

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



**Parishes of Shirenewton and Newchurch**

**Magazine**

**READERS AND SIDES-PERSONS ROTA FOR FEBRUARY 2007**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SERVICE</b>	<b>READER</b>	<b>SIDES-PERSON</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> March	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent 9.45 a.m.	Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds	Kevin Bounds Alistair Bounds
11 <sup>th</sup> March	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent 9.45 a.m.	Mike Peirce Andrew Baker	Mike Pearce Andrew Baker
18 <sup>th</sup> March	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent 9.45	<b>MOTHERING SUNDAY</b>	
25 <sup>th</sup> March	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent 9.45 a.m.	Winnie Jones Ernie Jones	Winnie Jones Ernie Jones
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Palm Sunday 9.45 a.m.	James Loney Cynthia Smith	Bernice Bowen Claire Lewis
		<b>FAMILY SERVICE</b>	

**Newchurch the first and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at 2.30 p.m.**

## SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>INCUMBENT:</b>	The Revd Hugh Trenchard	424984
<b>CURATE</b>	The Revd Nansi Davies	01633 400519
<b>CHURCH WARDENS:</b>	Alan Saysell	641369
	Sally Saysell	641369
	Mrs Kath Whittington – Newchurch	641600
	Mrs Susan Lenthall – Newchurch	626389
<b>PCC SECRETARIES:</b>	Andrew Baker - Shirenewton	641925
	David Heritage- Newchurch	641549
<b>PCC TREASURERS:</b>	Kevin Bounds - Shirenewton	641818
	Enid Heritage - Newchurch	641549
<b>GIFT AID SECRETARY</b>	Ruth Savagar	641411
<b>CHURCH MAINTENANCE &amp; SAFETY OFFICER</b>	John Nicholas	641368
<b>ORGANISTS:</b>	Karen Millar	650521
	Ruth Savagar	641411
	Kath Whittington	641600
<b>SUNDAY SCHOOL:</b>	Jane Smith-Haddon	641525
<b>TOWER CAPTAIN:</b>	Mike Penny	650653
<b>MOTHERS UNION:</b>	Auriol Horton	641844
<b>CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER:</b>	John Waters	641449
<b>CHURCH FLOWERS:</b>	Maureen Moody	641524
<b>PARISH MAGAZINE:</b>	Bob O'Keefe	641686
<b>200 Club</b>	Pauline Dutton	641677

### NAMES TO NOTE

<b>COMMUNITY COUNCIL</b>	.John Eede (Chairman)	641257
<b>WI:</b>	Sally Saysell	641369
<b>SCOUTS:</b>	Dave Richardson	620356
<b>GUIDES:</b>	Helen Cann	650835
<b>BROWNIES:</b>	Jackie Broughton	641797
<b>CUBS:</b>	Diana Such	650638
<b>BEAVERS:</b>	Gill Norris	622703
<b>POLICE CONTACT:</b>	P.C. Andrew Mason	01633 838111
<b>REC. BOOKING SECRETARY:</b>	Beryl Saysell	641637
<b>TRADCRAFT:</b>	Marion McAdam	641316
<b>NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATOR</b>		
<b>S'NEWTON &amp; MYNYDD BACH</b>	Beverley Moore	641532
Local History Society	John Clelland	650595

27th Feb	Local History Society Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel.
1st March	Whist Drive—Recreation Hall—7.30
2nd March	M. U.—Women's World Day of Prayer—Shirenewton Church.
5th March	Local History Society—Visit Archives County Hall (see notes inside)
12th March	Local History Society—Resource session—Rec. Hall from 2.00
14th March	Mothers Union —Recreation Hall 2.30
17th March	Police Surgery 10 a.m.—12 at the Recreation Hall
17th March	Fair Trade Fair—Caerwent Parish Church.
31st March	Choral Society Concert—St Mary's Chepstow 7.30p.m.
15th March	Church Fete Meeting at the Huntsman—8.00 p.m.
25th March	St David's Foundation Sponsored Walk, Newport Castle to Penhow Castle or to Chepstow Castle (see page 31)
1st April	Palm Sunday
5th April	Whist Drive—Recreation Hall 7-30 p.m.
15th April	Easter Sunday
21st April	Police Surgery 10 a.m.—12 at the Recreation Hall
22nd April	Reordering Service of Dedication Caerwent Church 10.30 a.m. by the Bishop of Monmouth.

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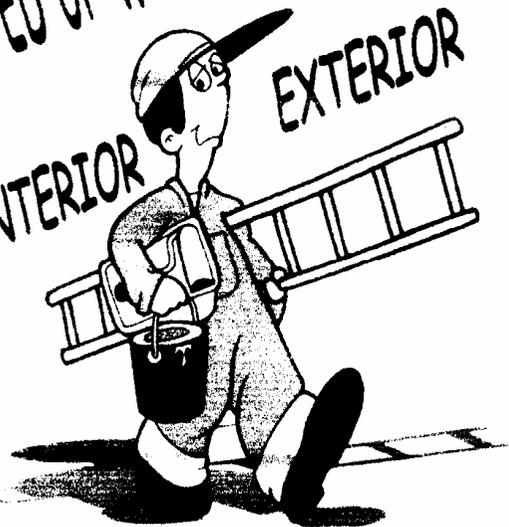
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Please send notes, discs or emails for the April magazine to Bob O'Keefe at: 15 Newton Manor, Shirenewton, (641686) or email to bobandwenche@aol.com by Friday 23rd March for inclusion in the April magazine.

