

A photograph of a red telephone booth and a red pillar box in front of a stone wall. The telephone booth is on the right, with a 'TELEPHONE' sign above the door. The pillar box is on the left, with a '4.00pm' and '10.15am' sign on it. The stone wall is made of grey stones and has some ivy on it. The ground is paved with a manhole cover in the foreground.

Shirenewton

Parish Magazine

September 2018

Price: £1

## FROM THE VICARAGE

Julian E LI White

Dear People of the Parish,  
August, by tradition, is known as the 'Silly Season' in the journalistic world. Because most people are enjoying a holiday, print columns tend to be filled with rubbish reporting and articles of little or no importance. This column, however, makes a greater boast. I strive to maintain this tendency throughout the year.

This month, for example, I can entrance you with (a) details of my annual vacation, and, (b) lurid descriptions of my recent operation. Do I hear you retort 'No thank you' to both? Tough luck, that is what you are getting.

This year, Sandra and I relaxed on a different Greek island to usual. Perhaps this is why we were obliged to tolerate monsoon conditions for the first four days whilst those of you who remained at home languished in sylvan circumstances. I found solace in the pages of a Bill Bryson book, cheap alcohol and even cheaper fags. As I feel Bryson would agree, being politically incorrect is, sadly, a fast fading British characteristic.

I would like to tell you that I also immersed myself in the ancient classics, penned in the original Hellenic language. But this would be a lie. Instead, compelled by Sandra, we found ourselves most evenings in a taverna following the latest instalment of the Football World-Cup. The voicing of hallowed Greek texts gave way to intimate comments such as 'I'm gutted, mate', assertions that the referee was conceived and born out of wedlock and the enthusiastic call to 'Kick 'is 'ead in!' when offering a balanced opinion on the prowess of the non-English team in contention. I would like to think that the impassioned chant of 'Earwig Go! Earwig Go! Earwig Go!' was tribute paid to Ionian war-cries of yesteryear but I am not wholly convinced of this.

This situation spoke eloquently to me of the appeal of Greece. Ravishing natural beauty, experiences of immense charm and politeness, ribald relaxation and a lashing of political and financial intolerance rendered the country beguiling. It is a location that never fails to re-invent itself. It is an example, surely, of how Christianity should be allowed to develop in many respects. It was no accident, I felt, that the modest church in Vassi stood next to a busy and secular commercial strip and opposite a bay populated with a variety of boats. In the background, always, was the distant and unchanging terrain of infinite mystery. Perhaps we need to rediscover something of this in our own environment.

I shall not bore you with details of my medical situation. Instead I would sincerely thank those who have held me in prayer and thought, visited me, and have – most touchingly – left gifts which should assist my recovery. In particular I am indebted to Sandra for her love, support and generosity in the circumstances. A special word or two of gratitude is also conveyed to David Hathaway and Jen Mendaz for their kindness. The challenging news is that I intend to ease myself back into routine duties very soon and your understanding and support is greatly valued.

With every good wish and blessing.

## 'SHIRENEWTON 800'

### **please tell us what sort of activities you'd take part in**

You may have seen in July's Parish Mag that some of the village's interest groups and the Community Council are seeking ideas for fun community-based activities to commemorate the long existence of the village and its church – it is believed the village and church was founded in 1220.

Please tell us what you'd like to do! A quick and easy on-line Survey can be found here;

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MS2T6BD>

If you'd prefer, paper versions of the questionnaire can be found in the church and in the telephone box. All ideas gratefully received.

Please respond by the 15<sup>th</sup> Sept

## **200 CLUB**

The July winners of the 200 Club draw were:

- 1) Tony Wilson
- 2) Sally Saysell
- 3) Olivia Ashby
- 4) James Leney

Many thanks to all of you for your support.

Please note: the 200 Club is on its holidays in August and draws resume in September

## **FREE FILING CABINETS**

2 — Four Draw Metal filing cabinets, one in very good condition, the other not so good but still OK, free to a good home.

Will need to be collected from Mynyddbach.

Contact Meg Driver 07938 055454



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](mailto:webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com)



Organised by Shirenewton Charity Committee





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## THE BELLS, THE BELLS

Mike Penny

To commemorate the 1400 bell ringers who died in the First World War, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, together with the Big Ideas Company, and the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, have launched a new project to recruit 1400 new bell ringers across the UK: *Ringling Remembers* – <http://www.bellringing.org/ringingremembers/>. This is a chance to make this wonderful ancient tradition open to all. When the bells rang out on the 11th November 1918 they announced the end of the most catastrophic war the world had yet seen. At the time, bells were at the heart of the community, marking events of great significance and communicating to people long before modern technology connected us. Bell ringing in the UK has always had a much wider function than its role in the church, but most of us today are not aware of its broad and inclusive service. Many bell ringers joined the war effort, and many lost their lives. Just after the war, the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers wrote to all bell towers to compile the Roll of Honour. At the time 1077 men were reported as lost. More recent research has identified over 300 additional ringers who died in service. In total some 1400 bell ringers lost their lives in the Great War – this included a ringer from Shirenewton: Frederick Stevens. We will be ringing on 11<sup>th</sup> November this year which happens to fall precisely on Remembrance Sunday.

So to be part of the *Ringling Remembers* project we are seeking to recruit and train some additional ringers to join the current Shirenewton band. We are an active, social and family orientated group who meet each Friday evening at 7.30 pm to practice the art of change ringing until 9.00 pm before heading to the pub. We ring on Sundays from 9.15–10.00 am, and we ring for special occasions such as weddings and New Year. We arrange 2 tours each year – a Winter Tour and a Summer Tour the latter being a camping weekend when we visit and ring at far flung places which have included some notable venues including Lincoln & Canterbury Cathedrals, and Romsey Abbey. Potential ringers need to be physically fit but physical strength is not a requirement – the most strenuous part is climbing the spiral staircase. We are happy to teach children of 10 years and above, and encourage one or more parents to learn with them. So if you are interested just come along one Friday evening in September and see what it's all about.

