

READERS AND SIDES-PERSONS ROTA FOR FEBRUARY 2007

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
6th May	5th Sunday of Easter 9.45 a.m.	Alistair Bounds Kevin Bounds	Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds
13th May	6th Sunday of Easter	Ernie Jones Winnie Jones	Winnie Jones Ernie Jones
20th May	7th Sunday of Easter 9.45 a.m.	Family Service Shirenewton Parish Church	
27th May	Pentecost 9.45 a.m.	Barbara Davies Auriol Horton	Barbara Davies Auriol Horton
3rd June	Trinity 9.45 a.m.	Peter Jones Jean Jones	Jean Jones Peter Jones

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

Price: 50p

May 2007

**THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET
SHIRENEWTON**



Parishes of Shirenewton and Newchurch

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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

NAMES TO NOTE

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

2nd May	Neighbourhood Watch Meeting 7.30 p.m. Huntsman Hotel
3rd May	Local Elections—Polling Day
5th May	Coffee Morning on behalf of Velindre Hospital at : - Glenfield"—Weylode Lane, Mynydd Bach 12.00 to 2.00
9th May	Fete Committee meeting The Huntsman—8 o/c Community Council Meeting—Recreation Hall 7.30
13th May	Beating the Bounds Walk— Start the Church 2o/c +/- 6 miles
14th May	Local History Society Resource session –Recreation Hall 2 o/c
19th May	Local Police Open Session—Recreation Hall 10 a.m.—12 o/c.
19th May	Christian Aid—Ploughman's Lunch at the Chantry –12—3 o/c
29th May	Local History Society Meeting 7.30 –The Huntsman See report inside.
7th June	Whist Drive—7.30 Recreation Hall.
9th June	Church Fete—The Recreation Field
11th June	Local History Society Resource session –Recreation Hall 2 o/c
18th June	Village Plan Available 8 o/c The Recreation Hall
30th June	Coffee Morning— For Marie Curie (Wales) Cancer Support Fund

Chepstow Physiotherapy Clinic

Specialist in Musculoskeletal & Sports injuries

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

Chartered Physiotherapist

Approved by major insurance companies

Tel: 01291 423101/07950 948734

www.chepstowphysio.com

Please send notes, discs or emails for the June magazine to Bob O'Keefe at:
15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) or email to bobandwenche@aol.com by
Saturday 19th May for inclusion in the June magazine.

Dear Parishioners,

The promise of new birth which Easter brings is not an end in itself, it needs purpose and direction. The disciples were granted the supreme gift of meeting Jesus after His resurrection and being further taught by Him. There is a telling comment in the Acts of the Apostles which we would do well to note, and from which we can learn. As Jesus ascends to His Father angels ask the apostles why they are just standing there looking upwards. With all they had seen and been given they have no sense of purpose, no drive, no energy to get on with their mission. They needed the power of God's Spirit to motivate and move them to action.

So often today the life of our churches can imitate those apostles looking aimlessly into the sky but Pentecost offers afresh the chance and the power to find purpose and fresh vision. Sadly over the years Pentecost has become and increasingly forgotten festival almost as if we have lost the will and the expectation that God's Spirit is at work among us. On the other side there are those who almost crave new and more spectacular gifts to boost either their own confidence or personal status within the Church.

Think back to the angels words to the apostles; don't just stand around looking vainly for a vision or a gift – **USE** what you already have, be confident in how God has made you and gifted you. God's Spirit will energise and guide us but if we neglect what He has already given us then we will go nowhere and do nothing.

This time of the Spirit is a time to really celebrate the gifts we have in abundance and it is a call to us all to move ourselves and truly become the people God has made us. There is no such person as a "passive Christian". Now I am not saying everyone must rush around shouting the Good News but I am saying that everyone has gifts which can help, cheer, and value others. Every one of us needs to re-find and use them.

With every good wish.
Hugh Trenchard.

ANDREW GORE DECORATING SERVICES

FED UP WITH DECORATING

INTERIOR EXTERIOR



ALL TYPES
OF
DECORATING
UNDERTAKEN
FRIENDLY
ADVICE
FULLY
INSURED

Call today for a **Free** estimate!

01291 625451
MOBILE 07789286357

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates for This Term

Date	Time	Venue
6th May	9.45	The Chantry
13th May	9.45	The Chantry
20th May	9.45	Family Service—Church
27th May	9.45	The Chantry
3rd June	9.45	The Chantry
10th June	9.45	The Chantry
17th June	9.45	Family Service—Church
24th June	9.45	No Sunday Club

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

Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525

Glynis MacDonald 641 818

A Note for your Diary

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL

Saturday 22nd September

Sunday 23rd September

Also on the Saturday

Soft Animals Parachuting from the Tower

Live Music

Refreshments

Local produce stalls

Competitions

Extension Tours

Tower Tours

support the cover and have some spare ones ready to go back up. The bulk of the damage was done when the timber around the base of the tunnel to which the polythene cover is connected, was ripped clean off. I have managed to drill new holes in the legs of the tunnel and bolted new timbers all around. These will now be treated with wood preservative before considering putting the cover on. As we are reducing the number of plants we grow for sale, I intend to uncover all down one side of the tunnel in order to grow vegetables out of season. This will hopefully ensure that we can grow decent carrots again without them being subject to the attention of carrot root fly. I intend to then rotivate this prior to the cover going on. Not only is it easier, but I remember with a previous cover getting the machine stuck on a rock in the ground, only to watch the exhaust melt a hole in the side of the tunnel whilst I fought to free the machine!

