

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

July / August 2018



REPAIRS TO THE CHURCH – AND 'SHIRENEWTON 800'

If you have popped into St Thomas's church recently (and did you know it is open during daylight hours for anyone who would like to drop in to enjoy some quiet time), you cannot have failed to notice that in places the render on the interior walls is flaking and has become quite unsightly.

Unfortunately, putting this right is not a simple job – the water is coming through the walls because of several factors, including the choice of inappropriate materials to re-point the walls at some time in the last 150 years, the effects of time and erosion on soft stone such as that used in the windows, as well as inadequate rainwater drainage.



The Parochial Church Council (the volunteers who look after the church for everyone in the village) has been working hard to find grant funding to cover as much of the cost of repairs as possible and we are very pleased that, with the support of various village groups including the History Society, the School and the Community Council, we have secured a Heritage Lottery Grant of some £89,000, which will provide anchor funding for the project. The PCC has also raised some funds to support this work. We estimate that the total cost of the project could be in the region of £190,500. While this work is being done, we would like to use the opportunity to make some important improvements to the building, such as greatly improved heating and lighting and importantly, also making the building physically accessible to everyone. This will only be possible if we are able to secure additional funding, which has been applied for – results awaited.

One of the requirements of the HLF grant is that the community is involved in the project and so we think it would be fun and appropriate to commemorate the long existence of the village and its church – it is believed the church was founded in 1220. This work will help to ensure it continues in good order well into the future. We are therefore suggesting a year of celebration, with a range of fun activities - 'Shirenewton 800', to take place from June 2019 – June 2020.

We would therefore like to know what sort of community-based activity would appeal to you. We have time to plan so please let your imagination run free. Questionnaires seeking your views on your preferred community events will be produced in the next few weeks, so please keep a look out for these in the church, in the pubs, the telephone box and on noticeboards.

If you'd like to discuss this, please contact Janet Horton on 641783 or Charles Eickhof on 07789 201606

Dear Reader,

Magazine subscriptions enable us to produce what we hope is a good quality magazine to serve the Parish and surrounding area.

We deliver magazines through our network of volunteers but our subscriptions are essential to us maintaining the magazine zine, if you have not already paid your annual £10 subscription we would ask if you would kindly send it to the Treasurer at: Oakley House, Ditch Hill Lane, Shirenewton, Chepstow, NP16 6RG.

200 CLUB

Congratulations to the winners of the June 200 Club draw:

1. William John
2. Aileen Doggett
3. Julian Cornwell
4. Serian Orrell

Shirenewton Fete

A huge Thank You to everyone who supported this year's fete. It was a fabulous afternoon and we raised a record amount for the Church. A number of our costs have increased significantly over the last few years and we very much depend on the income from the fete to fund a proportion of our annual running and routine maintenance costs.

Thank you.

Graham Lambert
PCC Treasurer

A SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

For the Life of Christine Margaret Harper Nee Miles aged 79 years was held in Shirenewton Church on the 14th June 2018



Afternoon Tea After an Afternoon Walk



Sunday 8th July
Earlswood Hall's Annual Summer Walk
up to the top of Gray Hill. And back.

Starting at 2:30 from Earlswood Hall
come rain or shine.

Followed by Afternoon Tea and Cake
back at the Hall at around 5:30 pm.

Non walkers are also very welcome.

£5 per person.

Good dogs welcome.

For more details contact:

Marion Harris on 650 871

or Glynis MacDonald on 641 818



Shirenewton Church – Forthcoming Events

Sunday 26th August 2017 at 10:00

Songs of Praise

Come and join us to sing your favourite hymns!



If you would like to nominate a hymn please drop an email to lem.shirenewton@gmail.com or drop a note in the box in the church porch. Please tell us the first line (or number if you have it), why you like or have chosen it and your name. If there is a special tune you would like it sung to, please include that too.

Make sure you get your request in by 19th August!



**Coming in the Autumn -
watch out for more details of a new
café style brunch service!**





JJtennis Coaching is running a Free Tennis Coaching course

for Juniors and Adults at Shirenewton Recreation Ground.

Wednesdays 4 to 7 starting 18th July.

Groups - Mini Red Ball 5 to 8 Years,
Orange ball 9 to 13 years and Adults. LTA/ PTR/RPT Qualified DBS and
First aid certified.

JJtennis has produced juniors to Regional/National level.

For more information and bookings go to website JJtennis Coaching,
Facebook JJ Tennis or call 07983582557.



Calling all dog walkers who use Shirenewton Recreational Hall Field.....

The Recreational Hall Committee and users of the field would like to say big **"thank you"** for clearing up after your dogs, but have you thought about what happens if they leave sticks behind? It doesn't sound like much of an issue, but it can be a problem when the field is being mowed and a hazard for youngsters running on the field.

You can help by picking up any sticks left by your dog.

Thank You

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY

Conductor - Graham Bull

Piano - Richard Kubiak

Wed July 4th 2018 @ 7.00pm

Arts Hall, Chepstow School

**Popular American
songs & medleys :**



**West Side Story, Rogers & Hammerstein,
Battle Hymn of the Republic,
Shenandoah, Camptown Races**

**and with special
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£10 per adult, U18s & Students FREE

Please join us for light refreshments after the concert !

**Tickets available from Choir members, Chepstow Bookshop, on the
door or tel (01291) 623310, 620414**



CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd ,
Music Centre Wales and is also a
Registered Charity (No: 1127098)

Do you Spit or Swallow?

