

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

March 2016



Price: £1

Services in Holy Week



Palm Sunday

All-age contemporary worship
with distribution of palms

10 a.m.

Shirenewton Church



Good Friday

Walk the way of the cross with Jesus
on Gray Hill.

Walk with bible readings.

Followed by hot cross buns!

10 a.m. from reservoir car park

Children and dogs welcome

Email to register interest to lem.shirenewton@gmail.com
(and receive updates in case of bad weather)



Good Friday
Meditation

Pause for reflection

4:30 p.m.

The Saysell Centre

Rejoice!

EASTER DAY

Easter Communion

10 a.m.

Shirenewton Church



SHIRENEWTON CHURCH

200 CLUB SUBS



Subscriptions for the next year of the 200 Club Draw are due in March.

Thanks to those of you who pay by standing order which makes our admin that much easier. For those members who pay in cash or by cheque please forward your annual membership of £10 to Graham Lambert at Oakley House, Shirenewton. Many thanks to those of you who have already sent in your subs. If you want to join then please contact Graham on 01291 641175 or 200clubshirenewton@gmail.com.

Half of the money raised goes to the prize winners with the other half going towards much needed funds for the upkeep of the church.

With thanks for your continuing support.

Winners of the February draw were:

1st prize £40 Clare John

2nd prize £30 Lynn McFarlane

3rd prize £20 Jemima Leaf

4th prize £10 Nansi Davies

INFORMAL SERVICES AT ST THOMAS À BECKET CHURCH

Our programme of more informal services will continue into 2016 with Gilly Lambert taking services on 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). If you are not sure when there will be an informal service, look out for the banner on the Church wall which will appear during the week before an informal service is taking place.

RECREATION ASSOCIATION AGM

This meeting will be held at **7:30pm on Monday March 21st** at the Recreation Hall.

This village amenity is available for a wide variety of activities and is enjoyed by many Groups and Organisations. In order to maintain this community asset the existing Committee would welcome new members to bring new ideas to the management of the Hall and Field. If you have any interest or involvement with activities that take place in the Hall, please come along to the AGM and see how it all works.

VILLAGE MARKET

As a (very) part time gardener, I often find that with fruit and veg, it is either feast or famine. If, in the growing season you find yourself in that position, why not bring your surplus produce to the Village Market. You can either have your own table or bags of items that can be sold on your behalf (for a small commission). For more information, ring Beverley on 641532 or turn up at The Village Market on **the 3rd Saturday** of every month.



SHIRENEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Now we are back at school, everyone is working hard to prepare for our Eisteddfod on 1st March, when all the children compete between houses in musical, literary, craft and cookery competitions. This culminates in the charring of the "Bard" - the winner of the poetry competition in the oldest class, Year 6. Parents and friends from the village are warmly invited to a coffee morning held by the PTA in the school hall on 10th March 9.15-10.30, when winners will perform their pieces.

(see Newsletter on Page 6,7,& 8)

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.

Please sign up now! Please email shirenewtonpapers@gmail.com or call Janet Horton on 641783

If you have already contacted us, we will be in touch prior to 3rd April to check which paper(s) you want and run through the arrangements

Organised by St Thomas a Beckett Church

THEATRE TRIP

The next theatre trip to the Theatre Royal Bath is planned for Saturday 9th April 2016 to see "Single Spies". This is an Alan Bennett double bill of "An Englishman Abroad" and "A Question of Attribution". They explore the public's fascination with Russian spies and royalty, chronicling the lives of two members of the notorious 'Cambridge Five' spy ring. Although covering serious subjects, they are very light-hearted and amusing plays.

"An Englishman Abroad" is based on the true story of a chance meeting of an actress, [Coral Browne](#), with [Guy Burgess](#), a member of the [Cambridge spy ring](#) who worked for the Soviet Union whilst employed by [MI6](#). "A Question of Attribution" is based on [Anthony Blunt](#)'s role in the Cambridge Spy Ring and as [Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures](#), art advisor to Queen Elizabeth II. It portrays his interrogation by [MI5](#) officers, his work researching and restoring art, and his relationship with the Queen. Cost including transport and theatre is £50 per person.

The cast includes Nicholas Farrell (The Jewel in the Crown, The Iron Lady, Legend) and Belinda Lang (2Point4 Children, Inspector Alleyn Mysteries, An Hour and a Half Late) and David Robb (Downtown Abbey, Wolf Hall). Outline timings are: pick up in the centre of Shirenewton at 6 p.m.; back in Shirenewton before midnight. To book, please phone or email Bill Clark on 01291641783 or williamjhclark@btinternet.com.

SHIRENEWTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

A huge thank you to the PTA for purchasing the two 'Buddy Benches' - one for each department. These are somewhere for the children to sit if they're feeling lonely, would like someone new to play with or simply want to chat to their friends. The children keep an eye on the bench and offer friendship to those sitting on it.



NATIONAL CATEGORISATION

The Welsh Government published results of the national categorisation of schools yesterday. The Categorisation System compares school performance with similar schools; giving bespoke support to schools dependant on their capacity to improve.

