

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



Readers and Sides Persons for October 2006

| DATE | SERVICE | READER | SIDES PERSON |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1st October | 16th After Trinity | Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds | Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds |
| 8th October | 17th After Trinity | Andrew Baker John Nicholas | John Nicholas Ann Nicholas |
| 15th October | 18th After Trinity Baptism Service | Mike Barnes Auriol Horton | Mike Barnes Auriol Horton |
| 22nd October | 19th After Trinity | Cynthia Smith Rut Savagar | Allan Saysell Bernice Bowen |
| 29th October | Group Service | At Llanvair Discoed | |
| 5th November | 4th Sunday Before Advent | Peter Jones Jean Jones | Peter Jones Jean Jones |

Newchurch Every Sunday at 2.30 p.m.

Parishes of Shirenewton and Newchurch

Magazine

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

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

| | |
|----------|--|
| 2nd Oct | Community Council – 7.30 p.m. Recreation Hall. |
| 3rd Oct | S.O.D's – Panto meeting 7.00 p.m. Earlswood Memorial Hall. |
| 5th Oct | St Peter's – Newchurch – Harvest Festival. |
| 5th Oct | Whist Drive—7.30 Recreation Hall |
| 6th Oct | Country & Western Night –Earlswood & Newchurch West Hall |
| 7th Oct | St Peter's – Newchurch – Choral Evening with the Dean Singers. |
| 11th Oct | Local History Society—Resource Session Recreation Hall 2.30 |
| 15th Oct | Gaerllwd Baptist Chapel Harvest Festival |
| 24th Oct | Local History Society AGM & Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel 7.30 |
| 28th Oct | Robin Reece Jazz Band at the Earlswood and Newchurch West Hall |
| 2nd Nov | Whist Drive—Recreation Hall—7.30 |

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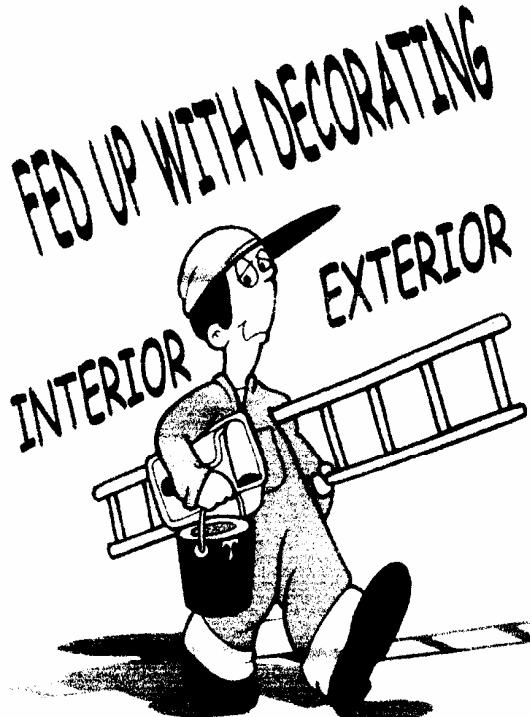
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Dear Friends,

What a gorgeous and long hot summer we have had, and even now towards the end of September the days remain comfortably warm. However the temperature is now gradually dropping especially in the evening time as we approach the end of summer.

What a busy summer it has been for our parishes. I remember some of the highlights as I am sure you do. The fun of the Church Fete at Shirenewton and Newchurch; with the Flower Festival and concert at Caerwent then the Caerwent Annual Show with Noah and the Sunday Club taking centre stage. We enjoyed a beautiful evening at Penhein with the ladies of Llanfair providing a delicious supper—weren't the views superb! The summer lunch at Five Lanes when the ladies of Caerwent supplied their usual high standard menu which we all enjoyed sitting in the shade on that very hot day. The fun of the children's summer play group in Caerwent village hall masterminded by the Scott Troupe and band of helpers. The splendid multi—multi marathon bike ride by stalwarts of Shirenewton raising funds for the new Church Hall the building of which is about to begin. Newchurch held one of their "Open Days" for church building repairs and to meet folk associated with St. Peter's.
WELL DONE EVERYONE!

The clergy were also kept busy with family gatherings for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals along with a plethora of 'pastoral activities'.

The schools Autumn Term is now well into its stride with some youngsters starting school for the first time or starting at secondary school, while older boys and girls are moving on to college or University. We wish them all success and pray that they are safeguarded from all harm. No doubt some are already looking forward to half term while others of us will be taking short-break holidays, but before the clocks go back at the end of BST, **Harvest Festival** will be celebrated by all four churches. It's an opportunity for thanksgiving to God for all the good things He has provided—the fellowship and joy of worshipping and sharing together, of planning and working together for the extension of God's Kingdom in this beautiful area in which we are privileged to live. The autumn will be just as busy as the summer for there

remains much of God's work to do. Our weekly Bible Study has restarted on Monday evenings and an Alpha course is on Tuesday evenings, Mothers Union meetings have restarted and our three Sunday Clubs are getting back into their stride. Planning is in hand for many other events including an Auction of Promises at Caerwent in October, so watch out for announcements and try to support services and events in all four parishes.

An important reminder that the Diocesan Conference will be held in on Saturday 14th October from 11.30 a.m. —County Hall, Cwmbran to which everyone is invited—especially elected members.

Finally, please remember in yours prayers the people of Darfur for whom once again there will not be any harvest. There are so many countries where there is conflict and suffering, drought and famine. As we remember these suffering we **must** surely give thanks for our own harvest of so many kinds of riches provided by our loving God, the Creator and Father of all.

With love and prayers,
In the name of Jesus Christ

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

The winners of the draw for July / August were:

| Number | | |
|--------|-----------------|-----|
| 227 | Bert Stephens | £40 |
| 191 | Linda Dobson | £30 |
| 46 | Margaret Ashill | £20 |
| 16 | Emma Saysell | £10 |

There is still some work to be done in the vegetable garden, but this is mainly cleaning up and digging beds, preparing them ready for next years crops. A couple of the beds will be planted in the next two or three weeks. These will be the over-wintered onion and garlic crops. They have been ordered and await delivery. Once planted they will be ready for harvesting in June, weeks earlier than crops planted in the spring. Many of the other beds need clearing of old crops and weeding. Some plants such as French beans and broad beans still carry some seeds, so these will be stripped off and dried in the greenhouse to form the basis of next years crop. The old plant stems will then be put on the compost heap, whilst the weeds will end up on the bonfire heap. All of our vegetables are grown in raised beds in an effort to beat the sloping ground on which the garden is based. These work extremely well and I would recommend this method of growing to anyone. However the soil level in each bed is quite high and gets higher as you add more manure each year. I have decided to add another two or three inches in height to these beds by nailing extra timber around the top. This will allow me to add much more organic matter to the ground and help retain moisture in the future. Some beds are also quite stony, so I intend to remove some of the stone when I do the digging over the winter. All I need now is some time!

Happy gardening until next month.

Steve Hunt.

any other variety that we have. They were sending out a few runners and as I wanted to keep these I placed a five-inch pot under each little plantlet and pinned them down to the compost using little wire pegs. This allows the plants to take root much more quickly. I had intended to increase the size of the area under this variety, but instead I will be consolidating the same patch. This is because a number of the original plants have rotted away for some reason. For some reason the company that supplied the original plants last year sent me a repeat order this year, even though I didn't ask for them! On querying this with the company they apologised for the mistake and told me to enjoy the plants! So they will come in handy!

We have actually picked a couple of handfuls of nectarines from the new trees that were planted in the tunnel. These have really grown well and are now in need of bringing "under control". They were bought with the intention of training them as "Fan" shapes and were supplied as transplants, rather than pre pruned shapes that cost twice the price. In order to achieve this I have driven some large stakes into each of the raised beds, one at each end and one in the middle and stretched wires between them. There is a tree planted in the middle between each set of stakes. I have started pruning the trees, shortening the new growth back by about two thirds. The main branches are then tied to the wire supports, some being pulled gently down and around as you go in order to achieve the fan shape. In some cases it may be that this pulling down process is done in a couple of stages as you risk breaking the branch off if you try to pull too hard or too much of an angle. This gives you the main frame that you work too for all future pruning jobs. There are a number of smaller branches that are left behind, surplus to requirements. These will simply be cut off and burnt along with all the other prunings.

