

THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS A BECKET SHIRENEWTON



Parishes of Shirenewton and Newchurch

Magazine

Readers and Sides Persons for November 2006

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES PERSON
5th November	9.45 4th Before Sunday Advent	Jean Jones Peter Jones	Peter Jones Jean Jones
12th November	9.45 Remembrance Sunday	FAMILY SERVICE	
19th November	9.45 2nd Sunday before Advent Baptism Service	Winnie Jones Mike Pierce	Winnie Jones Ernie Jones
26th November	9.45 CHRIST THE KING	James Leney Barbara Davies	Barbara Davies Cynthia Smith
3rd December	9.45 1st Sunday of Advent	Bob Grattan Margaret Lock	Bob Grattan Margaret Lock

Newchurch the First and Third Sunday each month at 2.30 p.m.

INCUMBENT:	The Revd Hugh Trenchard	424984
CURATE	The Revd Nansi Davies	01633 400519
CHURCH WARDENS:	Alan Saysell	641369
	Sally Saysell	641369
	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

Please send notes, discs or emails for the December magazine to Bob O'Keefe at: 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) or email to bobandwenche@aol.com by Saturday 21st October for inclusion in the magazine.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2nd Nov	Whist Drive—Recreation Hall—7.30
6th Nov	Community Council—Recreation Hall –7.30
10th Nov	Cutting of "First Turf" for Church extension The Church 7.30 p.m
12th Nov.	Remembrance Sunday Service at Shirenewton and Earlswood 10.30 a.m.
16th Nov	Talk on the 'Newport Ship Recovery Project organised by WI Recreation Hall—7.20 p.m.
3rd Dec	Sleeping Beauty Panto at Itton Hall
7th Dec	Whist Drive—Recreation Hall 7-30 p.m.
10th Dec	Choral Society Carol Concert—St Mary's Chepstow 3.00 p.m.
31st Dec	New Years Eve—At the Huntsman
18/19/20	January Panto time at Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial Hall

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Dear Parishioners,

Only eight weeks to Christmas! This could frighten you, or uplift you, now the dark nights have engulfed us, or confuse you because the year seems to have rushed to a close. What ever your feelings, November offers some fine preparation for Christmas. We begin with our annual Festival of Light in Caerwent, the evening before All Saints and we also turn our thoughts and our hearts to Remembrance.

Since 3600 BC, the world has known only 292 years of peace! During this period there have been 14,351 wars, large and small, in which 3.64 billion people have been killed. The value of the property destroyed is equal to a gold belt around the world 97.2 miles wide and 33 feet thick. Since 650 BC there have also been 1656 arms races, only 16 of which have not ended in war. The remainder ended in the economic collapse of the countries involved.

This year we will again remember all who have given their lives in all conflicts. Once more we will feel the sense of loss and anguish that dominates this world. We will also remember the tragedy of all those injured and maimed and bereaved. We ought to do more and pray more for peace. We must make the sound of our Remembrance heard by politicians and peoples throughout the world. We must learn from all these terrible experiences and at the same time speak loudly of the God who is alongside people in such deep distress.

The preacher David Watson summed up why the cross is so vital and poignant to our very existence:

"It's the picture of violence yet the key to peace.

A picture of suffering yet the key to healing.

A picture of death yet the key to life.

A picture of utter weakness yet the key to power.

A picture of capital punishment yet the key to mercy and forgiveness.

A picture of vicious hatred yet the key to love.

A picture of supreme shame yet the Christian's supreme boast."

Remembrance brings a bright shaft of light to these dark days by ensuring that we will not forget. Make peace both a daily action and a daily prayer.

With every good wish,
Hugh Trenchard.

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates to the end of term

DATE	TIME	VENUE
Nov 12	10.45	Remembrance Service – War Memorial
19	9.45	Nativity Rehearsal The Chantry
26	9.45	Nativity Rehearsal The Chantry
Dec 3	9.45	Nativity Rehearsal and Advent Mini Fair
10	9.45	Nativity Rehearsal The Chantry
17	9.45	Nativity Rehearsal The Chantry
22	tba	Nursing Home Nativity - tba
24	9.45	Nativity Dress Rehearsal - Church
24	4 pm	Nativity and Christingle - Church
Jan 7	3 pm	Sunday Club Party – Earlswood Hall

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

Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525

Glynis MacDonald 641 818

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

The winners of the October 200 club draw are:

No 22—Ron Williams—£40

No 113—Gareth Davies—£30

No 112—David McAdam—£20

No—23 Maureen Moody—£10

other soft fruit will have to wait a bit longer yet. This isn't time critical, so provided the jobs get done before the plants come back into active growth in the spring, things should be alright.