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March 2007.

Dear Parishioners,

I have included Bishop Dominic's Pastoral Letter and commend his frank and open approach to you. Lent gives us a chance to find again or for the first time a way of preparing for Easter.

I will say more of Easter next month but there are some important things to say now. From Mothering Sunday onward we hope to make a particular welcome in all our churches for anyone looking to come to church for the first time and for anyone who used to come but has got out of the habit. God needs all of us together to speak loudly to His world. His Church needs to be active in responding to our environment. Our actions dare not be token – using the car less or changing to more efficient light bulbs or just adding a little more to our giving to charity. God's world demands more of us and needs resurrection not an impossible re-birth. Renewing and celebration go hand in hand and so we invite you to come and join us. It does not matter how many years you may have been away, you are God's child and He will always welcome you.

There is another invitation I would like to make. On Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of April Bishop Dominic will dedicate the reordering in Caerwent Church at the Eucharist at 10.30 am. This will be a chance to hear and meet the Bishop and we are encouraging our four parishes to come together for that unique celebration. In the evening in place of evensong the Netherwent Singers will crown the day with a performance of Vivaldi's Gloria. This is a rousing and sublime piece of music and so joins us twice that day. May I also offer all our congratulations to Shirenewton Sunday School for raising enough money to dig an Oxfam well.

Should April's magazine not be in your hands in time – a happy and blessed Easter to you all.

With every good wish,  
Hugh Trenchard.

## PASTORAL LETTER

### **A Pastoral Letter from the Bishop of Monmouth to be read at each church service in the Diocese of Monmouth on the Sunday before Lent, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2007.**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This week we begin our observance of Lent and it is a customary time for a Bishop to write to his people to encourage them to observe this holy season. Lent is a time of preparation for Easter when God's people are called to observe four particular disciplines.

**The first discipline is prayer.** Most of us live very busy lives and prayer can become hurried, or neglected altogether. Prayer can also become a 'shopping' list of things we want from God or something we do as a last resort!

I like the story of Mother Teresa who was asked by a reporter what she said to God when she prayed. She said, 'I don't say anything, I listen'. The reporter then asked, 'Well, what does God say?' and Mother Teresa replied, 'He doesn't say anything. He listens.' And then she added, 'If you don't understand that, you don't understand prayer. Yes, prayer is as much about listening as about talking, and we need to find some time each day, if only a few minutes when we can be quiet and be with God.

**The second discipline is bible study.** I hope that you all have a modern version of the bible, and it also helps to have a bible commentary on the books you want to study. We all need help to understand the background to the scriptures and to learn to apply them to our lives today. This Lent, why not choose one of the gospels or one of Paul's letters and read a passage each day. Reading the scriptures slowly can lead to quiet prayer as we let God's word speak to us.

**The third discipline is almsgiving.** Christians should be disciplined in how they spend their money and in deciding how much to give for the life and ministry of the church, but in Lent you are asked to think of giving some extra money for the poor. We have so much in terms of food,

them the longest growing season possible. If you don't have a greenhouse the kitchen windowsill is just as good for starting them off, but you must have something like a conservatory to be able to grow them on, otherwise they will become too weak and leggy and succumb to every disease in the book. If you don't have this facility it is best to leave sowing for another month, or simply just buy from a nursery later on and leave them with all the early worries! If the plants are to be reared in a cold greenhouse I wouldn't consider planting these out until middle of April, and even then they will need to be protected at night by horticultural fleece. These salad crops are particularly susceptible to cold and more so extremes of temperature between day and night. If going outside this would be delayed until the middle of May, and only then if they were protected by a warm wall or building. Other salad crops are not so troublesome and I will also be sowing seeds of radishes and lettuces this week. These will be in large pots in the greenhouse and continued on in there as well. The lettuce will be a mixture of "cut and come again" for leaf salads and the more traditional "heading" varieties. The latter varieties will be planted outside in the raised vegetable beds as and when the weather is right. I find that grown inside they tend to get very leggy and often bolt before the heads fatten up properly!

The potato seed is chitting (sprouting) well on the conservatory windowsill. I still intend to plant some of these in the next few days, but this will be in the greenhouse border now, just so that we can get a few extra early potatoes. I'll also be putting some carrot seed in as well so that we can pull some young, baby carrots well before the main crop outside. The strawberry plants that went into pots are looking quite well outside and I think it is now time for these to come inside the greenhouse for that extra early crop. This year has started off literally with a bang for us here at Barn farm! To show how crazy the weather has been I actually had to cut our grass on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February as it was still actively growing and had got too long. Never in my fifty plus years have I seen the need for this! Happy gardening until next month.

Steve Hunt.

tunnel frame to which it is attached. This had lifted probably fifty feet into the air before coming to rest in the vegetable garden, impaled on every stake and support to die a lingering death. The framework itself had also taken a bashing. Two complete hoops had been bent and mangled as if they were balsa-wood. Keep in mind that these are 2 and three quarter inch wide galvanised steel hoops and you can understand the shear force with which they were subjected. To add insult to injury these bent hoops had collapsed straight on top of the frame I had built to support the new apricot and peach trees, decapitating one peach completely. I found out later that the wind also managed to find some of the Dutch glass lights used for covering over the cold frame. These were now in a hundred pieces and won't be as easy to replace as the tunnel cover. Fortunately I do have some spare pipes so the tunnel framework will be repairable at no great cost, it just means another two days work to get things back in order, which I don't have "spare". It also requires a warm, still Spring day to lay the plastic over the framework to allow it to build up the necessary heat inside, so that it can be stretched tight. Who knows how long we will have to wait for one of those!