We had an action-packed end to the academic year ...

## PICNIC ON THE MEADOW

All the Foundation Phase classes celebrated the end of their "Fun on the Farm" topic by dressing up as farmers and farm animals and spending the day in the school grounds doing a variety of farm based activities and enjoying a picnic lunch. They were even joined by some sheep from the Richardson farm!

## AROUND THE WORLD IN A DAY!

On the last day of our "transition" fortnight (where all the classes moved up to spend two weeks with their new teachers) the children spent the day travelling "around the world". They shared with each other what they'd learned about their World Cup country. Altogether they visited France, Egypt, Mexico, Spain, Portugal, Belgium & Australia and collected stamps in their passports along the way!

## END OF TERM ASSEMBLIES

Year 1 parents and grandparents were treated to a fabulous violin concert where they performed the songs that they'd learned in music lessons this year. Year 2 shared their favourite memories, songs and poems during their Graduation assembly. All the classes entertained us during the PTA Hog Roast evening with songs from around the world. And last but not least, the Year 6 leavers' assembly was a wonderful celebration of their last 7 years in our school.

## YOUNG AT HEART CLUB

The Community Ambassadors held their third Young at Heart Club; the members enjoyed strawberries and cream, teas and coffees and were entertained with singing from Year 2 and Year 6. They also enjoyed listening to Year 1 read some books and they then read them some stories too! A good time was had by all!

## SPONSORED SILENCE

Huge thank you to our Healthy Schools Committee who organised a sponsored silence and to all the children who supported this event (the staff loved the very quiet afternoon!) ... the amount raised was a massive £815.45 which was presented to Amelia in assembly for her congenital heart disease charity "Amelia Matters". We are delighted to support this charity and wish Amelia all the very best as she transitions on to secondary school.

## PUPIL VOICE

We have extended our pupil committees to include Year 1 children next year; pupils across the school presented their manifestos to their peers and took part in a secret ballot voting for classmates to represent them on our six pupil committees ... School Council, Eco Committee, Healthy Schools, Criw Cymraeg, Digital Leaders & Community Ambassadors.

To extend pupil voice even further, we put out a job advert and invited applications from Year 5 pupils to form a "Pupil Leadership Team". The staff on the Senior Leadership Team shortlisted and interviewed the candidates and were absolutely blown away by the maturity and eloquence of the interviewees and the quality of their answers! The successful pupils will perform a variety of roles including pupil peer observations, learning walks, book scrutinies, overseeing the work of the pupil committees and showing visitors around the school. They will feedback to the SLT and governors and also work very closely with the staff striving to improve and develop the learning experiences we offer!

# SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the meetings held in July and August 2018.

## **URGENT**

### **Vacancy on the Community Council**

**There is now only one vacancy on the Council in the **Mynyddbach** ward.**

**It is important that the vacancy is filled by a local resident who is interested in the surrounding community and wishes to join the Council –  
if that means you - please contact the Clerk (details below).**

At the July meeting Dr James Grose, Porthcerrig, Shirenewton was welcomed and co-opted onto the Council and at the August meeting Mrs Jane Smith-Haddon was also co-opted on, both representing the Shirenewton ward. There is now only one vacancy in the Mynyddbach ward which the Council would be pleased to see filled.

### **Your Councillors**

#### **Planning applications considered in July –**

1. DM/2018/00758 Wentwood Forestry Offices, Wentwood Forest Centre  
Change of use of existing building to include timber storage and craft pottery B2 and B8 and A3 for tea rooms. Council recommended approval.

2. DM/2018/00954 Buckwell Farm, Penycycaemawr  
Removal of conditions 2, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15 on application DC/2013/00925 for installation of solar park.  
Council recommended refusal of the application as it was felt that conditions should apply all the time that the planning consent is in force and particularly, that the connection to the National Grid be by underground cable to an existing sub-station at either Magor, Caldicot, Sudbrook or Usk.

Council still has concerns regarding rain water run off as solar panels create cadmium and lead emissions which run off into the water course and can cause contamination potentially harmful to the health of humans and animals, even in minute proportions. The current drainage already has difficulty coping with run off.

There are no measures for decommissioning the plant and returning it to its current landscape. As solar panels contain environmentally damaging materials, this needs to be dealt with in detail. How will damaged/failed/obsolete solar panels be disposed of?



Council considered that landscaping of the site was not sufficiently addressed as there is a regularly used Right of Way through the middle of the site within full view of the solar panels, provision must be made to gain access to the picnic site at Bluebell Green. This picnic site was installed by Mon CC because of its beautiful location. The trees/hedging around the site will obstruct the panoramic views from the picnic site. The proposed development will have a major visual impact from five roads, many locations and more distant elevated public areas. The fencing and signage will be intrusive and out of character.

Construction traffic and vehicles servicing the site will need to use very narrow, single track lanes to the site, which are already poorly maintained, will be dangerous to traffic using the road and will cause great inconvenience to residents.

This is a Special Landscape Area, and as such, its environmental and visual impact should be given serious consideration. The change from field to solar farm would be significant and adverse, it would harm the character and appearance of the area and conflict with Monmouthshire's UDP under the following sections:

C3 - Special Landscape Areas (Objectives 3 and 4),

ENV1 - Environment (e), (h), (i) and (j);

DES1 - Design (b) and (e);

RE2 - Agricultural diversification (a). "

### **Applications considered in August –**

1. DM/2018/01046 The Marls, Batwell Lane, Shirenewton  
For Information Only – Building for storage of fodder and machinery.  
Council recommended approval, with the building to be coloured green or grey.

