remaining stubbornly cold we feel really sorry for these little migrants, and can only hope there is enough fly life to support them until things warm up. I have been fishing recently at Blagdon, just south of Bristol. Normally by now, you are treated to a fantastic flying display of House Martins, Swallows, and Swifts as they swoop low over the water, or perform aerial acrobatics catching flies as they hatch and rise off the lakes surface. I haven't seen much of this as yet. The other good news is that we have heard our first cuckoo, but it arrived later than ever, on May 1st. We have only heard it a couple of times since. A clear sign that numbers are dwindling for whatever reason.

Things are moving apace in the garden now. It remains stubbornly cool, but with the risk of a late frost diminishing daily, we have just had to go with it and plant out delicate plants in the hope that we don't get caught out one night. If there is a threat then it will be all hands-on deck in getting the horticultural fleece out. At the moment there appears to be more threat from the hail and wind generated from passing storms, so fingers crossed that they pass us by. We have watched several storms veer off their apparent path and either move up the Severn estuary or go for a drive along the M4 corridor instead. We have seen this time and time again over the years, and can only assume that the storms direction of travel is influenced by the topography of the land. At this time of year, it is a case of 'musical chairs' in the greenhouses and tunnels as we struggle to get plants outside and planted, to make way for others coming on behind. Our early peas and broad beans are now well-established outside, as are our summer greens crops, such as calabrese, cauliflower and cabbages. I decided to grow our first and second early potatoes in pots again this year due to the cold nights. These had grown very well, and needed to be planted out in their final spots. Frost is always a risk for early potatoes, but with them growing too well, they had to go. They are now looking very settled in their new home, so fingers crossed that the weather does not have that nasty surprise in store for us. The same holds true for the more tender beans, such as runner and French, both climbing and dwarf varieties. Just a sniff of a cold night is enough to finish these off, but they really were getting desperate to be planted out, so out they had to go. In recent years I have planted these out and the first thing that happens is that their leaves get scorched by hot sun. No fear of that this year! Our biggest threat by far is the thousands of slugs and snails that are about this year – we have never seen it so bad in over 50 years of gardening. I just don't know what the answer is for these particularly pests as they can devastate a crop overnight. We are trying some organic pellets at the moment that are meant to be the best available. Unlike the old pellets that were used until recently, there are no slimy trails and dead slugs to see that evidence that the pellets are working. The pests crawl away apparently unharmed, to die elsewhere, so there is no clear

evidence that they are working. Only time will tell. What we need is twenty hedgehogs and the odd thousand frogs and toads. Unfortunately, we haven't seen a hedgehog in the garden for ages even though it is a perfect home for them, and this year we had very little frog or toad spawn in our wildlife pond, which is most unusual.

In the greenhouse, the tomatoes have now been potted on into very large pots and their next move will be into the greenhouse borders. With it being cooler, these have grown more slowly, but actually look much better for it. I think this is the same for everything this year. It all looks much healthier for being grown 'harder'. The marrows, courgettes, melons and cucumbers have all been moved to larger pots as well. The only crop not doing too well are the peppers and I think this is because they like it very hot. Their day will come – maybe! Our first cut flower plants are now also ready to go outside, and with a few days of drier weather forecast, hopefully the soil will improve enough to allow this to happen. We do dry out very quickly up here, and with the raised beds you can get away with planting almost straight after rain. I have just got around to sowing all of our carrots and parsnips directly in the ground. It was a bit late for the parsnips particularly, but hopefully they will catch up. Carrots are best sown later, as it helps reduce the damage from carrot root fly. This year I am trying nematodes as a natural predator of anything that looks like a caterpillar. Our lettuces in particular, both cut and come again and single cut lettuce were decimated by a new pest on the block, the caterpillars of the 'Y' moth. So called because of the white Y markings on their wings. This has in the past migrated across the channel during the summer, but wasn't capable of surviving our winters, so numbers didn't build up for it to be a major pest. But the winters haven't been cold enough in recent years, and numbers of this pest have built up. What makes them particularly annoying is that their caterpillars eat anything and everything, which is very frustrating. It will be interesting to see how the nematodes (microscopic worms that love eating caterpillars) actually perform.

