

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

February 2016



West View of Thomas à Becket Church Shirenewton on a sunny winters afternoon

Price: £1

Dear People of the Parish,

Good news for you. The Editor and printer of this magazine are breathing down my neck for copy in order to go to print in the (very) near future. This means that what I have to say will be concise. Hooray! I hear you exclaim.

I trust that you all enjoyed a rewarding Christmas. Now comes the difficult bit. What resolutions do you plan to implement during the New Year? It is easy to contemplate 'a fresh start', but notoriously difficult to implement such.

May I suggest one which I believe will benefit us all? I apologise if I appear to be going a bit 'preachy' but I believe that we should follow the lines of certain hymns as our guide. I refer, in particular, to the sentiment 'Oh still, small voice of God' this, supported by the biblical text, 'Be still and know that I am God' encapsulates much of what our intention should be for the coming twelve months.

In the first quotation, it is implied that the voice of God is sometimes small. In other words, it is easily drowned out by our skewed perception of what is important and our busyness in respect of the mundane. One can only hear – and take on board – the voice of God if we make a definite plan to be still and free from distraction in order to value His company. We must, therefore, be prepared to withdraw now and again and stop relentlessly putting other considerations before God.

The second quotation picks up the theme of stillness. To know something of the nature of God is, surely, a primary ambition for any believer. This, many maintain, is best achieved by surrounding oneself with stillness. This is the ancient monastic ideal and can be traced back to the words of our Lord in the episode with Martha and Mary. You will recall that Martha was faffing about the place, overcome with the all too human impulse to impress the guest with hospitality. At one point she lost it and rounded on her sister, Mary, who appeared to be doing nothing practical to help. Martha made the mistake of assuming that Jesus would support her in her criticism. Wrong! Jesus had no hesitation in saying that Mary had focused on 'the one thing that is needful'. In other words, Mary had seen the importance of communing with the divine above all worldly considerations.

I think that we would do well to take such action (can we call stillness action?) and make it our New Year Resolution to invite the sacred into our lives. This will mean giving it priority and, not infrequently, banishing temporal concerns to where it often belongs – on the periphery of our lives.

If this is indeed our intention, then we shall fail and stumble often. But the reward of 'getting it right' from time to time is well worth the effort. Indeed, in the words of another well-known hymn, we find ourselves 'Nearer, my God to Thee'.

With every good wish and blessing
Julian E LI White

Shirenewton Church – 200 CLUB

Each month (other than January and August) four lucky club members win between £10 and £40 in the 200 Club draw, whilst at Christmas there is a chance to win the top prize of £100. To be in the draw costs £10 per year per number and you can sponsor as many numbers as you like: in your own name, the name of other family members or even your pets! Half of the money raised goes to the prize winners with the other half going towards the upkeep of the church. Want to know more? It's easy – contact me, Graham Lambert, on 01291 641175, or email me at:

200clubshirenewton@gmail.com.
With thanks for your support.



The winners of the Christmas draw of the 200 Club are:

- 1st prize Hattie Leaf
- 2nd prize Alison Broughton
- 3rd prize David McAdam
- 4th prize Clare c/o O'Keefe

SHIRENEWTON PARISH MAGAZINE

We hope you like the new Laser Printed version of the magazine, better quality print at no extra cost to you, how do we do it for the money, well that's a trade secret!

Magazine subs fall due in February. **Annual subscriptions of £10.00 for the 10 copies for the next twelve months become due in February.** Would you kindly arrange to pay your regular "News boy / girl" during this period.

Our thanks go to all those that contribute, advertise, produce and distribute the Magazine throughout the parish.

CHRISTMAS IN SHIRENEWTON

Our celebration of Christmas started early this year, to fit into the Band's busy festive schedule, with Carols around the village Christmas Tree, supported by the Chepstow Town Band. For once it was a fine evening and we were able to assemble around the tree and carols were lustily sung, accompanied by some fine playing from the band. There was then some equally enthusiastic consumption of warming beverages in the Tredegar Arms!

Our service of Christmas Praise, provides a reflective look at the Christmas story from alternative viewpoints and includes something for all the family. This year we heard from Elizabeth, John the Baptist's surprised and slightly harassed Mum, and Melchior, as well as a pair of confused and confounded shepherds – well who would have expected angels on a night like that? The service included some carols, beautifully sung by the Netherwent Singers.

Carols and Christingles on Christmas Eve was an altogether more raucous affair, with a scratch Nativity. The popularity of this service was evident in the great attendance, it was literally standing room only! The Nativity featured returning members of the Sunday Club, in various roles, including themselves and the citizens of Bethlehem being recorded by a very officious census taker. Current members of the Sunday Club provided Mary, Joseph and some shepherds whose sheep had hidden round the church. And we had three splendid Kings (possibly more Wenceslas than Caspar, Balthazar and Melchior?) with their very put upon page. Finally, a choir of angels, seized from the unsuspecting ranks of the congregation. Christingles were distributed and despite the press and the slightly dangerous mix of children and lit candles, the services of the fire wardens (complete with bowls of water and wet cloths) were not required. The service was followed by a mountain of mince pies and small lake of mulled wine, though sadly this ran out before the stalwarts of the working party were fully satisfied. I understand that plans have already been made to avoid such a catastrophe next year!

On Christmas Eve the Ringers treated us to a display of ringing from the floor of the Tower, rather than their usual concealment in the loft. It was particularly nice to see their faces as they usually manage to sneak in and out and we don't get to express our gratitude for their skill and dedication.

We had a beautiful Midnight Mass, lead by Canon Andrew Todd, to welcome in Christmas Day. It was a beautiful and joyous service with which to open the Christmas season and Andrew's message of not losing sight of the sacred Christmas was particularly apposite.

Finally, on Christmas Morning we had a family service, once again lead by Andrew, to which all, young or old were invited to bring one of their presents.

Our collection from the Christmas Praise service has been donated to Abraham's Children in Crisis, a charity helping children of all faiths in the Holy Land. You can read about their work on their website:

<http://abrahamschildrenin crisis.blogspot.co.uk/>

The collection from the Christingle was donated to The Children's Society. We were able to send £615.20 through your generosity.