I notice that we have the first of the asparagus ready for cutting. This is almost a month early. There aren't many spears to cut, but they will add a welcome addition to the dinner table! I notice that we have the first flowers on our strawberry plants too. This is one crop that we always look forward to being ready!

Talking about the first, we noticed the first house martins flying in to the eaves of the house three days ago. Unfortunately I had to knock all the nests down at the end of last year because of the building work we had to do. We had eleven nests last year, but because we have sticky out bits over the cottage windows the nests are always built over the top of them. Not good news when you want to open the windows. Because of this we have bought eight artificial nests that can be sited where we want them, not where the birds find it easier. We are still awaiting the first cuckoo though, which is surprising given the warm weather so far! No doubt they will arrive soon.

Happy gardening until next month.

Steve Hunt.

and a new crop sown. Hopefully doing things this way will ensure that we get a good continuous supply of mangetout and sugar snap peas for a number of weeks. The first broad beans also succumbed to the mouse but the second sowing is now well on its way, as are the French beans and the first of the runner beans. The trouble is that the current warm spell will draw them on too much and they will need planting out long before their time. If they are growing too quick I will probably pot them on into larger pots and give them their own little stick to climb up for a couple of weeks. Similarly the sweet corn is shooting ahead and may need the re-potting treatment. Neither the French or runner beans, nor the sweet corn can stand any hint of a frost and will require protecting for quite some time to come.

Talking about protecting from frosts I have noticed an awful lot of people buying bedding plants for their gardens as if they were going out of fashion. Certainly the half-hardy annuals will stand the cold weather. I can't help thinking that people are getting ahead of themselves with the more frost tender bedding though in their enthusiasm to get some colour growing in the garden. I would sooner leave these until the start of next month, harden them off outside with a little protection (even the shelter of a south facing wall will do), before planting them out in the last week in May.

There are quite a few gaps in the flower garden where plants have succumbed to the wet winter weather. I have got suitable replacements ready in the nursery, but with it continuing so dry I would sooner water them all together in one place rather than drag a hose pipe or watering can all around the garden. The weather will eventually break and it will then present the opportunity to plant them out in the borders.

In the green house the tomatoes that were sown last month are now getting near the size to pot on into larger pots. This is also true of the cucumbers, courgettes, melons and squashes. None of these are partial to a cold night so they will be moved to suitably large pots and grown on in the large greenhouse until at least the end of may depending on what the weather is doing. The cucumbers and melons will be destined for the tunnel, but only provided we can repair the winter damage in time. I have at long last started to take down the broken tunnel hoops that

FROM THE REGISTERS

A Service celebrating the life of Mr. Reginald Nigel Lewis was held on 13th April. Born 1952 died 2007.

14th April a Service of Baptism was held for Elias Benjamin Ward , the son of Stephen Andrew and Violet Ann Ward

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

The Winners of the April Draw were:

Ticket no	Winner	Amount
141	Cheryl Benjamin	£40
138	Lyn Prosser	£30
82	Peter Jones	£20
234	David Morgan	£10

WHIST DRIVES

Our April Drive saw 33 players enjoying a fine evening in pleasant company. There will be NO DRIVE in May due to the Hall being in use as a Polling Station but we will meet again on Thursday, 7th June at 7.30 p.m. at The Recreation Hall. In July we meet on the 5th. We look forward to seeing seasoned and new players. This game is not just for the oldies!!

Enquiries to Auriol Horton 01291 641844

Church Fete

9th June- the date of "The Fete" - is fast approaching.

Next Fete Committee meeting is on Wednesday 9th May at 8.00 p.m. in The Huntsman Hotel. All those involved in activities connected with running the Fete are cordially invited to participate in the final plans so please come and make your suggestions, give your opinions and obtain final details of what has been planned, so come and make a difference to this great community event.

Christian Aid Week 13th - 19th May 07

Christian Aid 'Ploughman's Lunch'

Come and share a meal on Saturday 19th May

Individual	£5.00
Family	£15.00
Concessions	£3.00

All money to go to Christian Aid

Complimentary glass of wine - or mug of tea or coffee

**Just pop into The Chantry between 12.00 - 3.00
and help yourself to a Ploughman!!**

Glynis and Kevin

641 818

Gardening Corner

It doesn't seem possible that another month has gone by. Writing this feature every month does act as a very unwelcome reminder that the gardening year is now well under way. The weather has continued dry and getting warmer by the day. Awful though it may sound I'll be glad when the weather breaks and we get a little bit more 'seasonal' weather before too very long. The ground is now so dry that the main job of the day, the weeding of the flowerbeds is grinding to a halt. This is because the plants that are being left behind are getting their roots disturbed as well and then start to suffer in the strong spring sunshine. I had intended turning my attention to the raised beds instead but some of these have now set like concrete, and desperately need rain to make them workable again. I did cover several beds with black plastic some time ago to actually help keep the rain off and the weeds down. The plastic has actually helped to retain some of the moisture that was in the soil, so if nothing else I can continue to work these and get some seed sown in them. I intend to sow the main root crops now over the coming few days. These will include the carrots, beetroot and a few early turnips and Swedes. The first of the peas raised in the greenhouse in rain guttering are now of a suitable size to plant out in the garden.

You may remember the trouble I was having with mice in the greenhouse last month. Armed with suitable instructions the under gardener was despatched to the shops to purchase some mousetraps. She returned with six 'little nipper's', enough to start world war three on the local mouse population. Suitably baited with cheese, these were set the very first night. Expecting a mouse Armageddon I was a little disappointed to only find one suitably despatched mouse the following morning. No further bodies have been discovered since, so either all the trouble had been caused by this one mouse, or else the rest decided that it wasn't healthy to stay any longer and went to pester the neighbours instead!