In the fruit cage I have at long last started to cut back the old raspberry canes. All those that fruited this year, plus any weak or over stocked new stems will be cut and burnt, leaving just the healthiest new stems to be tied in to fruit next season. With the lack of rain these stems aren't as tall as they should be, but hopefully this won't affect the crop too much for next year. Similar treatment will be given to the other cane fruits, such as Tayberry and blackberry. I planted some dwarf fruit trees in a cordon down one side of the cage. These have fruited very well this year and also require pruning. This is slightly different to normal pruning in that you reduce all new growth to four inch (10 cms) fruiting spurs and that is all there is to it!

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates to the end of term

| DATE | TIME | VENUE |
|-------|-------|---|
| Oct 1 | 9.45 | Sunday Club – The Chantry |
| 8 | 9.45 | Sunday Club – The Chantry |
| 15 | 9.45 | Family Service - Church |
| 22 | 9.45 | Sunday Club – The Chantry |
| 29 | 9.45 | Sunday Club – The Chantry |
| Nov 5 | 9.45 | Sunday Club – The Chantry |
| 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 RECREATION HALL

After more than ten years of planning and work by many members of the community, on Friday 15th September the newly extended/refurbished Recreation Hall was formally opened by Gordon Hughes, some thirty-one years after he formally opened the original hall. Gordon expressed his pleasure at getting the opportunity to carry out this task, and was delighted to welcome the various members of the committee present that were involved in the building of the original hall, and members who had proposed the extension to the Hall some eleven years ago but no longer lived in the village.

Stuart Dutton, the Recreation Hall Committee secretary, in his thank you speech stated that this opening was the culmination of efforts by numerous members of the community from the inception in 1995, when the initial plans were drawn up. Plans were submitted and grant applications made, and then in spite of getting very close to starting, at that stage the committee were unable to raise the necessary funding needed for the project. After these efforts the project was shelved for a period, and then resurrected some three years ago.

New plans were drawn up, estimates made and revised designs submitted for planning approval. Grant applications were made to various bodies, and then thanks to Monmouth County Council and the Welsh Office Department for Rural Affairs, a Section 33 grant became available. This and the efforts of the Recreation Hall Committee and local residents in raising the balance of the funds needed made the project viable. Only then was it possible to obtain quotations and appoint contractors. Eventually work started and was able to carry on with the various groups still being able to use most of the facilities, despite the construction work going on around them. Stuart thanked the various groups for their tolerance, particularly the 'Play Group' who were there almost daily, operating with toddlers around the builders and decorators.

Although the structural work, plumbing and electrical aspects of the Hall were all carried out by various sub-contractors, a large amount of the internal fitting and decoration work was done by members of the Hall committee and various volunteers.

The Hall now provides the community with a superb sporting facility with state of the art showers and changing rooms, a lovely pavilion, kitchen, a large function room and a second medium size meeting and committee room.

Our congratulations must go to all involved with this wonderful project.

Gardening Corner

Another month gone and with the evenings getting shorter there is less and less time available outside in the garden. There is always plenty to do at this time of year but at least most jobs are not that time critical that they can not be left for a little longer. Just as well really as I have recently been promoted and changed jobs, swapping an office in Abergavenny for one in Bristol and an area covering South Wales for an area stretching from the Lake District down the centre of England, to the tip of Cornwall. This has been made worse by our youngest buying a house in Swansea that needs an awful lot of work doing to it! So the garden has taken very much a back seat since I last wrote this article! It can get a little depressing at times when you walk around and see so many things that need doing, but never mind. Hopefully things will settle down before the spring, when timing is a little more critical.

Whilst the weather has been so unsettled I have spent some time inside the tunnel tidying up and sorting out. The tomatoes are still fruiting well, but I always find at this time of year that they are susceptible to mould as the air starts to get damper, with the cooler nights setting in. This is a similar case with the peppers. In order to try to reduce this problem I clean up all the old leaves on both sets of plants. This will include the removal of some quite healthy leaves as well, in order to increase the airflow around the fruits. I experimented with some French plum tomatoes this year and these generally have done quite well. They are certainly a lot better for cooking or making soups with, than the usual cherry tomatoes that we grow. Their growing habit is very odd though, as they tend to grow all twisted with a lot of leaf. I set about cleaning these up which was just as well as there were many leaves that had died off and were beginning to rot, but they were being hidden by healthier leaves on the outside. This exercise really opened up the fruits and will hopefully help the ripening process. To date the fruits have been very slow to turn ripe despite all the warmth during July. What we needed was more sun in August! One bed of strawberries has really bulked up with runners being sent out in all directions. There are far too many plants in this bed and these were thinned out enough to leave just the main plants themselves or some new ones where gaps occurred. The second strawberry bed was only planted this spring with a new variety called "Norfolk Nectar". These are meant to have a flavour akin to the old varieties of years past and certainly the odd few fruits we had were far tastier than

FROM THE REGISTERS

A service of baptism was held on:

11th August for Isobella Carroll daughter of Jeremy John Dennis and Kirtine Dennis

ST PETER'S CHURCH, NEWCHURCH

A September Fayre was held at the church on Saturday 16th of September when we were fortunate to raise £400.00 for our much needed funds. Our very grateful thanks to all who came and our small team of helpers .

We would remind everyone that our harvest festival service will be held on Thursday 5th of October at 7 p.m. when all will be welcome.

On Saturday the 7th of October at 7 p.m. we will pleased to welcome back at Newchurch" The Dean Singers ". Please try and come

WHIST DRIVES AT THE RECREATION HALL

There were oohs and aahs from the 30 people who attended the September Drive as they took in the extra space and the refurbishing details of the Hall which were met with wholehearted approval. Our next Drives are on the 5th October and 2nd November – both at the Recreation Hall on a Thursday, starting promptly at 7.30 p.m.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton -01291 641844.

TAN FEST REPEATS MEGA FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR NSPCC

Once again Tan Fest pulled out all the stops to raise the fantastic sum of £2,070 for the NSPCC by holding another successful summer festival at The Tan House Pub, Shirenewton, Chepstow on Saturday 5 August with live music and family entertainment.

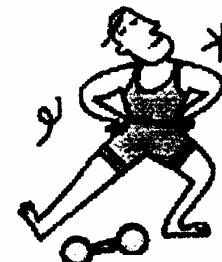
One of the organisers, David Watkins, wished to thank everyone who turned out to support the event and said that the day was a huge success and something they hoped to repeat year on year. He would also like to thank the bands (Smokeroom; The Nose Bleeds; Elvis; Dead Dodgey; The Following; Pandora's Box; Druids on Fluids, Dog Rocket and Jack Castle) all of whom donated their performances free of charge once again to support the NSPCC and impress the crowd with their music.

David said that Tan Fest 2006 would not have transpired without the help of local sponsors Wentwood Associates, Kirrin Homes, Moon & Co, Matthew Benjamin (Building Supplies), Robert Colthart Car Sales LSL Solutions, Powabyke Ltd, and Shirenewton Cricket Club - whose generosity enabled Tan Fest to present the NSPCC with such a considerable sum for the second consecutive year. Many thanks are also due to Tina & Steve Lacey of the Tan House pub (and their family staff and many volunteers) plus Mr and Mrs David Adams for the use of their land for car parking ,Mr Childs for donation of the stage truck , Shirenewton Church for supplying the Marquees – together with everybody who worked so hard to make the day a huge success. Landlord Steve Lacey said that the Tan House regularly hosts live music events for all tastes and a warm welcome awaits those who wish to visit this friendly pub in Shirenewton. He was once again delighted that so

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many people attended the Tan Fest and so pleased that people responded extremely generously in supporting such a worthwhile charity.

Linda Killick, NSPCC Cymru/Wales community appeals manager, said : " I am delighted that once again Tan Fest has chosen to donate this money to NSPCC Cymru / Wales. I appreciate the time and effort which went into holding such a rewarding event and I am extremely grateful to everyone concerned. Whilst children still need the NSPCC, we still need the help of supporters such as the Tan House pub and the Tan Fest" said Linda.

Money raised from this event will go towards helping and protecting children who have suffered abuse and neglect and to work with the community to prevent cruelty to children.

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH P.C.C.