If anyone is inspired to join the Sunday Club, they meet on every Sunday in term time at 10:00 in the Saysell Centre (formerly the Shirenewton Church Rooms). More details are available from Dr Kerry Baker, the leader, on 01291 641925. Our special thanks to all who have helped make Christmas special once again including: Chepstow Town Band, the team at the TA, Jane and Glynis, Budgens for the Christingle oranges, the mince pie bakers, wine-mullers Bill and Janet, Andrew Todd, the Bell Ringers and the Netherwent Singers. Once again the Village Tree was kindly supplied by Peter Bayliss and erected by Charles Eickhoff, and Mike and Pip Penney.

**Will you use your skills and expertise to make
Shirenewton and Mynyddbach even better?**

It is an exciting time to be living our villages – there are some innovative new community projects being planned, so we need a number of people with a range of skills to volunteer a small amount of time to help get things moving.

We are particularly keen to hear from project managers, property professionals from any discipline, good organisers and marketing or communications specialists, to offer a small amount of time and expertise to kick off and develop some time-boxed, specific projects.

This is not an open-ended commitment!

A small and defined amount of support will be gratefully deployed on projects that will help the whole community.

Want to know more? Please call Andrew Baker on 641925 or Charles Eickhoff on 641716

Thank you!

SHIRENEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

What goes on at Shirenewton Primary School?

We know there are lots of people who are interested in what goes on at school, and so we are taking the opportunity of using a regular feature in the Parish Magazine to share highlights of school life by including one of our recent newsletters. You will also be able to see what is coming up, and we would love to welcome everyone in the village to our Parents & Teachers Association summer and Christmas fetes. On March 1st, the PTA will be holding a coffee morning between 9.15 and 10.30 at which the winners of our various Eisteddfod music competitions will be playing. Please do come along to the school hall to meet parents and staff and feel part of our school community.

DIGITAL LEADERS

"Last week the Digital Leaders went to the Apple store in Cardiff. Before we sat down they gave us an apple t-shirt and we did several things on the i-pads e.g. a keynote presentation. We researched famous welsh people and got facts about them. We played some games. They also gave us an apple memory stick wristband. I learned some new settings and ways of using keynote. It was a very enjoyable trip and I would recommend for other people to go." By Ben



ENRICHMENT AFTERNOONS

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children began their series of enrichment afternoons yesterday. The children enjoyed participating in Film Making, Mad about Science, World Explorers, Nature Ramblers, Masterchef, Multisports, Fashion Designers and BEAR (Be Enthusiastic About Reading) groups.

TRIP TO ONE PLANET CENTRE

"We went to the One Planet Centre and Gilwern education centre. We learned that we are still using the water that the dinosaurs used because ever since the dinosaurs lived the water cycle has gone on and on and on!!! We made a water filter so the water would come out clean. It looked completely clean but they advised us to either boil or put chlorine in it to make sure there's no invisible bacteria in it. We also linked little tubes to model houses - the tubes went under the road - we had to get the water from the water tower by the mountains into the houses. At the end we had to make sure all the pipes were connected properly otherwise we'd have leaks! After lunch we went to the One Planet Centre - they talked about recycling and watched a recycling song. We saw a belt that was made out of a tyre; a hippo made out of tin cans; a cup coaster made from a tyre; a bag made out of plastic drinks packets and a pencil made out of CD discs! Overall, I think everyone enjoyed it - it was really interesting to see how they recycle and what new items they can make them into."

By Brynn

HEADTEACHER AWARDS

Congratulations to the following pupils who earned themselves a headteacher certificate this week and last week:

Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Amélie, Milo & Annabel	Terah, Sophie & Chloe	Albert, Jessica & Anjali	Kayleigh, Seren & Morgan	Maddy, Harry & Tom	Imogen T, Pippa & James	James N, Oliver OG & Angus
Millie, Robin & Bea	Amelia, Peter & Alexander	Benjamin, Ella W & Ethan B	Jayden, Kate & Harvey	Carys, Myles & George C	Ben, Lewys & Arran	Angus, Carys & Imogen

Here are the dates for the Spring Term. More details will be sent out nearer the time and reminders will be 'schooped' (School ID = 10134):-

SPRING CALENDAR

Additions/ changes are highlighted in red to help you spot them!

Thu 28th Jan - FP Enrichment pm
Thu 28th Jan - KS2 football tournament
Thu 4th Feb - FP Enrichment pm
Thu 4th Feb - PTA Discos
Fri 5th Feb - Techniquet Star Lab in school
Mon 8th Feb to Thu 11th Feb - Y6 to Gilwern
Mon 8th Feb Y5 to watch *Beauty & the Beast* dress rehearsal at Chepstow School
Tue 9th Feb First Aid training pm with Gwent Police
Thu 11th Feb - FP Enrichment pm
Thu 11th Feb - Y4 & Y5 School Council - joint meeting with Alliance schools at Thornwell planning the sponsored triathlon
Mon 15th to Fri 19th Feb - Half Term
Mon 22nd Feb - INSET Oracy & ICT
Tue 23rd Feb - Welsh Week
Wed 24th Feb - Wildlife quiz (for 4 selected Y6 pupils)

Thu 25th Feb - Open Morning for parents (Reasoning)
Tue 1st Mar - Eisteddfod am & sponsored triathlon pm
Thu 3rd Mar - World Book Day
Fri 4th Mar - KS2 Enrichment Day
Wed 9th Mar - Parents' Evening
Thu 10th Mar - PTA Coffee Morning (entertainment by pupils performing some Eisteddfod pieces) 9.15am
Thu 10th Mar - Parents' Evening
Wed 16th Mar - Chepstow Cluster Schools Concert 5.30pm at Chepstow School
Fri 18th Mar - 'Sports Relief' (by Sports Council)
Wed 23rd Mar - Easter egg rolling
Thu 24th Mar - Easter Assembly 9.30am
Fri 25th Mar to Fri 8th April - Easter Hols

PTA NEWS

SCHOOL DISCO: Thursday 4th February 2016 The PTA have booked DJ Judy again after the success of the last disco. More details to follow.