Fortunately the peas have survived although somewhat decimated in number! Following planting the guttering will be filled with compost again

Swiss Chalet for Holiday Rental

Haute-Nendaz in the Valais, Switzerland.
Part of the '4 Vallées and Verbier Ski arena'
A charming traditional Chalet with stunning views over
the Alps.

3 double bedrooms sleeping up to 6 people.
Less than 1 km from the resort centre and the main
cable car.

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

Summer, Walking, Mountain Biking, Paragliding and
Swimming.

For all chalet details visit: -

www.theglitzicompany.co.uk/chalet

Or contact Chris and Lesley on 01291 650614

For all the Very Special Stationary visit

Www.theglitzicompany.co.uk

Nick Bruce

**Treesurgery &
Grounds Maintenance**

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

NPTC Qualified Fully Insured

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

Tel/Fax: 01291 630246 Mobile: 07929 302651

A TRIBUTE TO MR. FRED DAVIS

Fred passed away peacefully on the 2nd April, just five days before his and Iris's 60th wedding anniversary. He was born on the 2nd January 1917 at Aberskir (near Brecon) and was interred there on the 12th April. He and Iris came to Shirenewton in 1955.

The Church and the village owe so much to Fred for his hard work and dedication over the years. In 1984 he researched the history and compiled a booklet, "The Church of St. Thomas a Becket Shirenewton" which contains so much information about the village in addition to that of the Church. He helped to compile the churchyard burial records and spent many hours rubbing down old tombstone for names and dates, (an invaluable asset to the church), and those seeking long lost relatives. He would also spend many hours cutting the grass around those tombstones, as nothing was too much trouble for him.

He will long be remembered by a framed photograph of him situated at the back of the church and will serve as a happy reminder. Finally we send our most sincere condolences to Iris, Catherine and Rob.

A THANK YOU FROM THE DAVIS FAMILY

Iris and family wish to express their sincere thanks to all friends of the Church and Village for being with them at Fred's funeral.

They found the kind words spoken and all letters and cards received most comforting. He will be greatly missed.

Thank you also to the friends who visited Fred whilst he was at Severn view residential home.

God Bless you all

St Peter's Church, Newchurch

From the Registers

A Service of Baptism was held on Sunday 15th April for Sophie Louise daughter of Maria and Mark Pryor, great granddaughter of Mrs K Parks.

THE CHURCH EXTENSION

In the March edition of the Parish Magazine, we saw the foundation blocks going in to place. Since then under the capable eye of Mr. John Saysell, work has been progressing at a good pace. Anyone visiting the church will now be able to get a better impression of the task being undertaken; a task that has been so well supported by the community as a whole.

The pictures on the right show the roof trusses being swung into place on the morning of 11th March. To get these in place it was necessary to bring in a special crane with a high lift facility, but light in weight able to lift the trusses to the height needed over the obstacles that were in the churchyard without causing damage. The lower picture shows the work at finishing time on the 20th March with roofing insulation going into position, and the battens in place ready for slates to be added. The gable at both ends closed off to the elements.

The pictures show the formers for the arched windows in place. They also show that the windows will be in keeping with the rest of the Church. The next stages will be to complete the roofing as this will render the structure weather proof, enabling work to continue both inside as well as outdoors.

It was good to hear a comment from one of the builders that they too were pleased to be working on such a community project, particularly when so many churches these days are facing dereliction due to lack of support. The support from the village community in getting this far has been tremendous, but the funding raising task is not complete and it is hoped that this years Fete on 9th June will assist again in making a much needed contribution to enable the work to be completed to the standard all would wish for.

If you haven't seen the progress so far, pop up and see for yourself.

EMOTIVE GARDEN DESIGNS



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

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

Mary Vittle

B.Sc. D.Pod M MchS

STATE REGISTERED CHIROPODIST

Home Visits Tel. 01291 624458

Why not try Reflexology!

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

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

For more information contact
Annabel Hancock MRxS
Clinical Reflexologist
01291 650309



Roof Trusses are lifted into place



Gable Ends in place, and roofing well underway

OVENCLEAN®

UK's Leading Oven Cleaning Service

Caustic free cleaning products.

Removes grease, fat and burnt on carbon deposits.

Fully trained oven technician.

We also clean hobs, extractors (including replacing filter) and microwaves .

Totally safe eco-friendly cleaning solution individually prepared for each customer.

No fumes, no mess, no bother- just spotless results every time.

To book an appointment please call **(01291) 427244**

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

20

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

New shops on the Church website will include Marks & Spencer (I hope). As the holiday season approaches, airport parking through Holiday Autos is a good earner. They also do airport lounge access and hotel/parking in the vicinity of all UK airports. The price is exactly the same whether you use the Church website or not so please use the Church site for your travel arrangements.

The new shop front is a work in progress. One day I'll have time to finish it.

Happy surfing.

David Cornwell - Webmaster.

Sunday Newspapers

As noted in the last magazine, we have attempted to start a Sunday newspaper delivery service. Its been a slow start. We will give it until the end of May to gain popularity. We have addressed the two most common complaints:

1. People were forgetting to order every week. You can now put in place a multi week order. See the Church website: www.shirenewtonchurch.com
2. People without the Internet can now place a telephone order with Glynis MacDonald 641818.

We need to get to a steady 20 orders per week to continue the scheme. This would deliver the Church approximately £1,000 per year and thus make the scheme worthwhile.