Of course the real downside of all this is that we won't now be eating any early produce this year. The whole episode has really knocked us back a number of weeks but we must now pick ourselves up and start again. It's only a tunnel cover after all! So we need to get our heads in gear this week and start to plan for the new season ahead. I will still start some broad beans and peas off in the greenhouse in the next week or two, but these will then be planted out in the vegetable patch, probably about the third week in March. These can be quite hardy and stand low night temperatures. What I find they don't like is sitting in particularly cold, wet soil and they often succumb to black stem rot and die. Hence why I'm not rushing to get them on growing. What do need to be started in the greenhouse are the main salad crops such as tomatoes, peppers and cucumbers. These always produce the best results if you can give

water and clothing as well as education and health care. Lent is a time to remember those for whom each day is a struggle for survival and to share some of our blessings with them.

**The fourth disciple is fasting.** Jesus did not say '*If you fast...*' but '*When you fast...*' He expected his followers to fast as he did. Being slightly hungry makes us more prayerfully aware and reminds us of those who are hungry every day. It is an act of sacrifice and therefore a prayer, not of words but of deeds.

This Lent I am asking you to combine almsgiving with fasting by going without a meal on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and by giving the money you have saved to help feed the hungry in our link Diocese of the Highveld where the Anglican church supports feeding projects on large informal settlements where the people live in huts made of corrugated iron, and where they have no employment, no welfare assistance, no schools for their children and where many have HIV and AIDS.

If we all go without a meal each week during Lent, we shall be able to pay for thousands of others to have some basic food for their families.

I realize that some people are unable to fast for medical reasons, in which case you might like to go without some particular food or luxury during Lent or have a very simple meal instead. Most of us thankfully, will be able to go without a meal in the knowledge that our small sacrifice will make a big difference to the lives of others. Jesus tells us that when we feed the hungry we are serving him because whatever we do for our less fortunate brothers and sisters, we do for him.

I am asking each church to make arrangements so that people can give the money they have saved into a special fund, either week by week, or at Easter.

May God richly bless you during the great season of Lent that you may be drawn into the mystery of the cross and passion, so as to share in the glory of Christ's risen life.

+ Dominic Monmouth.

# SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates for This Term		
Date	Time	Venue
4th March	9.45	Chantry
11th March	9.45	Chantry
18th March	9.45 - Mothering Sunday	Church
25th March	9.45	Chantry

*Shirenewton Sunday Club welcomes  
all children from 3 years. Do come and join us.*

*Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525*

*Glynis MacDonald 641 818*

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## SUNDAY CLUB

### **Following Jesus' Command to 'Love One Another'**

Over the year Sunday Club's collections amounted to quite a lot of money. What to do with it? Buy sweets? Felt tips? Chocolate? Yum Yum! But no. Sunday Club decided to use the money to help others. They went online to the Christian Aid 'Present Aid' web site to see what was on offer.

After a lot of discussion it was decided that it would be great to buy a well in a village in Bangladesh because the people there have to walk a long way to get fresh water. But the well cost more than we had. So the children decided to try and raise the extra money by having not just a sale but also an auction! Jane and I wondered whether this would work but everyone in Sunday Club was very enthusiastic.

## GARDENING CORNER

What is it they say about all the best-laid plans? Last month you may remember that I was intending to start the gardening season early by getting a number of crops started in the greenhouse and then planting them out in the beds of the tunnel. Well doesn't Mother Nature have a wonderful way of knocking you down! We get up quite early (usually 5.30 a.m.) most days so that the under gardener can get herself off to gainful employment. This often gives me an hour when, at the wrong time of month, I sit down to scribe some weasel words for this magazine. For some reason I find early morning particularly furtive when it comes to thinking of something to write about (although you may think otherwise of course!). This particular morning was a Thursday and the weather forecasters had said that Wales was going to get a good windy bashing all day long, with gusts of 80 miles an hour. As the old Severn Bridge would be closed for sure I decided that I'd bring paperwork home and sit quietly working away in the comfort of the kitchen!

As the morning progressed the winds duly increased and there was a steady stream of crashes and bangs as various bids of builder's materials decided to go walk about around the garden. By late morning the wind really was at full stretch. With a load crack and an accompanying roar, I next noticed the tunnel polythene lift high in the air and gradually descend to the ground. Not much I could do at that particular time, it was obvious the cover had finally given up the ghost and would no longer be protecting any crops.

The wind eventually eased in late afternoon to just a healthy gale, so I decided I would stretch the legs and see what damage had been wreaked. Apart from a large hole in the bottom hedge and one trellis flat on the ground, oh and an apple tree horizontal, there was little damage in the garden itself. On closer inspection of the tunnel however, things were not quite so rosey. The cover had been torn off completely down the one side, not just ripping the plastic though, but breaking off all the timber that was bolted to the sides of the

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We shouldn't have worried. The next Sunday, everyone brought good toys, videos and books that were surplus to requirements. Then Alex Moore went up into the pulpit and auctioned Tulip Posies made by Mary Lord, an iced cake made by Rhiannon Osbourne Tonner and a Paint Your Own Mug Set.