SHAW TRUST: SPRING CLEAN! Look out for the Shaw Trust letters in book bags next month before half term. Shaw Trust will collect bags on Fri 26th Feb. Items accepted are clothing, curtains, bedding, books, bric a brac, shoes, toys, cd's, dvd's.

PTA MEETINGS PTA meetings will now be held from 6.30pm - 9pm at the School every month. All are welcome. We plan to arrange a PTA social termly at The Huntsman Hotel too.

EVENT CALENDAR:

School Disco Thurs. 4th Feb 2016

PTA Meeting Mon 8th Feb 2016, 6:30pm

Shirenewton Primary School (staff room)

Y3 & Y4 Netball Club:

At Chepstow Leisure Centre on Mondays 5-6pm. Costs £15 for 6 weeks.

Please contact Anne Winter on 01291 629961 or Meryl Slaymaker on 01291 620852 to book a place.

Sunday Papers available in the village!



From Sunday 3rd April for a trial period of 4 months, Sunday newspapers will be available

by pre-order. Papers will need to be collected from the Saysell Centre (also known as the Church Room) between 10am and noon.

Coffee and cake will be available between 11am and noon.

To express interest in ordering a paper, please email

shirenewtonpapers@gmail.com or call

Charles Eickhoff on 641716

Provided by St Thomas à Beckett Church



HARMONY THE WORLD IN SONG



St Thomas à Becket Church
7.00pm Saturday 2nd April

No time to take a world tour this year? *Harmony* (based in Berkshire, but whose musical director has family connections with Shirenewton!) is a well-travelled choir whose diverse repertoire adds an international flavour to their concerts. In little more than an hour *Harmony* can give you New Zealand's stirring Maori folk songs, American gospel music, the vibrant sounds of Spain, and the rich harmonies of Africa (by way of Japan, Romania and Haiti, to name but a few). Should this leave you feeling homesick, the musical tour ends in the UK with a touch of 'Last Night of the Proms'. (Flags provided for the audience!)

Drinks and canapes served during the interval will reflect the international flavour of the occasion.

To find out more about *Harmony* visit our website

<https://sites.google.com/site/harmonychoirnewbury/gallery>



BIBLE STUDY GROUP

A Bible Study Group was initiated during 2015, and consists of a small, friendly group who meet to explore our Faith in more depth. We are not experts and our main qualification is wanting to develop our faith. Sometimes we do this through discussion of the week's set readings and in the last months of the year we followed a course, Expecting Christ, which focussed on four aspects of finding Christ: in family, in me, in prayer and in the end. It proved most interesting and thought provoking for all the participants.



From the February session (25th February) we will be exploring The Great Prayers of the Bible, and how we can apply them to our lives today. The seven sessions will look at some of the most inspiring prayers found in God's Word will give you fresh insight into the Lord's Prayer and those of Abraham, Hannah, Solomon and more.



We hope that greater faith will rise in our hearts as we come to understand more about the Holy Spirit and how prayer works.

The group meets on the last Thursday of every month at 7:30 in the evening. Each session is hosted by one of our members, although there is no obligation to do so. We welcome everyone, and especially new members; no prior knowledge or qualification is necessary! If you are interested in participating, please contact Gilly Lambert via lem.shirenewton@gmail.com for more details.

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

I hope everyone had a good Christmas break. It seems a long time ago now.

Following the pre-Christmas magazine entry when I said: "Happiness is a man with 37.5Mb – trust me I know these things". Several people called me to ask how I got Infinity. Was there some special thing I knew that no one else did? The answer is, I'm afraid, no! I simply applied for the upgrade via the BT website. The one thing I did do was ignore the fact that, despite signing up for various services (including BTs) which would inform me when Infinity was available, nothing had been received. I just kept going back to the BT website (upgrade your package) until it appeared. So, my 'secret' is out.

A disappointing year on the Church shopping portal. In 2015 it raised a total of £668 compared with the 2014 total of £1,202. As always, this is cash paid into the Church account. I've previously explained why I think the total is falling and so won't repeat myself. £668 is still a good total on the basis that it is something for nothing and it's the equivalent of the amount we raise from an evening like the Call My Bluff wine tasting so it's worth continuing.

I'm sure many of you have started to get a persistent 'nag screen' to upgrade to Windows 10. Well, having read industry reviews it seems Windows 10 is stable and improves performance on older, lower spec'd machine and that 'most upgrades go seamlessly', I tried to upgrade my wife's laptop last night and it failed. The laptop is an old Dell Inspiron. An error code was given and, if you type that code into google you get a lot of information. So now I'm going to have to distill that and work out how to move forward. Unfortunately that is life. It's worth noting that you should upgrade because the 'free' period will, apparently, expire in the summer.

Safe browsing

David Cornwell

webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the December/January meetings

December - Council received and reluctantly accepted a letter of resignation from Councillor P Moles, he was sincerely thanked for his contribution and service to the Council.

Council co-opted Mr R Kopp of Tan House Court into a vacancy in the Shirenewton ward.

There are still two vacant positions for co-option of Community Councillors for the ward of Shirenewton – if you are interested in applying for one of these vacancies, please contact the Clerk (details below).

Planning applications considered - December

1. DC/2015/01386 23 Clearview Court, Shirenewton
Removal of existing failed boundary retaining wall, proposed new boundary retaining wall and associated engineering and landscaping works.

Council noted that this property is at the entrance to the estate, alongside a main route into Shirenewton village, at the edge of the conservation area. The existing brick retaining wall is approx 1 metre high and in keeping with the rest of the estate. The proposal is for this to be replaced with a stone faced retaining wall approx 2.6 metres high, topped with a steel fence of a further 1.1 metres, making the height 3.7 metres in all. Council recommend refusal of the application as it will be intrusive; constructed of differing materials; out of keeping with the other properties in Clearview Court and will have a negative visual impact.