Back by popular demand

Call My Bluff

wine tasting

on Friday 7th September in the Saysell
Centre (aka The Church Room)

7:30pm for 8:00pm

Call my Bluff wine tasting is fun wine tasting evening which requires absolutely no knowledge of the subject but does require a sense of humour.

You will taste a number of wines each of which will have 3 descriptions - guess which one is the real description!

Needless to say, as the hour gets later the guesses become wilder!

Tickets are £15 per person which includes a welcome glass of wine, 5 half glasses of wine and nibbles—no food. There will be a bar available after the tasting.

Come with a team or join an ah hoc team on the night.

Prizes for the winning team.

Tickets (strictly limited) from David Cornwell (01291 641614) or Kevin Bounds (077144 30559) or email webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com



Organised by Shirenewton Charity Committee



PUTTING THE CLIENT FIRST

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Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.

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Please contact Dr Josh Lewis for a free initial consultation on:

Mobile: 07979 157259

Chepstow office: 01291 626373 | Abergavenny office: 01873 854488

E: joshlewis@thinkpositive.co.uk | www.iamfinancial.co.uk

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SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the Annual and Ordinary meetings in May, plus the June 2018 meeting.

URGENT

Vacancies on the Community Council

There are still vacancies on the Council – one advertised in the Shirenewton ward and two for co-option, one in Shirenewton and one in the Mynyddbach ward.

It is important that these vacancies are filled by local residents who are interested in the surrounding community and wish to join the Council –
if that means you - please contact the Clerk (details below).

Election of Chair for 2018/19 – Councillor Ben Allen was unanimously elected. Mr Philip Butterworth was also co-opted by the Council into a vacancy in the Shirenewton ward.

Your Councillors –

Shirenewton ward	Telephone No.	E-mail address
Clr Beverley Moore	01291 641532	mmoorebev@aol.com
Clr Ben Allen (Chair)	01291 641150	ben@greenpool.org.uk
Clr Philip Butterworth	01291 641704	philip.butterworth2@gmail.com
Vacancy		
Vacancy		
Mynyddbach ward		
County Cllr Louise Brown	07598979719	louisebrown@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Vacancy		
Earlwood ward		
Clr Ken Morton	01291 650268	ken.morton@hotmail.co.uk
Clr Bryn Price	01291 641217	brynpricecc@gmail.com
Newchurch West ward		
Clr Ian Martin	01291 650014	longmeadow@outlook.com
Clerk to the Council		
Hilary Counsell Five Lanes House Caerwent, Caldicot Monmouthshire NP26 5PQ	01291 421307	shirenewtoncc@gmail.com
County Councillor		
Louise Brown	07598979719	louisebrown@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Planning applications considered –

1. DM/2018/00607 8 Newton Manor, Shirenewton

Two storey side extension.

Council recommended refusal of the application for the following reasons:

- the volume is likely to exceed 30%;
- the proposal increases the property from 4 - 6 bedrooms, but there is no increase in vehicle parking;
- overdevelopment of the site;
- inconsistency with the character and appearance of the close;

2. DM/2018/00641 Gaerllwyd Farm, Newchurch West

Demolish existing glazed porch and erect a single storey extension to improve accommodation. Council recommended approval.

3. DM/2018/00426 Yew Tree Cottage, Mynyddbach – For Information Only

Proposed storage container.

Council made the following comments/recommendations:

- concern was expressed over the proliferation of temporary containers in the countryside,
- the number of temporary buildings already on the site adversely affect the skyline,
- that the container be approved for a maximum of 5 years,
- that it be green in colour.

4. DM/2018/00099 Longmeads, Shirenewton

Proposed front extension to extend porch and provide WC. Detached double garage in north corner of site. (Amended plans).

Council again recommended refusal because of lack of evidence of the ownership of, and residents rights, regarding the turning bay.

Public Rights of Way file reference: 380/34 dated 10 May 2018 appears to agree the footpath line, but without the pedestrian gate. The report then goes on to suggest modifications to the slope of the footpath as it enters the recreation field. The Council observed that this work would be beyond the applicant's boundary, therefore the responsibility would fall to Monmouthshire County Council.

There were no applications for consideration at the June meeting.

Other items of interest

Best Kept Village Competition 2018 – Judging took pace throughout the month of June and the village is looking good. The Council thanks all the residents that have helped with hedge trimming, grass cutting, strimming verges, planting areas of flowers and troughs and picking up litter – please keep up the good work.

Council considered a recommendation from the Internal Audit Report 2018 to reduce reserves and resolved to make the following additional expenditure in this financial year to maintain the Council's assets and reduce the reserves as recommended.

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Payment of the 2017/18 grass cutting invoice (still under query)	£1,500
Repair of the Friends Burial Grounds walls – three ball park quotes had been received and Council resolved to accept that of Mr J Saysell, Shirenewton.	£3,500
Fencing of one side of the Earlswood Recreation Field. (Three quotes to be sought).	£1,000

The above expenditure would reduce the current 2018/19 budget of £16,895 to a forecast for the 2018/19 year end of approximately £10,895.

Council also discussed updating and improving the play equipment which was installed in 1999, and agreed that when the annual safety inspection is undertaken by Mon CC in June/July to request a replacement springer, swing seat and maintenance to one bench, also to request a quote for painting the equipment. Clerk to research costs for replacing the rocking horse. Due to recent responses from parents it is the Council's aspiration via planned expenditure to replace the play equipment over the next few years.