The Sale and the Auction together raised £127.50 which was so good that not only were we able to buy a well but we could buy some ducks and some beans as well.

So!!

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Pans, Beans, Maize, Axe, Hoe, Plates for Angola £20.00

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Total £303.00

What was so great was that this was initiated and organised by the children in Sunday Club. Brilliant!

Want to join Sunday Club? Ring Jane Smith Haddon on 641 525

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The next Family Service will be a short friendly service on Mothering Sunday - 18th March where the Brownies have kindly offered to make cakes to raise money for the Mothers' Union 'Make a Mother's Day Fund' for far away mothers in need.

Do come along. You will be warmly welcomed!

**Poor old Pyp has disappeared , but the following might be of some guidance to the younger ones, all of whom probably at least know his name!**

To anyone with kids of any age, or anyone who has ever been a kid, here's some advice Bill Gates recently dished out at a high school speech about 11 things they did not learn in school. He talks about how feel-good politically correct teachings created a full generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world.

**Rule 1:** Life is not fair - get used to it.

**Rule 2:** The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.

**Rule 3:** You will NOT make 40 thousand dollars a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone, until you earn both.

**Rule 4:** If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss. He doesn't have tenure.

**Rule 5:** Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping - they called it opportunity.

**Rule 6:** If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

**Rule 7:** Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you are. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parents' generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.

**Rule 8:** Your school may have done away with winners and losers but life has not. In some schools they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as many times as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

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**Rule 9:** Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you find yourself. Do that on your own time.

**Rule 10:** Television is NOT real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

**Rule 11:** Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one

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### FROM THE REGISTERS

26th January a Service of Thanksgiving was held for the life of David Adams; Born 1911 died 2007

10th February a Service of Baptism was held for Eleanor Anne Sharpe daughter of Alison and Michael Sharpe

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### SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

The Winners of the February Draw were:

| Ticket no | Winner        | Amount |
|-----------|---------------|--------|
| 34        | Brian Hopkins | £40    |
| 126       | Jill Tayton   | £30    |
| 58        | Stan Hughes   | £20    |
| 5         | Joanna Bounds | £10    |

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### **FOUND**

A set of keys was found in the Church some while ago. On the fob is a posh car key, two house keys and a Tesco tag thing.  
Ring Glynis on 641 818

## Church Fete

**The date 9th June has been fixed for this year's Fete.**

Next Fete Committee meeting is on Thursday 15th March at 8.00 p.m. in The Huntsman Hotel. If you are interested in participating new ideas are always welcome. We need you, this is not a closed club, so come and make a difference to this great community event.

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## Parish Magazine

Annual subscriptions of £5.00 for the 10 copies for the next twelve months became due in February. Would you kindly arrange to pay your regular "News boy / girl" during this period.

Our thanks go to all those that distribute the Magazine throughout the parish. Thanks also to Paul and Anne at the Village Shop for their contribution in selling the magazine.

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## St Peter's Church, Newchurch

### Reminder

**Palm Sunday Service 1st April at 3.p.m. not 2.30p.m.**

**Easter Sunday Service 8th April at 2.30.p.m.**

**Thereafter 1st and 3rd Sunday as previous**

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## Church Extension Work Has Begun.

After many years of fund raising enthusiastically driven by too many members of the Parish to mention, sufficient funds have been raised for work to be started on the extension to the Church.

Initial excavation work is complete, and the foundations are laid.

The extension will include a good sized meeting room, and toilets with access for the disabled in line with current regulations.



## *Caroline's Cookery Corner*

### **SALMON RISOTTO CAKES**

1 lb Salmon Fillet—cut into 1/2 inch (2.5cm cubes)  
10 oz risotto rice  
1 bunch spring onions  
1 oz butter  
2 tbsp olive oil  
1-1/2 pints fish stock  
1 egg  
Chopped parsley  
Salt and pepper  
1 small onion finely chopped

Heat the butter & 1 tablespoon of olive oil, add the onions and gently fry until soft. Add the rice and stir well to coat all the grains. Add some of the stock and bring to the boil, simmer adding the rest of the stock as needed until the rice is tender. When the mixture is cold add the spring onions, fish, parsley and egg—season, and shape into twelve cakes. Chill overnight.

Heat the remaining oil in a baking tray add the cakes and coat them in oil.  
Bake in a hot oven—200 c / 400 f for 30 minutes until golden and crisp.

*Once again our thanks to Caroline Davies*

**And who needs Mc Alpine when we have  
MacDonald & Smith-Haddon on the job**

## SPONSORSHIP OF FLOODLIGHTS AND FLAG

Shirenewton Church is grateful to the following sponsors:

Mr. and Mrs B. Priest for the month of March  
Mr. Hugh and Mrs Pauline James for the month of April

### **Note:**

Sponsorship costs £50 per item (i.e. floodlights or flags) per month. Recognition of your sponsorship will be shown in the parish magazine, in the Church porch and on the Shirenewton church website: ([www.shirenewtonchurch.com](http://www.shirenewtonchurch.com)) which will maintain an ongoing historical list of sponsors. Your name and a brief (reasonable) message will be published.

To sponsor either the flag or the lights please contact Kevin Bounds, John Nicholas or David Cornwell; on 641818; 641368 or 641614.