Would through the columns of the magazine to thank the organisers of this years very successful TAN FEST for their recent donation to the Church Extension Fund

ANOTHER THANK YOU

Very many thanks to my family and friends for providing me with such memorable celebrations for my 80th birthday, and for all the cards and gifts.

Thank you also for the many very generous donations which I was able to pass on to the Chepstow and District Mencap Society to benefit it's local members. **Bernice Bowen**

SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

REPUTATION AND CHARACTER

The circumstances amid which you live determine your reputation; the truth you believe determines your character.

Reputation is what you are supposed to be; character is what you are.

Reputation is the photograph; character is the face.

Reputation comes over from one without; character grows up from within.

Reputation is what you have when you come to a new community; character is what you have when you go away.

Your reputation is learned in an hour; your character does not come to light for a year.

Reputation is made in a moment; character is built in a lifetime.

Reputation grows like a mushroom; character grows like the oak.

A single newspaper report gives you a reputation; a life of toil gives you your character.

Reputation makes you rich or poor; character makes you happy or makes you miserable.

Reputation is what men say about you on your tombstone; character is what angels say about you before the throne of God.

William Hersey Davis

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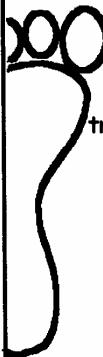
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Community Council

From Your Community Correspondent
The Community Council did not meet in September.

The next meeting will be on Monday 2nd October – 7.30 at the new improved Recreation Hall.

SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS UNION

As we continue our theme "Answering God's Call" eleven members joined with Revd. Chris Carey for a quiet afternoon at "Windrush" Coedypaen (the home of Mrs. Joan Stickland) Mrs. Stickland has made her home and garden available under the "Quiet Gardens Scheme" for anyone wishing to pass an hour or two in prayer or reflection away from the hustle and bustle of their normal life. We took part in a Searchlight Communion which is a short informal service from the Iona Community after which Mrs. Stickland served us tea which was most enjoyable. The weather was kind to us too so that we were able to sit out in the garden during our "quiet" time.

At our NEXT MEETING on 11TH OCTOBER we will be hearing (and seeing slides) about The evidence of early Christianity at Caerwent from Mark Lewis who works at The National Roman Legion Museum at Caerleon.

We meet at St. Thomas a Becket Church at 2.30 p.m. but if any non-members are interested in our Speaker's subject they are welcome to join us at 3.00 p.m. Tea and biscuits will be served.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton (Branch Leader) – 01291 641844

News from Earlswood Hall.
(or CEDS, SODS and the MCC)

Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial Hall (to give its official title) has been lucky enough to receive a grant from CEDS - the Community and Economic Development Scheme 2006 - 07.

We applied for money to fund our 'Drainage and Storage Project' This enticing-sounding project aims to sort out the problem of all the water that gushes from a spring in the car-park in times of extreme wet weather and which joins the other surface water to form a large swimming pool in the basement of the hall. Now we have lots of good things going on at the hall: Keep fit, circuit training, and Country and Western Evenings – but swimming is not on the agenda. So the CEDS money will be used to ensure that the storm water is allowed to drain into appropriate soak-away systems.

The money from CEDS will then allow us to move on to the second part of the project which will be to 'tank' the basement under the stage, bar and kitchen area so that it can be used for storage. Earlswood Hall is a great venue for drama – I like to think of it as rivalling the Edinburgh Fringe – but drama does create a lot of Stuff - props, scenery and an enormous number of 'useful things that might come in handy' The funding from CEDS will allow the Hall to store all this and the five million suitcases of costumes that SODS, Kids Ad Lib and the Young Farmers have accumulated.

SODS themselves have been generous in contributing to the match funding that was needed for this project. We are grateful to them and to Monmouthshire County Council for this grant, which will make the facilities up at Earlswood Hall so much better and drier. And if you want to go swimming – you can always go the Chepstow Leisure Centre

Glynis MacDonald - Booking Clerk 641818

CAROLINE'S COOKERY CORNER

Instead of a recipe this month I'm passing on some of the tips I acquired from my book the 'New Domestic Encyclopaedia. Many I knew years ago but had forgotten—some though are new to me.

Beetroot: If the skin is broken or the beetroot is chipped—hold the damaged part over a gas flame for a minute before cooking—it prevents the beetroot from 'bleeding'.

Syrup: (This one I like!) To serve syrup at the table—grease the sides of the sauce boat with butter first (makes sense).

Tomatoes & Peaches: To skin, drop into boiling water for about thirty seconds.

Oranges, Lemons and Limes: - Peel easier if they are put into very hot water for a few minutes first.

Porridge: Has a better flavour and doesn't boil over so readily if a good knob of butter is stirred in during cooking.

Nuts: When shelling nuts and whole kernels are wanted, try leaving try leaving the nuts in cold salt water overnight to make shelling easier.

Mustard: Is hotter and stronger when made with hot water, although it will not darken if made with milk.

Gravy: - Gravy powder kept in an old pepper pot can be added quicker and does not form lumps.

Greens: - A spoon of vinegar, salt or Milton added to the water in which the greens are soaking will draw out any insects.

Custard: - To give extra flavour add a bay leaf—remove before serving.

Christmas Pudding: - to give it a rich glossy appearance coat the sides of the basin with warm treacle before adding the mixture.

Cakes: - Sour milk will make a lighter cake than fresh milk.

Asparagus:- Put a small pinch of bicarbonate of soda to make the entire stalk tender to eat.

Artichokes: Peel Jerusalem artichokes under water to prevent discolouration and add a little lemon juice to the cooking water to preserve the colour.



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Jazz Night

1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES.

We are back to Guides now after our summer break and planning another busy term. Our Young Leaders are starting to work towards their Adult Leader Qualification so you will be getting "guest" reporters in the next few months as they complete the clause covering passing information on to the local community! We also have plenty of other ideas to keep them busy – it is called delegation!!

We will be welcoming some Brownies as they move up to Guides in the next couple of weeks. The actual number will depend on places available when we have re-established contact with all the Guides. As leaders we have a busy training schedule this autumn so the winter camp has been delayed until January. We are also beginning to think about summer camp no rest for Guiders!

I hope you enjoy a change of author for the next few months.

Yours in Guiding

Kestrel - Helen Cann - 01291 650835

BROWNIE REPORT

SECOND WORLD WAR EVACUEES— CAN ANYONE HELP?

Shirenewton Brownies Autumn term began on Tuesday 12th September. At our 'planning meeting' (Pow Wow in Brownie jargon) the girls , inspired by the CBBC programme 'Evacuation' asked to have an evacuee evening . We are wondering if there is anyone in the community who has memories of being a 2nd World War evacuee and would be prepared to come and share them with the girls (aged 7 - 11) . If so please contact Jackie Broughton (641797). This week we are going to attempt a traditional Brownie Knots evening . Wish us luck!

Jackie Broughton (Guider in Charge)

For our August meeting we visited the Roman remains at Caerwent. The visit was well attended and proved to be very interesting, starting at the Church, followed by viewing the old wall of the town and finally the remains of the buildings.

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 26th September- 'The mystery of Jack of Kent And the Fate of Owain Glyndwr' by Alex Gibbons at 7.30pm at The Huntsman Hotel.

Wednesday 11th October- Resources Session with Dorothy Brabon 2.00pm Recreation Hall.

Tuesday 24th October- AGM followed by a look at some of our resources, led by Dorothy Brabon.

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Yes it's time for the S.O.D.S !

What's the Panto going to be this year?

Come along to Earlswood Hall - 3rd October at 7.00 to find out!

We need:

costume designers, seamstresses, prop makers, scene changers, car-parkers, set constructors, set painters, make-up artists, scenery shifters, choreographers, press releasers, publicity people, ticket sellers, programme producers, refreshment Co-ordinators, musicians, lighting and sound engineers, in fact Uncle Tom Cobbly and all.

We also need actors and actresses. We have room for everyone - from lead roles to the third standard bearer on the left. No previous experience necessary.