County Councillor's Report - Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) wants to encourage the use of the Monmouthshire App for reporting various issues including fly tipping etc. The App is linked up to the jobs on the mobile phones for the crews to do.

In relation to rubbish collection and recycling, MCC conducted successful trials in the Abergavenny area by collecting glass as a separate recycle item on the same day as black bags, and it is expected that this will eventually be rolled out elsewhere. All of the black bin rubbish is burnt at a site in Cardiff and the energy produced used for electricity.

The merger of county councils across Wales is an old idea and county councils are responding to a consultation on this issue, the idea has been raised again due to a new Welsh Minister but whilst there is an enthusiasm for regional working together on the Cardiff city deal there appears to be little enthusiasm for ever having any merger itself from MCC.

Dates of future meetings –Monday 2nd July and Monday 6th August at 7.30pm at the Recreation Hall, Shirenewton. Members of the public are welcome to attend and may speak with the Council for the first 15 minutes of each meeting.

Find more information in draft copies of the minutes on the Community Council notice boards. Previous approved 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**

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

Members visited the County record Office at Ebbw Vale in May to see part of the Raglan Archive. This is a new addition to the archive, deposited there since the death of Lord Raglan. A very substantial amount of documents of national importance. The County Archivist had also brought out School Log books, school entry books, original church registers, and an interesting afternoon.



Our members will be visiting Mathern Mill on the 26th June.

This month (14th July) we will be holding a 'Shirenewton Day', organised between Monmouthshire Antiquarian Association, Gwent History Council and Shirenewton Local History Society. It will be held at the Church Room, starting at 10.00am and continuing until 4.00 pm. There will be various speakers and a visit to the Japanese Garden at Shirenewton Hall.

Dates for your Diary:

Monday, 9th July

Archive Meeting at the
Recreational Hall between
2.00pm-5.00 pm

Saturday, 14th July

Shirenewton Day

Tuesday, 31st July

Visit to Trellech, to view the
results of the latest
archaeological dig. Tour & talk
by Stuart Wilson

Everyone welcome

Shirenewton Super Saturday Fun Day & Fundraiser Saturday 1st September 2018 2pm – 7pm

After a successful & fabulous day last year the Shirenewton Recreational Association are hosting another family fun day -"Shirenewton Super Saturday" on Saturday 1st September 2018 from 2pm – 7pm. The event taking place at the Recreational Hall & Field is our third event & judging by the support from the village community over the last two years (come rain or shine!) we are confident of another good turnout this year! There will be refreshments in the form of tea, coffee and cake, ice cream, a bar and later in the day there will be a BBQ, or you can bring a picnic.

Amongst the activities on offer are a Scavenger Hunt for the children, with football and other games on the field for them to enjoy. There will be music throughout the afternoon and evening, together with Open Mic sessions and a Tug of War tournament.

Last year's proceeds of £717.20 – thanks to the generosity and hard work of the community - were split equally and donated to Cancer Research and Recreational Hall Improvements and Maintenance. We aim to make this year another great fundraiser for both causes.

It's the last chance of a get together before the children return to school – so let's make it a memorable end to the summer holidays! It's not just an event for the children – it's a chance to catch up with old friends & make new – a community event for all ages!

Put the date on your calendar – you don't want to miss it!

(If anyone can spare some time to help with organising this year's event or can help out on the day please contact Shirley on 01291 641161).



SHIRENEWTON SUPER SATURDAY

SATURDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2018

2.00 TO 7.00 PM

**AT SHIRENEWTON RECREATIONAL
HALL & GROUNDS**

EVENTS INCLUDE - TEA & CAKE, CHILDREN'S
SCAVENGER HUNT & GAMES, MUSIC, OPEN MIC
SESSIONS, TUG OF WAR TOURNAMENT, BAR & BBQ.

*BRING A PICNIC, BUT MAINLY BRING YOURSELVES FOR
A FUN PACKED DAY!*

SEE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR DETAILS

SHIRENEWTON

VILLAGE MARKET

DATES FOR 2018

PLEASE NOTE NEW MARKET

HOURS 10.30 – 12.30

21ST JULY 2018

AUGUST 2018 – NO MARKET

15TH SEPTEMBER 2018

20TH OCTOBER 2018

17TH NOVEMBER 2018

15TH DECEMBER 2018

CHRISTMAS MARKET

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Shirenewton Babies and Toddler Group

**Thursdays 1.30 – 3p.m. (term time only)
Shirenewton Recreation Hall**



**Great toys, good company – everyone welcome
(please bring your Carers too!)
Contact Jackie Broughton (01291 641797)
for further**

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

www.shirenewtonshop.com

You may recall that last month I left you disappointed with the fact that I'd been unable to test the RFID blocking card I had purchased. Well the good news is that I've run a few tests and can report as follows:



The blocking card does seem to confuse RFID devices (i.e. the contactless devices used to read credit cards) in so far as, if I present my contactless card to a machine along with the blocking card, the reading device returns a message saying 'please present only one card' (my thanks to Sarah at the TA for allowing me to test with their machine!).

I also did an experiment last time I was in London. The Oyster card readers at the entrance and exit to the tube stations read contactless credit cards. So I presented my card with the blocking card in two ways: (i) the blocking card first with my real card behind it. The message was 'seek assistance'; (ii) my real card first with the blocking card behind it. I got a similar 'too many cards' message to the one the TA machine gave me.