The under-gardener has been busy in the greenhouse, taking in the frost tender plants from outside and dividing and potting up ready for next year. This is a job well done and is often left until the last minute as other pressures take over the time. It will mean that I will have to move the plants at some stage as I am determined that this year I will make sure that all the greenhouses and staging are washed down with Jeyes fluid. This is an extremely old (in that it has been around for years), but a very useful garden disinfectant. This year the cucumbers were badly affected yet again with Red Spider mite and as these over winter in all the nooks and crannies; disinfecting is an essential tool in the armoury against this and other pests. It is an extremely smelly operation, but like Marmite you either love it or hate it! Just like Wright's Coal Tar soap, I happen to love the smell but then each to their own!

One job I am a little late with this year is browsing through the seed catalogues. Even though I'm not ordering lots of flower seeds there are still the vegetables to get organised. As usual there are lots of new varieties to choose from and it is often difficult (yes sad but true) trying to decide whether you stick with a tried and tested favourite, or try something new. It is nice to see that in recent years that has been a very strong move away from plants that are nice and uniform and look good to eat. Instead they are being replaced by more "heritage" type varieties that perhaps don't grow so uniform but are good to eat and often a little more resistant to insect attack. Still, time to get back to the catalogues. One good thing is that it is Christmas soon and for a month the editor will have his hands tied behind his back! But until then, happy gardening until next time.

Steve Hunt

two hours were lost every evening just watering pots of plants in the nursery area and greenhouses.

We will still open in evenings for groups, but these are usually not so much trouble to organise and manage on the day. Different to a National Garden Scheme day when even putting signs up and taking them down can be a time consuming activity.

Something else that I think about whilst sitting in a jam on the A14 is where we can make improvements to the garden. Some of it is now quite old and was established nearly fifteen years ago, at a time when money and imagination was short. One such area forms the core of the garden and we refer to this as the "Cottage bit", although the entire garden is really cottagey in nature. This was constructed before I got the bug for stone walling (which was just after I got fed up with continually moving stone from one area to another – not knowing what to do with it!). It was therefore constructed down the slope. This in itself is not a problem, but we have always been concerned that as the path is at an angle as well, it was more difficult to walk around and to work in. I have built up in my mind that it would be nice to terrace this area off, with a central area "on the flat". What to do with this bit has fluctuated from a nice quiet seating area (it is in the very heart of the garden and surrounded by flowers), to a quiet tranquil pond with reflective water, to one with a dramatic statue as a feature point. I still can't make up my mind and the decision changes depending on whether I am stuck on the A14, the M42 or the M6! No doubt I will make up my mind when it finally gets round to crunch time, but at least I can keep dreaming until then. If nothing else it helps maintain my sanity at what are otherwise stressful times. I had hoped to get this area done for the coming season, but we'll just have to wait and see how things go.

At the moment it is absolutely hammering down with rain outside. I have received the over-wintering onion sets and garlic in the post and these would normally be planted by now. By the sound of it, these won't be going in the ground for a few more days yet. The rain (and decorating a house in Swansea), has prevented me from working outside most of this month, so I still need to finish the jobs off in the fruit area. I did complete the pruning of the fan trees in the tunnel, but the raspberries and

ST PETER'S CHURCH, NEWCHURCH

Many thanks to those who supported our Harvest thanksgiving held on the 5th of October. A special thank you to Lewis (Kath's grandson) who accompanied one of the hymns.

A very enjoyable concert by "The Dean Singers" was held on the 7th October at the Church. Entry was free and those that did not come missed out on a very enjoyable evening.

UPDATE ON CHURCH TOWER REPAIRS

For those who kindly contributed to the Tower Maintenance Fund and every-one else who may be interested, the emergency repairs planned for the end of September this year have been delayed by Diocesan Authorities who have insisted on a faculty (authorisation) being granted by them. It is hoped that the faculty will be forthcoming and if so, these repairs should be carried out in the early spring 2007.

CHURCHYARD

Our thanks are due for the continuing help in the upkeep of the Churchyard. It is greatly appreciated that those tending graves refrain from using plastic containers or flowers. Any glass containers should be placed close to the headstone for the sake of safety and in compliance with instruction laid down by the Representative Body of the Church in Wales.