The system is based on a three-step process:

STANDARDS GROUP - a range of information is used to make a judgement about the school's standards - **we have been awarded "1"**.

IMPROVEMENT CAPACITY - an evaluation of the school's capacity to improve further, taking account of the evidence about the standards and quality of leadership, teaching and learning - **we have been awarded "A"**.

SUPPORT CATEGORY - bringing the judgement on the standards group and improvement capacity together to decide on the level of support needed, colour coded either red, amber, yellow or green. We are delighted that, once again, **Shirenewton Primary has been categorised as "GREEN"**. This is defined as *"A highly effective school which is well run, has strong leadership and is clear about its priorities for improvement. These schools have a track record in raising the standards that pupils achieve and have the capacity to support other schools to do better."*

All stakeholders should be very proud of these results! The results of individual schools can be viewed on <http://mylocalschool.wales.gov.uk>

GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS

The governors have worked hard to complete their annual report to parents for the last academic year 2014/15. You can view a copy on the school website in the governors section - please let Beryl know if you would like a hard copy sent home.

NEWS FROM OUR PUPIL COMMITTEES

THE SCHOOL COUNCIL are currently planning the sponsored triathlon which will take place in all three Alliance schools on the afternoon of March 1st. Y4 & Y5 School Councillors are going to a joint meeting in Thornwell to make arrangements. Further details to follow nearer the time. Monies raised will be used to purchase topic books. They are also planning a lunchtime art club and researching the installation of a school pond.

ECO COMMITTEE are planning events for Fairtrade fortnight. Carys & Dan recently carried out an Environmental Review audit which will be analysed to see how they can move forwards. They have also been thinking about linking with playgroup and how they can further develop the school environment and habitats.

Being Eco is so cool because we are an Eco school.

We pick up litter everyday.

We tidy all our plants, always.

We turn the lights off every play.

We support Fairtrade in every way.

We are Eco and we rule!

HEALTHY SCHOOLS are planning a "Make your own fruit kebab & dress up in the colour of your favourite fruit/vegetable". They plan to purchase the fruits with money raised from the sale of their recipe books. They will also be carrying out another healthy snack survey across KS2 with the winning class having a non uniform day. They hope to achieve the Healthy Schools national quality award during the summer term.

SPORTS COUNCIL successfully ran cross-country and table tennis clubs for KS2 in the autumn term. They are currently working on three projects: evaluating the sports survey, planning our Sports Relief fundraiser (Friday 18th March) and introducing daily games packs for each class. When the weather improves, they hope to run some sports taster sessions for Foundation Phase.

DIGITAL LEADERS have recently visited the Apple Store and have decided to run a lunchtime ICT club for KS2 after half term. They are also organising a Safer Internet Day on 9th February and will have e-safety training to enable them to monitor and advise their classes on the importance and ways of staying safe online.

CRIW CYMRAEG is being led by Miss Whyte in Mrs Burgham's absence. This week the children counted their phrase of the fortnight dosbarth tallies and discovered that Dosbarth 3 used the phrase the most at a record 131 times! Da iawn! This fortnights phrase is 'Ble wyt ti'n byw?' They are encouraging children to extend their answer with 'gyda' ... which dosbarth will win the dragon mascot next time? They are currently planning a Welsh club and planning ideas for St David's Day. The children are thinking about creating a special school menu as well as a Welsh themed bake sale.

WANTED! A POND EXPERT

As you can see above the School Council are very keen to develop a school pond but need some help! If you are able to support them in their venture, please email me (JillianMitchell@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

HEADTEACHER AWARDS

Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
James, Milo & Elisabeth	Cally, Rose & Barnaby	Juniper, Dylan & Reuben	Cai, Zachery & Holly	Walt, Conor & Callum	Will, Daniel & Anna	Amy, Isaac & Dan

COMMUNITY CORNER

Winter & Spring Events at Maqor Marsh

13th February - Wonderful Winter Wood Family Fun Day. 1-4pm Children - £2 members and £2.50 non-members. Adults free. £5.00 to make a bird box. Trails, crafts and a campfire. Just turn up.

Needlefelting Nature - 27th February 10-3. £25 members; £35 non-members. Booking essential - 01600 740600

Marshy Monday 4th April 1-3pm. Drop in session - pond dipping and wildlife trails. Adults free, Children £2 (members) £3 non-members. Just turn up.

Wildlife Beginners Photography Course - 9th April 10-2pm. With Chris Hatch. £20 members, £30 non members. To book call 01600 740600

Shirenewton Primary School **SPRING CALENDAR**

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

Thu 4th Feb - FP Enrichment pm
Thu 4th Feb - Y3-6 Football Festival pm
Thu 4th Feb - PTA Discos
Fri 5th Feb - Techniquest 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 - Safer Internet Day
Tue 9th Feb First Aid training pm with Gwent Police
Thu 11th Feb - Cross Country Competition at Abergavenny Leisure Centre
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

PTA NEWS

SCHOOL DISCO: Thursday 4th February 2016.