The bees are still being 'challenging' this year. We have had two swarm so far, which wasn't unexpected, as several of the hives had carried very large numbers through the winter. The good news is that each swarm was safely gathered in, although the most recent was a challenge. The bees had landed on a small apple tree, but on the main stem, rather than a branch. The branch is the easiest, as you simply put a box underneath the swarm, give the branch a very quick pull or bash, and the bees all fall into the box (well most of them anyway). So long as you catch the queen, the rest will stay. With them being on the stem shaking is out of the question, so I usually brush them into the box with a special soft brush. The challenge this time was that there were two distinct 'piles' of bees on the same stem. So was the smaller group simply lost, or was it a separate, much smaller 'cast' swarm. A cast swarm is a secondary swarm that leaves the hive after the main swarm has already left, with a new queen. To be sure, I gathered the small, topmost swarm first, into a box

And moved this immediately away from the main swarm. Then back to the second and put these into a box and left alone on the ground for things to settle down. Going back later, the small swarm had disappeared, but the main swarm was happy in their box. I moved these into a readily prepared hive and gave them some sugar syrup to help them settle in. It isn't clear if the small swarm went back home, joined the main swarm, or cleared off. We'll never know, but a small cast swarm generally is of little value. We did have one hive where the queen had died. I tried to get the bees to replace the queen by placing some young eggs in the hive in the hope that they created a new queen. This didn't work this time around which is unusual. The eggs have to be no more than two or three days old so maybe those I picked were a little too old. With a swarm collected I knew that there must be ready made queen cells in the hive the swarm had left. A frame was found with two queen cells on, so this was moved to the queenless hive in the hope the new queen would hatch and things would carry on. The bees will never know that the queen wasn't theirs! I obviously made sure that there were other queen cells left in the hive that had swarmed! The jury is out at the moment, but I'll let you know what happens next month. Happy gardening until then, *Steve and Felicity Hunt.*



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FAIRTRADE NEWS May 2023



I'm writing this the day after the coronation of Charles III. Whatever one's views of the monarchy in general one has to concede that many of Charles' long held preoccupations have at last been broadly accepted by most informed people. Banging on about global warming/climate change 50+ years ago provoked ridicule, though as I've written before scientific experts working for fossil fuel corporations such as Exxon Mobil conceded (in secret documents) that they knew what was happening too. Margaret Thatcher (who had a scientific background) also recognised the problem and had concerns about its impact. Charles also has put his (or perhaps our!) money where his mouth is. The general view is that as monarch he will have to curb his tongue and speak out less. A lot of people, I think, would like him to speak out more, especially perhaps the younger generations whose future we oldies have unwittingly, or in many cases wittingly, jeopardised so catastrophically. Our democratically elected government does not seem to be very anxious to implement actions to lessen the threat, even if they profess intent - (insulation?.. new oil wells?).

The award of the Fairtrade mark, as you perhaps know, is based on adherence to specific criteria, one of which is environmental sustainability. For many years (about 30) I bought (and used/sold) FT goods from Traidcraft the company that coordinated the supply of FT goods. Traidcraft no longer exists, but I am very keen to try and continue to support growers and producers of FT products. These producers are inevitably in the front line of the climate change catastrophe, a disaster they have contributed little to.

I urge you all to continue to support FT producers where you can. Or perhaps take a meaningful step to begin to source and buy FT. A few ranges are available in local supermarkets – do buy them! But there is much more available elsewhere. Ethical Superstore is a good place to start. Equal Exchange and Liberation, Divine, Café Direct, and Zaytoun also have small ranges of goods. I miss Traidcraft's coordinating role but I will try to continue to buy a range of goods to sell on because this is something absolutely worth doing. FT goods cost a few pence more, but the headlong pursuit of profit at any cost (!) is what has created this disaster in the first place.

I have quite a large range of goods for sale – but unfortunately no longer a catalogue! Do contact me for info.
Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

The Bells.

We had a busy early month of May because of the coronation. As stated last month we intended to ring a peal to mark the coronation which I stated would start at 9.00am (BST) on 6th May. However, several of the band wanted to watch the ceremony, and as a peal on our bells takes of the order of 2hours and 40 minutes this meant starting at 9.00 am Central European Time i.e. 8.00 am (BST). This we did (without complaint but only messages of support!) and a successful peal of mixed doubles was achieved. A picture of the band is shown. It included 2 ringers ringing their very first peals (our own Simon Lockhart and Peter Bray from Llanwern), and a ringer ringing for the first time for a peal on what we call an inside bell (not the 1st bell or 6th bell, but one following all parts of the method being performed (Sam Kellaway). Both Peter and Sam were both taught in their youth by Pip Penney.