2. DM/2018/01104 Pond Cottage, Usk Road, Mynyddbach  
Detached garage.  
Approval recommended subject to the condition that the garage is used for the purpose of garaging vehicles only and not for residential purposes.

3. DM/2018/01135 Pandyland Barn, Spout Hill, Shirenewton  
For Information Only - Agricultural building for housing machinery and equipment during winter.  
Approval recommended, with the building to be coloured green or grey

### **Other items of interest**

Best Kept Village Competition 2018 – Judging of Shirenewton village took place throughout the month of June and the results will be known in September.

Repair of Friends Burial Ground walls – of the three received, Council accepted the quote from Mr J Saysell of £3,400 for the repair of the walls, work planned to start at the end of August.

Inspection and repairs to Shirenewton play equipment – the annual safety inspection of the play equipment has taken place and Council has funded the replacement of a damaged springy animal, one swing seat; repair of a bench and the painting of all equipment at a cost of £969.00.

Wooden bench on Mynyddbach Village Green – the original bench was beyond repair and has been taken away. If anyone in the community would like to offer to make or source a hardwood replacement, please contact the Clerk with costs, etc.

*Continued on page 10*

*Continued from page 9*

WW1 Beacons of Light – Council agreed to ‘Taking Part in Battle’s Over – A Nation’s Tribute’, which means lighting the beacon, along with around 1000 others around the country at 7pm on Remembrance Sunday – 11.11.18. A reading of Tribute to the Millions will be read at 6.50pm; followed by a bugler playing the Last Post; lighting of the beacon at 7pm followed by the church bells ringing out for peace.

Clerk to arrange.

Annual grants from the 2018/19 budget were allocated as follows –

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>£</b>
Shirenewton PCC	350
Shirenewton Recreation Association	500
Earlswood Hall	300
Shirenewton Local History Society	60
Earlswood Valley/Hope churches	120
St Peters church, Newchurch	60
Shirenewton Playgroup	100
Monmouthshire County CAB	60
Shirenewton Toddlers	90
Shirenewton & Mynyddbach Window Art Trail	60

Dates of future meetings –Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September and Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 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](http://www.shirenewtoncc.org.uk)

Contact the Clerk to the Community Council -

Mrs Hilary Counsell

Tel: 01291 421307

E-mail: [Shirenewtoncc@gmail.com](mailto:Shirenewtoncc@gmail.com)

Shirenewton Church Website  
[www.shirenewtonchurch.com](http://www.shirenewtonchurch.com)  
[www.shirenewtonshop.com](http://www.shirenewtonshop.com)



Welcome back. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer.

You may recall that in my last post, I concluded that RFID blocking cards had an effect but that more testing was required. My further testing was unintentional and took place at the Mall @ Cribbs Causeway!

My lovely wife and I had just completed a few bites at YO! Sushi and were attempting to pay. I wanted to pay with a non-contactless credit card but, whilst the waiter was trying to place the credit card into the machine it had read the contactless debit card in my wallet and processed the payment!!!

Let me re-iterate. The contactless reader read my debit card from over 2ft away and processed it. Granted that my wallet was open on the counter in front of me but it's still worrying. Now, you ask, where was your RFID blocking card? Good question! It was also in my wallet but further away from the reader. My wallet folds and the blocking card was in the left side, the debit card in the right and the reader over 2ft off to the right. So the blocking card was, maybe, three inches, from the debit card.

So what have you learnt from the above? Firstly, this whole 'drive by' thing is definitely a possibility! If the machine can read a card from my wallet over 2ft away. Secondly, the blocking card is not a panacea. It would seem that it needs to be in close proximity to the card being protected. Thirdly, more testing is required!!!

I'm writing this from Spain on a Monday morning hoping that I can get in to Terry in time for publication so, it is by necessity, brief.

However, I thought that as a good citizen I'd test the My Monmouthshire app which I downloaded just prior to going on holiday. Among many other things, the app is supposed to allow you to take a photo and report fly tipping and pot holes directly to the council from your phone. The first thing you have to do is register from an account at the Monmouthshire CC website.

This registration process did not go smoothly. After contacting the helpline, I discovered that the trick is that you need to select your address from a dropdown. The problem is that the dropdown is very slow to load so you've moved on and submitted the form before the system catches up. The very pleasant man at the helpdesk told me that the system is new and it will speed up. Here's hoping.

Having registered you can download the app and, allegedly, report away. I say allegedly because I don't think Monmouthshire CC is that interested in pot holes or fly tipping on the Costa Daurada which is where I've been since downloading the app. I'll let you know how it goes when I've tested it!

Anyway, on that happy note, please don't forget to shop through [www.shirenewtonshop.com](http://www.shirenewtonshop.com).  
Until next month .....

Safe browsing

A decorative border made of small red circles surrounds the text.

**SHIRENEWTON**

**VILLAGE MARKET**

**DATES FOR 2018**

**PLEASE NOTE NEW MARKET**

**HOURS 10.30 – 12.30**

**15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018**

**20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

**17<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

**15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018**

**CHRISTMAS MARKET**



# Spring Clean

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01291-01600-01594-01633 AND BEYOND

## **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**

## TEAM PLAYERS

Rick Hayes

The World Cup is over and France the winner, but I feel it is worth reflecting on the games played and take some positives from them.

Although I am not much of a football fan, I found I enjoyed watching England play and I noticed a difference in the team's ethos. Not only were they a new and inexperienced team, they were a TEAM, including the manager.

It wasn't like the days of old, where all tried to deliver the ball to one player, so that they could score. There were no LOOK at me stars dominating the play or the team.

Gareth Southgate, when speaking to the press displayed humbleness and humility and appeared to talk from the heart. The team played as a united unit, no one greater than anyone else.