The PTA have booked DJ Judy again after the success of the last disco. Foundation Phase disco will be 3:30 – 4:30, and the Junior one will be 4:45 – 5:45. Send your (FP) kids to school with fancy dress or alternative clothes if you would like them to change for the disco (school will help them change). Cost is £2.50/child or £5/family.

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

PTA MEETING

Thurs 4th Feb 2016. (FP 3.30-4.30pm & KS2 4.45 – 5.45pm.)

Mon 8th Feb 2016, 6.30pm, Shirenewton Primary School (staff room.)

COMMS ROUTES:

shirenewtonpta@gmail.com

facebook/shirenewtonpta

twitter/shirenewtonpta

Or catch us in the school yard.



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 nibbles served during the interval will reflect the international flavour of the occasion. Tickets £8 a head (£5 concessions) including a glass of wine and nibbles available from Bill Clark 01291641783 or williamjhclark@btinternet.com.

To find out more about *Harmony* visit the website <https://sites.google.com.site/harmonychoirnewbury/gallery>





MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL
*CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd & Making Music,
and is a Registered Charity (no. 112798)*

A CONCERT FOR PASSIONTIDE
Chepstow Choral Society

SATURDAY MARCH 19th 2016, 7.30pm

ST. MARY'S PRIORY CHURCH, CHEPSTOW

Gabriel Faure -- Requiem
Angela Ham (soprano) Roger Martin (baritone)

and

Anton Dvorak -- Mass in D

Organ -- Peter Cook
Musical Director -- Graham Bull

***Tickets (£10, students, u/18s free) from choir members (tel.
623310, 620414, 650472) & Chepstow Bookshop.***

***Please come along and support your local choral society as it
performs two beautiful works which are highly appropriate for
the season. Further information about our programmes and
membership may be obtained from Marjorie (623310) or from
our new website – www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk***

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

March already – time flies when you are having fun. I'm writing this from my hotel room in Sydney where the weather is beautiful and the sun is shining and, for you dear reader, I'm in doors slaving over a laptop rushing to meet Terry's deadline which has passed here but, thankfully, in the UK is 9 hours into the future!

Well what to talk about this month? Rather than regaling you with the boring stats on the church website, I thought I'd provide links to a couple of interesting reading opportunities!

I'm in the middle of reading: 'I think you'll find it's a bit more complicated than that' by Ben Goldacre. The book is a collection of his articles in the Guardian called 'Bad Science' in which he picks apart the classic newspaper headlines such as 'Secret air pollutants in our homes 'claim thousands of lives'' (from today's Telegraph) and 'Men who talk on their mobile phones for an hour a day 'are twice as likely to have low sperm quality'' (from today's Daily Mail online). Unfortunately he stopped the articles in 2011 because I'd love to see what he made of the two examples, I've just quoted.

Anyway, from those of you with an interest in the facts behind the headlines (generally there are none) I can commend the book – you'll never look at headlines like those above again without thinking 'what rubbish'. To get a flavour of the man and his approach I urge you to watch his TED lecture here: <http://tinyurl.com/hg4avy6> Get the book from Amazon via the church website, please.

On a similar note the 'techie press' I read had a field day with the Government's new alcohol guidelines which were recently published. 'The heads of Britain's statistics society have written to the Health Secretary to point out that the government's alcohol guidelines don't accurately reflect the numbers.' gives you an idea of the fun they had. Now, as most people know I like a drink as much (if not more) than the next person, but I'm not interested in this from a political perspective but merely from a maths and science perspective. If you want a vaguely amusing overview of the problem read this: <http://tinyurl.com/jn5tn2g> and for more detail I strongly recommend the linked blog post from Medical statistician Adam Jacobs which is here: <http://tinyurl.com/j5t567e> - it's not 'heavy' read but, if you've got a vaguely technical mind, it's a very interesting read and certainly illustrates how government guidelines such as the alcohol guidelines are hijacked by those with a specific agenda.

And that, people, is the beauty of the world wide web. The information is out there waiting for you to read it. As I always say 'Google knows everything'. On that subject we will talk about private data next month!

Safe browsing G'day. David Cornwell Webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the February meeting

There are still two vacant positions for the 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).

Talk by Mr R Hoggins, Head of Operations, Mon CC

Mr Hoggins gave a talk on the proposed devolution of services from Mon CC, such as highways, waste, transport, street scene and verge maintenance, etc. He explained that by working more closely with Town and Community Councils throughout the county, Mon CC aims to improve its budget by £400,000. He further explained the possible cuts and reductions in Hubs, museums and libraries.

Mr Hoggins advised that it is more difficult to assess the implications to rural councils as costs relate in the main to highways, but that the Highways maintenance budget had been reduced by 33% over the last 5 years. He confirmed that Mon CC is the highways authority and has responsibility for road safety, but verge cutting on A and B routes, as well as unclassified roads will take place once a year, between June - mid-August. The current cost is £20 per running kilometre of verge.

Mon CC's vision is that Town and Community Councils will collectively work together to support some services in towns, eg., leisure centres, libraries, etc. and that, if contributing, Councils will then get a greater say in prioritising needs for their areas.