### **From Your Political Correspondent Reporting from the Community Council Meeting of Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 07**

#### **PC Andy Mason's Report.**

- .Provided an update on his encounters with The Bikers. It seems that one of the bikes in question had been stolen from Wells some three years ago. The bike has now been returned to its rightful owner
- There have been no Road Traffic Accidents this month, which is good news.
- There had been some complaints about noise from The Tredegar Arms
- There has been some fly-tipping in St Pierre Great Wood. The police suspected that it was building spoil as the rubbish included a garage door.
- There was concern over the Bike Scrambling around and on top of Grey Hill. PC Mason has urged people to report any incidents of scrambling to the police.



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# SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

Our January meeting was the 'Open Quiz'. Thanks to Jessica for formulating the questions which were challenging as ever. After a hard fought evening the 'Teetotallers' emerged as winners and were awarded a bottle of wine for their efforts!

In place of the February Resources afternoon Dorothy Brabon organised a visit to the County Records Office. One of the many highlights was a deed document from the uncle of Henry V11 with original large wax seal dating to 1492.

Dorothy Brabon has been holding Resources Sessions at the Recreation Hall which have been well attended and will continue throughout 2007.

You can now find out all about us and view this year's programme by logging on to [www.shirenewton-history.co.uk](http://www.shirenewton-history.co.uk).

Our meetings for the coming months are:

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February- We now have Daphne Pearson on '*Local lad makes good in Elizabethan London*' 7.30 P.M. Huntsman Hotel.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March- Resources Session with Dorothy Brabon 2.00pm Recreation Hall

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March- 'The Silures' by Ray Howell-7.30pm Huntsman Hotel.

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April- Resources Session with Dorothy Brabon 2.00pm Recreation Hall.

The next Police and Councillor Surgery will be held at Shirenewton Recreation Hall on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March 10.00 – 12.00. Come along if you have anything you wish to discuss with PC Mason. Ditto with a local councillor.

## ***Planning: -***

### ***Retrospective Planning on the old Shirenewton Golf Course***

This is in respect of the lamps and hard standing outside the gates. The council were concerned about having a gated community within a conservation area and also the way that retrospective planning applications had been used to such excess on the Golf Course Development. The council agreed to reject the application.

### ***Brook Cottage – Earlswood***

This is a proposed new build in open countryside and in a designated Special Landscape Area. To give permission would be in direct opposition to MCC's policy! The application was rejected.

## ***Clerk's Report***

It was reported that MCC had paid for the 7 styles that replaced the inadequate ones on the Shirenewton Golf Course. There was discussion on how MCC comes to these decisions, as it was understood that owners of the Golf Course development should have paid. The mysteries of how the MCC come to paradoxical decisions remained mysterious.

The Clerk reported on letters from members of the public, which suggested that the MCC were not following their own guidelines on Retrospective Planning. The councillors agreed and are concerned themselves about these apparent breaches and are looking into these issues. The Clerk was also concerned about the way the MCC dealt with planning applications, as sometimes they failed to notify the council of the relevant notices. This is becoming quite an area of concern.

The problem of long standing Rubbish in the field near to the school was being addressed.

Footpath 121 in Earlswood was being enforced.

**The Village Plan.** This should be completed by next month. Especially as the CEDS grant runs out in March.

**Interruption of Water and Power Supplies.** There was general disgruntlement over the 12 hour disruption. It was suggested that the Power Company should install a second generator down at Prysgau Bach. However it seems that this would require planning permission and consent from the Forestry Commission – or who ever it is that now owns the area., It wasn't going to be a quick fix.

**Wind Turbines.** Confusion as to whether planning permission is needed to install them. To be looked into.

**Flooding on the Shirenewton Rec Car Park.** Now rectified.  
**Ownership of the Cricket Shed.** (Like listening to the Archers) A meeting was to be held later in the week.

**Moles.** There was concern over the mighty mole hills just by the tennis courts in the Rec but these turned out to be piles of mud deposited there to form part of the ramp system.

**Christmas Tree Lights.** Deemed unsafe by one councillor.

**Dog Poo.** Please take your doggie deposits home with you and not just dump the plastic bag of your dog's dumps in the fields. Dog poo to be on the agenda in March.

Luckily my colleague Alison Broughton will be taking notes at the March meeting on 5thMarch .

Glynis MacDonald

ST. DAVID'S FOUNDATION HOSPICE CARE

# Castle to Castle Sponsored Walk

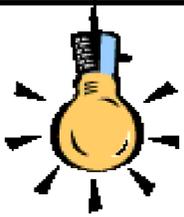
Walking 17 miles from Newport Castle to  
Chepstow Castle or 9 miles from Penhow Castle  
to Chepstow Castle

## Sunday 25 March 2007

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## SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS UNION

Shirenewton Branch meetings resume on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2007 at The Recreation Hall starting at 2.30 p.m. when our Speaker will be Tina Williams who will tell us of her experiences transporting goods to Kosova. We hope to help her work by providing some blankets or curtains for her forthcoming trip at the end of March. If YOU can help, either bring articles to the meeting or leave them in the Church porch for collection prior to the 13<sup>th</sup> March. We will hold further meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at the Hall in April, June, October, November and December. In May the Netherwent Deanery Festival will be held on Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> May at St. Mary's Magor at 7.30 p.m. In July, we will be guests at the home of Marcia Hoskins at St. Arvans. In August, we will hold Midday prayers at St. Thomas a Becket Church, Shirenewton to celebrate the work of our Founder, Mary Sumner and in September we will be guests at the Quiet Garden in the home of Mrs. Stickland at Coed-y-paen where we will join in Holy Communion led by Chris. Carey. If you would like to learn more of the work of the MU please join us at any of the meetings held at The Recreation Hall or at the prayers in Church in August. New members and visitors are always welcome.