In the afternoon all our other ringers were involved in a session to mark the completion of the coronation and a picture of the band is also shown.

Later in the month on 20th May Shirenewton entered two bands into the Monmouth Branch Striking Competition which was held at St Mellons. We achieved a very creditable 2nd place in the call change section which included our newest recruit Cheri Oliver who found the process a little stressful but rose spectacularly well to the occasion. We were less successful in the method section coming 5th but effectively being beaten into this position by just two towers which had each entered 2 bands.

We practice each Friday evening starting at 7.30 pm (BST). If you want to see what goes on then come and visit.

M.D.Penney.



Peel Band 6th May 2023
and
Shirenewton ringers post Coronation



Rogation Sunday in the Ministry Area – 14th May

David & I were the cyclists, we set off from home early on Sunday into the very atmospheric & cold mist to Itton, passing Shirenewton on the way. Once meeting up with the walkers & celebrating Morning Prayer we, the cyclists, set off to St Arvans via Itton & Chepstow Woods, the sun came out over Chepstow Woods, but the cold mist was still swirling. David went down to Tintern to find sun & solace at the Filling station whereas I found the Son & Solace at the Eucharist in St Arvans. We came back together for the Pet blessing. It was then up yet another hill to St Mary's, Penterry for a picnic & prayers. Some said it was down hill from there to Devauden but wishing to keep off main roads we found some good downhill but some very steep up hills to St James, Devauden, at least we got a rest waiting for the walkers, who had been given sausages as they walked past the village hall & stopped for the facilities. Once we had regrouped at the church where more prayers were said, it was off to the final formal stop at the Church of the Holy Cross, Kilgwrrwg where we finished the day in sunshine with the bell peeling to welcome the walkers and then had a lovely service of Evening Prayer. However, whereas the walkers had a lift home or back to Itton to pick up their cars, the cyclists still had to get home. There is a very steep hill out of Kilgwrrwg to get home! Fortunately there is a footpath halfway up that takes you to the viewpoint on the Devauden-Newchurch road, so we pushed the bikes up it and were rewarded by the lovely views at the top. With it being Rogation Sunday we decided to go home via St Peter's, Newchurch, Thomas A Becket Church, Shirenewton, St Andoneous, Mounton and St Tewdric's, Mathern. This trip was 33.8 miles door to door with 1077 metres of ascent. The walkers did 11.25 miles. A good time was had by all. Thanks to Father Michael and the team for organising it.





Shirenewton Village Spring Market

Wow – what a turnout at our Spring Market! I can't believe the uptake of stalls, the numbers through the doors & the support (& generosity) from our fabulous village & surrounding areas. I was so busy selling, sorting raffle prizes, collecting stall fees etc that I didn't have time to take any photos! I even had difficulty getting myself heard over the throng of visitors whilst shouting out raffle prize winners!

Stalls included Fair Trade, Handbags, Plants, Pickles & Preserves, Jewellery, Hand Woven items, Honey, Cards, Forever Living, Flowers, Hand crafted items, Cakes, Paintings, Savoury snacks & more! Our "Posh Coffee" pop-up café returned (back by popular demand) & was a resounding success!

Thank you to all stall holders for being there/donating raffle prizes & thanks to all who helped setting up/clearing away before & after the event. Thank you to our pop-up café workers – fab coffee by the way! Thanks also to our volunteer raffle sellers & to the committee for organising, publicising, donating raffle prizes & running the event.

We've raised over £230 (so far) from the raffle, savoury snack sales, 50% of stall fees & some kind donations for the Turkey/Syria Earthquake Appeal – & we still have proceeds from the "Posh Coffee" café yet to be included – so a big thank you to the community for their support & generosity!

We will be having a Summer Market - probably in July – date to be finalised....

If anyone would be interested in being part of the village market team (organisation/helping on the day/having a stall) please contact Shirley on 01291 641161.

Clothing Bank at the Rec Hall

Please see the new addition to the Rec Hall – a new clothing bank in aid of Child & Teenage Cancer & Leukaemia Foundation – it's ready to take donations now. The Playgroup has recently had news of one of its children being diagnosed with Leukaemia so this cause is close to their hearts & the clothing bank will help fund this worthy cause.