2. TOWN AND PLANNING ACT 1990 SECTION 211 – TREES IN CONSERVATION AREAS

Mon CC had received a written statement from the resident of Olive Cottage, Crick Road, Shirenewton NP16 6RQ giving the Council six weeks notice of his intention to remove a Yew tree from the rear garden of the property. The property is within the Shirenewton conservation area.

Council noted that the tree in question is 490 years old and in this conservation area. Also that yew trees in this area have a long history, being used for the longbow by the 'Men of Gwent' at the battle of Cressy (1346) to defeat the French. The slow growing yew tree is under threat and few are being replanted, 80% of all yew are in church yards. Yew trees in this area do therefore enhance the conservation area.

Council further noted that the yew is very slow growing and has a large intake of water, when cut down this dries out and leaves a void which may result in the collapse of any boundary/building walls close by.

During discussion, the applicant was sympathetic to the above comments and was minded to withdraw his application for removal of the tree and consult with Mon CC regarding having the tree dramatically cut back to reduce its size. The Council recommended that a specialist company is used for this work.

The Community Council could not recommend approval of the application to fell the tree, but was content for the applicant to consult with Mon CC regarding reducing the size of the tree. However, the Council recommended that if the tree was felled at some time in the future a replacement yew tree is planted within the community.

January – DC/2015/01492 Gaerllwyd Bungalow
Alterations and extension of existing bungalow, to form a two storey dwelling.

Council noted that although the bungalow has parts dating back some 200 years, it has since been altered and enlarged but appears to have no historical significance.

Council expressed concern that two individual trees and a small group of five are to be removed to improve the view, however this will make the property more visible from the Earlswood road. The property already overlooks a neighbouring property and removal of the trees, plus the additional height will increase this loss of privacy, however, neither point was felt to be sufficiently serious to amount to an objection. Recommendation: Approval.

The monthly police report for December - was circulated prior to the meeting and PCSO S Parker attended. During the month there was one report concerning damage to a vehicle at Home Farm Court, one report of sheds being broken into at a property on the Usk Road and a report of a speeding vehicle on the Earlswood Road – driver located and advised about their manner of driving. There were twelve calls to Brookacre, but one resident was then moved. No report for January.

Items of local concern –

Update on traffic calming scheme - Mr P Keeble, Mon CC Highways Dept., attended the December meeting to respond to questions on the traffic calming installation previously forwarded to him by the Council and by the Traffic Calming Group. Mr Keeble handed the Clerk copies of the original plans of the scheme. He confirmed the following points:

1) that the VAS signage would be installed early in the new year, rather than the next financial year,

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2) that the Crick/Earlswood road would be the main highway, Mr Keeble advised that the white lining at junctions was not to be replaced at the moment, the requirement is to be monitored.

With regard to the 'cobbled' areas he stated that such cobbles had been used successfully in housing developments, villages in England, Chepstow and Caerwent. Although he later admitted that some of these schemes had been 'stone' cobbles rather than thermoplastic, as used in this case. He confirmed that thermoplastic cobbles were made of a specialist material that had been HAPAS approved and following repairs, contractors should be able to reinstate to a good standard. The 'cobbles' will be monitored by surveys. Mr Keeble advised that a change of surface informs the motorist of a change of speed and that reports of noise will be monitored, as will effectiveness in adverse weather conditions.

Regarding the installation of the bollards, Mr Keeble advised that the intention was to create a safe stepping off point for pedestrians using the footpath, although this was disputed by those present as they cause frustration and appear to legitimise vehicle parking.

Regarding the dropped pavements and altered entrance to the recreation hall car park, this was seen as a real hazard to road safety and it was requested that these points be included in safety monitoring.

Residents requested sight of the data that forms the baseline for the next assessment.

Mr Keeble agreed to forward information on the costs of the traffic calming scheme. He further confirmed that road safety for all users was a priority.

County Councillor G Down summed up and advised of three points that had yet to be resolved:

1. The 20mph speed restriction through Shirenewton – a speed and volume survey is planned for early spring 2016 and this may be possible following the survey;
2. A 40mph speed restriction on the Usk Road between the council houses and Spout Hill;
3. Speed restrictions in Mynyddbach, although it is hoped to revisit this in the future.

He further advised that he is in contact with the police regarding arranging a Community Speedwatch initiative run by volunteer residents and intends to arrange a Public Meeting to gauge local interest in mid-March.

Planning – Mr Mark Hand, Head of Planning, Mon CC attended the January council meeting to give a presentation and talk on the new Planning Act. He advised that a Key Objective is creating a positive, enabling planning system.

Queen's 90th Birthday 2016 – Council had been advised that national celebrations are being planned to take place on the 21st April and 12th June 2016. Watch this space

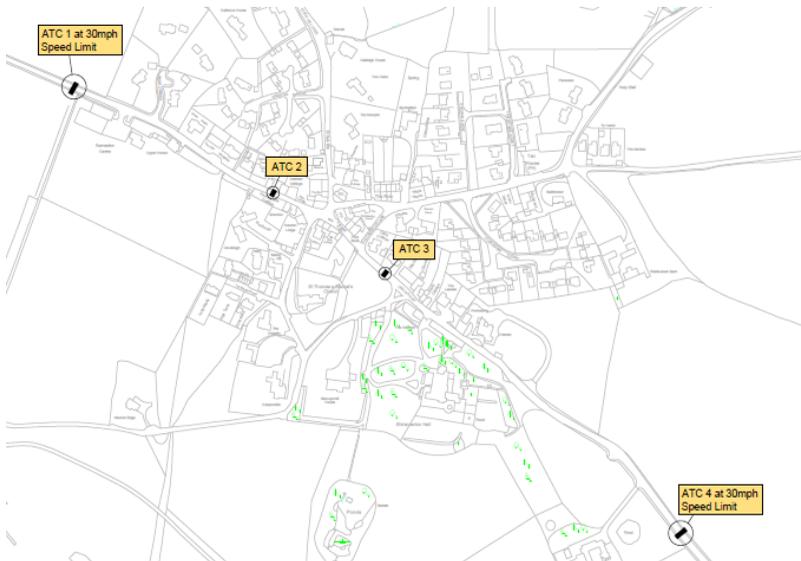
Find more information in the draft copy of the minutes on the Community Council notice boards. Previous minutes of meetings can be found on the Council's website www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk

Contact the Clerk to the Community Council -
Mrs Hilary Counsell
Tel: 01291 421307
E-mail: Shirenewtoncc@gmail.com

Stop Press: the following is a report on traffic speed surveys through Shirenewton village taken by Mon CC on 8.1.16.