So, the blocking card clearly has an effect. What I have not yet tested is whether it confuses the 'drive by' (you will recall this is where a malicious individual could gather your credit card details through your trousers and or wallet whilst holding their phone or other reader device nearby). To my mind, the 'too many cards' message does raise the question of whether the reading device can read the card but doesn't know which one to process. If that is the case then the blocking technology isn't doing its job as drive by readers are after the details and the more the merrier! I'm looking for a safe way to test this and will report back.

The GDPR fiasco (to my mind it is a fiasco) continues with reports in the MSM (mainstream media) that some US websites are blocking European Users because they don't want to understand/implement the GDPR requirements. So their answer is to simply geo-block European users – much easier to implement. Geo-blocking is based on your location and that is usually established via your IP address. An IP address is a unique web address allocated to your router by your internet service provider (ISP). Re-boot your router and your IP address will change as they are usually randomly allocated. In fact, you normally have to pay more to get a static IP address (i.e. one which stays the same if you re-boot the router). But, of course, all IP addresses allocated by your ISP will be identified as being in the UK. The internet currently thinks I'm in Cambridge because, I assume, that is where my BT system is exiting from BT to the internet. BT will know exactly where I am!

I've just tested the geo-blocking and can confirm that the LA Times and the Chicago Tribune are both blocking EU users – or at least users from Cambridge! Geo-blocking is not only used by the LA Times and the Chicago Tribune but also by the BBC. Have you ever tried to access iPlayer from Malaysia? I have and, if you are not using a VPN (virtual private network), you can't!

VPN technology allows you to pretend your computer is anywhere in the world (or anywhere the VPN company has an outlet). Furthermore VPNs work on multiple devices (the one I use is installed on my iPad and my PC). So if you want to access content which is geo-blocked, it's as simple as getting a VPN solution and

pretending to be in the USA or the UK or wherever you want to be. I pay for mine (Zenmate ~£60 per year) but there are plenty of free ones, including a free restricted offering from Zenmate. Why do I pay? Well the free one is 'restricted' and the restriction is usually is the 'outlets'. Free VPNs tend to limit the places you can pretend to be to the less useful places. For example, hide.me limits you to pretending to be in Singapore, Canada, or the Netherlands – not so useful for BBC iPlayer but fine to access the LA Times and the Chicago Tribune. If you pay for full version you get many more outlets. For example, I can pretend to me in around 35 countries and even in specific locations with those countries (e.g. specific cities in the USA).

VPNs are also very useful for security when travelling. For example, in previous year's July Parish Mag articles I've issued my annual warning re logging onto random wifi hotspots when travelling and assuming that they are secure. So, whilst they are fine for browsing newspapers, never use them for anything financial. However, if you are using a VPN the risk is eliminated as the transmission is encrypted – you just need to trust the VPN provider! Zenmate is the only VPN I've used and it works well. I haven't used any others but there are plenty of reviews online you can read if you are considering installing a VPN.

Anyway, on that happy note, please don't forget to shop through www.shirenewtonshop.com. There is an extensive travel section which, for example, allows you to pre book airport parking and thus save lots of cash.

Until next month
Safe browsing drc Webmaster



GARDENING CORNER

This year has the makings of being a very difficult one on the gardening front. The weather has swung from one extreme to the other making it a struggle to catch up. I've still got an awful lot of planting to be doing but the garden desperately needs a couple of days of nice steady rain now. I can't believe I've said that after all the rain we have had previously! Instead it is now too dry and the surface of the soil in some areas, where there is a little more clay, has set like concrete. Artificial watering with the hosepipe just doesn't achieve the same result, not to mention the fact that it is very costly anyway! The only plus side of the dry spell is that those beds that have been planted can be kept relatively free of weeds thanks to the steady use of a hoe. To add insult to injury we have just caught the tail end of storm Hector, which although wasn't that bad down our end of the country, still produced strong enough winds to flatten a lot of the flowers in the cutting area. A decision will have to be taken as to whether they are left to 'sort themselves out' or we give them a late 'Chelsea Chop' – in other words cut them all back and let them regrow again. The early varieties of herbaceous geraniums have pretty well run their course, so these will get chopped down now in the next week or so. They will soon shoot out again and the new foliage will help to cover the ground and keep it weed free. So long as we get some rain, they should have a new flush of flowers as well. The herbaceous borders that were weeded early are starting to look nice now as the plants have established well and have benefitted from the increased warmth and the retained moisture in the ground. The dry spell has prevented me from getting on with the remaining flower borders though as they needed some 'proper weeding' which would have entailed digging down deep with the border spade. Unfortunately this would have loosened the soil too much and put the flower plants under too much stress – resulting in the need to do even more watering, so, for the time being they must remain weedy in the hope that we get some rain to settle things down again.

The greenhouses and tunnels are bulging at present. In the largest greenhouse I still have loads of new plants that have been re-potted several times and are desperate to go into the ground. Unfortunately they will have to wait a little longer until conditions have improved before we are able to plant them out. The rest of the greenhouse is planted with the first early potatoes and we have already started to harvest these. Freshly dug spuds, boiled with mint and within ten minutes of leaving the ground just have to be experienced. We are not big potato eaters, but they are a pleasure to eat, even cold with a salad. The smaller greenhouse has been emptied in the last few days, as most of the seed sowing and propagating has been completed now until later in the year when we will start to take cuttings of various herbaceous plants. There will still be a little seed sowing going on such as cut and come again lettuce, and a rotation of cauliflowers and broccoli, but the temperature will be warm enough that this small amount can be done on the bench in the bigger greenhouse without the need for extra heat. In the small tunnel the first crop of broccoli has been harvested, at least what was worth it. Unfortunately the hot weather meant that the majority of the crop had to be cut and thrown on the compost heap as it was drawn up to fast and the heads were loose and forming flowers, rather than tight and compact as you would expect. The varieties we grow send up side shoots though to form small heads, so the plants will remain for the time being. Either this week or next I will remove them altogether, adding the leaves and stalks to the compost heap. The ground will then be replanted with the sweet and hot peppers that I mentioned last month, which are growing on well in larger pots. These are currently standing between the tomato plants in the large tunnel. I will probably add some more compost to the soil before I do the planting in order to freshen the ground up a little.