Even when Kieran Trippier had to come off because of injury in the Croatia game, the 10 remaining players continued to give it their all.

This sort of team working is something anyone can learn from, both in business, faith, sport and social activities.

We are bombarded with all sorts of adverts telling us to buy this and that, because it will make us feel special. Well I tried some of the famous aftershave, and I can confirm I never got the high class dinner suit, or the six pack that went with it. But working in a team does help to make me feel special, a part of something, working collaboratively together for the greater good. This is happening in many areas of my life including church and business.

Many of us have been told 'to think of others and not ourselves' but surely a team working well doesn't need to be told, they have a 'Southgate' who nurtures, coaches and supports their team to this 'US and not ME' mind-set. Going back to the England team, they experienced their first international setting as a team, they are young and have a chance next time round.

Many times at work we talk about storming, norming and performing, which is where a team matures together.

This is where profile build states that where people meet and form teams for the first time, there is a time for storming, a bit like chickens sorting out the 'pecking' order. Then comes the move to a more stable norming process, where everyone knows why they are in the team and the roles that are needed, each is part of the whole. Lastly once the team matures and breaths as one we have the performing process, where all are one and one are all, and together they make the difference. There are example in the Bible about working together, we have Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, which gives a good indication that when we work together two people can do more than twice as much as one person can do.

Within the book of Acts we witness the church coming together as a team. Acts 1:14 in prayer. Acts 2:46 where all met in their homes and shared bread. The letters from Paul also show the team working, that took place then and can still take place today. 1 Corinthians 12:6-20 explains that the performing team has many gifts and talents, and all are used for the Glory of God and the church. Do we still have these gifts today? We are also told about the body and how each part needs to know where it fits, this again is try team working, because without a

how we fit together and what we need to do to become a performing team within the team.

A small cog is as important as a large cog as well as being just as important as the clock face with its hands, because without the small cog working, the rest will not be able to work either.

So let's build our teams and work together to continue performing and draw people to the Kingdom of God.

One final passing thought on team working. Tracey and I have a very close team working relationship and we love each other and work well as a married team. We also have a wonderful team, which is called family and friends, but it would appear that we have other team members within the family we did not know about, one being our special box where mail is delivered too. I have just received a text message telling me that the package has been left with the special box, and to top it all the special box even signed for the package.

That special box will be asking for internet access soon...

## **RED KITE SEEN OVER MYNYDDBACH**

Motoring down School Hill, Mynyddbach the other day, I was surprised to see a Red Kite flying towards me. Stopping the car I got out and saw it fly away over the green and out of sight.

Enquiries with Bird Watchers in the area revealed that this Kite had been seen in Devauden and St Arvans.

Keep your eyes open for this magnificent bird, distinguished from a Common Buzzard by its forked tail.

I took this photograph at the Red Kite Centre at Gigrin Farm Rhader some years ago.





shirenewtonshamble@gmail.com

## Window Art Trail

Come join us at dusk when the stars come out and the whole village is transformed into a spectacular gallery.

Be inspired to create your own display and be part of the gallery, then 'shamble' around the village with your friends and neighbours.

Don't miss out! It will be on 13th & 14th October 2018.

To register your interest please go to:

<https://goo.gl/forms/KxebEHT5QHb9HgTB3>

There will also be a party at The Rec Hall for all the family Saturday evening!

[www.shirenewtonshamble.blogspot.com](http://www.shirenewtonshamble.blogspot.com)

SHAMBLE: Shirenewton And Mynydd Bach iLlumination Extravaganza!



## Join the Shirenewton Sh.A.M.B.L.E. Craft, Creativity, Community

Shirenewton and Mynydd Bach iLlumination Extravaganza needs your support!

What's this all about? A really fun, creative project that anyone can get involved in. For one weekend Shirenewton and Mynydd Bach will be transformed into an outdoor gallery where windows become works of art. We'd like as many people as possible to decorate their windows to make the impact as dramatic and fun as possible.

It's a great opportunity for the community to come together and the best thing is that you don't need to be an artist to get involved – all you need is a window and a willingness to join in! It's free to take part in and free to walk around.

To make it happen we need lots of people to join in. You can do whatever you want, from a candle in the window, to a band in your living room or a cut out silhouette, simple to spectacular- it's completely up to you, anything goes!

We're planning to use the village hall as a focal point for people to gather, have a hot drink, pick up a free map and chat about what they've seen.

When is it happening? At dusk on the evenings of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October.

How can I get involved? If you'd like to decorate your windows, that's brilliant. So that we can include you on our map, **please follow this link and complete the very simple form:** <https://goo.gl/forms/KxebEHT5QHb9HgTB3> You don't have to decide what you want to do yet, just let us know you're interested.

If you'd like to decorate a window, but where you live isn't suitable that's fine. Perhaps you'd like to make a display in one of the public windows in the village? We'd love to hear from you; email us at [shirenewtonshamble@gmail.com](mailto:shirenewtonshamble@gmail.com)

We're also hoping to have some drop-in community crafting sessions in September and October where there will be materials to use, some crafty inspiration and a chance to meet others who are creating displays. For more info, drop us an email or keep an eye on the website [www.shirenewtonshamble.blogspot.com](http://www.shirenewtonshamble.blogspot.com)

Or just come along and 'shamble' around the village on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, meet your neighbours, bring your friends and check out the extravaganza!