Support it or lose it

Caroline's Cookery Corner

A couple of years ago , Tessa and I were trying to think of different ice creams to make. We went to the shop and bought a whole load of different chocolates, Mars, Maltesers, Mint, Aero and Crunchie to name but a few!

I think we tried about a dozen or so some just did not work and some were quite frankly horrible! The most popular, which Tess asks for when she comes home is fudge (those small finger bars in orange paper) - (not for anyone on a diet.).

Make a custard with:-

6 oz caster sugar, 6 egg yolks & 3/4 pint single cream

While still hot add 5 chopped fudge finger bars and stir until dissolved. When cold ad 3/4 pint double cream and freeze. From time to time when freezing whisk until frozen.

Not my particular favourite but other people like it—I prefer a sorbet and one of the best (I think) is raspberry and red-current.

Make a light syrup with : 4 oz sugar, 1/4 pint of hot water allow to cool. Puree 1/2lb raspberries and 1/4 lb red-currents , (you can strain this through a sieve if you don't want the pips). Mix the puree with the syrup add the grated rind of 1 lemon , 1 orange and 1 tablespoon of lemon juice—freeze.

Once again our thanks to Caroline Davies



Garden Maintenance & Tree Surgery



Over 10 years experience at commercial and domestic grounds maintenance.

NPTC approved tree surgery.
All aspects of tree work undertaken.

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

Lawn Care:

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

Competitive Rates, Free Quotations.

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

SPONSORSHIP OF THE FLOODLIGHTS AND FLAG

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

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOTES

From Your Political Correspondent Reporting from the Community Council
Monday 2nd April 07 7.30 – 10.45 Glynis MacDonald

Police Report

PC Mason was unable to attend this month's meeting. But it was requested that I should remind people (via the parish magazine) that on the third Saturday of every month, PC Mason holds a Drop -In Centre in Shirenewton Rec from 10.00 – 12.00. He is not alone though. A member of the Community Council, Cllr Mitchell in May will be there. So if anyone has any issues about local policing in the area or if you have any questions you wish to raise with a councillor, then pop along to the Rec. They would be very pleased to see you.

The following Community Councillors will be available at the Police open sessions:

Saturday 19th May	Cllr Mitchell
Saturday 16th June	Cllr Crundwell
Saturday July 21st	Cllr Moore
Saturday August 18th	Cllr Harvey
Saturday Sept. 15th	Cllr Saysell
Saturday Oct. 20th	Cllr Morton
Saturday Nov. 17th	Cllr Bushell

Planning

There were 5 planning applications this month, which generated an awful lot of discussion.

Quarry Cottage, Great House Farm, Earlswood

Retention of change of use from agricultural land to residential curtilage. The council were keen that this land remains 'garden' and that no further development should take place on that land and as such, recommended approval.

Rocks Cottage Earlswood

Single storey extension (2.5m x 3.7m) to existing house; to be used as a hallway and downstairs bathroom. The council recommended approval.

2, Orchard Rise, Shirenewton

Two-storey extension – music room, bedroom first floor and enlarged dormer to first floor bathroom. Approval recommended.

Laurel Cottage, West End

Conversion of barn to a one bedroom dwelling. The MCC's advice in this type of application is in fact against developing farm buildings into residential use. However it was suggested that a condition should be that the building be retained for the family's use only.

Ex Shirenewton Golf Course

The ex Shirenewton Golf Course has applied to have public footpaths No 33, 187 and parts of 37 to be diverted. Although this was refused the ex Golf course is now appealing against this decision.

There was also an interesting discussion concerning the Footpath Way-markers on the Golf course that have strangely become uprooted and left discarded on the ground. And also dismay at the amount of spoil that has been imported onto the land. Large piles of unsightly building spoil have been dumped between Dick the Millar Wood and Nutstalks Wood and there was a good deal of concern voiced about the seeming destruction of the amenities as paths are driven through sensitive areas. It was suggested that photographs should be taken of the uprooted way markers and Eddy Haywood's unsightly heaps.

Items of Local Concern

The Final Draft of the Village Plan. This eagerly awaited document will finally be presented on Monday 18th June at 8.00 at The Rec. There have been some little devils in the details but eventually 350 copies will be printed in Essex. There are rumours that there may be a glass of wine to celebrate its arrival.

A Barrier at the Open Space at Mynyddbach . Two members of the public were at the meeting to encourage the council to do something to stop joy riders spoiling the green. Tyre tracks and deep ruts have already appeared.. The barrier will be to discourage misuse of the green but should allow the grass cutters access etc. Lock-up barriers, posts and rocks were suggested.

For our March meeting Ray Howell gave a us very interesting talk on 'The Silures'.

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

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

Our meetings for the coming months are:

Tuesday 24th April- Gwent Churches by Dr Edith Evans-7.30pm Huntsman Hotel.

Sunday 13th May- Rogation Sunday Walk- Meet at 2pm at the entrance to the Church, the distance will be approximately 5-1/2 miles.

Monday 14th May- Resources Session with Dorothy Brabon 2.00pm Recreation Hall.

Tuesday 29th May- Local History by Mr Ernie Jones- 7.30pm Huntsman Hotel.

Monday 11th June- Resources Session with Dorothy Brabon 2.00pm Recreation Hall.

Tuesday 26th June- 'How we know what we know about Roman Caerleon' by Mark Lewis- 7.30pm Huntsman Hotel.

**E. LOVELL
BRICKLAYING**
Est. 1973

Do you need an experienced bricklayer?

If so contact Eddie, he specializes in..

new house building,
extensions,
patios,
garden walls,
and more!