In the large tunnel we are currently busy picking strawberries. I have planted up another bed with a new variety of strawberry called colossus. As the name suggests the fruits are meant to be very large! They are looking healthy and they have had a few fruits but they have been planted for next year as the current bed is several years old and will need replacing. I have also established a new raised bed outside with another new variety of strawberry, mainly with the intention of trying to extend the season for as long as possible. The one problem with growing all your strawberries in the same tunnel is that they obviously all decide to ripen within the same two week period and there are only so many strawberries that can be eaten on a daily basis. We do freeze a lot, but they are never the same – although are ok in jelly! Two large beds in this tunnel have been planted with tomatoes. This year we are growing four different varieties. Two are being grown for producing large tomatoes, most of which will be used for turning into passata sauces for cooking, and no doubt the odd few will end up on the barbeque. The other two varieties will be for eating, one small 'cherry' type and one 'normal'. I have cut down on the numbers of plants this year so hopefully we have it about right – otherwise there is a risk that you end up with a freezer full of tomato sauces and soup! Down the sides of the tunnel are the large 'grow-bags', in which we plant all of our salad crops such as cut and come again lettuce, spring onions



and radish. I also have a couple planted with carrots and dwarf French beans in an attempt to produce an extra early crop of baby vegetables. The sides of the tunnel that we have curve to the ground, and the grow-bags are a useful way of maximising cropping space. Before putting the new tunnel cover on, we re-planned the layout slightly inside. There used to be a shelving unit and large potting bench inside, but these hadn't been used for a number of years – probably not since we stopped growing bedding plants for making hanging baskets and that must be at least fifteen

years ago! So these were removed and the area they stood in cleared. This has meant that I have a lot more room to bring the blueberries, which we grow in large pots of acid compost indoors which allows them to ripen without being stripped by blackbirds. Unfortunately the harsh winter and attack from vine weevil meant that we lost half of our plants this year (mainly the younger plants that had been established to replace the older ones over time), so there is plenty of room.

Before I moved the blueberries indoors, I had to complete the work on the tunnel. The new cover as you know had gone on well, but I needed to complete the large doorways. So frames were completed and with future crop growing in mind the bottom half of the doors were constructed using a very fine meshed netting which will in future prevent any carrot and cabbage root fly from entering the tunnel. The top half of the doors were then completed using a coarser netting which is designed to let more air into the tunnel, but prevents butterflies (and obviously unwanted birds) from gaining entry. By butterflies I mean unwanted ones like cabbage white's. The downside to this of course is that the nets also prevent any useful pollinating insects from gaining entry, so I've had to build doorways that can be opened, not just for obvious access, but that can be left opened to allow the beneficial bugs to be let in at the right time of year.

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Unfortunately the last couple of years have seen the apricot and nectarines attacked by various bugs and diseases. They are now not looking too good, so a decision will have to be made about their future. I think the final straw was the extreme heat when I put the new tunnel cover on and was waiting for it to warm up enough to tighten up. I think I mentioned that the temperature must have exceeded 135 degrees until I cut the excess off and let the air in. This heat burnt off all the nice new leaves and flowers, with the result that we have no fruit at all this year

The orchard flowered well this year and the weather was kind. I will never understand though how some varieties have set a good crop of fruit and some none at all. We have all of the right pollinating varieties but it seems that many are falling into a once every two years cropping cycle. The bees were certainly busy at the right time. We have two damson trees, both in flower at the same time. One has an excellent crop of plums coming on and the other has none at all – funny old game this gardening.

Two things that do need some urgent attention are the bees and the hedges. With the latter, the recent warm weather, linked to the early moisture, has meant that the hedges have gone absolutely berserk this year and need cutting urgently. They will need a second cut later on in the year, but can't wait much longer.



The changing weather has also meant that the bees have very much been left to their own devices so far. Everything was ok until recently as I had given them extra room and this had definitely reduced the numbers of swarms. However I did have two last week and so had to take action to collect these and get these into spare hives. One swarm was enormous, so didn't want to lose that one. They have both established well. However this prompted me into going through all of the other hives. It was very hot work, but I started relatively early in the day so missed the worst of the heat. However having gone through one hive and

moving on, I was a little aghast to see a swarm emerge from it about 30 minutes later. I finished doing what I had set out to do, then went back down to get the various bits and bobs that I needed to collect the swarm, which was starting to settle at the top of a bramley apple tree. By the time I went back the swarm had disappeared. Some you win, some you lose!

Happy gardening until September.

Steve and Felicity Hunt.



Shirenewton Fete

SUMMER FAYRE



Although the weather wasn't kind to us on the day of our Summer Fayre, it didn't dampen spirits and we still enjoyed all our usual stalls and managed to take over £1600 on the day!