## GARDENING CORNER

What a difficult year it has turned into. Those of you who enjoy the sun will no doubt have been making the most of it at every opportunity, and why not. It's not often we get such warmth and unbroken sunshine, although maybe, as so called experts keep reminding us, this is the future. Hopefully not every year in my lifetime, as it will take most of the relaxing pleasures I have in life (gardening and fishing) away from me and I wouldn't enjoy life to the level I do now. Difficult does not fully describe the endless hours of watering I have had to endure, just to keep the greenhouses and tunnels alive. Outside in the garden, things have just had to make the best they could of a bad job. Some crops have failed miserably, whilst others have thrived beyond our expectations. If nothing else, this year has demonstrated the benefits of a plentiful supply of manure / compost as the areas where these have been incorporated into the soil have fared far better than those that have been 'on their own'. In the last 'Gardening Corner' I was bemoaning the fact that the previously wet weather had delayed planting times, but by then we were already hoping for rain to keep things going. This never really arrived until the end of July and into August. As a result all the pea and different bean crops fell by the wayside, I watered the latter to some degree, but the level of pollination was minimal to say the least. The bees were doing their best, but flowers just fell like confetti and as a result we have not had a single picking of runner beans this year. The French beans, which were not climbing varieties, fared a little better as they are used to a bit more warmth, so at least we have had a steady picking of these. Bizarrely, all of the greens, such as cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower have all done pretty well. They matured much earlier than they should have done, and of course, as usual, all came to maturity about the same time. That said though, the cauliflowers are probably the best that I have grown in some forty years. This year I bought a purpose built 'mini-tunnel', which fits one of the longer raised beds perfectly. This was covered with extra-fine insect netting, which is meant to keep out every little flying pest known to man. This did the job exceptionally well, so all of the vegetables were free of insects when it came to harvesting time. I also think that the netting kept the plants a little more shady, and as a result cooler, so better growing conditions all round. In fact this tunnel was so successful, that I'm tempted to buy another couple for next year. They aren't cheap, but the way that the price of vegetables is now rising in the shops, I reckon that they will have easily paid for themselves within a couple of years. The produce was outstanding too in respect of flavour, but there is only so much you can eat fresh picked so we have a year's supply of broccoli gratin and cauliflower cheese in the freezer for good measure! I would add that the freezers aren't solely full of these delightful dishes – just in case you were wondering!

Other notable crops that have benefitted from the extra heat have been potatoes and sweet peppers. Despite the lack of water the potatoes, especially first earlies, have done remarkably well. Not only have they reached a good size, but they have

also been wonderfully free of damage from slugs. These pesky creatures have had to burrow deep down in the soil in order to remain moist, and so have been well below the potatoes. Unfortunately with damp weather now about, they are re-emerging and ravenous, so the remaining crops will no doubt suffer.

Peppers generally like warmth, but this year they have positively enjoyed the heat. The sweet peppers are the biggest and juiciest we have ever grown, and the hot peppers aren't far behind. Other notable exceptions have been the courgettes and squash plants. They have had a smattering of water but nowhere near as much as they should have had. They are in remarkably rude health despite this, and we have had so many courgettes / marrows, that many have found their way onto the compost heap as there are only so many you can eat, or so much chutney to make!

Tomatoes in the large tunnel have really suffered though. Despite copious watering, sometimes twice a day, they have struggled from day one. Initially they were doing ok, but then the pollination levels started dropping. Despite the watering, we and other growers suffered with 'blossom end rot', which affected many of the fruits. Those that have grown have not ripened well. It is almost as though they have had too much sun as many have large orange or green blotches, which never ripen. The larger tomato varieties that we grow are specifically for making into sauces, and these blotches have meant more cutting up of the fruits as these hard parts do not cook down and so have to be discarded.

Away from the vegetables, the flower garden has suffered badly. Newly established plants have just had to take their chances. I grow a lot of flowers for cutting to keep the flower arranger in the house happy, and the success of these, as with the vegetables have been extremely variable. On the one hand sweet peas and our favourite alstroemaria's have suffered badly. Some of the gladioli have done well, but others not, and yet, despite all this, the dahlias, which need a lot of moisture, have done very well. They have received some water, but have definitely demonstrated that the addition of composted matter in the soil makes the biggest difference to the level of success. They were planted in an area that was meant to be a 'wild flower' area, but which was taken over by docks and nettles – hardly what was wanted. This had been sprayed off, then dug and numerous wheelbarrows of fresh soil, mixed with compost, were added. The results speak for themselves! Fortunately the flower arranger has been confined to barracks as she recently had a new knee, so the need for copious quantities of flowers has not materialised. Fortunately the gladioli are easy to cut and put in a vase so I have kept her supplied with these for a number of weeks.

The continuing dry weather has meant that I have been unable to get the last two or three flower beds in order. I did attack the one bed though that was full of

*Continued on page 20*

*Continued from page 19*

couch grass. I literally went through digging everything out, salvaging the plants where I could and potting these on for future planting elsewhere. The odd bits of couch grass are re-appearing but I keep digging these up as soon as they are seen. Most are just small, broken sections of root, but this shows how little you need for it to start spreading all over again. As an interim measure I planted some spare red leaved dahlias in some of the bed, simply because they were in pots and had to be watered so it was just as easy to plant them. I have also been splashing out on some roses, all with good scent, as we have decided to turn the bed over to roses, with geraniums inter-planted and lavender edging. We have an old pergola as well so this will be re-vamped and some climbing roses planted at the base of each post. We are going to move one of our spare seats into the middle of the rose bed as well, so that we can enjoy the scent whilst having an evening cuppa – at least that’s the plan. The rain has arrived, so I have planted the first roses in the bed. This will be a starter for ten and I’ll look to buy some more, bare rooted plants in the autumn, to finish the job off.