For more details ring Glynis on 641 818

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2006

THE 2005 TO BE SUCH A SUCCESS THAT THE VENT IS TO BE REPEATED AGAIN THIS YEAR

**THE FORMAT WILL BE VERY MUCH THE SAME AS LAST YEAR
DANCING TO LIVE MUSIC & DISCO
FOOD & DRINK**

**ALTHOUGH TICKETS ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE PLEASE REGISTER YOUR
INTEREST BY CONTACTING EITHER PHIL AT THE HUNTSMAN ON 641521
OR**

**TONY BENDALL ON 641303
IT WAS A COMPLETE SELL OUT LAST YEAR, SO DON'T LEAVE IT TOO
LATE**

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

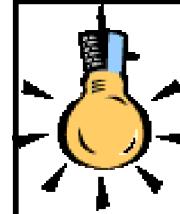
Friday 20th January

Saturday 21st January

Apologies; Re: last month's advertisement for
SODS.

Sods do not require any sewers.

And I unreservedly apologise to any local seamstresses
for any
confusion or distress that I may have inadvertently
caused.



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7.00 P.M.

COME AND ENJOY AN EVENING WITH THE DEAN SINGERS
(BACK BY REQUEST) AT NEWCHURCH
ON
SATURDAY 7TH OCTOBER AT 7 P.M.

Page for School
Farmers Market

EARLSWOOD & NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL

Presents

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On

Friday 6th October 2006

8.00 'til late

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650779; 641818 & 620270

SHIRENEWTON W.I.

The September meeting was held in the newly renovated hall. We felt very proud of our village for having such a lovely hall, though I notice there was some indecision as to where to put the chairs – so much space! We were able to offer our guests tea and biscuits served in good china, from a superb kitchen. A big thank you from the W.I. to all those involved.

As usual, members were addressed by the President and Secretary regarding matters of business and the minutes of the last meeting. The table where the President and Secretary sit has been traditionally covered by a embroidered cloth, which was lovingly made many years ago. Unfortunately this cloth was beginning to look its age, so Clare Lewis took the matter in hand and created a new cloth. It seemed very fitting that our new 'ceremonial' cloth should be put into operation when we met in the new hall. As befitting a new era, Clare used modern technology to transfer images of our village onto panels of cloth incorporated into the whole. The effect is very striking, and will serve the W. I. well for years to come.

Clare brought some photographs of the recent Scuba Diving evening hosted by Caldicot Sub-Aqua Club. Six ladies 'had a go, and everyone declared the event a great success. We would like to thank Jean Howe and her fellow Club members for allowing us this brilliant taster session.

Our speaker for the evening was Margaret Kinsey. She and her husband were able to show slides of their travels in Iceland, Greenland, and the Antarctic. Margaret gave a good account of some of the geology, ecology, history and culture of these regions. One item I won't forget quickly was the account of the sparse population in Greenland, accompanied by a slide of a small hamlet in the lee of some dark cliffs. The next slide showed a close up of one of the buildings, - and yes they do have Spar shops everywhere!

Our next meeting is at 7:15pm, at the Recreation Hall, on 19th October. When Mr. Ernie Jones is to give a talk entitled 'A Journey Through Time'. As Ernie has a wealth of information and anecdotes to share, this should be an interesting meeting. We would welcome your company, if you would like to come along.

THE BELLS - THE BELLS- THE BELLS,

Well, with the schools back in session we are starting our early practices for the less experienced ringers again. We do a lot of varied activities in these sessions. We work on controlling the speed of the bell: in normal ringing you must sound your bell within a quarter of a second of the previous one, which is rather skilful, when you are controlling several hundred weights of bell metal with one small rope. We learn a little theory which will help in the future when starting to learn Plain Hunt and later change ringing. We use the hand bells and the computer simulator to help us with our listening skills. The four girls have been learning to ring changes on hand bells. Experienced hand bell ringers from Cardiff and Newport have been out to help them and found them very quick learners.

Mike and Pip accompanied by 14 others including Jenny and Claire had a ringing trip to Cornwall for the weekend. We went out all over the Bodmin Moor area on the Saturday ringing in 6 churches and visiting various local hostelries in the lovely sunny warm weather. After a rather late night it was an early start to visit St Columb Major on Sunday morning to see how the bells are rung "Devon Style". They have a different way of ringing the bells up and down and calling their call changes to us, plus a different rhythm for the bell which sounds first at the hand stroke pull each time (the bell which is said to be "leading").

You may hear the bells a little more often over the next week or so as it is Quarter Peal fortnight for the Monmouth Branch of the L&MDACBR. Every band in the Branch has been requested to ring a quarter in their tower. We are going for Plain Bob Minor on Sunday 24th.

We will ring a Quarter Peal and dedicate it to your special event, be it a birthday a wedding anniversary or any special occasion.

STAR GAZING IN OCTOBER 2006

As it is now getting darker earlier there are more opportunities for stargazing. However this isn't true for the planets in October. They are all too close to the Sun to be seen, apart from Saturn. Even Saturn isn't very helpful, as it rises in the east at about 2 am.

On the morning of 10th October, the gibbous Moon, between its half and full phases, lies near the Pleiades star cluster.

On the morning of 16th and 17th October, the waning crescent Moon lies near Saturn.

The constellation of Cygnus the Swan lies pretty much directly above. It is in the shape of a cross – in fact it is sometimes called the Northern Cross. According to legend, Jupiter the king of the Gods changed himself into a swan when he wanted to visit Leda, the wife of the King of Sparta. In memory of the episode, he placed a swan in the sky.

The seven stars of the Plough are to the North and the four stars forming the Great Square of Pegasus lie to the South. The W-shape of Cassiopeia lies fairly high in the sky to the North-East. In Roman mythology Cassiopeia was a queen chained to her throne as a punishment for being boastful, whilst the Chinese considered the constellation looked like a path through mountains.

Dave Thomas

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Mike Gambold: 641773
mike.gambold@googlemail.com

FAIR TRADE NEWS

Here's what our support for fair trade can achieve:

A Bangladeshi lady called Firoza started work for Traidcraft in 1980 making hammocks for one of Traidcraft's oldest partners: Jute Works. Sadly she died earlier this year but her husband Hassan Ali describes the difference her work made to their lives:

'Our first house was a hut with a straw roof and we had to sleep on the floor. With the money she made we changed our fate. We made improvements and maintained all the expenses of the house and the education of our children.' This education included a BA degree for their daughter Nargis, who, with her cousin, set up a local primary school in 2001. There are now 6 teachers and 175 pupils. She says 'We are very proud of what my mother did. It would have been quite impossible for me to go to university if there was only my father's income.' It is extraordinary to comprehend what a difference a relatively marginal extra bit of payment made to the life of a whole family.

World wide sales of fairly traded goods have increased by 37% on the 2004 figure, making it one of the fastest growing markets in the world. This is, of course, from a relatively small base, but nevertheless this is very encouraging.

As ever, contact me for more details. Remember there are many new products to try, which are not yet available in the supermarkets.
Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

GAERLLWYD BAPTIST CHAPEL

Will be holding their Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 15th October at 6.30 p.m. The service will be led by the Newport Male Gospel Choir.

On Monday 16th October at 7.30 p.m. there will be a service where the speaker will be Reverend David Openshaw. The Service will follow by a supper.

GAERLLWYD WOMEN'S MEETINGS

Will be held at 2.30 p.m. on 4th October and at 2.30 on 18th October when we will hold our regular meeting. Speakers to be confirmed



The Parish Youth Page

PYP

Hiya Folks,

As this page is for younger readers, I thought that these comments about getting married would be interesting - especially as they have been written by younger writers.

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY? (written by kids)

1) You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. - Alan, age 10

2) No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - Kristen, age 10

WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

1) Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. - Camille, age 10

2) No age is good to get married at. - Freddie, age 6

HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

1) You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. - Derrick, age 8

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MUM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

1) Both don't want any more kids. - Lori, age 8

WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

1) Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if

2) On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date.

- Martin, age 10

WHAT WOULD YOU DO ON A FIRST DATE THAT WAS TURNING BAD?

1) I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. -Craig, age 9

WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE?

1) When they're rich. - Pam, age 7

2) The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. - Curt, age 7

3) The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. - Howard, age 8 (Who made the rule)

IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?

1) I don't know which is better, but I'll tell you one thing. I'm never going to have sex with my wife. I don't want to be all grossed out. - Theodore, age 8

2) It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. - Anita, age 9

HOW WOULD THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT IF PEOPLE DIDN'T GET MARRIED?