SPORTS DAY

It was third time lucky for sports day this year! The children enjoyed a mixture of competitive track races and a carousel of non-competitive field events. Usk house were the run-away winners with Wye coming second and Severn house coming third. Huge thank you to all the parents who came to cheer the children on and for being such good sports in entering the parents' races!

VILLAGE FETE

Our Community Ambassadors pupil committee ensured the school played a big part in this year's Shirenewton fete. They liaised with the organisers and arranged for the Foundation Phase classes produce a "Fun on the farm" walking float and the key stage 2 classes to take part in a "Plastic Pollution" walking float.

SENEDD TRIP



The School Council visited the Senedd to find out more about the work of the Welsh Assembly. They noted there are many similarities between their meetings and the plenary of the Assembly Members. They enjoyed taking part in a debate about whether the age of voting should be lowered and they watched a plenary session in the Senedd proving we may well have some budding politicians in our midst!

ENTERPRISE TROOPERS



Well done to our Year 3 and Year 4 classes who have reached the regional finals of the Big Ideas Wales Enterprise Troopers competition and are travelling to Blaenavon to pitch their project to the judges.

PUPIL COMMITTEES

We are very proud of our School Council and Community Ambassadors who bravely presented their work to Governors in their AGM. Each pupil committee (including Digital Leaders, Criw Cymraeg, Healthy Schools and Eco Committee) and have now attended a Governor meeting this year and shared all their hard work. Looking forward to hearing pupils' manifestos and holding the secret ballots to elect our new committees for next year!

TRANSITION FORTNIGHT

Everyone will be "moving up" to their new class soon and will spend two whole weeks with their new teachers. During this time they will be doing a special project linked to a country of their choice involved in the World Cup Football Tournament. They will be researching their country and during a "round the world trip" all the pupils will visit each other's classes to learn about the currency, food, flag, national dress, climate, geography, landmarks, famous people, music ... and other interesting facts! This exciting project will culminate in their very own football tournament!

Come & join us at our ...

YOUNG AT HEART CLUB on Wednesday 18th July
2pm

MUSIC EVENT & HOG ROAST on Friday 20th
July 6pm

Please contact the school office (01291 641774) for more information

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FETE SATURDAY 9TH JUNE

Well, what a fabulous day! People were so eager to come to the Shirenewton Fete that they started to arrive amazingly early and muttered questions were heard demanding to know where the parking attendants were? Had they sloped off the pub? In fact so many people came that space ran out in the parking area, (once the attendants had turned up) and some brave person had the bright idea that we might have to have an overspill carpark in Gordon's garden. But luckily it didn't quite come to that.

As ever the Shirenewton Church bell ringers rang, almost perfectly, to announce that the Fete was about to start. And then at least three of them legged it down to Clear View in their open top cars (can you leg it in a sports car? Perhaps they floored it?) to join the other cars waiting to transport the Carnival Queen, King and Entourage up to the Rec in a fantastic Cavalcade. The leading car was a stunning Morgan covered in the Welsh flag which was kindly loaned by Newtown Motors of Cwmbran followed by a succession of equally wonderful open tops, all polished and spruced up for the occasion and driven by smiling locals who really enjoyed having small children standing on their upholstery.



Obviously not when they were driving – and in the interests of H&S, I hasten to reassure that it was the owners who were doing the driving, not the children – and everyone was seated. One of the drivers, who shall remain nameless, was under the impression that they had to dress up too and was wearing a vast purple net skirt, a striking green and black bustier and a long blond wig with plaits, not a good look. Mercifully, as this person was wearing sunglasses it was impossible to tell who this smiling local was.

Our Handsome Host and Brilliant Compere was the incomparable Tony Broadribb who stood in for David Davies MP who was a little late for the Opening Ceremony – maybe he'd found it difficult to park.



The ever-popular Dog Show was organised and judged by our favourite vet John Montague and his wife Wendy. Once again he found it very challenging to choose the prettiest bitch. And he had problems picking a handsome dog too as there were so many of them. The pooches and their owners showed off their Finest Behaviour, their Best Tricks and their Waggiest Tails.

Now who was the highest individual raffle ticket seller? It was Maureen Moody who sold an amazing £75 worth of tickets and not only that but she sold the top prize ticket, the £100! So next year buy your tickets from Maureen and maybe you will win the Top Prize!



Top Prize too, goes to David Cornwell who abandoned his sheep at the last moment (I'd no idea he was a shepherd) when an 11th hour BBQ drama developed and he galloped off and returned with his own BBQ to save the day. But please, rest assured, no sheep were harmed in the making (and solving) of this burger crisis.



And once again a big Thank

You to our local sponsors, Terry Hicks, Matthew Benjamin and Gareth Adams for their continued support. And to Rachel Bowler – master baker and outstanding cake maker of this parish! Our brilliant Fete organisers were Tony Prout and Colin Stephenson – what a dream team. They did a smashing job even organising that terrific weather. Indeed, talking of the weather, it was so warm that the Beer Tent sold out, the Pimms tent sold out, the 'Water Into Wine' Stall sold out and the Bottle Stall sold out. Is there a theme here? But it wasn't just the booze, the Cake Stall ran out of cakes and the Burger Stall ran out of burgers. There is some great video footage of the Fete taken by the drone, which was

organised by Garry Davies. The footage is available on YouTube via a link from the church website.