During the Question and Answer Session, Mr Hoggins confirmed that no approaches had been made as yet to Councils regarding cluster working. Councillors reminded Mr Hoggins that they have a responsibility to residents to keep the precept accountable and need to be provided with the specific costs of services in this community.

Planning applications considered

1. DC/2015/01594 Advertisement consent.
12 freestanding signs. Multiple sites. A48 – Chepstow.

Council recommended refusal for the following reasons:

- There is a safety issue as business signage would be a visual distraction for motorists - Highways Dept. officers have always argued this point;
- There is already a proliferation of Highways signage, particularly along the A48, and further business signage would spoil the character and quality of the countryside;

- Tourism is the biggest industry in Monmouthshire and to allow signage along already unkempt and neglected verges would be detrimental to the landscape;
- Council also noted three additional applications on the website - 01591, 01592 and 01593 and felt that this is likely to be the thin end of the wedge with regard to such signage.

2. DC/2016/00051 Gaerllwyd Farmhouse, Newchurch
Within the garden curtilage erect a wooden garage and barn together with a hard standing to the front and south of the garage/barn. This replaces the approved current planning application (DC/2014/00843) in place on the site.

Council recommended approval, with a Condition that the garage/barn only be used in conjunction with the existing property and not for residential purposes in the future.

3. DC/2015/01386 23 Clearview Court, Shirenewton
Amended plans for proposed new boundary retaining wall and associated engineering and landscaping works.

Although Council acknowledged that the change from a stone wall to brick was an improvement, the decision was to refuse the application. Council felt that to remain in keeping with other boundary walls on the development, the wall and fencing should not exceed two metres at its highest point.

The monthly police report – was circulated prior to the meeting but no officers were able to attend. During January there were no incidences of crime. There were three reports of off-road motorbikes in Cadira Beeches and Wentwood Forest – police to inform Natural Resources Wales. There had been four calls from Brookacre.

Following notification from the police and Neighbourhood Watch of changes to the OWL initiative, the Clerk had contacted PcsO Thorpe for an explanation as Council was concerned about potential data protection issues. No response received as yet.

Items of local concern –

Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations 21 April 2016 –These celebrations now seem to be focusing on Thursday 21st April with lighting of beacons around the country and community events. If any organisations within the community are interested in taking part in helping to organise an event, please contact the Clerk (details below).

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

TRADING STANDARDS

TACKLING THE SCAM CENTRAL OF WALES

BACKGROUND

Monmouthshire Trading Standards Service has signed up to work alongside the National Trading Standards Scams Team (NTSST). The NTSST is co-ordinated nationally by East Sussex Council Trading Standards. The NTSST had received a 'suckers' list from 13 sources, with one of them being the Metropolitan Police Service. The lists identified tens of thousands of potential victims of prize draw scams. Many names on the list had unknowingly provided consented data when completing such things as surveys, online forms and catalogue orders or had already responded to 'junk mail' or prize draws. As part of the project, the NTSST identified in excess of 170 Monmouthshire residents on the list and at risk of having been and or still being scammed. Monmouthshire Trading Standards have chosen to work alongside the NTSST on this project as we believe it not only fits with the Authorities core priority of support for vulnerable people but we also believe, given the demographic in Monmouthshire that it's residents are at particular risk. Monmouthshire has been identified by Age Cymru as being at particular risk to scams due to its older population and associated high frequency of dementia along with rural isolation. Figures produced in the 2011 census indicate that the already aged percentage of population in Monmouthshire is set to rise in the future.



VISITS

During the period of June 1st 2015 and December 31st 2015 92 visits were made to selected residents by Trading Standards. The visits aim was to intervene, educate and advise the resident and investigate issues where appropriate. Prevention through awareness is a vital strand in combating scammers. The residents spoken to had at some point responded to a mass marketing letter or had ordered various goods from a mail order catalogue. This contact had resulted in them being included on the mailing list acquired by the Metropolitan Police Service. Monmouthshire Trading Standards also received a number of priority referrals, as a result of the NTSST intercepting returned mail at a mail forwarding business. The majority of the mailings had cash or cheques in them. The mailings were returned to us and we were tasked with returning the cash and cheques to the senders and providing them with support and assistance. As an example one of the residents had sent 4 cheques in the space of three days totalling over £120. Others had also included personal information pertaining to their identity and bank details.

VISITS (CONT...)

Several of the residents that we have visited from the priority referrals were found to still be victims of a scam. Commonly we would class these as chronic scam victims. It was not uncommon to find that they were receiving ten to thirty scam mailings a day from various sources. One of the victims had also had several unauthorised amounts of money charged to their credit card totalling in excess of £300 for health supplements that they did not order. Following the intervention of Trading Standards Officers these amounts were refunded by the Credit Card Company. Trading Standards have also made links with Monmouthshire County Council POVA (Protection of Vulnerable Adults) team. Where we have a scam victim with particular welfare concerns we have referred them to our POVA team. We have given the POVA team some training and guidance in how to spot a scam victim during their welfare visits. As a result of this partnership we have had referrals of potential scam victims directly from the POVA team.