FUTURE SERVICES

Finally the PCC discussed extensively at their meeting on 17th September the practicability of continuing to hold weekly services when quite often there are only four to six people attending. It was decided after speaking with the Vicar, services will be held at 2.30 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. All other services remain unchanged. The PCC stress that should attendance increase the matter would be reviewed.

FROM THE SHIRENEWTON CHURCH REGISTERS

A service of baptism was held on:

15th October for Jemima the daughter of Beverley and Simon Leaf.

HARVEST LUNCH

Despite the counter attraction of the Ryder Cup, which the European PGA were inconsiderate enough to arrange on the same weekend, we managed to fill Earlswood Hall and we hope that the near 100 people who attended enjoyed the fare. As ever, the support was tremendous and our thanks go to all the ladies of the village who made and served the lunch. In addition we must acknowledge the generous support of Ivan and Avis Hughes, Maggie Hughes, Geoff Roser and Paul & Ann Wright.

So many people contribute, it is impossible to mention them all but our special thanks go to:

Ann Nicholas who, in addition in preparing the children's lunches, managed to conjure up a birthday cake in under an hour!

Stu Dutton and Dave Cornwell who, as auctioneers, managed to get top price for all the produce and raised over £250 for the St. David's Foundation.

Barbara Davies for obtaining such magnificent raffle prizes and raising over £150.

Kevin Bounds and John Nicholas, who produced plentiful supplies of soft drinks for the adults and wine for the kids - or was it the other way round?

Maureen Moody and Bernice Bowen for decorating the Church.

Tickets for next year's event will be available from the box office from mid August so make a note in your diaries!

Margaret Lock and Pauline Dutton

I just don't know where the last month has gone. Yet again the editor's reminder email came as a timely shock and I sometimes think that he should have his arms tied behind his back so that he can't type any more! As I travel around the country, getting stuck in ever increasing traffic jams, my mind often wanders off to the garden as I consider just how I and the Under gardener are going to manage a full season next year. One of the main decisions I have made, after much prodding from the chief "potter-onner," is to reduce the number of plants that we grow from seed or cuttings for the coming season.

Normally I buy perhaps £200 worth of seed of new varieties (mind you this is not difficult when the average packet costs some £3) and this means an awful lot of expense, time wise, when it comes to pricking out the young seedlings, then potting on then potting on again. Similarly we have ordered bare rooted plants from Holland for a number of years but not so this season. Although these help fill some of the gaps in the garden come the spring, they never sell that well. This is mainly because when we are open, those visitors that are "plantaholics" usually want to buy the varieties that they can see growing in the garden. On a number of occasions I have actually been seen on open days with a spade, digging small sections from established clumps, as visitors have persuaded me that they would dearly love a bit of this or that! One of the benefits of the garden now becoming well established means that either autumn, or more likely spring, if we get our act together, we will be able to split up some of the larger clumps. This will allow us to replant healthy new growth and at the same time remove some small sections to pots for growing on and selling on open days. Although this revenue is not a lot, it does help fund any of the work that we do in the garden.

Another decision that we have made is to only open up the garden twice, instead of the usual three times for charity next year. This in itself won't reduce the amount of work that we do, but will hopefully mean that we don't have to work so hard "keeping up appearances" if the weather becomes difficult during the middle of the season. This was a real struggle this year as the constant hot weather often meant that

Fibro What?

I am a 29 year old mum with three lovely children, I was diagnosed with having Fibromyalgia in 2005, even though I have had ongoing symptoms for a long time.

Fibro what I can hear you say; we sufferers call it fibro, so that is what I will stick to, and it's easier spell; now comes the technical part: a chronic condition of wide spread pain and profound fatigue, some would like to call us lazyi t's, but we are far from it. Our minds are active but our bodies are unwilling. It affects us in lots of ways; like some days I can't go out because I can't walk far, getting up out of bed can be agony, I can't even cut up my own dinner because my hands and wrists are sore, I feel like I have run a marathon every day.

It is similar to arthritis but of the soft connective tissues, also if you suddenly move , you have what is termed micro tears in your muscles. This can mean Hoovering the floor and general housework can be - painful, but isn't normally!

Fibro isn't life threatening, but it is life changing. You have no choice but to slow down and smell the roses so there are some, if dubious benefits. However people around you don't necessarily understand, and I wouldn't expect them to, but I would like them to empathise. To you and me I look like a normal healthy person but I am in constant pain, on a bad day, I call it my John Wayne walk.