Thank you everyone who worked so hard to make the Fete such a terrific success. See you next year on Saturday 8th June 2019 for another wonderful Shirenewton Church Fete.
Glynis MacDonald



THE IMPORTANCE OF GETTING YOUR FUNDAMENTALS RIGHT

So what are fundamentals? They could be described as 'going back to basics' as one government used to like to recite. Or as the famous saying goes, 'getting down to brass tacks'. But looking at the essentials, when do we really need to do something, or change something?

All walks of life sometimes need to take time out to examine the fundamentals. Even in faith these need to be explored from time to time. We need to look at what fundamentally makes us who we are and why we tick, why we follow a faith, a social or working path.

In many faiths and spiritual journeys, including my own faith, we spend time in quiet reflection and meditation. I enjoy going back to basics both within my faith and working environment. I've tried the social one, but my family have told me it is far too late for a midlife crisis.

It is good at times to strip away something and get back to basics. When I sometimes ask questions like, "why are we doing this?" I often get the answer, "it's always been done this way." If it has always been done that way then why have we never stepped back and reflected on each part of the process and ask, is this essential? Is this what is needed?

I can remember a story given by a religious leader many years ago. They said on their first time leading that there was a procession of various people in front of them, walking two by two. Half way down the venue they would stop, and those on the right side would move one step right and those on the left would move one step left, then they would walk on four steps, stop and then join back together again.

After a few weeks of seeing this, the religious leader thought he would try find out why they did it. This is how we've always done it was the answer. So he explored and was introduced to an person of advanced years, who told him that many years ago there used to be a monument in the middle of the walkway! So remember it is always worth asking a question, you never know whether there was a monument in the way at one time.

When we look at Scriptures we can read that Christ continually addressed the fundamentals. He challenged the status of women in society of the time by accepting the invitation of Martha to visit her and be her guest. (Luke 10:38-42). Within the same passage he questioned the concepts of what is best to do within certain situations.

He spoke out against the Jewish leadership at the time and there are many writings about this in the Gospels, Mark 12:39 and Luke 20:46, where He points out how the priests at the time loved to be given places of honour at banquets and how they walked around saying, 'look at me, I'm important'.

Matthew 16:6 tells us to beware of the feast of the Pharisees and Sadducees. Here, I believe he was saying that people should be on their guard against the teachings of the priests at the time. I would suggest that the same is true today, we need to beware of those preaching but not being true to the scripture they are peaching about.

How do we increase the fellowship within our church communities? Maybe it is time we look at the fundamentals, and go back to basics. Revisit what we have done, are doing and where we see ourselves as a community. Do we have to bottle to investigate what we are doing well against what we are doing not so well? Are we willing to take our faith to the community around us and show the love of Christ.

Love is an action, not a word, take a look at Mark 12:30-31 If we say we love God, but show and act like we love God, then love is just an empty word. The same if we say we love our neighbour, but aren't willing to be there for them when they are in need, then again love is nothing.



SHIRENEWTON WI

Swan Lake Outing

The June 'Outside Meeting' saw nine of our members enjoying a very memorable evening. It started with a lovely meal at Panevino in Chepstow on a beautiful summer's evening. Even the river Wye obliged with its high tide providing a lovely summer scene for us to enjoy from our table.



We then went to the Drill Hall to watch the streaming of the Royal Ballet's performance of Swan Lake, from the Royal Opera House. This was the first new production of Swan Lake by the Royal Ballet to be performed in 30 years. The dancing was breathtaking and the costumes and set stunning. During the intervals there were commentaries by Darcey Bussell and Ore Obuda (Strictly winner) that helped the audience to appreciate the technicalities of the dancing. There were also interviews with the Choreographer and the Set and Costume Designer that were really insightful. If you are a dance lover these streamings are a fantastic way of getting close





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Tomatoes



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Tomato and Gnocchi Soup.

Serves 4

- 1 tsp olive oil
- 1 onion, peeled, chopped
- 1kilogram fresh tomatoes
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 leek, washed, chopped

- 1 red pepper, de seeded and chopped
- 1 tsp turmeric
- 1 tsp fresh or powdered ginger
- Black pepper
- 1 tsp honey
- 1 celery, chopped
- 1litre boiling water
- 1 chicken stock cube

Gnocchi

- 250g potatoes, peeled and chopped
- 250g plain flour
- 1 egg

Garnish

- Basil
- Grated cheese

Gnocchi.

Ingredients

250g potatoes
250g plain flour
1 egg
Pinch salt

Method

1 Bring a large pan of salted water to the boil. Peel the potatoes and add to the pan. Cook until tender but still firm, about 15 minutes. Drain, cool and mash with a fork or potato masher.

2 Combine the mashed potato, flour and egg in a large bowl. Knead until dough forms a ball. Cut the dough into four portions and shape into long "snakes", about 1.5cm (1/2 in) in diameter. Cut snakes into 3cm (1 in) long pieces.

Tomato Soup

Method

1 Fry the garlic, onion and leek in the oil until soft.

2 Add the red pepper and celery. Cook until tender.

3 Add the tomatoes and cook for a further 2 minutes.

4 Add the boiling water and the rest of the tomato soup ingredients. **5** Simmer on a gentle heat for 20 minutes. Liquidise or blend.

6 Drop in the gnocchi and cook for 3 to 5 minutes until gnocchi have risen to the top. Serve with grated cheese and chopped basil. **Enjoy!**





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STARGAZING



Later in the evening the Summer Triangle is overhead. This is a prominent triangle formed by the bright stars Altair, to the South of the triangle, Vega, closest to the Western horizon, and Deneb, to the East. Deneb forms the tail of the cross-shaped constellation Cygnus, the Swan. From our perspective the three stars have similar brightness. However they lie at different distances from Earth. Deneb is an extremely luminous star at 1400 light years from Earth whilst Vega and Altair are less luminous and are both much closer to Earth at a distance of about 20 light years.