One of our friends has a boundary fence that is always smothered in wisteria blooms in the spring. It is such a striking feature that I thought this might be nice along our boundary fence. I bought three very small plants from a nursery in the Vale of Evesham, hoping they would soon grow on. They were slow to start with, but gradually got going. I then put them into larger pots and they have now really taken off. The ground that they are going into is currently grass (in inverted commas). You would have a job to tell because of the thousands of dandelions! I’m going to spray all of this off shortly. It seems a bit drastic, but the soil level has sunk badly over the years and so the area needs to be topped up with more soil and then fresh grass sown. The ground also has a lot of daffodils in which have been getting less in number over the years, but hopefully more soil will allow me to plant more bulbs without digging out any of the old ones. I will then be able to plant the three wisteria. The variety is meant to start flowering in the first year, and they are strongly scented, so here’s hoping that they are a success.

Unfortunately the bees have been neglected to some degree this year. It was just too hot to deal with them unless you got up very early in the morning. They need going through and any honey that can be removed, brought back home for processing. I will then be able to treat them with special pads that give off fumes that kill the varroa mite, but don’t impact the bees. This can be done whilst the honey is still on the hive, but I prefer to do this after. More of this next time.

I’m meant to write two pages for the Parish Magazine and the other Head Gardener has told me I’ve started writing far too much. I’m sure I’ve jiggered the formatting on the page somehow or other, so we’ll see how it fits this month! Happy gardening until next month. *Steve and Felicity Hunt.*

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More details to follow in next month's parish mag.

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*Stuck for Ideas for Dressing Up for the Show?*

*Ladies, you could wear a long skirt or a long dress  
with a shawl or a Pashmina. And Edwardian ladies tended to wear hats  
too.*

*Gentlemen, you could wear the old top hat and smoking jacket but  
failing that, you could wear shirt and waistcoat, neckerchiefs ,  
cloth caps. Trousers, of course. Impressive Curly Moustache too if  
you've got one.*

*Why not try local charity shops of which there one or two in  
Chepstow.*

## FAIRTRADE NEWS AUGUST 2018



'Don't judge a book by its cover'. Quite. Recently on a Cornwall beach two rather unkempt teenagers appeared to be beach combing, driftwood, shells I thought. Of course we are now encouraged not to beach comb, in fact not to pick up any natural detritus, on the beach, in the forest, anywhere at all really. In fact they were litter-picking. Hooray! My mistake of course!

However, labels on goods are often deliberately misleading, or at least very economical with the truth, which amounts to the same thing. Traidcraft has launched a campaign arguing for more detailed labelling on packets of tea. : Say the word 'Assam' and most of us will think of a nice freshly-brewed cup of tea. Assam was the first place in the world where tea was mass produced for the British market, and tea from Assam has been shipped to the UK for well over a hundred years. Today many breakfast blends include tea from Assam and tea companies proudly show pictures of smiling tea pickers on their websites. But Assam hides a dirty secret. Workers are paid very poorly in comparison to others workers in the south Indian states of Kerala and Karnatka. Other services which the estate owners should provide are of poor quality, or virtually non-existent. Six UK brands together make up around two thirds of UK retail sales of tea. These brands have all been buying tea from Assam for years and they are well aware of the problems. Transparency is the key. One thing they could do right now is to publish the names of estates they buy from. It would give consumers the chance to make an informed choice. The campaign is called 'Who picked my tea?' You can find details on the Traidcraft website.

There has also been a campaign for more detail about the provenance of milk. I think a lot of people would not choose to buy milk from cows in 'zero-grazing units' (think about that for a mo!) or 'mega-dairies'. Compassion in World Farming says 'Cows kept indoors consume large amounts of human edible crops (e.g grain) unlike those kept on pasture that turn something we can't eat into something we can.' I read that more than 70% of the animals raised in the UK are factory farmed. Pictures of jolly pigs gambolling outside, chickens (with all their feathers and beaks intact!) enjoying the great outdoors are often very far from the truth. 50 billion animals globally endure circumstances at best harsh, at worst torture.

On a lighter note a cursory glance at a packet of Waitrose 'HONEY nut cornflakes' lists the ingredients as :maize, brown sugar, peanuts, sugar, maize dextrose monohydrate, salt, honey (0.7%), caramelized sugar syrup. They could be called 'SALT nut cornflakes'! (At a 'pinch'!)



## SHIRENEWTON WI

### MAKE-UP LESSON AND SUMMER EVENING

Emma Low came to our July meeting and gave us a very informative talk and make-up demonstration, ably assisted by her lovely model. Emma showed us the various stages of applying make-up and advised us on how to maintain our make-up in the hot weather. I paid particular attention to her tips for the over 40's! – one being to use gloss rather than matt products. Emma runs her business, Marvel Lash, from her home in St Arvans. She offers make-up consultations and sells her products from home and online.



Our Summer Dinner meeting was very kindly hosted by our president, Diane Ashton Smith. Despite the earlier thunderstorm (thank goodness for tumble driers), by the time members arrived they were treated to a lovely summer's evening in Diane's garden, complete with a shared meal al fresco.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 7.15pm at Shirenewton Recreation Hall. The subject of the talk will be '21 house moves in 24 years' given by Beverley Jones. I'm hoping that there are some de-cluttering tips for me there.

We always welcome new members – if you are interested then please contact Diane Ashton Smith (01291 628838) or Jane Butterworth (01291 641704) for further details.

### STARGAZING

The seven stars of the Plough can be seen in the northern evening sky whilst the "W" of the constellation Cassiopeia lies to the northeast. The constellation Pegasus includes a large square that lies to the south. The Summer Triangle made up of the bright stars Deneb, Vega and Altair continues to dominate the night sky to the South. Deneb forms the tail of the constellation Cygnus, the Swan which lies pretty much overhead. Its brightest stars form a cross against the background of the Milky Way. The head of the Swan is a beautiful double star called Albireo. Viewed through a small telescope it can be seen to be a striking pair of stars, one coloured blue the other gold.