Fibro has stopped me from doing some of the things that I would like to have done, and at 29 that is difficult to come to terms with. It is thought to be a stress related illness; you also have other symptoms, such as depression, headaches, ibs, and nausea lovely. Another is memory loss and you can..... mmmm forget words you need to..... oh well.

My reason for writing this is to make others aware of what the condition is, and what sufferers go through on a daily basis. Also to see if there are others around that have this syndrome. There are those that are in wheelchairs, and are housebound and some that can only move around with the aid of walking sticks. Thankfully I have not reached that stage, and hopefully never do, but I would like to hear from you have you have fibro, and maybe start a coffee group. Fibro Fighters Keep Fighting.

Vicky Williams
01291 641649

Shirenewton Church is Moving into the 21st Century

The other day I was surprised when a friend asked me why does Shirenewton Church need a hall when the Rec. has just got a new improved hall. Why couldn't the church use that one?

Well I suppose that if someone needed the loo when in Church, we could suggest they leg it round to the Rec. but that might seem a little unkind.

I suppose we could ask to use the smashing new kitchen at the Rec. for making tea and coffee for the after-service refreshments but I bet it would be cold by the time it had been carried round. And think of all the sloppage in the saucers.

I suppose we could hold Sunday Club there and then herd 20 children over the football pitch in the rain to catch the end of the Sunday service but that would seem unnecessarily challenging.

No, on reflection, I'm all for the plans to improve Shirenewton Church and to bring it into the 21st Century.

So!!!

Invitation Invitation Invitation Invitation

On Friday 10th November the First Turf will be
Ceremoniously Lifted to Mark the Official Start of
the

Shirenewton Church Extension

Everyone, Every Villager, Church-Goer or Not is Warmly
Welcomed to Come Along to the Church Marquee between 7.30 –
8.30 for a Social Glass of Wine and Some Cheesy Nibbles and to
take part in, or to cheer, or merely watch a small Turf Relay.

I suggest boots would be good thing to wear.

VILLAGE QUESTIONNAIRE DRAW

The winning number is
108

If the holder of this number does not claim the prize by November 4th
then the holder of the following 1st reserve number drawn can claim.

1st Reserve 63

If the holder of the above number does not claim the prize by
November 18th then the holder of the following 2nd reserve number can
claim the prize

2nd Reserve 264
To Claim ring - 641791

SPONSORSHIP OF FLOODLIGHTS AND FLAG

Many people appreciate the Welsh flag proudly flying from the church. Most do not realise that this comes at a cost to the church (or actually John Nicholas) as the flags need to be replaced regularly. No-one wants to see a tatty Welsh flag flying.

Also many people appreciate the floodlighting of the church which provides a dramatic and highly visual centre of the village. It certainly adds character. Again the floodlighting costs in maintenance and electricity.

That is why the Church fund Raising committee have decided that sponsorship for these items will be accepted. We will charge £50 per item per calendar month. This will bring in a much needed additional £1,200 per annum in to church funds.

Sponsors will be recognised in three ways: Their name will be on the home page of the church website, they will be thanked and listed in the parish magazine and their name will be posted in the Church porch. The scheme started on 1st November and we are seeking sponsors. WE are open to businesses and individuals.

To sponsor either the flag or the lights please contact Kevin Bounds, John Nicholas or David Cornwell.

641818; 641368; 641614—respectively.

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Community Council Meeting held 2nd October 2006

Planning Applications: -

There were no new planning applications for consideration at this meeting. However there was an update on recent planning decisions from Monmouth County Council.

Approved:

Oxpool Farm, Earlswood

The Oaks Farm, Red House Lane, Shirenewton

Barn near the Cayo, Shirenewton

Marls Barn, Usk Road, Shirenewton

T'yr Ywen, Weyloed Lane, Mynyddbach

Cherry Orchard, Earlswood

Golf Club, Shirenewton (retrospective)

Refused:

Seaview Nursery, Earlswood Police Report

The local police did not attend but sent a report describing recent incidents in the area, including:-

A mini crime wave in Shirenewton in recent weeks. It included thefts from garages & sheds (mainly strimmers, mowers and other garden equipment) and cars (some of which were unlocked at the time – be warned!).

A handful of minor traffic incidents in the area, however committee members were aware of other accidents which seemed more serious but not included in the report.