An example of a small selection of scam mail collected during our visits

FINANCIAL DETRIMENT

Based on the averaged figures quoted by the NTSST the estimated level of detriment per person who falls victim to a scam is £1356.98. The initial list of scam victims given to Monmouthshire Trading Standards contained the names of 170 residents. This figure will increase as more data is passed to us from the NTSST. Based on those figures the potential total detriment to Monmouthshire residents is in excess of £230,000. Of the 7 priority victims we visited the average estimated loss was £2,150. This is likely to be a lot higher as victims were not sure precisely how long they had been sending money off and as is common with scam victims they were embarrassed to admit how much it was likely to be. It is estimated that only 5% of people report scams to the relevant bodies. Therefore, the potential detriment to Monmouthshire residents is likely to be much more.

STRATEGIC THREAT

The general economic climate is seeing an increase in regulatory crimes and consumer "scams". At the same time it is forcing many consumers to look for cheaper options (which are generally of increased risk). The population in Monmouthshire is ageing with figures suggesting that the population of Monmouthshire will age faster than any other area in Gwent over the next 20 years.

The demand for Trading Standards services and protection on such scams is foreseen to increase. Research shows that an average of 6.5% of the adult population have been victims of mass marketing crime. The impact on victims cannot be understated. The National Crime Agency has recognised that victims of financial crime suffer as much as the victims of violent crime and the impact on the country of these organised criminal gangs grooming and trafficking older, vulnerable people, who believe they are safe in their own home. These people are often left needing extra support from the local authority, which has no choice but to cover the costs.

DO YOU LIVE IN SCAM CENTRAL?

Which? analysis reveals Britain's fraud hotspots

Our analysis of new data from Action Fraud reveals the South Wales county of Monmouthshire to be a hotspot. It has the highest reports per 10,000 residents in three types of fraud: computer software service fraud; cheque, plastic card and online banking fraud, and advance fee frauds.

TYPES OF FRAUD

- *Computer software service fraud* typically involves a bogus phone call claiming to be from the technical support department at Apple or Microsoft. The fraudster tricks the victim into installing malicious software on their computer or handing over credit card details in order to fix a problem.
- *Cheque, plastic card and online banking fraud* includes transactions carried out using stolen card numbers.
- *Advance fee frauds* involve scams where victims are persuaded to pay an upfront fee for a service that does not exist. This includes callers offering to make a Payment Protection Insurance (PPI) claim on the victim's behalf in return for a fee - but the the service never materialises.

DO YOU LIVE IN SCAM CENTRAL? (CONT...)

BRITAIN'S FRAUD HOTSPOTS

	Fraud type	Reports per 10k residents	National average reports per 10k residents
Monmouthshire	Multiple fraud types	10.2 *	2.3 *
Essex	Cheque, plastic card & online banking fraud	5.0	2.5
Gloucestershire	Computer software service fraud	3.8	2.5
Durham	Advance fee fraud	3.3	1.7

* Average of three categories

The figures come from Which? analysis of crime and information reports gathered by Action Fraud, the national centre for fraud reporting, in the five months to the end of June 2014.

GOING FORWARD

Monmouthshire Trading Standards will be continuing to work with the NTSST on the national projects they introduce. We will continue to carry out the visits with Monmouthshire scam victims following the referrals they send from the intelligence they acquire. The NTSST are currently running a pilot scheme in several authorities, educating staff in Royal Mail depots on identifying scam mailings and potential victims. Monmouthshire Trading Standards have signed up to this scheme and we hope to be working with local Royal Mail depots in the very near future.

We will continue to work with our POVA team here in Monmouthshire in order to raise a wider awareness of scams and how to identify the victims of scams. We will also continue to deliver talks on all matters relating to scams to various community groups. We will continue to use the technology available to us to be able to publicise and educate the public on the types of scams that are out there. Empowering people to look for the tell tale signs of a victim and for them to know where to report the issue to is a priority. It is vital for service providers or external partners that are entering potential victim's properties to know what they are looking for, taking in to consideration the small percentage of scams that are reported by the victims.

If you have any concerns regarding scams or for further advice contact the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on: 08454 04 05 06 (Welsh-speaking on 08454 04 05 05)

Help at home

Lougher Home Care Ltd

Companionship, Personal Care

Meal Preparation , Shopping

Accompanied Trips , Over Night Stays

We can help with the things you find difficult.

We are a local company with mature local carers

Contact Sadie or Hywel Lougher

Tel 01633 88 11 77

Email sadie@lougherhomecare.co.uk

Web site www.daycarewales.com

Members- Care Forum Wales #

UKHCA (United Kingdom Home Care Association) #

Regulated by and registered with #

CSSIW (Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales) #

Approved by and working with Monmouthshire County Council

CARERS WANTED

Contact Sadie or Hywel Lougher#

Searching for the right mortgage?

As an independent mortgage broker with whole of market access, we can source and select exclusive mortgage products that best suit your needs and your circumstances.