- 1) There'd be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? - Kelvin, age 8

So there you have it! Woof woof! Pyp

Price: 50p

October 2006

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



Parishes of Shirenewton and Newchurch

Magazine

| | | |
|--|--|----------------------------|
| INCUMBENT: | The Revd Hugh Trenchard | 424984 |
| CURATE | The Revd Nansi Davies | 01633 400519 |
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| | 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 |
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| 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 |
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| 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 November 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 November magazine.

October 2006.

Dear Friends,

What a gorgeous and long hot summer we have had, and even now towards the end of September the days remain comfortably warm. However the temperature is now gradually dropping especially in the evening time as we approach the end of summer.

What a busy summer it has been for our parishes. I remember some of the highlights as I am sure you do. The fun of the Church Fete at Shirenewton and Newchurch; with the Flower Festival and concert at Caerwent then the Caerwent Annual Show with Noah and the Sunday Club taking centre stage. We enjoyed a beautiful evening at Penhein with the ladies of Llanfair providing a delicious supper—weren't the views superb! The summer lunch at Five Lanes when the ladies of Caerwent supplied their usual high standard menu which we all enjoyed sitting in the shade on that very hot day. The fun of the children's summer play group in Caerwent village hall masterminded by the Scott Troupe and band of helpers. The splendid multi—multi marathon bike ride by stalwarts of Shirenewton raising funds for the new Church Hall the building of which is about to begin. Newchurch held one of their "Open Days" for church building repairs and to meet folk associated with St. Peter's.

WELL DONE EVERYONE!

The clergy were also kept busy with family gatherings for Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals along with a plethora of 'pastoral activities'.

The schools Autumn Term is now well into its stride with some youngsters starting school for the first time or starting at secondary school, while older boys and girls are moving on to college or University. We wish them all success and pray that they are safeguarded from all harm. No doubt some are already looking forward to half term while others of us will be taking short-break holidays, but before the clocks go back at the end of BST, **Harvest Festival** will be celebrated by all four churches. It's an opportunity for thanksgiving to God for all the good things He has provided—the fellowship and joy of worshipping and sharing together, of planning and working together for the extension of God's Kingdom in this beautiful area in which we are privileged to live. The autumn will be just as busy as the summer for there

remains much of God's work to do. Our weekly Bible Study has restarted on Monday evenings and an Alpha course is on Tuesday evenings, Mothers Union meetings have restarted and our three Sunday Clubs are getting back into their stride. Planning is in hand for many other events including an Auction of Promises at Caerwent in October, so watch out for announcements and try to support services and events in all four parishes.

An important reminder that the Diocesan Conference will be held in on Saturday 14th October from 11.30 a.m. —County Hall, Cwmbran to which everyone is invited—especially elected members.

Finally, please remember in yours prayers the people of Darfur for whom once again there will not be any harvest. There are so many countries where there is conflict and suffering, drought and famine. As we remember these suffering we **must** surely give thanks for our own harvest of so many kinds of riches provided by our loving God, the Creator and Father of all.

With love and prayers,
In the name of Jesus Christ

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

The winners of the draw for July / August were:

| Number | | |
|--------|-----------------|-----|
| 227 | Bert Stephens | £40 |
| 191 | Linda Dobson | £30 |
| 46 | Margaret Ashill | £20 |
| 16 | Emma Saysell | £10 |

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates to the end of term

| DATE | TIME | VENUE |
|-------------|-------------|---|
| Oct 1 | 9.45 | Sunday Club – The Chantry |
| 8 | 9.45 | Sunday Club – The Chantry |
| 15 | 9.45 | Family Service - Church |
| 22 | 9.45 | Sunday Club – The Chantry |
| 29 | 9.45 | Sunday Club – The Chantry |
| Nov 5 | 9.45 | Sunday Club – The Chantry |
| 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 RECREATION HALL

After more than ten years of planning and work by many members of the community, on Friday 15th September the newly extended/refurbished Recreation Hall was formally opened by Gordon Hughes, some thirty-one years after he formally opened the original hall. Gordon expressed his pleasure at getting the opportunity to carry out this task, and was delighted to welcome the various members of the committee present that were involved in the building of the original hall, and members who had proposed the extension to the Hall some eleven years ago but no longer lived in the village.

Stuart Dutton, the Recreation Hall Committee secretary, in his thank you speech stated that this opening was the culmination of efforts by numerous members of the community from the inception in 1995, when the initial plans were drawn up. Plans were submitted and grant applications made, and then in spite of getting very close to starting, at that stage the committee were unable to raise the necessary funding needed for the project. After these efforts the project was shelved for a period, and then resurrected some three years ago.

New plans were drawn up, estimates made and revised designs submitted for planning approval. Grant applications were made to various bodies, and then thanks to Monmouth County Council and the Welsh Office Department for Rural Affairs, a Section 33 grant became available. This and the efforts of the Recreation Hall Committee and local residents in raising the balance of the funds needed made the project viable. Only then was it possible to obtain quotations and appoint contractors. Eventually work started and was able to carry on with the various groups still being able to use most of the facilities, despite the construction work going on around them. Stuart thanked the various groups for their tolerance, particularly the 'Play Group' who were there almost daily, operating with toddlers around the builders and decorators.

Although the structural work, plumbing and electrical aspects of the Hall were all carried out by various sub-contractors, a large amount of the internal fitting and decoration work was done by members of the Hall committee and various volunteers.

The Hall now provides the community with a superb sporting facility with state of the art showers and changing rooms, a lovely pavilion, kitchen, a large function room and a second medium size meeting and committee room.

Our congratulations must go to all involved with this wonderful project.

FROM THE REGISTERS

A service of baptism was held on:

11th August for Isobella Carroll daughter of Jeremy John Dennis and Kirtine Dennis

ST PETER'S CHURCH, NEWCHURCH

A September Fayre was held at the church on Saturday 16th of September when we were fortunate to raise £400.00 for our much needed funds. Our very grateful thanks to all who came and our small team of helpers .

We would remind everyone that our harvest festival service will be held on Thursday 5th of October at 7 p.m. when all will be welcome.

On Saturday the 7th of October at 7 p.m. we will pleased to welcome back at Newchurch" The Dean Singers ". Please try and come

WHIST DRIVES AT THE RECREATION HALL

There were oohs and aahs from the 30 people who attended the September Drive as they took in the extra space and the refurbishing details of the Hall which were met with wholehearted approval. Our next Drives are on the 5th October and 2nd November – both at the Recreation Hall on a Thursday, starting promptly at 7.30 p.m.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton -01291 641844.

TAN FEST REPEATS MEGA FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR NSPCC

Once again Tan Fest pulled out all the stops to raise the fantastic sum of £2,070 for the NSPCC by holding another successful summer festival at The Tan House Pub, Shirenewton, Chepstow on Saturday 5 August with live music and family entertainment.

One of the organisers, David Watkins, wished to thank everyone who turned out to support the event and said that the day was a huge success and something they hoped to repeat year on year. He would also like to thank the bands (Smokeroom; The Nose Bleeds; Elvis; Dead Dodgey; The Following; Pandora's Box; Druids on Fluids, Dog Rocket and Jack Castle) all of whom donated their performances free of charge once again to support the NSPCC and impress the crowd with their music.

David said that Tan Fest 2006 would not have transpired without the help of local sponsors Wentwood Associates, Kirrin Homes, Moon & Co, Matthew Benjamin (Building Supplies), Robert Colhart Car Sales LSL Solutions, Powabyke Ltd, and Shirenewton Cricket Club - whose generosity enabled Tan Fest to present the NSPCC with such a considerable sum for the second consecutive year. Many thanks are also due to Tina & Steve Lacey of the Tan House pub (and their family staff and many volunteers) plus Mr and Mrs David Adams for the use of their land for car parking ,Mr Childs for donation of the stage truck , Shirenewton Church for supplying the Marquees – together with everybody who worked so hard to make the day a huge success. Landlord Steve Lacey said that the Tan House regularly hosts live music events for all tastes and a warm welcome awaits those who wish to visit this friendly pub in Shirenewton. He was once again delighted that so

many people attended the Tan Fest and so pleased that people responded extremely generously in supporting such a worthwhile charity.

Linda Killick, NSPCC Cymru/Wales community appeals manager, said : " I am delighted that once again Tan Fest has chosen to donate this money to NSPCC Cymru / Wales. I appreciate the time and effort which went into holding such a rewarding event and I am extremely grateful to everyone concerned. Whilst children still need the NSPCC, we still need the help of supporters such as the Tan House pub and the Tan Fest" said Linda. Money raised from this event will go towards helping and protecting children who have suffered abuse and neglect and to work with the community to prevent cruelty to children.