Branch Leader: Auriol Horton, 01291 641 844

### ***WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER***

A Service will take place at St. Thomas a Becket Church Shirenewton at 2.30p.m. on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2007. All are welcome.

### ***FAIR TRADE***

There will be Fair Trade Stalls at the church of St. Stephen & St. Tathan, Caerwent on Saturday and Sunday, the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> March – they will welcome your support.

## **EARLSWOOD & NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL NEWS**

Firstly, I would like to belatedly welcome you all to 2007 and hope you all at a pleasant Christmas and New Year, and have survived the recent snowfall.

There has been a great deal of activity at the Hall in recent months, with the Jazz night provided by Robin Reece, with our thanks to all involved. The event made a profit from which a good contribution was made to the Hall funds, for which the Hall committee were extremely grateful.

Once again we had the SOD's panto which was as usual a roaring (literally) success. For which we once again thank the SOD's.

The committee are planning a further function to be held at the Hall for the near future, details of which will appear later. We already have Kids Ad Lib planning for their summer show.

Anyone passing the Hall will have seen the improvements to the car-park, what is not visible is the work that has been carried out under the Hall generating a completely new safe dry storage area for spare furniture and props from SOD's and Kids Ad Lib.

The next project for which we will hopefully be able to obtain a grant will be to upgrade the lighting. New crockery and cutlery are also on the list of items that we aim to replace.

Our most grateful thanks to all of our friends that have worked so hard over the past weeks to erect shelving and move the spare furniture, etc. in to the refurbished basement.

The AGM will be held shortly (in April) the date should be available for the next magazine, and everyone interested in the Hall will be welcome to attend.

Finally, Peter Jones is in the process of securing the services of trustees for the Hall that we have been short of now for several years. Please look out for notices to that effect and also for details of forthcoming events.

John Spary for the Hall Committee

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**MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL**

CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY will present a programme of music entitled “*Music for Holy Week*” on SATURDAY MARCH 31<sup>st</sup>, at 7.30pm, at St Mary’s Priory Church, Chepstow.

The programme has been specifically chosen for the commencement of Holy Week. It incorporates a mixture of appropriate music reflecting the Palm Sunday acclamations and the subsequent approach to Easter.

The Society is delighted to welcome Alexandra Carter (soprano) and Caryl Hughes (mezzo-soprano) to Chepstow for the first time in their careers. Alexandra replaces Katherine Bond who has had to withdraw from the occasion due to circumstances totally outwith her control, and CCS is very fortunate to be joined by Alexandra and Caryl, both of whom are working and studying in London, and sing together.

The orchestra again comprises young professional instrumentalists, and the programme is directed by the Society’s musical director, Graham Bull. Tickets are now available from Chepstow Bookshop, or through choir members (tel. 623310, 623421 or 622465 for details and further information).

Further details and updates about Chepstow Choral Society may be obtained by logging on the the website [www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk).

Chepstow Choral Society’s final programme in their 2006/2007 season will be a performance of Mendelssohn’s choral masterpiece “*Elijah*”, on Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup>, in St Mary’s Church, Chepstow. This will be one of the most ambitious undertakings by the Society in its 28-year history, and preparations are already advanced, with four superb soloists confirmed, as well as many orchestra members who are delighted to be able to play in this wonderful work. Please watch press/notices/ etc. for further details shortly about tickets etc.

Thanking you for your support,

Chepstow Choral Society.

## SHIRENEWTON OPERA & DRAMA SOCIETY VINTAGE S.O.D.S.

In the autumn of 1999 Stuart Dutton decided to reform the Shirenewton Opera and Drama Society (commonly known as S.O.D.S.) to put on the one-off pantomime of “Cinderella” to start off the celebrations in the village of the year of 2000. It was so successful (oh yes it was!) that the society has just performed its eighth pantomime production and are looking forward to celebrating their tenth anniversary in two years time.

I have offered (been press-ganged) into forming an archive to collect all the wonderful nostalgic material from the original S.O.D.S. formed in 1976 to 1983. Are you one of the vintage S.O.D.S that performed in the shows at Earlswood Memorial Hall from 1976 TO 1883?

I expect a lot of you out there have old programmes, scripts, tickets, newspaper cuttings lurking in your attic. How about having a rummage around your loft and presenting me with your old rubbish but valuable archive material to me. I have already been given from two old S.O.D.S. a wealth of information and have enjoyed reading about the “good old days” of productions such as “Toad of Toad Hall”, “The Owl and the Pussycat”, “Sing a Song of Sixpence”. Do you remember any of these – as a performer or audience – I would be interested to listen to your memories.

Please contact Barbara Walters on 01291 641338

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### **GAERLLWYD WOMEN’S MEETINGS**

Unfortunately meetings will not be held for the time being.

We will advise you when we are able to resume meetings.

## **STARGAZING IN MARCH '07**

Much the brightest star in the sky, Sirius can be seen to the South, below and to the left of the constellation Orion, the Hunter, identified by four bright stars with 3 stars forming his belt. The name "Sirius" is derived from the Greek word meaning scorching. For the ancient Egyptians the appearance of Sirius coincided with the annual flooding of the Nile Valley, vital to growing their crops. This event was of such importance to them that it marked the beginning of their year.