Police called to Tredegar Arms one evening over excessive noise

Neighbourhood Watch reported the loss of a Welsh Water id in the name of Andrew Sparks – call 999 if anyone calls at your home and shows you this id.

Discussions around the Clerks Update

1. Options for the Shirenewton Community Council web site were discussed at length, but no clear way forward was established and it was agreed to park this issue until more information was available.
2. Allotments in Mynyddbach - Still no action.
3. Shirenewton Playground – Horse fixed. Insurance company wants the mole hills dealt with. Mole catcher still to be found, one quote received. But ways of deterring the moles was considered a better option than catching as they tend to re-colonise from neighbouring areas.

4. **Grass cutting**, quotes to date too high. So still looking for an affordable grass cutter.
5. **Village Questionnaire** – the results to date include: 160 returned (about 38%); 83% used Parish Magazine to find out about Community Council; 28% of respondents retired, 70% are over 40; generally in favour of small developments – but not on the green wedge; 75% recycle but 9% don't have any roadside recycling collection; traffic speeds recognised by most as a problem but generally against bumps & chicanes. There will be a separate meeting of sub-group to meet some time soon as how the results of the survey can be taken forward into the village plan. The raffle to be drawn and results published on the village notice board (I wonder how many respondents kept their ticket!).
6. **Alleged breach of planning** at Shirenewton Golf Club was discussed in detail, but it seems that the planning officer was unable to locate many of the issues identified e.g. there were no washing lines in evidence when he visited, he couldn't identify tarmac areas complained about, he seemed confused as to what lighting had actually been approved.
7. **Stiles at Shirenewton Golf Club:** Site visit on day of meeting, MCC will put in new gates & stiles in the next week if the owners don't do so beforehand, and bill the owners of the work.
8. **Benches:** – Viv Noakes built them using local wood from Wentwood and everyone seemed very pleased with the results.
9. **Parking on the Green Area** in Mynydbach, the council want to discourage it and considered ways of doing this before approaching Monmouth CC to re-instate to bank.
10. **Rubbish in field** near school, enforcement notice has been issued, and some rubbish already removed.
11. Bed and burnt out car removed from TA car-park after Enforcement officer visited.
12. **Inaccessible footpaths** in Earlswood. MCC's view is to look for volunteers to keep paths marked and cleared. SCC's view is that this is a job for Path Enforcement Officer.

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Other Items of local concern:

The vacant seat on Community Council, a couple of people expressed an interest, but only on from the ward - Newchurch West. It was agreed to invite him to the next meeting.

Dog Fouling in Mynydbach has been very bad, arrangements will be made for signs to be erected in Blethyn Close and the play area.

Councillor Down has donated daffodils bulbs, these will be planted around the villages.

There was discussion about signs at the entrance to Earlswood at the three points of entry. The Clerk will speak to Highways about how to get them in place.

Tredegar Arms licensing application has been amended but the committee members were still against most of the changes requested. A further 24 residents are also known to have objected. Licensing meeting 10/10/06 at County Hall results should be known by the time you read this.

Next Meeting of the Community Council will be Monday 6th November At 7.30 p.m. at the Recreation Hall

SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS UNION

The 10 members and one guest who attended the Branch Meeting held on 11th October enjoyed an enthusiastic and information talk (with slides) by Mark Lewis on "The Evidence of Early Christianity at Caerwent". He brought to us vividly the Roman way of life – how sophisticated the town was but how easily it disintegrated once the Romans withdrew. The excavation (intact) of a Christian community's communion set – a large earthenware pot with lid containing the chalice and plate hidden deep under the floor of a house – was a major find by the archeologists. Mark had to deal with a great many questions.

At our **next meeting in Church on Wednesday, 13th December at 2.30 p.m.** Mrs. Jean Hackett, our retiring Diocesan President, will give a power point presentation on "What you don't know about the MU" This meeting will be open to anyone (old or young, male or female) who would like to know what the present day Mothers' Union is about. Tea and biscuits will be served.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton (Branch Leader) – 01291 641844

News from Earlswood & Newchurch West Hall.

On 4th October there was a Country & Western Evening at the Hall. It was a good evening but sadly it was poorly attended, however costs were covered with a resultant small profit. Many thank to all the members and helped who worked hard to make it a success.

Some pleasant news; Ken and Sylvia Morton who have been committee members for many years celebrated their pearl wedding anniversary (30th) on the 9th October. Our congratulations and best wishes to them both.