Please don't leave items/bags if the clothing bank is full – it's going to be emptied weekly – so not long to wait for space to donate!

Thank you for your support.





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There was no need to introduce this month's speaker, John Burrows, who gave a talk entitled 'Chepstow Castle & the Magna Carta, Ireland, America, and the Moon.' John is one of our popular speakers, he researches his talks and finds the most intriguing connections as you can imagine when reading the title.

Members of the society spent an enjoyable day at the Drill Hall in Chepstow helping to celebrate Chepstow Society's 75th anniversary, an exhibition of 'past & present' photographs were shown in the hall with various other history society present with their local history presentations on show.

Dates for your Diary:

Tuesday, 30th May
2.00pm

Tour of St Mary's Church Yard,
an afternoon visit Susan Amos

Saturday, 17th June

Visit to Abergavenny Priory
Prof Maddy Grey
Meet 2.00pm at the Priory

Tuesday, 25th July

Raglan, Troy & Badminton
Dr Ann Benson

Our meetings are held at the Church Room, unless otherwise stated, we start at 7.30pm and everyone is welcome.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June

Sunday 4th
8.00 p.m.

Steve Bray Entertains?
The Huntsman Shed Bar

Monday 5th
7.30 p.m.

Shirenewton Community Council Meeting
Recreation Hall

Tuesday 6th
Thursday 8th

Bottle collection for the Shirenewton fete

Thursday 8th
6.00 p.m.

Shirenewton WI Meeting
The Lion, Trellech

Saturday 10th
2.00 pm

Shirenewton Fete
Recreation Field

Saturday 10th
7.00 p.m.

Chepstow Male Voice Choir Summer Concert
with Wydean Gospel Choir
St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow

Monday 12th
7.30 p.m.

Ministry Area Praying Together
St Christophers Church, Bulwark

Saturday 17th
2.00 p.m.

Visit to Abergavenny Priory
Meet at the Priory

Saturday 17th
7.00 p.m.

The Elvis Presley Show with Keith Davies
Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial Hall

Monday 26th
7.30 p.m.

Ministry Area Praying Together
St Christophers Church, Bulwark

July

Wednesday 5th
7.00 p.m.

Captain Noah and His Floating Zoo
Chepstow Choral Society
Arts Hall, Chepstow School

Monday 10th
7.30 p.m.

Ministry Area Praying Together
St Christophers Church, Bulwark

Monday 24th
7.30 p.m.

Ministry Area Praying Together
St Christophers Church, Bulwark

Please let the editor know of any events taking place which may be of interest to our readers

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Amazon Smile may be gone but you can still support Chepstow and Caldicot Lions with Easyfundraising!

We have some important news regarding the Amazon Smile program. Unfortunately, Amazon has discontinued this program, which means that we can no longer receive donations through it. However, we have some good news too! You can still continue to support Chepstow and Caldicot Lions by signing up for Easyfundraising. By doing this, you can help us raise funds for our community projects and initiatives, without any extra cost to you.

All you have to do is sign up through our Easyfundraising page at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/chepstowandcaldicotlions> and shop online as you normally would. The retailers you shop with will then make a donation to us, at no extra cost to you. It's as simple as that!

So, if you want to continue supporting our cause, please consider signing up for Easyfundraising today. Your support means the world to us, and together we can make a real difference in our community. Thank you!



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Gwent Archives is not just concerned with preserving the past but also with documenting the present. It is our duty as a service to ensure that our collections reflect the history of Gwent and the experiences of our communities. But to do this, we need your help.

We are asking you, the people of Gwent, to consider keeping a diary or journal in the coming weeks and months and to deposit it with the archives in the future. They can be recorded as pen-and-paper or digitally. They can include photographs, sketches, or poetry. You may want to record your experiences as audio, rather than handwritten. We want to hear about how current events are impacting on you and your local area, what things are you hearing in the news, how it is affecting people you know?

We have already asked our staff and our volunteers to participate but to truly reflect our history, your history, we need you.

Any questions or queries, please contact enquiries@gwentarchives.gov.uk. More information on submitting the diaries will follow.



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- Tredegar Arms (The Square, centre of Shirenewton)
- Earlswood Hall (Erlswood)



(House half way between Blethyn Close and the School in Mynyddbach)
Shirenewton School

LOCAL CONTACTS

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