Contact Eddie on:
Home Phone: 01291 420443
or
Mobile Phone: 07906504951

**For a more personal approach to
insurance, pensions & Investments**

To find out more call **Fran Fitzpatrick**
on **01633 413571**

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

Agent of The National Farmers Union Mutual Insurance Society Limited.



NFU Mutual

It's an NFU Mutual understanding

The Best Kept Village Competition: Once again the village will be entering this competition. Apparently the judges come round May/June time, so pull up those weeds, plant those flowers and get those walls built.

Held over until next Month

Post Boxes additional boxes in Shirenewton. Councillor Down is still looking into them.

School routes via footpaths.

Village Notice Board a new site for the village notice board is required.

Shirenewton Cricket Club and the Rec Association

The cricket shed has been something of a sticky wicket recently. So Gordon Hughes Captain of The Recreation Association attended the council meeting and came out to bat. He asked the Community Council to inform Shirenewton Cricket Club that they do not own the ground that the shed stands on. There have been a lot of run ins over this cricket shed and the Recreation Association feel that the Cricket Club have played with quite a few wides and no balls. The whole Council totally agreed with Gordon that it is indeed Shirenewton Community Council that owns the land upon which the shed stands. But Gordon stated that he is stumped unless the Council write to the Cricket Club to tell them. But Captain for the Council, Charles Eickhoff was playing defensive shots and then lobbed in a bit of a googly by saying that he didn't want to write to the Cricket Club as they, the Cricket Club had not written to the Council. Gordon quite clearly thought this was a bit of a maiden over and that the game should be played out between the owners of the land (The Council) and the people who put up the shed (Shirenewton Cricket Club)

The Council gave its full support to the Recreation Association, a letter will be written, the rules reinforced and the boundaries drawn up. Then as it was getting on for 10.30, the light was fading, it was decided to call it a day.

Next Meeting will be held on:- Monday 14th May 7.30 at the Recreation Hall

**COFFEE MORNING
IN AID OF VELINDRE HOSPITAL**

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TOO A COFFEE MORNING

AT THE HOME OF MRS & MR MOODY
AT "GLENFIELD", MYNYDD BACH

ON
5TH MAY FROM 10 A.M. – 12.00

AT £1.00 PER PERSON INCLUDING COFFEE AND
WELSH CAKES

BRING AND BUY, RAFFLE PLANTS AND MORE
FOR FURTHER DETAILS RING

MRS. M. MOODY ON 641524

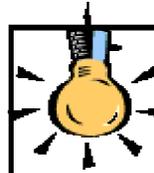
Dog Fouling in Shirenewton

The Council and the Dog Warden have received complaints of dog fouling in the village, particularly in the area around the outside of the Church wall and on the road from the centre of the village to the Shop.

The Dog Warden will be making random calls to the Village.

On the spot fines of £75 can be levied.

Bags for collecting your dog's waste are available free of charge at the One Stop Shop in Chepstow.



Need an Electrician

Friendly and professional service
by qualified local tradesmen with
over

twenty years experience.

For anything from an extra socket to a full
rewire

Phone Mark on
641296 or 07790 869737(mobile)



CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY & ORCHESTRA

Musical Director: Graham Bull

FELIX MENDELSSOHN'S

"ELIJAH"

SATURDAY JULY 14th, 2007, 7.30pm.

Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial Hall

The AGM for the Hall was held on Monday 16th April, the meeting was fairly well attended mainly by previous committee members and a few other people.

Chairman Mr. Simon Stanley thanked the committee members for all their hard work through the last year.

One long standing member of the Committee, Mrs. Dorothy Cochran announced that she would not be joining the new committee. Dorothy has been a committee member for many years and was mainly responsible for catering activities During the meeting the Chairman presented her with a basket of chocolates as an appreciation of the hard work she has carried out over the years.

The new committee was duly elected: Chairman-Simon Stanley; Vice Chairman -. Charles Eickhoff, Secretary -Nancy Davies, Treasurer -. Christine Stanley:Booking Secretary- Ms Glynis MacDonald; Entertainment Secretary- John Spary; Hall Manager -Peter Jones; Catering—Debbie Maclean; Bar Manager—Bob Millar. Other committee members Mr & Mrs D Heritage, Mrs Gail Jones, Mrs Karen Millar.

The meeting closed at approximately 9.45 p.m.

John Spary

KIDS AD LIB

proudly present

Antropolis

a Futuristic Comedy Drama

Thursday 21st June

Friday 22nd June

Saturday 23rd June

Earlswood Hall

For more details ring Glynis on 641 818

BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION 2007

Shirenewton has been entered into this competition and a panel of judges will inspect the village between 4th and 29th JUNE.

As well as looking at the general appearance of the area, judges will inspect the following:-

- Churchyards
- Bus stops, shelters and telephone kiosks
- Playing fields
- Hedges, fences and walls
- Cleanliness of verges
- External appearance of public houses and shop
- Car parks
- External appearance of sheds and garages
- Tidiness of flower & vegetable gardens
(as seen from the Highway)
- Absence of litter
- Orderliness of Notice boards and advertisements

If you are concerned about any area of the village please don't hesitate to contact the Clerk to Shirenewton Council on 01291 641791



ENVIROTEC



Helping To Recycle Future Technology products In
Environmental Ways

What's this all about!!!

You will not be able to throw your old Mobile Phones in the
Bin from

April 2007

Supporting



Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

Approximately 15 million mobile phones will be bought from shops this year
and over 12 million will end up in drawers, cupboards etc.

Do your bit!!