Don't forget Remembrance Sunday Services on 12th November when a service will be held commencing at 10.30 at the Hall, followed by tea and biscuits.

GAERLLWYD WOMEN'S MEETINGS

Will be held at: -
2.30 p.m. on 1st November
and,
at 2.30 on 15th November

When we will hold our regular meeting. Speakers to be confirmed

Caroline's Cookery Corner

I like to have a casserole ready in my freezer for unexpected visitors; always useful around Christmas time too. This one should feed about 8—10 people, and is very easy to make.

Lamb & Apricots

*2 boned shoulders of lamb 4 large onions peeled
1lb coarsely chopped apricots 4 oz. oil
Stock
1 heaped teaspoon of ground coriander
1 heaped teaspoon of cinnamon
1 heaped teaspoon of cumin
Flaked almonds—optional salt and pepper*

*Cut the meat into 1" squares; brown in 1/2 the oil. Brown the onions in the rest of the oil. Add the spices — well add enough stock to cover and cook in a moderate oven until tender.
Just before serving I like to throw in a few flaked almonds.*

This dish freezes well.

Red Cabbage Casserole

*Approximately 4lb red cabbage 5 cooking apples peeled and sliced
2 large onions thinly sliced 6 oz. raisins
6 teaspoons sugar salt and pepper
1-1/2 pints chicken stock 4 oz butter*

Put the apples, cabbage, onions, raisins, sugar, salt and pepper into a casserole . Pour in the stock and stir well. Cover and bake in a moderate oven until the cabbage is tender, stir in the butter until is melted.

This dish also freezes.

Once again our thanks to Caroline Davies



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STARGAZING IN NOVEMBER

Saturn can be seen later in the evening, to the South-East, near the base of the backwards question mark that forms the lion's head of the constellation Leo. On the night of 12th November the Last Quarter Moon passes above the planet Saturn.

The great Italian scientist Galileo was the first to view Saturn through a telescope. He was able to see it wasn't a perfect sphere. Rather he thought it had what he termed "ears". It was some time before telescopes were good enough to allow Saturn's rings to be seen for the first time.

The bright planet Venus becomes visible in the evening sky in the southwest.

In the early morning of 18th November, the thin crescent Moon lies to the right of Mercury, which is at its brightest for this year. As Mercury is the closest planet to the Sun, it rises above the Eastern horizon just before sunrise.

On the 6th November, the Moon rises very close to the Pleiades star cluster. The seven stars of the Plough lie to the North in the evening. The cross of Cygnus is high in the western sky. The "W" of Cassiopeia lies nearly overhead in the Milky Way. The Milky Way is a faint band of light visible on clear dark nights. It is the combined light of an enormous number of stars that make up our galaxy.

The Leonid meteor shower is due on the night of 17th November – you may be lucky enough to see meteors, often called shooting stars, in the vicinity of the constellation Leo. Leo rises in the East around midnight. Meteors are caused by tiny grains of dust burning up as they enter Earth's atmosphere. The dust particles result from the break-up of comets, and travel in swarms around the Sun around the same orbit as the original comet.

Dave Thomas

1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES.

Having spent the first few weeks back settling down, Guides is now up and running! We have recently welcomed 7 new Guides and they are very busy with tasks given to them by the Young Leaders to help them to understand and learn the Guide Laws and Promise. Recently the girls have been very busy with Go For It challenges and some evenings have proved to be very interesting! One that stands out is the lovely time when the patrols were given lots of varieties of foods and were told to make a starter, main course and dessert for the Young Leaders to test. Delightful.

As part of getting our Adult Leader Qualifications, the Young Leaders went along to a training day called 'Getting Going with Guides' and also had a day of first aid training. Another fun time training day is coming up and we just can't wait!!!

The Guides will from now on be beginning their Challenge Badges...wish them luck!

Yours in Guiding,
Bumble - aka Lucy Duckham

BROWNIE REPORT

BROWNIES CELEBRATE DIWALI

On 21st October many people will have been celebrating Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Light. 1st Shirenewton Brownies held an extended celebration, over two of our weekly meetings. The girls dyed and painted fabric, an activity led by our two Young Leaders, Alice and Anna; sampled Indian food (always a popular one!); and learnt how to dress in a sari, with the help of Karen, our parent helper.

We have welcomed 6 new girls into Brownies this term and have sadly said goodbye to 7 of our older girls – all of whom are now enjoying Guides.