- ✓ Purchase mortgages
- ✓ Re-mortgages
- ✓ First time buyer mortgages
- ✓ Buy to let & Let to buy
- ✓ Holiday & Second homes

YOUR HOME MAY BE REPOSSESSED IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON YOUR MORTGAGE

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FAIRTRADE NEWS



Fairtrade Fortnight this year is Feb 29th - March 13th. Chepstow Fairtrade Forum will be hosting a coffee tasting with a coffee grower from Uganda. We will be inviting representatives of Chepstow Council and many other local groups, as ever, hoping to raise the profile of fair trade and encouraging people to try a broader range of fairly traded products. It is not widely appreciated that Wales was the first accredited Fairtrade Country and of course Chepstow is a Fairtrade town! The process for achieving this accredited status is long and demanding and evidence has to be continually reviewed and renewed, showing that a significant number of organisations and businesses have committed to using (or selling) fairtrade and that the use of fairtrade is being advertised and promoted locally - lots of tedious evidence gathering!

We continue to sell fairly traded products at various local events, including of course Shirenewton Village Market (3rd SATURDAY EVERY MONTH 10-12AM). As ever I am generally flummoxed by apparently genuinely nice people being so lacklustre about backing the fairtrade idea. It's not a perfect solution to the world's problems but a simple and easy step in the right direction. In my house fairtrade supplies ALL my sugar, tea, coffee, cocoa, bananas, rubber gloves, gardening gloves, greetings cards, quinoa, vanilla essence, olive oil, coconut cooking butter, peanut butter. MOST of my dried fruit, nuts, pasta, rice, chocolate, curry sauce, lentils. SOME of my cleaning products, cereals, snacks, biscuits, honey, general gifts and of course socks!

One of the latest additions to the range is a Fairtrade coffin!! Produced in Bangladesh from bamboo and willow or seagrass from www.oasiscoffins.com In due course I suppose I'll be getting one of those! (And probably still haranguing the populace from within it!)

Check out the Traidcraft or Fairtrade websites for info.
Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com.

STARGAZING IN MARCH 2016

In the evening sky, the very bright planet Jupiter is in the south-east below the constellation of Leo. On the 21st its close companion is the almost Full Moon.



Three planets are visible before dawn, although they are fairly close to the horizon. Saturn is to the left of Mars to the south, whilst Jupiter is in the west. On the 1st, the Moon (at Third Quarter) is between Saturn and Mars.

Much the brightest star in the sky, Sirius can be seen to the South, below and to the left of the constellation Orion. The name “Sirius” is derived from the Greek word meaning scorching. For the ancient Egyptians the appearance of Sirius coincided with the annual flooding of the Nile Valley, vital to growing their crops. This event was of such importance to them that it marked the beginning of their year.

The pair of stars high above Sirius and Orion is part of the constellation Gemini, the Twins, and they are called Castor and Pollux. In mythology Castor and Pollux were the twin sons of the Queen of Sparta. Castor was mortal, but Pollux was not – his father was none other than Jupiter, who had paid a clandestine visit to the Queen. When Castor was killed in battle, Pollux pleaded to be allowed to share his immortality with his brother; this was granted, and both boys were placed in the heavens. Gemini is crossed by the Milky Way – the dense belt of stars that make up our own galaxy.

The Vernal Equinox occurs on 20th March, when day and night are equal, with exactly 12 hours between sunrise and sunset. This is a useful day for getting your bearings right as the sun rises due east and sets due west wherever you may be.

SHIRENEWTON W.I JANUARY '16

We were delighted to welcome Emma Saysell MBE. CEO/Director of Nursing St David's Hospice Care.



Emma gave a very informative talk, explaining that St David's provides an individual 'free' care for all patients and their families. At present there are four hospices around Wales. Permission has recently been granted to extend the day



care centre in Newport, hopefully the work will be completed soon. Funding for this invaluable service and new projects has been provided mainly by the public, 25% from the NHS and all due to the generous spirit of volunteers and staff alike. St David's have their own charity shops and lottery; donations and fundraisers

are a good money provider too. In fact, many years ago some intrepid W.I members, dressed as Wild Indians, participated in the Dragon Boat Race in aid of St David's foundation raising monies for the charity.

Start your next challenge by joining the W.I..



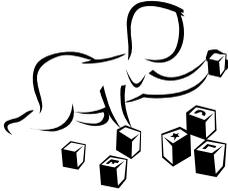
The next meeting will be March 10th. We will be celebrating the 64th birthday of Shirenewton W.I.

Contact:

Carole Jones (President) 641791

Jane Butterworth (Secretary) 641704

SHIRENEWTON TODDLER GROUP

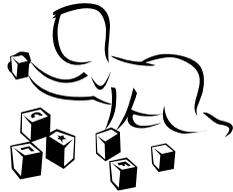


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SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

January saw us meeting at the Recreational Hall, our intention was to set up two telescopes and view the night sky. Unfortunately, the evening was wet and very cloudy and any thought of using the telescopes were out. Luckily our speaker for the evening Dr David Thomas had prepared a talk to incorporate the night sky as it would look on that evening if it were not for the cloudy conditions, projected on to the screen. The soft ware allowed us to put in our coordinates and the date and time and showed us the night sky on that evening as viewed from the Recreational Field. A very clever piece of technology!