The pair of stars high above Sirius and Orion are part of the constellation Gemini, the Twins, and are called Castor and Pollux. In mythology Castor and Pollux were the twin sons of the Queen of Sparta. Castor was mortal, but Pollux was not – his father was Jupiter. When Castor was killed in battle, Pollux pleaded to be allowed to share his immortality with his brother. His wish was granted, and both were placed in the heavens. Gemini is crossed by the Milky Way, the dense belt of stars that make up our own galaxy.

Venus is shining very brightly in the West in the evening, setting about 3 hours after the Sun. The Moon lies near Venus on 21st March.

Saturn lies high to the South to the right of the constellation of Leo. It dominates the late evening sky. The Moon is near Saturn on 28th March.

The planet Jupiter can be seen to the South in the dawn sky. On the morning of 12th March the Moon is just below the planet Jupiter.

On 3rd March there is a Total Eclipse of the Moon between 10:45 pm and midnight. The Moon moves into the Earth's shadow from about 9:30 pm onwards. It may not disappear altogether but take on a deep reddish glow.

Dave Thomas



## **CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY & ORCHESTRA**

**MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL**

# *Music for Holy Week*

**Pergolesi : "Stabat Mater",**

**Haydn: Missa Brevis in F**

**Vivaldi: "Gloria"**

**Albinoni: Adagio**

**Alexandra Carter (soprano)**

**Caryl Hughes (mezzo-soprano)**

**St Mary's Priory & Parish Church, Chepstow**

**7.30pm 31<sup>st</sup>: SATURDAY MARCH ,**

**MUSICAL DIRECTOR: GRAHAM BULL**

**Tickets (£9 / £7 conc) available from Chepstow Bookshop,  
and choir members. Unsold tickets at the door.**

**Log on to: [www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk)**

Chepstow Choral Society is affiliated to the Welsh Amateur Music Federation

## THE BELLS - THE BELLS.

Shirenewton Bell ringers have been ringing lots of Quarter Peals. We can ring one and dedicate it to your special event, perhaps a birthday, anniversary or a Christening.

On 21st January Kate Stanley and on 28th Chris Jones rang their first quarters of Grandsire Doubles on an inside bell, They can now both ring two methods on working bells. Maddie Stanley rang her first quarter peal on the 12th of February. She rang the treble to Bob Doubles. She had been building up to this for some time thinking that ringing for 40 minutes or so would be so very tiring, however 39 minutes later she was heard to comment "Is that all? That was easy". She quickly followed this achievement up by learning.

Bob Doubles on the inside and went along to the Monmouth Branch Training day as a student. Mike Penney and Pip Penney were tutors at this annual event. Bishop David Yoeman of the Llandaff Diocese came to the course during the lunch break to receive a big cheque. The cheque was for £1,752.00. It was the money raised by KIDS. RING. OUT. on the Sponsored Run Round Ring. Many of Shirenewton Parishioners gave generously to this cause and we would just like to say a BIG thank you to them all.

Pip Penney

## A FEW WISE WORDS

*Take people for what they are not what they ought to be.  
Joy is knowing that one is needed.*

*Grant yourself time to stop and smell the wayside flowers  
It's surprising how many of our own age look older than ourselves.*

*What's the use of wisdom if it's not passed on.  
It is the small things in life that make life.*

*By all means leave footprints In the sands of time, as long as they  
point  
in the right direction.*

*I do not want to be in the way nor, If needed be out of the way.*



## 1<sup>st</sup> Shirenewton Guides

Well we had a great weekend of "beautification" although it may not be apparent on the surface I am sure we are all feeling more beautiful on the inside! Many of the girls earned their camp necker for completing various challenges over the weekend. We are already planning our summer expedition under canvas and working out how we are going to get all the equipment too and from site.

The masked ball went down well and I think the young leaders learned quite a bit through running the evening with no help from the adults (who enjoyed the evening tremendously from the side lines). We are continuing to challenge the young leaders as they get nearer to completing their adult leader qualifications – once they have achieved that we can all retire!

In the Unit we are all working together on the topic of Peace and have been looking at how lucky we are to live in an area not normally threatened by natural disasters or civil unrest. Over half term we are all counting our blessings and writing one a day on our personal origami dove. We have also been finding out about other countries in the EEC for the Diamond challenge. Some girls have really tried very hard to produce very interesting and informative displays. Well done for doing your best Guides.

We are still looking for a volunteer to teach us how to jive.....

Yours in Guiding  
Kestrel

Helen Cann—01291 650835

**BROWNIE REPORT – WELCOME  
TO NEW GIRLS**

This month we enrolled six girls – Issy F, Shannon, Lucy, Gracie, Emily and Issy M. - into Shirenewton Brownies. The Enrolment or Promise Ceremony is always an important event and not just for the girls who are making their promise for the first time It also gives some Brownies the opportunity to earn their Hostess Badge .The 'Hostesses' write to invite guests to watch the Promise Ceremony, greet their guests on the evening and prepare the tables and refreshments for our visitors. All the Brownies then provide some entertainment. At this Promise Ceremony, the girls performed three songs, expertly directed by our leaders Lucy and Dorothy. The singing was accompanied by homemade instruments which the girls had made in Brownies the previous week. It was a memorable evening.