ATC Surveys Shirenewton

Following the recent completion of the Shirenewton Traffic Scheme Mon CC have commissioned a number of automated traffic surveys at 4 key locations in the village to ascertain the effectiveness of the scheme. The traffic counters calculate the speed, volume and classification of vehicles using the road through 2 x pneumatic tubes placed across the carriageway over a 24 hour, 7 day period. The below plan indicates the 4 x survey locations, we undertook the first set of surveys in November 2011 with another set of surveys undertaken in December 2015 following the completion of the traffic scheme.

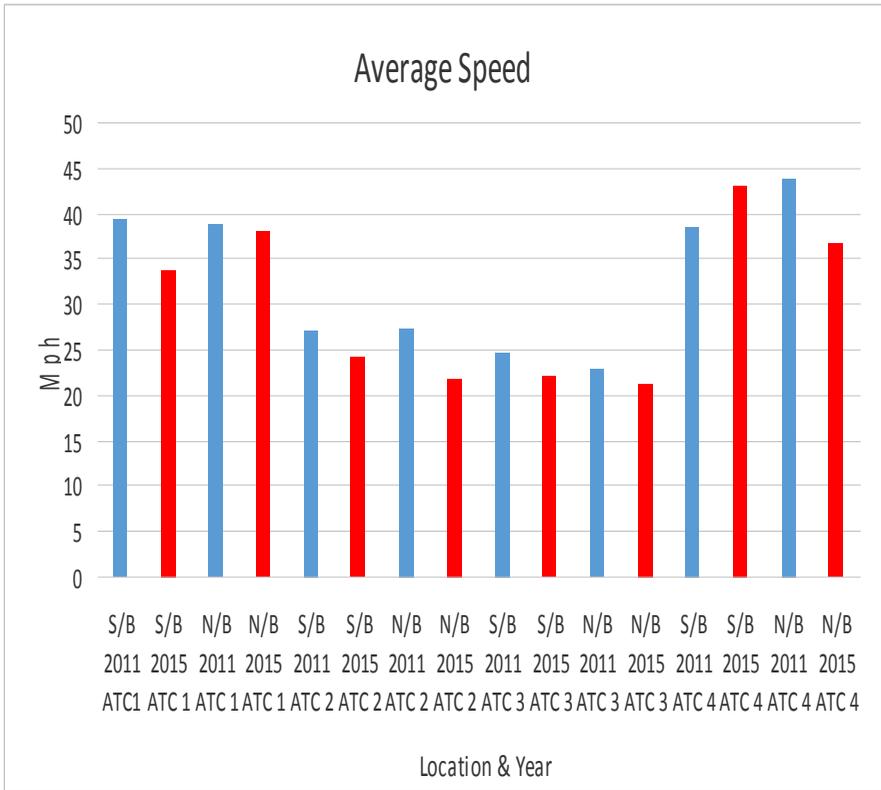


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The following table and graph shows the comparable results pre and post scheme implementation. You will note that a good overall reduction in speed has been achieved in both directions at all locations barring the exit to the village at ATC 4, where vehicles are leaving the built up environment into open countryside.

	ATC 1	ATC 2	ATC 3	ATC 4
S/Bound Av Speed (2011)	39.3	27	24.7	38.5
S/Bound Av Speed (2015)	33.7	24.3	22.2	43.1
Percentage Increase/Decrease	-14.3%	-10%	10.1%	+12%
N/Bound Av Speed (2011)	38.9	27.3	22.9	43.8
N/Bound Av Speed (2015)	38	21.7	21.3	36.6
Percentage Increase/Decrease	-2.3%	-20.5%	-7%	-16.4%
S/Bound 85% Speed (2011)	44.7	30.9	28.5	43.9
S/Bound 85% Speed (2015)	36.3	26.8	25.4	48.5
Percentage Increase/Decrease	-18.8%	-13.3%	10.8%	+10.5%
N/Bound 85% Speed (2011)	43.4	30.3	27.6	50.4
N/Bound 85% Speed (2015)	40.3	25.4	23.9	40
Percentage Increase/Decrease	-7.1%	-16.1%	13.4%	-20.6%
S/Bound Av Vol (2011)	474	539	979	960
S/Bound Av Vol (2015)	435	530	1042	1021
Percentage Increase/Decrease	-8.2%	-2.2%	6.7%	6.1%
N/Bound Av Vol (2011)	439	506	992	998
N/Bound Av Vol (2015)	474	501	1027	1013
Percentage Increase/Decrease	8.2%	-1.8%	3.3%	-1.5%



In conclusion, the above data indicates that the Shirenewton Traffic Scheme has had a positive effect in reducing the travelling speeds through the village, which in turn should make the village a safer environment for all highway users.

GK 08/01/15

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GIVE DOG FOULING THE RED CARD

Shirenewton Community Council has joined this scheme which helps to raise awareness of dog fouling problems in the community and other areas of the County. The majority of dog owners are responsible and carry bags to dispose of dog waste in the specialist bins provided, but there are some people that do not comply. Dog waste is the most offensive type of litter and is consistently raised as a matter for public concern. It can have health risks such as toxicariasis an infection caused by roundworm parasites which can be found in dog faeces.

The 'Give Dog Fouling the Red Card' Scheme has two levels of reporting offences:

The [yellow card](#) allows residents to report an offence without providing a witness statement. The information provided, with accompanying evidence, will be considered by the community council and if appropriate they will remind the dog owner of their responsibilities to pick up after their dog.