Dates for your Diary:

Monday,	8 th March	Archive Meeting, Recreational Hall, 2.00pm – 5.00 pm
Tuesday,	29 th March	'The Morgans of Tredegar House' at the Huntsman Hotel, 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

Apart from the odd day here and there the weather is not exactly being very kind to us gardeners at the moment. More than one day dry would be good, but there seems to be little chance of this happening at least for the foreseeable future. I did look at the bees one day last week. Not to open them up as its far too cold for that, more a quick lift of the roof of the hive to check whether any of the fondant I had given them previously was being touched or not. None had which might be a good or a bad thing as it can mean either they have enough food in the hive or they are already dead. The following day the sun came out for a bit and it felt quite spring-like so I thought I'd have a look to see if any bees were flying. I was relieved to see bees coming in and out of each hive, so that's a positive. The next few weeks will be critical and it would be nice to have a few days of sun, especially as more daffodils and other spring flowering bulbs are now coming into flower, so a source of early nectar for the bees.

I was going to start work in the big tunnel the other day, but it was so damp and cold I decided to look for something else to do. I did notice that the recent storm had broken one of the side supports, but this will have to stay broken for the time being. I've mentioned previously that the plastic cover was at the end of its life so I was surprised that it had actually survived. I will have to bite the bullet though and cut it all off at the end of this year as several elements of the frame now need attention or actual replacement and you can only do this when the cover is off. I have started getting supplies in ready for the strawberries, which didn't too very well last year. This includes a supply of soaker house, so the plants can be watered from below rather than over the top (which causes the fruit to rot) and a couple of bales of straw to keep the fruits off the ground and away from slugs and other little nasties. The other raised beds in the tunnel badly need attention, but these will have to wait for now. Last years crop needs removing and I think I mentioned previously that I want to change some of the soil. I can't do this until conditions are much drier, so no point in rushing on for now.

In the small greenhouse I have decided to turn on the hot bench ready for seed sowing. With the weather being so poor I have tried to resist starting too early, but I decided that time would run away with me if I didn't get on with things before long. Things weren't looking too good on first inspection, as the back of the bench was a lot lower than the front. On closer inspection two of the legs had started to rot, so needed attention. I managed to jack the bench up using a small hydraulic car jack and then inserted some new timber under the legs until the bench was (kind of) level again. It looked ok anyway! So the bench is now on and set at 70 degrees and was soon full up with sweet peas, broad beans and salad stuff such as tomatoes and peppers, which need a long growing season. I'll shortly sow the cut and come again lettuce and early calabrese, along with leeks and a few summer greens, but will need the broad beans and sweet peas to germinate first in order to make the room. If you don't access to a hot bench then the kitchen windowsill is a good alternative, but you will need to manage the light levels well and have somewhere else to stand the developing plants, otherwise

they soon get too leggy and will fall over. Whilst sorting this greenhouse out I also discovered that I had last year's shallots still waiting to be pickled. THE rugby game (England verses Italy) was on that afternoon so I had an excuse to sit down and peel the onions. I could think of better things to be doing whilst watching a rugby match, but needs must! An hour and a half later the onions were ready for bottling. A few had rotted, but generally they had kept remarkably well. I also cleaned up the remaining French shallots and brought these across to the kitchen. The remaining garlic and large onions received the same treatment.

I did try and weed one of the small raised flower beds the other day, but the soil was far too wet and cold, so called it a day. I did notice that a couple of old shrubs in one of the main borders had been flattened by the storm, so these are going to have to be cleared up. One was a very nice white lilac bush, so I'll see if there is any suitable cutting material and try to propagate this for a new generation. This particular variety has followed us around all our married life (not far short of 40 years) and originally grew in Felicity's dad's garden in Hampshire, so has strong sentimental connections. We have three other plants with a similar provenance, arum lilies, lily of the valley and Solomon's seal. Although it was a close thing one year with the arum lilies, the others are far more resilient, almost to the point of being invasive if you don't keep an eye on them!

So with little to do in the garden I have been doing some tidying up jobs that have needed doing for a long time. The trees up our drive have had a good thinning out and pruning. Anything salvageable for firewood has gone in the log shed, and anything suitable for pea sticks will shortly be bundled up for use in a few weeks time. The remainder ended up on the bonfire. I have also managed to put new posts in to support our post and rail fence and erected some new bits where there were gaps, so I'm pleased to say that this is now complete. I have also been knocking some new fence posts in to support the boundary fences where stakes have long since rotted off. I have also been busy cutting the lower limbs of some of our boundary trees and generally thinning them out. Every branch fell where it was cut, so needed clearing up. Anything remotely firewoody looking was retained and the rest ended up servicing a very nice bonfire. There is something satisfying about a good bonfire on a cold winter's day! All this was sorted on one of those rare dry days and I'm feeling quite pleased with myself. There was once an old railway carriage in our top field, shelter for the once resident cattle. This fell apart many years ago and was further flattened by an over-zealous digger driver. It had been a haven for rabbits ever since and had been on my 'to do' list for many years. What to do with it was the main problem, but now armed with a portable generator and a large grinding machine I set about the heap with some enthusiasm. 2 hours later, the metal was cut up into manageable chunks and stacked together, any rabbit hiding places at last had been removed and all I need now is to get everything loaded up on a trailer and sent down to the scrap yard. Hopefully it won't take as long to get this down to them, as it has taken to get cut up! Happy gardening until next month. Steve and Felicity Hunt.