**Dig out your old mobile phones and recycle them with
Envirotec Diverting Electronic waste from landfill sites.**

Mobile Phones Contain Toxic substances such as
Cadmium and Mercury If they end up in landfill sites
these could leak into the soil and pollute the
surrounding Environment

Wales Environment Trust

All Products recycled to the WEEE Directive

Contact: Envirotec@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 01291 425599 Mobile: 07790308952

Recycling Box Point: Carpenters Arms Shirenewton

GWILYM RICHARDS

and Co. Chartered Surveyors

AUCTIONEERS • VALUERS • LAND & PROPERTY AGENTS

rental expertise

town, village and country

houses, cottages and flats

tenants referenced

rents guaranteed

full management

introduction only

rics approved client accounts

working for you

CHEPSTOW (01291) 627 500

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

MONMOUTH (01600) 860 300

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

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

MONMOUTHSHIRE • FOREST OF DEAN • VALE OF BERKELEY

THE BELLS –THE BELLS—THE BELLS

April 2007

We have 3 more recruits to our band Hannah and Thomas Leney plus Christopher Eickhoff during their Easter School holidays have spent an hour a day for 8 days on the ropes in the ringing room. No one in the village could hear a sound as the bell clappers were tied with rope to silence them. They are coming on very well and Thomas (aged 10) has gained his first badge, the ambitious apprentice blue badge on the Sherbourne Teaching Aids Award Scheme, the others are not far behind. When they join our main practice we will have 8 youngsters ringing with us, I can't imagine the noise levels in the ringing room on Friday evenings.

Congratulations to Maddie Stanley who rang her first quarter peal on 12th February. She had been working up to this for a long time and was a little anxious about having to ring for 45 minutes non stop. However, when we had finished she grinned looked at the other ringers and said "Is that all? That was EASY". For this achievement she was awarded a certificate and a DVD called The Craft of Bell ringing, at lunch time in the pub on Easter Monday on the Easter Kids Ring Out outing to the Ross on Wye area. This outing included ringing at 3 towers a walk along the banks of the River Wye and across a rather wobbly footbridge plus a pub lunch. 19 youngsters from the Llandaff and Monmouth DACBR participated. They were accompanied by adult helpers and family members. The group grew in numbers, initially I reserved seats for 20 in the restaurant but the eventual number was 54!! We were very lucky to have a gorgeous sunny day which made the walk a real pleasure.

On the 19th of May the Annual Llandaff and Monmouth DACBR Striking competition will be held at Shirenewton commencing at 4.30 pm. Bands will come to participate from as far afield as the Swansea area. So there will be lots of ringing that evening. Our bells were used for the Striking Competition in 1998 but after a stay was broken by one competitor Shirenewton bell ropes were deemed too difficult to handle to be used for Association Events. However now we have the upstairs ringing room this situation has been rectified and other ringers will no longer struggle with Shirenewton ropes.

SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS UNION

10 members and 2 guests gathered on 11th April to hear Mark Lewis talk of the theories concerning the life of St. Tathan with a blend of archaeological evidence and very old manuscripts transcribed from the Latin by monks with a sketchy knowledge of the language and a desire to spice up a vague story. As usual Mark's enthusiasm for his subject rubbed off on his audience and we all had a very interesting afternoon.

There will be NO MEETING in May but members are reminded that the DEANERY FESTIVAL will be held on TUESDAY, 8th May at 7.30 p.m. at MAGOR CHURCH. Please contact the Branch Leader if transport is required.

3 members attended a Deanery meeting at St. Tewdric's Mathern together with 22 members representing Mathern and Portskewett branches. This was an experimental evening meeting that it is proposed will be held 3 or 4 times during the year. The Speaker was the Revd. John Hall from Caldicot Baptist Chapel who gave us an insight into the problems affecting young people and their use of drugs. The next of these meetings will be on Wednesday, 20th June in the Vicarage garden (if wet in the Church (St. Tewdric's) (Incidentally, St. Tewdric's is worth a visit if you haven't yet been there). The evening will be of FASHION – wear your prettiest dress with accessories FUN a light-hearted quiz of music from the Shows, past and present and NOSTALGIA – how about bringing along your wedding albums, or even those of you parents or any interesting photos.

At our next meeting on the 13th June we will be welcoming Captains Gerald and Jayne Nicoll of the Salvation Army as our speakers. Visitors are welcome. Our meeting will be held at The Recreation Hall and will start at 2.30 p.m.

EVER FANCIED A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE?

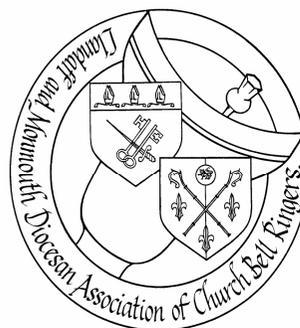
As some of you may know, especially if you are connected with the Church in the village, John and I have been supporting a small community in Kinango, Kenya for a couple of years now. We have had a lot of support from friends, fellow Christians and work colleagues. This has resulted in us being able to build a small women's refuge just outside the Kinango district. The refuge will house women and their children who have recently been diagnosed as having HIV and have been subsequently evicted from their villages. Workers will then work with the villages to integrate the women and children back into the village. There is still much ignorance in Kenya about AIDS and HIV and meanwhile it is endemic, local estimations put the rate at 75% of the population in that area. Sufferers will also be able to access their medication from this centre rather than walk the 5 miles into Kinango.