The [red card](#) is available if the resident is prepared to provide a witness statement. This information will be considered by Mon CC's Environmental Health Department, who in the first instance will contact the resident to discuss what was seen before deciding on appropriate action.

A witness statement can be used as the basis for a fixed penalty notice being issued to the dog owner if the officer considers there to be sufficient evidence.



Penalty

Where there is evidence, the offender will be given a fixed penalty notice which is a fine of £75 to be paid within 14 days (reducing to £50 if paid within 10 days). Failure to pay will result in Monmouthshire County Council prosecuting the offender in the Magistrates court.

What to do next ...

Please make sure you dispose of your dog waste responsibly and carry a dog waste bag when you walk your dog (a limited supply can be found in the telephone kiosk in Shirenewton). You can then put it in any public litter bin, one of the four dog waste bins in the community, or take it home and put it in your grey or black bag for the household refuse collection.

'Give Dog Fouling the Red Card' signs have been put up in the community warning residents that offenders could be reported and giving details of how to make a report. Mon CC will take action if council officers, police officers or residents report an incident. If you believe you have witnessed an offence of dog fouling please contact www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/dogfouling or fill in the Environmental Health Department's e-form. Information sent using these forms will only be used to deliver the service requested.

Hilary Counsell, Clerk to Shirenewton Community Council

STARGAZING

The constellation of Orion the Hunter lies directly to the South. Four bright stars represent his shoulders and legs whilst a further three form his belt. Above Orion and to the right is a very bright orange star called Aldebaran. It's the brightest star in the constellation Taurus, the Bull and marks its eye. In classical times, the Greeks saw the constellation as Zeus disguised as a bull. Taurus is a member of the Zodiac, the twelve constellations which the Moon and planets travel through in a year. Looking further upwards and to the right you will see a small cluster of stars. These are called the Pleiades. With the naked eye, people can usually see six or seven stars in Pleiades. However, some people with better eyesight can see more. The cluster contains more than 200 young stars born some 50 million years ago, which means they are only one hundredth of the age of the Sun, our local star. Aldebaran means "the follower" in Arabic, as it rises above the horizon after the Pleiades.



The bright planet Jupiter is in the south-eastern evening sky. The almost Full Moon is close to Jupiter on the 24th. On the 3rd the Moon and planets are putting on quite a show at about 7 in the morning. You will need a good view of the horizon, as well as clear skies, as they are all fairly low in the sky. The brilliant planet Venus is to the south-east. Saturn is just to the left of the crescent Moon. Mars lies to the south and Jupiter can be seen in the west.

Astronomy produces beautiful images. NASA selects a "picture of the day" which can be found at <http://apod.nasa.gov/apod/>



Terry Walters Photography

*Spring is sprung
The grass is riz
I wonder were the birdies iz
The bird is on the wing
But that's absurd
The wing is on the bird*

Shirenewton W.I January '16

We started the new year with a local guest speaker, talented artist, Jenny Joice. Jenny brought in a varied selection of her own artwork, which was displayed for all to appreciate.

Jenny described her background, how she became a student of art and the development of her chosen media; drawings of her time in South Africa were amongst her display, she also described her time living in Italy.

W.I members were asked to bring in an art related item, to be judged by Jenny, the standard of which was up there with the famous artists, it must have been a challenge to choose.

Jenny Joice can be commissioned to paint a picture of your pet, child, or parent. Contact Jenny Joice 641173.

We welcomed new members to the first meeting of the year, I hope they enjoyed the speaker and the good company enough to join the W.I. Ladies, you are all welcome, it is an opportunity to make new friends and to catch up with old friends, also, you are given a cup of tea **and** a biscuit! (no expense spared).

Our best wishes go to Barbara Watson, who hopefully is now on the road to recovery.



The next meeting will be February 11th., 7.15pm.

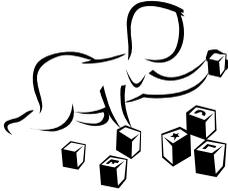
The topic will be the St David's Foundation

Contact:

Carole Jones (President) 641791

Jane Butterworth (Secretary) 641704

SHIRENEWTON TODDLER GROUP

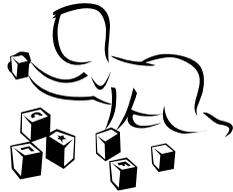


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SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Our talk for our November meeting had a change of title, it was entitled 'The History of Fairings' given by Keith Tayton. Fairings were ornaments that were bought at travelling fairs, their designs reflected historic and political history as well as some of a risqué design! There are many collectors who have large collections and some more unusual ornaments are of considerable value. A very interesting and unusual topic, which all of our members enjoyed.

We met at Llanfair Discoed church for our December meeting and had a talk by the rector, who informed us of the considerable age of the church and the many memorials and interesting historical facts regarding the building. After we enjoyed supper at the Woodland Tavern and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

As is our tradition we walked up to Grey Hill to see the sun rise in line with the standing stones on the Winter Solstice, but unfortunately not only could we not see the sunrise but had problems seeing each other, it was very misty and very muddy under foot. On our return to Llanfair Discoed breakfast at the Woodland Tavern soon cheered us up.

Dates for your Diary:

Monday, 8th February

Archive Meeting, Recreational Hall, 2.00pm – 5.00 pm

Tuesday, 23rd February

Annual Dinner, Huntsman Hotel, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

Everyone welcome at the above events

Further information on our web-site: www.shirenewtonlocalhistorysociety.co.uk



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GARDENING CORNER

A happy New Year to everyone. We hope you had a lovely Christmas and, if you have family, spent the precious time with them. With two new granddaughters arrived since last Christmas we were looking forward to an extended period of time with them. Like so many families, we are spread far and wide, and don't get to see our family as much as we would like. Therefore what time you do get together is extremely precious. Plenty of cuddles later it was too soon to say goodbye again.

Looking back at the December effort, I see very little has changed weather-wise. Apart from one or two 'seasonable' cold days, the weather has continued wet and relatively mild resulting in all the best laid plans being completely abandoned for another month. Although we can't do anything about the weather it is still extremely frustrating, as this time of year is when all the catching up of routine maintenance gets sorted. Once the intensity of spring and summer comes along there is little time for these jobs, as all efforts are aimed at the growing and enjoyment of flowers and vegetables. I had big plans aimed at catching up on jobs that have been waiting for me to retire, when I would hopefully have the time to take advantage of.