At dusk, the bright Jupiter is close to the horizon in the south-west at dusk. In the evening, the slightly yellow planet Saturn lies to the south. The red planet Mars is to the left of Saturn. Jupiter is close to the crescent Moon on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Saturn joins the "half" Moon on the 17<sup>th</sup> and Mars is close to the Moon on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

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.

Autumnal Equinox occurs on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, when day and night are both 12 hours long.



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## Nerys's Natty Nosh



Toddlers aged 1-3 years are growing and developing quickly and it's an important time to make sure they are eating well to get all the nutrients they need as well as getting into the habit of eating a healthy, varied diet. This guide is designed to help parents choose a healthy, varied diet for their child. Recommended by the British Nutrition Foundation.

Food group	Example foods and toddler portion sizes
<b>Starchy foods</b>	<b>1/2-1 slice of bread</b> <b>1-2 rice cakes or oat cakes</b> <b>3-5 tbsp breakfast cereal</b> <b>1-3 tbsp mashed potato</b> <b>2-4 tbsp cooked pasta/rice</b> <b>2-4 potato wedges</b> <b>1/2-1 scone</b> <b>1/2-1 chapati</b>
<b>Fruit &amp; vegetables</b>	<b>1/2-2 tbsp raisins</b> <b>1/4-1 banana</b> <b>3-8 seedless grapes halved</b> <b>1/2-2 tbsp peas</b> <b>1/2-2 tbsp broccoli</b> <b>1/4-1/2 medium apple</b> <b>1-3 cherry tomatoes</b> <b>2-6 vegetable sticks</b> <b>2-6 soft fruit</b>
<b>Dairy foods</b>	<b>1 beaker of milk (100ml)</b> <b>1 pot of yogurt (125ml)</b> <b>1 cheese triangle</b> <b>2-4 tbsp rice pudding</b> <b>1-3 tbsp cheese sauce</b> <b>2 small yogurt tubes</b>
<b>Protein foods</b>	<b>2-3 tbsp chickpeas, kidney beans, dhal, lentils or beans</b> <b>2-4 tbsp cooked minced meat</b> <b>1-2 fish fingers</b> <b>2-3 tbsp baked beans</b> <b>1/2-1 poached, boiled or fried egg</b> <b>Peanut butter on bread or toast</b>



**It's important that toddlers feel part of a larger group and are encouraged when possible to eat with the family.  
I prepared an individual picnic box for Fred to take on a family picnic lunch.**



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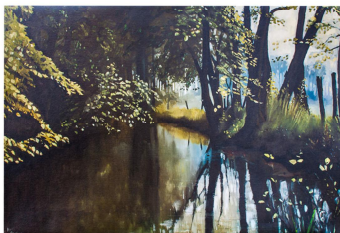
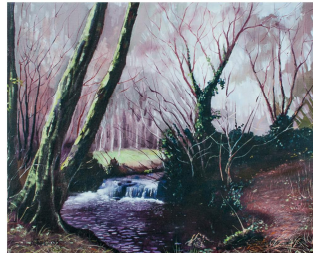
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## BUTTERFLY SURVEY



Over the last few years Jane and I have been conducting a butterfly survey in Shirenewton and Mynyddbach. This is a spring and summertime activity as butterflies (and surveyors) don't like the rain much. Every week from about Easter onwards, depending on when Easter falls, we follow the same route through a variety of habitats and we count the numbers of butterflies that we see. Then Jane sends the info up to the British Monitoring Survey. We don't count the micromoths as they are too difficult to identify but with only just over 50 varieties in the country we are in with a fighting chance of identifying the butterflies. Even so it would be useful if they would come closer, keep still for longer and open their wings properly.

This year started out disappointingly as the spring was cold, wet and windy. But the weather came good as we all know, and the butterflies came out to celebrate. The most common group we spotted - and what a bumper year it's been - was the Whites, the large and the small, green veined and marbled. It's also been a good year for commas, meadow browns, common blues, orange tips and ringlets

We usually see some brimstones early in the season but not this year. We've seen burnets and gate keepers but again fewer this year than last. Large and small skippers and speckled woods have been about the same in numbers. In the last few weeks we've seen red admirals, small tortoiseshells and peacocks. Last year I saw clouded yellows but as they were down on the wetlands they don't count. And we haven't seen my favourite this year - the small copper. But hey, maybe next year. Meanwhile, I'll keep planting nectar-rich butterfly-attracting plants in my garden. But, please, keep off my beans, brassicas, lettuces and nasturtiums.

Glynis and Jane

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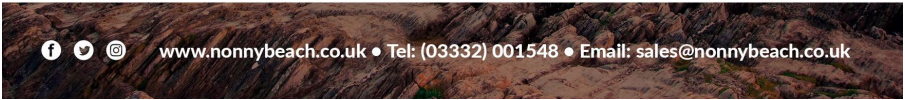
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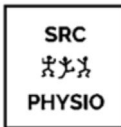
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## DIARY DATES

Date	Event	Location
<b>September</b>	Event	Location
<b>3rd 7:30</b>	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
<b>7th 7:30 pm</b>	Call My Bluff Wine Tasting	Saysell Centre
<b>15th 10:00</b>	Village Market	Recreation Hall
<b>October</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>1st 7:30</b>	Community Council Meeting	Recreation Hall
<b>13 &amp; 14th</b>	Shirenewton Shamble	
<b>20th 10:00</b>	Village Market	Recreation Hall

## 'Flowers for the Fallen'



Flower arrangements by local people to  
commemorate the centenary of the end of  
World War On

Shirenewton Church

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November 10:00 - 5:00

Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 12:00 - 5:00

### Remembrance Day Service

Shirenewton War Memorial  
on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2018 at 10:50

Then the service will continue in  
Shirenewton Church with the  
uniform brigades and their colours.