Jackie Broughton – Guider in Charge

***Itton Village Hall***

Presents:

***The Devil's Violin***

**We are privileged to host this very popular entertainment: an evening of story- telling and music with a Gypsy theme**

**Friday March 30<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm**

**Tickets at door: £6.00 Adults, £3.50 students**

**Tel. 07808 167709 / 01291 625 755 if you wish to reserve tickets to be collected at door**



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## **FAIR TRADE NEWS**

The Traidcraft Spring catalogue has arrived! With each new issue the range of goods increases and the design of the clothes and accessories is more impressive. New food products include a variety of individual packs of a selection of dried fruits and nuts from 35-60p. The Government has, quite rightly in my view, issued a directive banning schools from selling confectionary and suchlike to children, but these fruit and nut packs and the boxes of juice (35p) should go some way to filling the gaps in the vending machines.

There are also 2 new speciality freeze-dried instant coffees and bars of Divine dark mint crisp chocolate £1 30. I would also like to recommend the Belgian assortment box (175g 0 for £5 99 - absolutely first rate chocolates.

Fairtrade Fortnight is also almost upon us: Feb 26- March 11. If you'd like any info do contact me or go to [www.traidcraft.co.uk](http://www.traidcraft.co.uk) or [www.Fairtrade.org.uk](http://www.Fairtrade.org.uk)

Marion McAdam 641 316 [m316@gmail.com](mailto:m316@gmail.com)

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## **WHIST DRIVES**

We were very pleased to welcome 35 players to the February Drive. Local supporters now number 5 – all from Mynyddbach! – does no-one in Shirenewton play whist? If you would like to learn or are just lacking confidence, contact the organiser named below and a beginners and/or brush up session could be arranged.

Our next two drives are on the 1<sup>st</sup> March and 5<sup>th</sup> April respectively, both held at The Recreation Hall, Shire-Newton starting at 7.30 p.m. promptly. There will be no whist drive in May as the Hall will be in use as a Polling Station.

Enquiries to Auriol Horton, 01291 641844.

## *Kids Ad Lib*

**Starts on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March!  
Working towards a production on  
Thur 21<sup>st</sup> Fri 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Sat 23<sup>rd</sup>  
June**

**But what will it be?  
If you are interested in finding out  
more please ring: -**

**Karen Millar 01291 650 521**

**Glynis MacDonald 01291 641 818  
[glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com](mailto:glynis.macdonald@btinternet.com)**

**Also Adult Helpers  
very warmly welcomed!**

## SHIRENEWTON W.I

### LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

At a recent the local Neighbourhood Watch Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel on Thursday 8th February, PC Andy Mason advised of the following reports from the Lower Wye Valley area. The area covered by his beat is Shirenewton, Devauden and St Arvans.

Two vehicles have been stolen in recent months— both Land Rover Defenders.

A stolen Off-Road motorcycle was recovered that originated in Wells Somerset was recovered in the area.

There have been complaints regarding the illegal use of "Off Road" motor cycles. Any information regarding these offences should be passed on to the police. What is particularly useful to the police is information regarding the vehicles and trailers used to transport these bikes. It is difficult for the police to respond to this type of activity due to the speed at which the offenders are able to disperse.

A serious incident of "Fly-tipping" occurred in Great St Pierre Wood. This was a large quantity of builders material including up and over garage doors. Any information regarding individuals seen dumping should be passed on to the police.

Statistically, the highest crime figures, particularly burglary occur in May and September. Many of these related to the theft of tools from out-buildings, garages and sheds. For your own security, keep them locked.

Date of the next meeting is Wednesday 2nd May –7.30 at the Huntsman.

### VILLAGE SURGERIES - POLICE AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Joint surgeries will be held in the Shirenewton Recreation Hall on every third Saturday of 2007, between 10am and 12noon. Your Neighbourhood Police Officer, PC Andrew Mason, will attend and he will be joined at each session by a community councillor. No prior appointments are required and we will be there to discuss any community concerns or issues.

At our February meeting Sally drew members attention to the 'Exhibition of Action Women – the real story of the W.I.' This touring exhibition is at Newport Museum until the 31<sup>st</sup> March, and members were encouraged to go along and learn more about the history of the movement.

Following a training day some months ago, Jenny and Shan received their 'Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering'. Shan intends to display hers in the kitchen at home to ward off criticism. Jenny will be putting hers to better use, as she and Margaret have agreed to organise the Fete Cream Teas in the summer.

David Davies arrived well equipped for his talk, with a new PowerPoint presentation, designed to accompany the many talks he has been asked to do about his experiences as a new M.P. Mr Davies described how when he first went up to Westminster he didn't have an office to use, but managed to do his paperwork on a table in the café. However the House did have a smart nameplate in the cloakroom ready for him, with a pink ribbon provided to hang his sword on (all swords have to be left here to avoid injury in the House). He is grateful for his current office accommodation which he shares with four other MPs.

We learnt that relations between rival party members are usually very good off stage. That committee work is long, drawn out, meticulous, but essential. That the House of Commons gym is the place to network, more so than the bar, if you are the right side of forty. That the House is full of passages, he recently observed a member suddenly 'disappear', and thereby discovered another short cut. Perhaps more than anything else, we learnt how much he is enjoying the huge variety of experiences that have presented themselves since his election. These have included visits to the Middle East and Uganda. More recently he has been asked to do some ground-work on Law and Order. Having limited experience in this field, Mr Davies decided to enrol as a Special Constable. So if the face under the cap looks familiar – it might be your MP.