Last September John and I travelled to Kinango to meet our contact out there and to see the building work that was being carried out. We both felt that it was an experience that will live with us for the rest of our lives. We lived with an African family, met with HIV and AIDS sufferers, toured local schools and hospitals. Everyone was very welcoming. The only white people this village ever sees are on the tour buses that hare through the community on their way to the safari parks. Since being back with have talked and prayed about our experience a great deal to see if there is anything more sustainable that we can do for this region as throwing money at the area in the amounts we are able to do is pretty short lived. If any readers of this have any ideas for sustainability projects then please let me know. One idea that did cross my mind would be to offer skilled workers short placements in the area. Initially I thought if there were any teachers, nursery nurses or nurses who fancy a working holiday for two weeks then we could arrange a placement in the school or hospital. You would live with an African family for the duration of your stay (there is no hotel anyway) who would provide meals for you. For this there would be a small cost. A similar small cost would also be payable to the work placement. This would be a way of bring a steady income into the area and assist the wider community. Our contact in Kinango would meet travellers at Mombasa airport and transport them to Kinango, about 1 ½ hours by road.

If anyone thinks that they may have the necessary skills and could be of benefit to the people of Kinango please get in touch by email at the first instance lynnwaters43@hotmail.com

Grand Striking Competition

**Shirenewton 19th May 2007
4.30 onwards.**



**The Llandaff
and Monmouth
Diocesan
Association
Of Church Bell Ringers
Annual competition**

***Bands of Ringers from churches in the
Monmouth Diocese will be represented***



Chores R Us

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

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

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

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

01291 641596
07793 083723

WROUGHT IRONWORK

Decorative, Ornamental or Functional

Gates, Railings, Furniture, etc.

Mike Gambold: 641773
mike.gambold@googlemail.com

SHIRENEWTON W. I.

The president congratulated Jenny, Shirley and Barbara who had entered as a team for the County Quiz in Usk. They achieved a very commendable position in the ratings, and we were glad that they had enjoyed the event.

Shirenewton W.I. maintains the appearance of the Spout. The rota has been very successful and several members commented on the colourful display of spring flowers.

Our speaker for the evening was Dr Naylor Firth, who gave an illustrated talk on the National Parks of America and Canada. His excellent photography gave some notion of the magnitude of the scenery involved. Dr Firth's special interest is geology, and the parks provide unique geological structures. Volcanoes, canyons, and waterfalls were all in evidence; and the photography highlighted the hues in rock structures particularly well. The wildlife in the parks is able to live unfettered, and visitors have responsibility for their own safety. Dr Firth drew our attention to several ways in which the parks allow access without compromising the natural landscape; and it was also interesting to discover that the boardwalks in Yellowstone Park are now made from recycled plastic. Winnie thanked Dr Firth on behalf of the members, and hoped he would return soon with more accounts of his travels.

It's all we need to know.

A Sunday school teacher decided to have her young class memorise one of the most quoted passages in the Bible, Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the Psalm, but little Charles did not find it easy to memorise much of anything.

On the day that the children were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Charles stepped up to the microphone and began proudly, "The Lord is my Sheppard....." He knew that much but the rest of Psalm suddenly deserted him. So he concluded bravely. "... and that's all I need to know."

Stargazing in May 2007

The 5 stars forming the "W" of Cassiopeia lies to the north in the evening night sky. In mythology Cassiopeia was the wife of Cepheus the king of Ethiopia and mother of Andromeda. Star Constellations usually have Ancient Greek names – the name Cassiopeia was used by Ptolemy, a great Greek astronomer living in Egypt when it was part of the Roman Empire around 100 AD. On the other hand the majority of stars have Arabic names – Arabic Astronomy was centred on Baghdad from about 800 to 1200 AD. Unusually the middle star of Cassiopeia is called Tsih, named by Chinese astronomers. This star has been used as an easily identifiable reference during space missions.

Other prominent Spring constellations are the familiar seven stars of Ursa Major, commonly called the Plough, which is now overhead in mid-evening, and Leo the Lion in the southern sky.

The very bright planet Venus can be seen in the northwest after Sunset. The crescent Moon and Venus are close together on 19th May. Saturn lies to the right of the reversed question mark of stars making up the head of the constellation of Leo the Lion. Jupiter rises later in the evening in the southeast. Apart from the Moon and Venus it is the brightest object in the night sky. The Moon lies below Jupiter on 6th May. On 21st May the Moon is to the west and very close to the Beehive star cluster.

I once came last in an Astronomy Competition – I was awarded a Constellation Prize!

Dave Thomas

Some recent crimes that you should be aware of:

1. A stable building in the Whitelye area was entered by force, a generator was stolen and then the building set on fire and totally destroyed.
2. A white Nissan Micra registration number M 463 HCU was stolen overnight on the 1st / 2nd April 2007 from the Trelleck Road area of Tintern. The following night 2nd / 3rd April, a Honda CBR600 motorcycle registration number M 860 FFB was stolen.
3. In the Howick area a roadside Safety mirror was stolen overnight.
4. Five persons were arrested following an incident at Tintern Post Office whereby £250 cash was obtained unlawfully.

Anyone with any info please contact below or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or: PC 363 Andrew J. Mason, Lower Wye Neighbourhood Police Officer, (Tintern, St Arvans, Devauden & Shirenewton) Wildlife Crime Officer, Chepstow Police Station; Tel: 01633 – 642068; Mail Box: 01633 – 642358; Force Tel: 01633 838111; Fax: 01633 - 642102:

ADVANCE NOTICE

Of A

COFFEE MORNING

In aid of the

MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE (Wales)

**That will be held on
SATURDAY JUNE 30th
6, Tan House Court
Shirenewton**

Gwent Police- Local Neighbourhood Watch

Unfortunately as from 31st March 2007 the licence allowing the use of the police portal system, *police.uk*, was temporarily suspended. No news is yet available as to how long this will out of action. However, in the interim we will revert back to the email system. Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators will continue to pass on the messages to those not on email directly.