Jackie Broughton

For all general enquiries about Brownies in Shirenewton, please contact Jackie Broughton on 641797. For waiting list enquiries contact Dorothy Thomas on 641660.

On the subject of spy ware. A recent report suggests that 'Spying' is at its highest level ever with 89% of consumer PCs infected. Some of this will be basic tracking cookies which are not harmful. Increasingly, however, spyware is delivering RATs (Remote Access Trojans) which open a backdoor to your PC and allow the criminals behind these schemes to steal personal and financial data. In fact, spy ware is now more of a problem than viruses arriving in the email.

I've changed my recommendation and now recommend a commercial product called SpySweeper - the market leader. Buy it through the church website. See the link on the home page. Note: if you are using a spyware protection product they sometimes zap the cookies that shop websites use to track the fact that you were referred from the church website. Therefore please always link to the shop via the church website before you purchase.

Shirenewton Local History Society

Registered Charity No 1090167

For our September meeting we were given a very interesting talk by Alex Gibbons on 'The mystery of Jack of Kent and the Fate of Owain Glyndwr'.

Dorothy Brabon has been holding Resources Sessions at the Recreation Hall which have been well attended and will continue throughout the year. We have now moved into the extended room in the Recreation Hall and this will be our permanent home for our resource materials.

We have recently launched our web site so 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 October-

AGM followed by a look at some of our resources, led by Dorothy Brabon

Tuesday 14th November-

Resources Session with Dorothy Brabon 7.00pm Recreation Hall.

Tuesday 28th November-

'Medieval Pottery in Shirenewton and Trellech' by Steve Clark 7.30pm Huntsman Hotel

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE & SHOPPING PORTAL

With Christmas approaching please try and remember to do your online shopping through the Church's shopping portal. We have over 100 shops in the portal (including most high street names) and each one pays a commission to the Church. Remember, we simply provide a link to the shop in question. You get to shop there with all their special offers and so on. The Church is not involved in the transaction - it gets the commission for the referral. So you can shop in complete confidence via the portal and make a contribution to the church at the same time. It costs you nothing. You pay the same price whether you use the Church website to refer you to a site or not. It really is free money for the church so please use it.

Remember also that we have a online discounts page where we supply electronic coupons which you can cash-in at check-out on purchases for many stores. We have secured an exclusive discount at - a website which assists students prepare personal statements for university applications. Its easy to download a already prepared personal statement but the universities see hundreds of those. A unique personal statement is a difficult thing to prepare and this website helps give it a try at: - www.studentfingerprints.co.uk . There is a £5discount on the £15 normal change.

Its also worth remembering that Christmas, whether or not you appreciate the religious significance of the time of the year, its fitting to be shopping through the church website and thus making a contribution to the upkeep of the church.

On A Technical Note:

I spent a happy (?) time in July and September (time off for good behaviour in August) removing a nasty Trojan virus form a friend's PC. I certainly learnt a considerable amount about how to do this. Its always nice to experiment on someone else's PC! This PC was protected by Norton but the subscription had lapsed by a couple of weeks. That was enough for the virus to embed itself. The lesson is make sure you have virus protection and keep it up-to-date. I've added a link to an on-line virus scanner which is free to use. Check out the home page and the 'Be a whizz' section. I still use the free AVG anti-virus on the home PCs but pay for Norton on the business PC. You can obtain both through the website.

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2006 AT THE HUNTSMAN

Details of "Who What and When" have now been finalised.

7.30 'til late

The Northedge Duo will be providing live music in the Function Room

And of course your regular DJ Peter will be on hand.

There will be acoustic music in the bar area by

William, Jane and Stuart.

Running Buffet throughout the evening.

If you haven't already put your name down

contact either

Phil at the Huntsman on: 641521

Or Tony Bendall on 641303

Tickets £27.50 per head

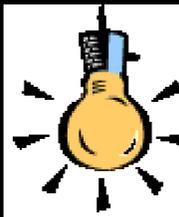
Finally there will some transport provided for those that need a ride home to a local address.

This year's panto is.....
Drum Roll please

Sinbad and the Golden Chalice

Tickets are not yet available but here
are the dates.

Thursday 18th January
Friday 19th January
Saturday 20th January



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MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL

2006/2007 PROGRAMME

SUNDAY DECEMBER 10th:

CHRISTMAS MUSIC and CAROLS

**With St Johns-on-the-Hill School Choir and Peter Cook (organ)
St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow, 3.00pm**

SATURDAY MARCH 31st:

MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK

With CCS Orchestra.