We have a wooden post and rail fence alongside the top of our drive and bordering our small field. The fence was erected over 25 years ago, from Western red cedar, grown in Wentwood and sawn up at the sawmill in Magor. The timber, although naturally resistant to rot, was also treated in the then timber treatment plant at Wentwood forest office. To last over 25 years is testament to the resilience of this species of tree. Some of the posts are now starting to rot, which is not surprising, although those on the drier soil at the top of the field are still as sound as the day they were put in the ground. There is a resurgence in the use of this material in modern buildings, and there aren't many weeks go by where one of the housing 'shows' on the television doesn't highlight the value of red cedar as a cladding material. When I was based in South Wales with work, one role I had was to inspect shiploads of timber being imported into the docks. Busiest by far was Newport, followed by Cardiff and to a much lesser extent Swansea and Barry. Obviously we were on the lookout for pests and diseases, trying to ensure that none made their way into this country. It was an interesting job, not easy, but rewarding when you did intercept a part of the cargo that didn't look acceptable. Cargoes from Canada were the biggest challenge mainly because of the sheer volume of material – usually 30,000 tonnes per ship. As soon as you entered the docks, even though it was at least a mile away, you could smell if there was any red cedar in the cargo, as the smell was unmistakable. Those of you who have a red cedar greenhouse or have beehives will know what I mean. Usually imported as cedar shingles for cladding or roofing, this part of the cargo was stored in large warehouses, where the scent was even more intoxicating. Anyway, the fence is a real feature as you come down our drive, so in order to retain it as such, I have started to put new posts in between the cedar posts in order to keep it going for a few more years. The gates into the field had been poorly installed (by me!) and had been a bone of contention for some time. So with the oldest son-in-laws

assistance, the gates were re-hung and now look much better. They do at least swing open easily now and actually look level-ish! I have also been doing some essential maintenance work on the trees that we have growing about the property. A small group of ash trees were thinned out to the best stems, removing all those that were leaning or interfering with the main phone cables. Other roadside trees that we planted some 20 years ago also received similar attention. Also between the rain I managed to trim rough patches of bramble and bracken. These were becoming a haven for rabbits, so hopefully with the cover gone the rabbits will be less inclined to hang around. I had noticed that one or two of our fruit trees had been stripped of their bark near their base. I had assumed that the damage had been done by an itinerant sheep that had been wandering about our field, but with the ewe removed, the damage continued. This resulted in me cutting some rabbit wire guards to protect those that had been damaged. The other morning I started work early and scared off what I thought at first was a rabbit, it was big though and as I watched it run off at a rate of knots, realised that it was a hare. This is the first I had seen around here and would explain the damage. Hares can be extremely damaging, especially in areas of newly planted trees, so all had to be protected.

I was late ordering seeds from the catalogues this year, but I managed to complete the task the week before Christmas, and most were received with the Christmas mail. If you haven't ordered anything yet there is still plenty of time to browse the catalogues, although some of the more popular varieties might have been sold. If you are not precious about variety then the discount supermarkets sell some very cheap seeds, which are a great buy, especially if you are trying gardening for the first time.

We are still harvesting a variety of vegetables, and enjoying some picked at the end of summer and stored for the winter months. As we use the potatoes I select the best small tubers for next year's crop, and store them in trays in the garage, where they can sprout ready for planting. We have managed to store a good crop of French shallots (any chef's favourite for flavour apparently). I've never tried it before, but have selected some of the smallest and planted these into pots in the greenhouse. Hopefully they will sprout on and grow into a good crop over the coming months. Purchased shallots for planting often undergo heat treatment, so whether the experiment will work or not we wait to see. Shallots are expensive to buy for growing on, so hopefully the experiment will save a few pennies. I learnt many years ago that you do far more damage to the soil by trying to get on it whilst it is too wet, so even though I have raised vegetable beds, I have completely ignored doing anything to these to date. Nature has a habit of putting things right, so here's hoping that the soil has a chance to dry out a bit – eventually!

My biggest concern remains the bees. Before Christmas I did have a quick look at them and all hives were still alive. I took the opportunity to place some fondant icing on each as with this mild weather the bees are still active, using valuable supplies up whilst there is nothing naturally available to them. Hopefully this will help to keep them going. Happy gardening until next month.
Steve and Felicity Hunt. –

Nerys's Natty Nosh

Have you ever considered what 100 calories of food looks like?



1 scoop of Haagen_Daz cookies and cream ice cream
1/3 bluberry muffin
4 brazil nuts
200ml glass Tropicana orange juice
1 banana
1 meduim boiled egg and 57g wholemeal bread
80 blackberries
1/3 chocolate milk shake
4 peaches
1½ custard creams
6½ marshmallows
½ pint bitter
20g cheddar cheese
2 rye crispbread 1 tablespoon low fat soft cheese
1 finger of Twix
125g fat free yogurt and 1 apple
125ml white wine
Slice of fruit loaf (35g) low fat spread
2 Jaffa cakes
1 slice wholemeal bread (75g) 1 teaspoon peanut butter
8 carrots, 1 tablespoon salsa
1½ rashers of streaky bacon
4½ walnuts
1 tablespoon reduced hummus, oat cake and slices of cucumber
27 strawberries
1 packet (24g) twiglets
1 tablespoon sunflower seeds
1 tablespoon sweet raisins
7 fruit pastilles
Dipping vegetables crudites, carrots and cucumber and 3 tablespoon reduced fat hummus
½ Kit Kat
8 dried apricots
3 chunks of Cadburys dairy chocolate



Many of us have no idea how many calories are in the snacks we eat day-in day-out. Research shows most people underestimate the number of calories in food, and what constitutes a portion. Not only is this bad for our waistlines, it damages our teeth and can affect our mood.

Crunchy Stuffed Pears serves 4

110 calories per portion.