Positive Police Action at Wentwood Rave.

Gwent Police became aware of an illegal gathering at 10.30pm on Saturday 7th April 2007 in the vicinity of Wentwood Forest.

A risk assessment was carried out and it was decided that due to the numbers on site it was unsafe and impractical to enforce the Sec 63 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act to dissipate the crowds during the night time hours. The situation was monitored through the night, officers were deployed to stop and speak to people attending the event, take details of them and their vehicles and to advise them that they may commit offences under Sec 63. Evidence gatherers were also deployed to the event.

Gwent Police worked with the Fire Service and the Forestry Commission throughout Saturday and Sunday to stop the music and dissipate the crowds. Specially trained officers and the Police helicopter were deployed to the area. A fire that was in the centre of the forest area was extinguished by the Fire Service on Saturday afternoon. The music was stopped at about 4.30pm on Sunday.

Five arrests were made for Public Order offences. Eighteen large vehicles full of music and sound equipment were seized. Most of the people and vehicles at the site were dispersed on Sunday. Patrols continued throughout the night and by Monday morning approximately 150 people remained on site. There were no sound systems left on the site. By 1pm Monday all persons had been dispersed from the site.

Police Surgeries

Don't forget every third Saturday in the month at the village hall from 10.00 am to 12.00. Your neighbourhood officer will be holding a drop-in session accompanied by a member of the community council. This is a good chance for you to voice your concerns about any police or council matter, affecting you or neighbours.



Girlguiding UK

1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES.

Well another term has flown by and the leaders are now planning activities for the summer. We hope to get out and about in the village now that we have light evenings and the highlight of the term will be summer camp. With the weather as it has been over the last couple of weeks it is easy to plan camp with enthusiasm. We shall be attending the fete as usual – look out for our stall and come and support the girls in their efforts. We also hope to put out a display of photographs showing what we do in Guides.

It is 60 years since Girlguiding Cymru received a gift of our training centre, Broneirion, in mid Wales and this is being celebrated this summer. The organisers are looking for old photographs of "Bron", so if you were a Guide and have any photographs that could be borrowed and scanned for the display please get in touch as soon as possible.

Yours in guiding,

Kestrel -Helen Cann -650835; Kitten -Amanda Turner - 650763

SHIRENEWTON BROWNIES

A CHOCOLATE EVENING

The spring term at Brownies finished with a decidedly chocolatey theme. The girls practiced their cooking skills, by baking chocolate ...**Brownies** ... of course. One set of Brownies (*Eds: not sure if this refers to the girls or the cakes*) were wrapped in greaseproof paper and tied up with a tag which the girls had made from recycled paper pulp. The other set of Brownies took them home as Easter gifts.

Papermaking and cake making Guiding Girls are multi-skilled! The meeting ended with the traditional Easter egg hunt in the school grounds.

We say farewell to Alys, Arian and Rhiannon who leave us to join Guides after Easter. Have fun girls – we shall miss you.

Jackie Broughton – Guider in Charge (641797)
Dorothy Thomas - Guider in Charge of Waiting List (641660)
Lucy Kirkham - Guider (641 351)

FAIRTRADE NEWS

I know that the closure (temporary I hope) of the village shop has been a great disappointment to everyone for a great many reasons. It has, of course, also meant that one local outlet for fairly traded goods is no longer available. Over the years the shop has taken a growing range of goods and I was delighted to be able to spread the word in this way. Several varieties of ground coffee, chocolate, geobars and small boxes of juice have all proved very popular and I was considering asking Paul and Ann if they would be willing to extend their range still further. Do contact me directly for these goods now: in fact I have a surfeit of some of the aforementioned items as the closure caught me on the hop! The family are willing to pull together to ease the chocolate glut but there is a limit to the amount of coffee we can consume!

Lots of the big brands are now trying to jump on the Fairtrade bandwagon. The Fairtrade mark, awarded by the Fairtrade Foundation on very clearly defined criteria is really the only way to be sure the product complies with the highest standards. Vague assertions such as 'ethically sourced' can mean as much or as little as manufacturers want. Caveat emptor!

By the way our new coffee shop Coffee#1 in Chepstow is totally Fairtrade!

Contact me for a new Traidcraft catalogue or for info. Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

Don't Break 'Em.

A gracious lady was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here," Asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," replied the lady.

The London Marathon

You may have seen Clare Robertson and her trainer Dilys the dog recently running up and down the hills of Shirenewton, Earlswood, West End, Itton, Mathern, Crick..... training for the London Marathon which takes place (or which 'took place' - by the time you read this mag.) on Sunday 22nd April.

Clare is a physiotherapist and works in the Rehab Unit at Chepstow Hospital. One of the things that would benefit the patients in the Unit is a special machine, which helps stroke victims, and others regain mobility in their hands, arms and shoulders. This machine costs around £3000 but sadly there is little or no money from the NHS for this type of equipment. So Clare is raising the money herself by running in the marathon and holding a raffle prior to her run.

I am sure that Clare would welcome any contributions to this worthwhile project.

So Good Luck, Clare! (And Dylis deserves a well earned rest... until next year.

To sponsor Clare contact Glynis MacDonald on 01291 641818

SHIRENEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

TESCO SCHOOL SAVER TOKENS

Please save the tokens that Tesco give with purchases made in their stores and pass them on to either children attending the school, a parent of a child attending the school or directly to the school. The school can exchange these for sports equipment or musical instruments. Every little helps with the School budget.