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH P.C.C.

Would through the columns of the magazine to thank the organisers of this years very successful TAN FEST for their recent donation to the Church Extension Fund

ANOTHER THANK YOU

Very many thanks to my family and friends for providing me with such memorable celebrations for my 80th birthday, and for all the cards and gifts. Thank you also for the many very generous donations which I was able to pass on to the Chepstow and District Mencap Society to benefit it's local members. **Bernice Bowen**

SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT

REPUTATION AND CHARACTER

The circumstances amid which you live determine your reputation;
the truth you believe determines your character.

Reputation is what you are supposed to be; character is what you are.

Reputation is the photograph; character is the face.

Reputation comes over from one without; character grows up from
within.

Reputation is what you have when you come to a new community;
character is what you have when you go away.

Your reputation is learned in an hour; your character does not come
to light for a year.

Reputation is made in a moment; character is built in a lifetime.

Reputation grows like a mushroom; character grows like the oak.

A single newspaper report gives you a reputation; a life of toil gives
you your character.

Reputation makes you rich or poor; character makes you happy or
makes you miserable.

Reputation is what men say about you on your tombstone;
character is what angels say about you before the throne of God.

William Hersey Davis

Community Council

From Your Community Correspondent
The Community Council did not meet in September.

The next meeting will be on Monday 2nd October – 7.30 at the new improved Recreation Hall.

SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS UNION

As we continue our theme "Answering God's Call" eleven members joined with Revd. Chris Carey for a quiet afternoon at "Windrush" Coedypaen (the home of Mrs. Joan Stickland) Mrs. Stickland has made her home and garden available under the "Quiet Gardens Scheme" for anyone wishing to pass an hour or two in prayer or reflection away from the hustle and bustle of their normal life. We took part in a Searchlight Communion which is a short informal service from the Iona Community after which Mrs. Stickland served us tea which was most enjoyable. The weather was kind to us too so that we were able to sit out in the garden during our "quiet" time.

At our NEXT MEETING on 11TH OCTOBER we will be hearing (and seeing slides) about The evidence of early Christianity at Caerwent from Mark Lewis who works at The National Roman Legion Museum at Caerleon.
We meet at St. Thomas a Becket Church at 2.30 p.m. but if any non-members are interested in our Speaker's subject they are welcome to join us at 3.00 p.m. Tea and biscuits will be served.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton (Branch Leader) – 01291 641844

News from Earlswood Hall.
(or CEDS, SODS and the MCC)

Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial Hall (to give its official title) has been lucky enough to receive a grant from CEDS - the Community and Economic Development Scheme 2006 - 07.

We applied for money to fund our 'Drainage and Storage Project' This enticing-sounding project aims to sort out the problem of all the water that gushes from a spring in the car-park in times of extreme wet weather and which joins the other surface water to form a large swimming pool in the basement of the hall. Now we have lots of good things going on at the hall: Keep fit, circuit training, and Country and Western Evenings – but swimming is not on the agenda. So the CEDS money will be used to ensure that the storm water is allowed to drain into appropriate soak-away systems.

The money from CEDS will then allow us to move on to the second part of the project which will be to 'tank' the basement under the stage, bar and kitchen area so that it can be used for storage. Earlswood Hall is a great venue for drama – I like to think of it as rivalling the Edinburgh Fringe – but drama does create a lot of Stuff - props, scenery and an enormous number of 'useful things that might come in handy' The funding from CEDS will allow the Hall to store all this and the five million suitcases of costumes that SODS, Kids Ad Lib and the Young Farmers have accumulated.

SODS themselves have been generous in contributing to the match funding that was needed for this project. We are grateful to them and to Monmouthshire County Council for this grant, which will make the facilities up at Earlswood Hall so much better and drier. And if you want to go swimming – you can always go the Chepstow Leisure Centre

Glynis MacDonald - Booking Clerk 641818

Jazz Night

1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES.

We are back to Guides now after our summer break and planning another busy term. Our Young Leaders are starting to work towards their Adult Leader Qualification so you will be getting "guest" reporters in the next few months as they complete the clause covering passing information on to the local community! We also have plenty of other ideas to keep them busy – it is called delegation!!

We will be welcoming some Brownies as they move up to Guides in the next couple of weeks. The actual number will depend on places available when we have re-established contact with all the Guides. As leaders we have a busy training schedule this autumn so the winter camp has been delayed until January. We are also beginning to think about summer camp no rest for Guiders!

I hope you enjoy a change of author for the next few months.

Yours in Guiding

Kestrel - Helen Cann - 01291 650835

BROWNIE REPORT

SECOND WORLD WAR EVACUEES– CAN ANYONE HELP?

Shirenewton Brownies Autumn term began on Tuesday 12th September. At our 'planning meeting' (Pow Wow in Brownie jargon) the girls , inspired by the CBBC programme 'Evacuation' asked to have an evacuee evening . We are wondering if there is anyone in the community who has memories of being a 2nd World War evacuee and would be prepared to come and share them with the girls (aged 7 - 11) . If so please contact Jackie Broughton (641797). This week we are going to attempt a traditional Brownie Knots evening . Wish us luck!

Jackie Broughton (Guider in Charge)

Yes it's time for the S.O.D.S !

What's the Panto going to be this year?

Come along to Earlswood Hall - 3rd October at 7.00 to find out!

We need:

costume designers, seamstresses, prop makers, scene changers, car-parkers, set constructors, set painters, make-up artists, scenery shifters, choreographers, press releasers, publicity people, ticket sellers, programme producers, refreshment Co-ordinators, musicians, lighting and sound engineers, in fact Uncle Tom Cobbly and all.

We also need actors and actresses. We have room for everyone - from lead roles to the third standard bearer on the left. No previous experience necessary.

For more details ring Glynis on 641 818

NEW YEAR'S EVE 2006

THE 2005 TO BE SUCH A SUCCESS THAT THE VENT IS TO BE REPEATED AGAIN THIS YEAR

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OR

TONY BENDALL ON 641303

**IT WAS A COMPLETE SELL OUT LAST YEAR, SO DON'T LEAVE IT TOO
LATE**

**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 20th January

Saturday 21st January

Apologies; Re: last month's advertisement for
SODS.

Sods do not require any sewers.

And I unreservedly apologise to any local seamstresses
for any
confusion or distress that I may have inadvertently
caused.

Page for School
Farmers Market

SHIRENEWTON W.I.

The September meeting was held in the newly renovated hall. We felt very proud of our village for having such a lovely hall, though I notice there was some indecision as to where to put the chairs – so much space! We were able to offer our guests tea and biscuits served in good china, from a superb kitchen. A big thank you from the W.I. to all those involved.

As usual, members were addressed by the President and Secretary regarding matters of business and the minutes of the last meeting. The table where the President and Secretary sit has been traditionally covered by a embroidered cloth, which was lovingly made many years ago. Unfortunately this cloth was beginning to look its age, so Clare Lewis took the matter in hand and created a new cloth. It seemed very fitting that our new ‘ceremonial’ cloth should be put into operation when we met in the new hall. As befitting a new era, Clare used modern technology to transfer images of our village onto panels of cloth incorporated into the whole. The effect is very striking, and will serve the W. I. well for years to come.

Clare brought some photographs of the recent Scuba Diving evening hosted by Caldicot Sub-Aqua Club. Six ladies ‘had a go, and everyone declared the event a great success. We would like to thank Jean Howe and her fellow Club members for allowing us this brilliant taster session.

Our speaker for the evening was Margaret Kinsey. She and her husband were able to show slides of their travels in Iceland, Greenland, and the Antarctic. Margaret gave a good account of some of the geology, ecology, history and culture of these regions. One item I won’t forget quickly was the account of the sparse population in Greenland, accompanied by a slide of a small hamlet in the lee of some dark cliffs. The next slide showed a close up of one of the buildings, - and yes they do have Spar shops everywhere!

Our next meeting is at 7:15pm, at the Recreation Hall, on 19th October. When Mr. Ernie Jones is to give a talk entitled ‘A Journey Through Time’. As Ernie has a wealth of information and anecdotes to share, this should be an interesting meeting. We would welcome your company, if you would like to come along.