Ingredients

2 dessert pears
Lemon juice
125 g (4 oz) cottage cheese
25g (1 oz) walnuts chopped
25g (1 oz) raisins
½ red dessert apple, grated
Worcestershire sauce
Seasoning
Lettuce and tomato to garnish



Method

- 1 Cut the pear in half, remove the core and sprinkle with lemon juice.
- 2 Place the remaining ingredients in a bowl, adding the Worcestershire sauce and seasoning to taste; mix well.
- 3 Pile the mixture into the pear halves, place each one on a lettuce leaf and garnish with tomato.

Enjoy!

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The National Wild Life Photographic exhibition will also be on display during this
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- *Feb. 3rd
- *Feb. 17th
- *March 2nd
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LOCAL CONTACTS

*If you know of any changes or omissions please contact the Editor Terry Walters
Telephone 01291 641338 or email terencewalters@hotmail.com*

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Lay Eucharistic Minister	Gill Lambert	01291 641175
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	Diane Marlow	01291 641407
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	Andrew Baker	01291 641925
PCC Secretaries	Bill Clark	01291 641783
PCC Treasurers	Kevin Bounds	01291 641818
PCC Members	Mark Broughton	01291 641797
	Charles Eickhoff	01291 641716
	Janet Horton	01291 641783
	Dr James Leney	01291 641271
	Jane Smith-Haddon	01291 641525
	Frances Gray	01291 622465
Gift Aid Secretary	Ruth Savagar	01291 641411
Organists	Karen Millar	01291 650521
	Ruth Savagar	01291 641411
Sunday Club	Kerry Baker	01291 641925
Tower Captain	Mike Penney	01291 650653
Church Hall Booking	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641818
Safeguarding Officer	Dr. Kerry Baker	01291 641925
Church Flowers	Maureen Moody	01291 641524
Parish Magazine Editor	Terry Walters	01291 641338
200 Club	Graham Lambert	01291 641175

Church of St Tewdrics's Mathern

Secretary and Church Warden Monnica Williams monnica.williams@virgin.net

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Clerk to Community Council	Hilary Counsell	01291 421307 shirenewtoncc@gmail.com
Shirenewton Ward:	Vacancy	
	Vacancy	
	Mario Lenza	01291 641333
	Richard Kopp	01291 641581
	Beverley Moore	01291 641532
Mynyddbach Ward	Lynne Prosser	01291 641666
	Ian Moore	01291 650766
Newchurch West	Ian Martin	01291 650014
Earlswood Ward	Paul Harris Chair	01291 650871
	Ken Morton	01291 650268
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Member of Parliament	David Davies	020 7219 8360 daviesd@parliament.uk

Police Neighbourhood Watch Contacts

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Shirenewton & Mynyddbach Beverley Moore 01291 641532

Earlswood Sue Leat 01291 641207

Other Local Organisations

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Brownies Bev. Leaf 01291 641680
Jaci Crocombe 01291 641681
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Shirenewton Toddler Group Jude Langdon 07981 368213
Paula Rimmer rimmerpaula@mac.com
Fairtrade/Traidcraft Marion McAdam 01291 641316
Womens Institute (WI) Carole Jones (President) 01292 641791
Jane Butterworth (Secretary) 01291 641704.

DIARY DATES

February	Event	Location
8th 2-5pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
11th 7:15pm	Shirenewton Women's Institute	Recreation Hall
20th 10-12am	Shirenewton Village Market	Recreation Hall
23rd 7:30pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Huntsman Hotel
March	Event	Location
19th 10-12am	Shirenewton Village Market	Recreation Hall
April	Event	Location
2nd	Harmony The World in Song	St Thomas à Becket Church Shirenewton
3rd	Sunday newspaper trail begins	Saysell Hall
16th 10-12am	Shirenewton Village Market	Recreation Hall

NEW FORMAT OF SERVICES AT ST THOMAS À BECKET CHURCH

Our programme of more informal services will continue into 2016 with Gilly Lambert taking services on 28th February, 20th March, 25th March (Good Friday walk up Grey Hill) and 22nd May; and Jane and Glynis taking services on 6th March (Mothering Sunday) and 15th May (Christian Aid).

(We are very sorry to learn as we go to press that The Reverend Nansi Davies has suffered another stroke. We wish her well for a speedy recovery. However, this does mean that the programme of services may change until she is well enough to return to take services – look out for the banner on the Church wall which will appear during the week before an informal service is taking place.)

Readers and Sides Persons

January - March 2016

St Thomas a Beckett Church, Shirenewton

Date	Sunday Service	Readers	Sides Persons
03 January 2016	Epiphany	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton
10 January 2016	Baptism of Christ	Bob Grattan Joanne Tomlins	Bob Grattan Joanne Tomlins
17 January 2016	Second Sunday of Epiphany	Mark Broughton Diane Marlow	Mark Broughton Diane Marlow
24 January 2016	Third Sunday of Epiphany	Pat White Francis Grey	Clare Lewis Graham Lambert
31 January 2016	Fourth Sunday of Epiphany Group Service in Shirenewton	Andrew Baker Sally Saysell	Clare Lewis Graham Lambert
07 February 2016	Sunday before Lent	Bob Grattan Cynthia Smith	Bob Grattan Cynthia Smith
14 February 2016	First Sunday of Lent	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton
21 February 2016	Second Sunday of Lent	Mark Broughton James Lenev	Mark Broughton Clare Lewis
28 February 2016	Third Sunday of Lent	Jane Smith-Haddon Margaret Lock	Jane Smith-Haddon Margaret Lock
06 March 2016	Mothering Sunday Family Service		
13 March 2016	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Bob Grattan Ruth Savagar	Bob Grattan Graham Lambert
20 March 2016	Palm Sunday	Bill Clarke Janet Horton	Bill Clarke Janet Horton
27 March 2016	Easter Day	Andrew Baker Sally Saysell	Clare Lewis Graham Lambert



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EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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Editorial policy is to print what you provide, space and technology permitting.

The views expressed are those of the contributor.

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