Katherine Bond (soprano)

Caryl Hughes (mezzo-soprano)

Pergolesi : "Stabat Mater",

Haydn: Missa Brevis in F

Vivaldi: "Gloria"

Albinoni: Adagio

St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow, 7.30pm

Chepstow Choral Society now have their programme for the 2006/2007 season in place and some outstanding soloists are booked. This season promises to be one of the most ambitious in the Society's history, and the Society is proud to be able to offer Chepstow a programme of choral singing which would rival that of many larger and more affluent choral societies throughout the country. The Society is delighted to be welcoming and attracting new members, and information about singing membership may be obtained by contacting Marjorie Duerden on 01291 623310.

Tickets are available for all concerts through Chepstow Bookshop, and choir members.

PROGRAMMES SUCH AS THESE ARE WORTHY OF YOUR SUPPORT...AND WITH THAT SUPPORT WE KEEP CHORAL SINGING ALIVE IN CHEPSTOW.

At the October meeting members were disappointed to discover that Mr Ernie Jones had been recently ill, and would be unable to deliver his talk 'A Journey Through Time'. However we were delighted to hear that he is now home from hospital and is beginning to get out in the garden again. Mrs Winnie Jones brought with her a bound publication that Ernie had recently written, entitled 'The Four Seasons of the Countryside.' It offers an account of Ernie's many observations during a life of farming; and describes some of the changes that have taken place. It also contains some very interesting photographs from the past. The Secretary took charge of this book and will be lending it out to members for them to read at their leisure. We are very grateful for this gift and will treasure it carefully.

Ever resourceful, Winnie organised a quiz evening to replace the planned talk. Members enjoyed a picture quiz and a demanding general knowledge quiz. Mrs Bonner, Noble, Watson, and Savager were declared the outright winners, with much hilarity from the rest of us as we attempted to justify our wrong answers.

Our next meeting will be an open meeting to which the general public are invited. A leading member of the Newport Ship Project is to give an illustrated talk, on 16th November at 7:20pm, in the Recreation Hall. Admission £1 on the door, all proceeds to the Newport Ship Project.

WHIST DRIVES

Due to late holidays we were down to 26 players at our October Drive but as usual a pleasant evening was had by all and refreshments were a little more elaborate as one of our players celebrated a birthday. Now that we have more elbow room we would be pleased to welcome more players especially from the Shirenewton area as currently we are supported only by residents from Mynyddbach – most of the other players travel up from below the A48. Our next Drives are on 2nd November and 7th December – both at the Recreation Hall on a Thursday starting promptly at 7.30 p.m. Enquiries to Auriol Horton – 01291 641844

THE BELLS - THE BELLS- THE BELLS,

We have had a month of personal achievements. Tom Mitchell has now got his green Happy Hunter from the Sherbourne Teaching aids award scheme, Kate Stanley rang her first Quarter Peal on an inside or working bell. We rang Plain Bob Doubles at Trelleck as part of the Quarter Peal Fortnight organized annually by the Llandaff & Monmouth DACBR. It was a very good quarter and big congratulations to both youngsters. Now for the adults. Pip Penney rang her first peal on 12 bells on Saturday 14th October. This was rung at St Woolos Cathedral in 3hrs 15 mins.

We have a new ringer Christine Stanley has from Earlswood has just started bell handling lessons and hopes to be able to join us in practice in the next few weeks.

We are going to ring 10 towers from Aberdare to Cadoxton(Neath) to Llantwit Major to Radyr to Bassaleg. It will take from 9.00am until 7.00 pm with just one stop for lunch. We are going to the towers where all the kids ring.

Local ringing team are:-

Claire Eickhoff; Charles Eickhoff; Jenny Millar; Kate Stanley;
Tom Mitchell; Pip Penney



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FAIR TRADE NEWS

Well, it's November, although the garden is still a month behind! Why not try a Fairtrade Divine Chocolate Advent Calendar this year? At quite a reasonable price of £3 50. There are Winter catalogues at our Spar or contact me for a catalogue or details, or look at www.traidcraft.co.uk.

There are many inexpensive gift ideas: a 'silver' cuff bangle at £4, pretty bracelets, tea-light holders, jewellery roll, baskets, candles, stationery, children's toys and many other items. The catalogue gets bigger every year, it is really worth a look and of course all the normal food items are there.

Marion Mc Adam 641316 msm316@gmail.com

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Kids Ring Out Page

TPP Panto Page