FAIR TRADE NEWS

Here's what our support for fair trade can achieve:

A Bangladeshi lady called Firoza started work for Traidcraft in 1980 making hammocks for one of Traidcraft's oldest partners:Jute Works. Sadly she died earlier this year but her husband Hassan Ali describes the difference her work made to their lives:

'Our first house was a hut with a straw roof and we had to sleep on the floor. With the money she made we changed our fate. We made improvements and maintained all the expenses of the house and the education of our children.' This education included a BA degree for their daughter Nargis, who, with her cousin, set up a local primary school in 2001. There are now 6 teachers and 175 pupils. She says 'We are very proud of what my mother did. It would have been quite impossible for me to go to university if there was only my father's income.' It is extraordinary to comprehend what a difference a relatively marginal extra bit of payment made to the life of a whole family.

World wide sales of fairly traded goods have increased by 37% on the 2004 figure, making it one of the fastest growing markets in the world. This is, of course, from a relatively small base, but nevertheless this is very encouraging.

As ever, contact me for more details. Remember there are many new products to try, which are not yet available in the supermarkets.

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

GAERLLWYD BAPTIST CHAPEL

Will be holding their Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 15th October at 6.30 p.m. The service will be led by the Newport Male Gospel Choir.

On Monday 16th October at 7.30 p.m. the will be a service where the speaker will be Reverend David Openshaw. The Service will followed by a supper.

GAERLLWYD WOMEN'S MEETINGS

Will be held at 2.30 p.m. on 4th October and at 2.30 on 18th October when we will hold our regular meeting. Speakers to be confirmed



The Parish Youth Page

PYP

Hiya Folks,

As this page is for younger readers, I thought that these comments about getting married would be interesting - especially as they have been written by younger writers.

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY? (written by kids)

1) You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. - Alan, age 10

2) No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - Kristen, age 10

WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

1) Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. - Camille, age 10

2) No age is good to get married at. - Freddie, age 6

HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

1) You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids. - Derrick, age 8

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MUM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

1) Both don't want any more kids. - Lori, age 8

WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

1) Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if

2) On the first date, they just tell each other lies and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date.

- Martin, age 10

WHAT WOULD YOU DO ON A FIRST DATE THAT WAS TURNING BAD?

1) I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns. -Craig, age 9

WHEN IS IT OKAY TO KISS SOMEONE?

1) When they're rich. - Pam, age 7

2) The law says you have to be eighteen, so I wouldn't want to mess with that. - Curt, age 7

3) The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do. - Howard, age 8 (Who made the rule)

IS IT BETTER TO BE SINGLE OR MARRIED?

1) I don't know which is better, but I'll tell you one thing. I'm never going to have sex with my wife. I don't want to be all grossed out. - Theodore, age 8

2) It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them. - Anita, age 9

HOW WOULD THE WORLD BE DIFFERENT IF PEOPLE

DIDN'T GET MARRIED?

1) There'd be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there? -

- Kelvin, age 8

So there you have it! Woof woof! Pyp

STAR GAZING IN OCTOBER 2006

As it is now getting darker earlier there are more opportunities for stargazing. However this isn't true for the planets in October. They are all too close to the Sun to be seen, apart from Saturn. Even Saturn isn't very helpful, as it rises in the east at about 2 am.

On the morning of 10th October, the gibbous Moon, between its half and full phases, lies near the Pleiades star cluster.

On the morning of 16th and 17th October, the waning crescent Moon lies near Saturn.

The constellation of Cygnus the Swan lies pretty much directly above. It is in the shape of a cross – in fact it is sometimes called the Northern Cross.

According to legend, Jupiter the king of the Gods changed himself into a swan when he wanted to visit Leda, the wife of the King of Sparta. In memory of the episode, he placed a swan in the sky.

The seven stars of the Plough are to the North and the four stars forming the Great Square of Pegasus lie to the South. The W-shape of Cassiopeia lies fairly high in the sky to the North-East. In Roman mythology Cassiopeia was a queen chained to her throne as a punishment for being boastful, whilst the Chinese considered the constellation looked like a path through mountains.

Dave Thomas

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THE BELLS - THE BELLS- THE BELLS,

Well, with the schools back in session we are starting our early practices for the less experienced ringers again. We do a lot of varied activities in these sessions. We work on controlling the speed of the bell: in normal ringing you must sound your bell within a quarter of a second of the previous one, which is rather skilful, when you are controlling several hundred weights of bell metal with one small rope. We learn a little theory which will help in the future when starting to learn Plain Hunt and later change ringing. We use the hand bells and the computer simulator to help us with our listening skills. The four girls have been learning to ring changes on hand bells. Experienced hand bell ringers from Cardiff and Newport have been out to help them and found them very quick learners.

Mike and Pip accompanied by 14 others including Jenny and Claire had a ringing trip to Cornwall for the weekend. We went out all over the Bodmin Moor area on the Saturday ringing in 6 churches and visiting various local hostelries in the lovely sunny warm weather. After a rather late night it was an early start to visit St Columb Major on Sunday morning to see how the bells are rung "Devon Style". They have a different way of ringing the bells up and down and calling their call changes to us, plus a different rhythm for the bell which sounds first at the hand stroke pull each time (the bell which is said to be "leading").

You may hear the bells a little more often over the next week or so as it is Quarter Peal fortnight for the Monmouth Branch of the L&MDACBR. Every band in the Branch has been requested to ring a quarter in their tower. We are going for Plain Bob Minor on Sunday 24th.

We will ring a Quarter Peal and dedicate it to your special event, be it a birthday a wedding anniversary or any special occasion.

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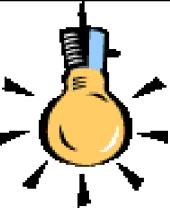
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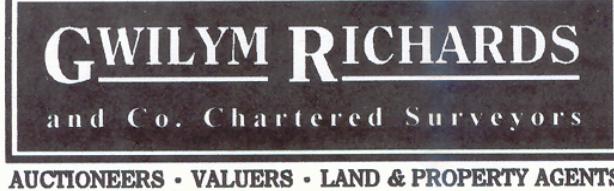
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For our August meeting we visited the Roman remains at Caerwent. The visit was well attended and proved to be very interesting, starting at the Church, followed by viewing the old wall of the town and finally the remains of the buildings.

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 26th September- 'The mystery of Jack of Kent And the Fate of Owain Glyndwr' by Alex Gibbons at 7.30pm at The Huntsman Hotel.

Wednesday 11th October- Resources Session with Dorothy Brabon 2.00pm Recreation Hall.

Tuesday 24th October- AGM followed by a look at some of our resources, led by Dorothy Brabon.



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CAROLINE'S COOKERY CORNER

Instead of a recipe this month I'm passing on some of the tips I acquired from my book the 'New Domestic Encyclopaedia. Many I knew years ago but had forgotten—some though are new to me.

Beetroot: If the skin is broken or the beetroot is chipped—hold the damaged part over a gas flame for a minute before cooking—it prevents the beetroot from 'bleeding'.

Syrup: (This one I like!) To serve syrup at the table—grease the sides of the sauce boat with butter first (makes sense).

Tomatoes & Peaches: To skin, drop into boiling water for about thirty seconds.

Oranges, Lemons and Limes: - Peel easier if they are put into very hot water for a few minutes first.

Porridge: Has a better flavour and doesn't boil over so readily if a good knob of butter is stirred in during cooking.

Nuts: When shelling nuts and whole kernels are wanted, try leaving try leaving the nuts in cold salt water overnight to make shelling easier.

Mustard: Is hotter and stronger when made with hot water, although it will not darken if made with milk.

Gravy: - Gravy powder kept in an old pepper pot can be added quicker and does not form lumps.

Greens: - A spoon of vinegar, salt or Milton added to the water in which the greens are soaking will draw out any insects.

Custard: - To give extra flavour add a bay leaf—remove before serving.

Christmas Pudding: - to give it a rich glossy appearance coat the sides of the basin with warm treacle before adding the mixture.

Cakes: - Sour milk will make a lighter cake than fresh milk.

Asparagus:- Put a small pinch of bicarbonate of soda to make the entire stalk tender to eat.

Artichokes: Peel Jerusalem artichokes under water to prevent discolouration and add a little lemon juice to the cooking water to preserve the colour.