Nerys's Natty Nosh



This is the first recipe I put into the Parish magazine six years ago. (My how time flies when you're having fun). Some people have asked if they can have the recipe again, so I'm sharing this delicious dish with you.

I've served the Nut Roast with Mozzarella and Tomato salad, fresh figs, red peppers and avocado.

You could serve it with couscous, rice salad, potato salad, new potatoes, jacket potatoes or hot vegetables. The list is endless.

Nut Roast Serves 8

Ingredients

250g (10 oz.) mixed chopped nuts	25g (1oz) unsalted butter
2 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce	1 teaspoon sherry
5 shallots, peeled and finely chopped	2 garlic cloves,
½ teaspoon English mustard powder	3 large eggs beaten
400g (14oz) tin chopped tomato, drained	3 tablespoon chopped parsley
150g (5oz) strong cheese.	2 tablespoon pumpkin seeds
Extra cheese for topping	
900g (2lb) loaf-tin	

Method

- 1 In a dry frying pan, gently roast over a medium heat the chopped nuts and pumpkin seeds until golden in colour. Put to one side to cool.
- 2 Melt the butter and sweat the shallots and garlic for 5 minutes or until soft.
- 3 Prepare the oven to 180C, 160F, 350F and Gas 4. Grease and line the tin.
- 4 In a large bowl, combine the nut mixture with the cooked shallots and all the remaining ingredients.
- 5 Scoop the mixture into the prepared tin and bake for 45 minutes or until firm and golden. Leave to cool then turn out onto a serving plate and carefully peel away the baking parchment.

Tips

Serve with a spicy tomato sauce for a real kick. Just heat up some passata and season well with Tabasco sauce

To make smaller quantities of the nut roast, divide the mixture between two 450g (1lb) loaf tins and cook for 30 minutes, until firm.

Freezes really well. Enjoy !

Limes are rich in vitamin c and their tangy flesh is an effective immune stimulant. This cake is made using the juice and zest of limes. It is moist and moreish and a wonderful treat for those of us who are sensitive to wheat.

Gin and Lime Cake

Ingredients

For the cake

220g Soya margarine or butter
220g caster sugar
4 eggs
250g rice flour
1 tsp. baking powder
finely grated zest of 5 limes
1 tablespoon Gin (optional)

For the syrup

125g caster sugar
juice of 4 limes
15ml gin
15ml water

For the icing

15ml gin
15ml water
juice of 1 lime
50g icing sugar, sifted

Method

1Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C fan)/350°F/Gas Mark 4. Grease and flour (with GF flour) a 22cm diameter savarin tin or a loaf tin.

2Whisk all the cake ingredients together until pale and fluffy and spoon the batter into the prepared tin. Smooth over the top and bake for 20 – 30 minutes, or until an inserted skewer comes out clean.

3In the meantime, put the syrup ingredients in a saucepan and stir over a gentle heat until the sugar has dissolved.

4Once the cake is out of the oven, leave it to cool for ten minutes before upturning on a wire rack. When cool place the cake on a heat proof plate and stab the cake all over with a cake skewer and spoon over the syrup and leave it to soak in. Leave the cake to cool completely. **Enjoy!**

Tips:-

The taste of the cake is determined by the flavour of the syrup and icing. This can be altered to your liking. Alternative flavouring can be used e.g. orange and Cointreau, lemon and Limoncello, chocolate and whisky. Or simply omit the alcohol and concentrate on the fruit flavourings.



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PCC Treasurers	Kevin Bounds	01291 641818
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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

March	Event	Location
8th 2:00pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
10th 7:15pm	Shirenewton Women's Institute	Recreation Hall
19th 10-12am	Shirenewton Village Market	Recreation Hall
19th 7:30pm	Chepstow Choral Society	St Mary's Church Chepstow
21st 7:30pm	Recreation Hall AGM	Recreation Hall
29th 7:30pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Huntsman Hotel
April	Event	Location
2nd	Harmony The World in Song	St Thomas à Becket Church Shirenewton
3rd	Sunday newspaper trail begins	Saysell Hall
9th	Theatre trip	Theatre Royal Bath
16th 10-12am	Shirenewton Village Market	Recreation Hall



There be Dragons in Bully Hole Bottom

Readers and Sides Persons

St Thomas a Beckett Church, Shirenewton

Date	Sunday Service	Readers	Sides Persons
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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The views expressed are those of the contributor.

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