The familiar seven stars of Ursa Major, the Great Bear or Plough, are to be seen in the north-west, with the “W” of Cassiopeia climbing into the north-eastern sky.

In the evening sky, the very bright planet Jupiter lies to the south-west, whilst the slightly yellow planet Saturn is in the south and Mars has a slightly orange colour and is close to the horizon to the south-east. On 20th July, the Moon is just after first quarter and is close to Jupiter, on 24th July the almost Full Moon is close to Saturn and on the 27th the Full Moon lies just above Mars.

Forty seven years ago, on July 20, 1969, the Apollo 11 Lunar Lander descended to the surface of the Moon and Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on the Moon.

James Bradley was vicar of the parish of Bridstow, near Ross-on-Wye in Monmouthshire until 1721, when he changed vocation and became a full-time astronomer. Isaac Newton considered him to be the “best astronomer in Europe” and he was eventually made Astronomer Royal. Bradley carried out measurements that proved the Earth orbits the Sun, and that led to the first estimates of the distances of stars.



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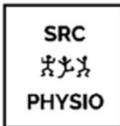
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DIARY DATES

Date	Event	Location
July	Event	Location
4th 7:30pm	Chepstow Choral Society	Chepstow School Arts Hall
8th 2:30pm	Earlswood Hall Summer Walk	Start Earlswood Hall
9th 2:00	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Hall
14th	Shirenewton Local History Society	Church Rooms
20th 7:30pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
21st 10:30am	Village Market	Recreation Hall
31st	Shirenewton Local History Society	Trellech archaeological dig.
August	Event	Location
6th 7:30pm	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
26th 10:00am	Songs of Praise	Shirenewton Church
September	Event	Location
1st 2:00pm	Shirenewton Super Saturday	Recreation Ground
1st 2:00pm	Shirenewton Local History Society	Recreation Ground
7th 7:30 pm	Call My Bluff Wine Tasting	Saysell Centre



Readers and Sides Persons		July - October	
St Thomas a Beckett Church, Shirenewton			
Date	Sunday Service	Readers	Sides Persons
1st July	5th Sunday after Trinity	James Loney Ruth Savagar	Claire Lewis Graham Lambert
8th July	6th Sunday after Trinity	Mark Broughton ane Smith-Haddon	Mark Broughton ane Smith-Haddon
15th July	7th Sunday after Trinity	Chris Stuart Margaret Stuart	Chris Stuart Margaret Stuart
22nd July	Mary Magdalene	Aileen Doggett Paul Morecombe	Aileen Doggett Paul Morecombe
29th July	Group Service - Shirenewton		
5th August	10th Sunday after Trinity	James Loney Glynis MacDonald	Claire Lewis Graham Lambert
12th August	11th Sunday after Trinity	Mark Broughton Diane Marlow	Mark Broughton Diane Marlow
19th August	12th Sunday after Trinity	Bill Clark Janet Horton	Bill Clark Janet Horton
26th August	13th Sunday after Trinity	Aileen Doggett Cynthia Smith	Aileen Doggett Cynthia Smith
2nd September	14th Sunday after Trinity	Chris Sturke Margaret Sturke	Chris Sturke Margaret Sturke
9th September	15th Sunday after Trinity	Ruth Savagar Frances Grey	Claire Lewis Frances Grey
16th September	16th Sunday after Trinity	James Loney Glynis MacDonald	Claire Lewis Graham Lambert
23rd September	17th Sunday after Trinity	Mark Broughton Aileen Doggett	Mark Broughton Aileen Doggett
20th September	Group Service Mathern	Andrew Baker Sally Saysell	Claire Lewis Graham Lambert

DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

(Cabinets do not require codes, they are unlocked although they have a key pad)

Carpenters Arms (on the Usk road)

Huntsman Hotel (on the Usk road)

Tredegar Arms (Shirenewton village)



(House half way between Blethyn Close and the School in Mynyddbach)
Earlswood Hall
(Earlswood)

Shirenewton School

LOCAL CONTACTS

*If you know of any changes or omissions please contact the Editor Terry Walters
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PCC Secretary	Bill Clark	01291 641 783
PCC Treasurer	Graham Lambert	01291 641 175
PCC Members	Mark Broughton Charles Eickhoff Janet Horton James Leney Jane Smith-Haddon Frances Gray Paul Morcombe Andrew Baker Kevin Bounds	01291 641 797 01291 641 716 01291 641 783 01291 641 271 01291 641 525 01291 622 465 01291 641 671 01291 641 925 01291 641 648
People's Warden	Ruth Savagar Karen Millar Ruth Savagar James Leney	01291 641 411 01291 650 521 01291 641 411 01291 641 271
Gift Aid Secretary	Lynn Morcombe	01291 641 671
Organists	Mike Penney	01291 650 653
Sunday Club	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641 818
Tower Captain	Lynn Morcombe	01291 641 671
Saysell Centre Booking	Maureen Moody	01291 641 524
Safeguarding Officer	Terry Walters	01291 641 338
Church Flowers	Graham Lambert	01291 641 175
Parish Magazine Editor		
200 Club		

Church of St Tewdrics's Mathern

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Other Local Organisations

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