Readers and Sides Persons		September	
St Thomas a Beckett Church, Shirenewton			
Date	Sunday Service	Readers	Sides Persons
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



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Tredegar Arms (Shirenewton village)

*Yr Hen Stordy* (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  
Telephone 01291 641338 or email [terencewalters@hotmail.com](mailto:terencewalters@hotmail.com)*

### Church of St. Thomas à Becket Shirenewton

<b>Rector</b>	Revd Julian White <a href="mailto:Jel.white@btinternet.com">Jel.white@btinternet.com</a>	01291 622317
<b>Parish Priest</b>	Revd Nansi Davies CBE	01633 400 519
<b>Lay Eucharistic Minister</b>	Gilly Lambert	01291 641 175
<b>Parish Visitor Coordinators</b>	Revd Nansi Davies CBE Diane Marlow	01633 400 519 01291 641 407
<b>Church Wardens</b>	Sally Saysell Andrew Baker	01291 641 369 01291 641 925
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Bill Clark	01291 641 783
<b>PCC Treasurer</b>	Graham Lambert	01291 641 175
<b>PCC Members</b>	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
<b>People's Warden</b>	Ruth Savagar Karen Millar Ruth Savagar James Leney	01291 641 411 01291 650 521 01291 641 411 01291 641 271
<b>Gift Aid Secretary</b>	Lynn Morcombe	01291 641 671
<b>Organists</b>	Mike Penney	01291 650 653
<b>Sunday Club</b>	Glynis MacDonald	01291 641 818
<b>Tower Captain</b>	Lynn Morcombe	01291 641 671
<b>Saysell Centre Booking</b>	Maureen Moody	01291 641 524
<b>Safeguarding Officer</b>	Terry Walters	01291 641 338
<b>Church Flowers</b>	Graham Lambert	01291 641 175
<b>Parish Magazine Editor</b>		
<b>200 Club</b>		

### Church of St Tewdrics's Mathern

**Secretary and Church Warden** Monnica Williams [monnica.williams@virgin.net](mailto:monnica.williams@virgin.net)

### MP/Monmouth CC & Community Council Representatives

**Community Council Clerk** Hilary Counsell 01291 421307 [shirenewtoncc@gmail.com](mailto:shirenewtoncc@gmail.com)

**Shirenewton Ward:**  
Chair Bryn Price 01291 641217 [brynprice@gmail.com](mailto:brynprice@gmail.com)  
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[michelledavies100@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:michelledavies100@yahoo.co.uk)  
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Dr James Grose  
Mrs Jane Smith-Haddon  
Louise Brown 07598979719  
[louisebrown@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:louisebrown@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

#### **Mynyddbach Ward**

#### **Newchurch West**

Ian Martin 01291 650014 [longmeadow@outlook.com](mailto:longmeadow@outlook.com)

#### **Earlswood Ward**

Ken Morton 01291 650268 [ken.morton@hotmail.com](mailto:ken.morton@hotmail.com)

**Vacancy**

#### **MCC for Shirenewton**

Louise Brown 07598 979719  
[louisebrownbrown@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:louisebrownbrown@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

#### **Member of Parliament**

David Davies 020 7219 8360 [daviesd@parliament.uk](mailto:daviesd@parliament.uk)



## **Police Neighbourhood Watch Contacts**

**Comm. Police Officer** Louise Thorpe 01633 642068  
louise.thorpe@gwent.pnn.police.uk  
**Shirenewton & Mynyddbach** Beverley Moore 01291 641532

**Earlswood** Sue Leat 01291 641207

### **Other Local Organisations**

**Beavers** Julie Hitchcock 01291 650548

#### **Church Fete**

**Earlswood Hope** Mrs Sylvia Jeremiah, Mr Raymond Jeremiah 01291 641726

#### **Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall**

Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818  
glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

#### **Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel**

Avril Smith 01291 650733

#### **Gaerllwyd Baptist**

Mrs E Remnant Brooklands, Usk Road NP16 6SA

#### **Girl Guides**

Helen Cann 01291 650835 cannhelen@gmail.com

#### **Recreation Association**

Gordon Hughes 01291 641356 gordon.hughes3@tesco.net

#### **Recreation Hall booking**

Beryl Saysell 01291 641637

#### **St Peters Church Newchurch**

Enid Heritage 01291 622708

#### **Shirenewton Local History Society**

Dorothy Brabon 01291 641376 brabonnl@hotmail.com

#### **Shirenewton and Mynyddbach Fields Association Ltd (SAMFAL)**

Neil Fuller 01291 641324

#### **Shirenewton & Mynyddbach Initiative for Local Enterprise (SMILE)**

Charles Eickhoff 01291 641716 eickhoff@shirenewton.org

#### **Caerwent Group Mothers Union**

Rosemary Carey 01291 425010 crcandkili@tiscali.co.uk

#### **Treasurer**

Auriol Horton 01291 641844 aur10l@btinternet.com

#### **Shirenewton Operatic and Dramatic Society (SODS)**

Glynis MacDonald 01291 641818

glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com

#### **Shirenewton Play Group**

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#### **Shirenewton Primary School**

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email jillianmitchell@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Jayne Edwards 01291 641774

jayneedwards@monmouthshire.gov.uk

#### **Shirenewton Tennis Association**

P Brabon 01291 641376 brabonnl@hotmail.com

#### **Shirenewton Toddler Group**

Jude Langdon 07981 368213

Paula Rimmer rimmerpaula@mac.com

#### **Fairtrade/Traidcraft**

Marion McAdam 01291 641316

#### **Womens Institute (WI)**

Diane Ashton Smith (President) 01291 628838

Jane Butterworth (Secretary) 01291 641704.



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## SHIRENEWTON PARISH MAGAZINE EDITORIAL INFORMATION

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