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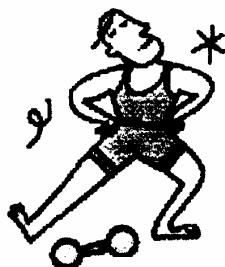
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Page for Itton Hall Ad

Gardening Corner

Another month gone and with the evenings getting shorter there is less and less time available outside in the garden. There is always plenty to do at this time of year but at least most jobs are not that time critical that they can not be left for a little longer. Just as well really as I have recently been promoted and changed jobs, swapping an office in Abergavenny for one in Bristol and an area covering South Wales for an area stretching from the Lake District down the centre of England, to the tip of Cornwall. This has been made worse by our youngest buying a house in Swansea that needs an awful lot of work doing to it! So the garden has taken very much a back seat since I last wrote this article! It can get a little depressing at times when you walk around and see so many things that need doing, but never mind. Hopefully things will settle down before the spring, when timing is a little more critical.

Whilst the weather has been so unsettled I have spent some time inside the tunnel tidying up and sorting out. The tomatoes are still fruiting well, but I always find at this time of year that they are susceptible to mould as the air starts to get damper, with the cooler nights setting in. This is a similar case with the peppers. In order to try to reduce this problem I clean up all the old leaves on both sets of plants. This will include the removal of some quite healthy leaves as well, in order to increase the airflow around the fruits. I experimented with some French plum tomatoes this year and these generally have done quite well. They are certainly a lot better for cooking or making soups with, than the usual cherry tomatoes that we grow. Their growing habit is very odd though, as they tend to grow all twisted with a lot of leaf. I set about cleaning these up which was just as well as there were many leaves that had died off and were beginning to rot, but they were being hidden by healthier leaves on the outside. This exercise really opened up the fruits and will hopefully help the ripening process. To date the fruits have been very slow to turn ripe despite all the warmth during July. What we needed was more sun in August! One bed of strawberries has really bulked up with runners being sent out in all directions. There are far too many plants in this bed and these were thinned out enough to leave just the main plants themselves or some new ones where gaps occurred. The second strawberry bed was only planted this spring with a new variety called "Norfolk Nectar". These are meant to have a flavour akin to the old varieties of years past and certainly the odd few fruits we had were far tastier than

any other variety that we have. They were sending out a few runners and as I wanted to keep these I placed a five-inch pot under each little plantlet and pinned them down to the compost using little wire pegs. This allows the plants to take root much more quickly. I had intended to increase the size of the area under this variety, but instead I will be consolidating the same patch. This is because a number of the original plants have rotted away for some reason. For some reason the company that supplied the original plants last year sent me a repeat order this year, even though I didn't ask for them! On querying this with the company they apologised for the mistake and told me to enjoy the plants! So they will come in handy!

We have actually picked a couple of handfuls of nectarines from the new trees that were planted in the tunnel. These have really grown well and are now in need of bringing "under control". They were bought with the intention of training them as "Fan" shapes and were supplied as transplants, rather than pre pruned shapes that cost twice the price. In order to achieve this I have driven some large stakes into each of the raised beds, one at each end and one in the middle and stretched wires between them. There is a tree planted in the middle between each set of stakes. I have started pruning the trees, shortening the new growth back by about two thirds. The main branches are then tied to the wire supports, some being pulled gently down and around as you go in order to achieve the fan shape. In some cases it may be that this pulling down process is done in a couple of stages as you risk breaking the branch off if you try to pull too hard or too much of an angle. This gives you the main frame that you work too for all future pruning jobs. There are a number of smaller branches that are left behind, surplus to requirements. These will simply be cut off and burnt along with all the other prunings.

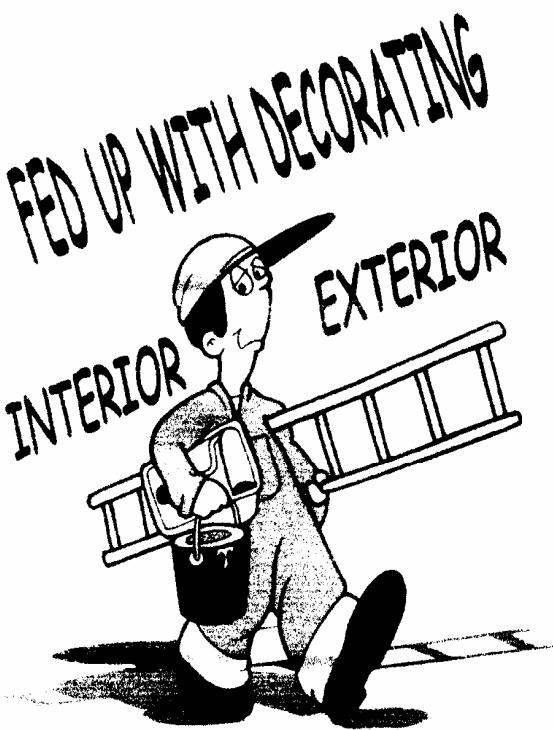
In the fruit cage I have at long last started to cut back the old raspberry canes. All those that fruited this year, plus any weak or over stocked new stems will be cut and burnt, leaving just the healthiest new stems to be tied in to fruit next season. With the lack of rain these stems aren't as tall as they should be, but hopefully this won't affect the crop too much for next year. Similar treatment will be given to the other cane fruits, such as Tayberry and blackberry. I planted some dwarf fruit trees in a cordon down one side of the cage. These have fruited very well this year and also require pruning. This is slightly different to normal pruning in that you reduce all new growth to four inch (10 cms) fruiting spurs and that is all there is to it!

There is still some work to be done in the vegetable garden, but this is mainly cleaning up and digging beds, preparing them ready for next years crops. A couple of the beds will be planted in the next two or three weeks. These will be the over-wintered onion and garlic crops. They have been ordered and await delivery. Once planted they will be ready for harvesting in June, weeks earlier than crops planted in the spring. Many of the other beds need clearing of old crops and weeding. Some plants such as French beans and broad beans still carry some seeds, so these will be stripped off and dried in the greenhouse to form the basis of next years crop. The old plant stems will then be put on the compost heap, whilst the weeds will end up on the bonfire heap. All of our vegetables are grown in raised beds in an effort to beat the sloping ground on which the garden is based. These work extremely well and I would recommend this method of growing to anyone. However the soil level in each bed is quite high and gets higher as you add more manure each year. I have decided to add another two or three inches in height to these beds by nailing extra timber around the top. This will allow me to add much more organic matter to the ground and help retain moisture in the future. Some beds are also quite stony, so I intend to remove some of the stone when I do the digging over the winter. All I need now is some time!

Happy gardening until next month.

Steve Hunt.

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SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 2nd Oct | Community Council – 7.30 p.m. Recreation Hall. |
| 3rd Oct | S.O.D's – Panto meeting 7.00 p.m. Earlswood Memorial Hall. |
| 5th Oct | St Peter's – Newchurch – Harvest Festival. |
| 5th Oct | Whist Drive—7.30 Recreation Hall |
| 6th Oct | Country & Western Night –Earlswood & Newchurch West Hall |
| 7th Oct | St Peter's – Newchurch – Choral Evening with the Dean Singers. |
| 11th Oct | Local History Society—Resource Session Recreation Hall 2.30 |
| 15th Oct | Gaerllwd Baptist Chapel Harvest Festival |
| 24th Oct | Local History Society AGM & Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel 7.30 |
| 28th Oct | Robin Reece Jazz Band at the Earlswood and Newchurch West Hall |
| 2nd Nov | Whist Drive—Recreation Hall—7.30 |

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

Readers and Sides Persons for October 2006

| DATE | SERVICE | READER | SIDES PERSON |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1st October | 16th After Trinity | Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds | Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds |
| 8th October | 17th After Trinity | Andrew Baker John Nicholas | John Nicholas Ann Nicholas |
| 15th October | 18th After Trinity Baptism Service | Mike Barnes Auriol Horton | Mike Barnes Auriol Horton |
| 22nd October | 19th After Trinity | Cynthia Smith Rut Savagar | Allan Saysell Bernice Bowen |
| 29th October | Group Service | At Llanvair Discoed | |
| 5th November | 4th Sunday Before Advent | Peter Jones Jean Jones | Peter Jones Jean Jones |

Newchurch Every Sunday at 2.30 p.m.