

Shirenewton Parish Magazine



July/August 2024

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SHIRENEWTON CHURCH FETE

The Wardens and church members would like to thank everyone who braved the unreliable weather and came along to the Shirenewton Church Fete and helped make it a successful afternoon. The fete is the principal fund-raising event of the year for Shirenewton church and helps provide the income to maintain the condition of our beautiful historic church for all to enjoy at the heart of village life.

Our special thanks again this year go to Janet Horton and Seirian Orrell, who planned, co-ordinated and organised the day, and to Jane Eickhoff who once again acted as the key link with the school and facilitated the active participation of the children.

And to the loyal teams of marquee erectors and dismantlers and those who volunteered to run stalls and activities, provided much appreciated refreshments and managed essential logistics such as car parking in challenging conditions, thank you!

However, both Janet and Seirian after many years in their roles as joint fete organisers have indicated that they would like now to pass the baton over and take a step back. **WE ARE MAKING AN URGENT CALL FOR A VOLUNTEER OR A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS TO TAKE ON THE ROLE OF FETE CO-ORDINATORS.** Janet and Seirian would of course be happy to discuss what is involved, to hand over documentation and templates to allow others to seamlessly take on the role and will be on hand to provide advice if needed.

If you enjoyed the fete and would like to see it continue next year, please do consider volunteering, so that a popular and much-loved village event keeps going, (and of course also provides essential funds for the upkeep of your village church). We have only recently had an inspection by a church architect, who has indicated several parts of the church are affected by the ravages of time and weather and where costly specialist repair will need to be scheduled over the next 5 years. The income from the fete is vital to provide the funds for such work.

We would ask all in the village to consider if this is something they could volunteer to take on. Please contact Janet in the first instance for an informal chat on 641783, or email shirenewtonfete@gmail.com

VILLAGE CURRY NIGHTS

The Village Curry Nights will take a pause for July and August and possibly September because so many people in the village will be away on holiday.

David Cornwell

ME AND MY DOG

I wandered down the well-known path
Rejoicing in fresh air and then
I caught myself in solemn mood
How I miss my dog and friend.

I followed through the gate and mused
On happier days, the times we'd spend
In playing pointless games together
How I miss my dog and friend.

I walked beside the friendly brook
And saw his face in every bend
His wagging tail and knowing look
How I miss my dog and friend

As I wandered home once more
How I missed my dog and friend
But now I look to friendships new
As poem and dog both reach their end.

Congratulations to our 200 Club winners in June:

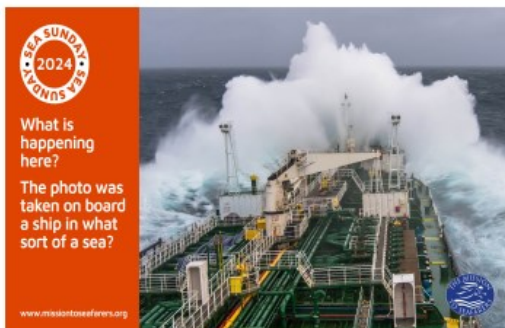
1. Jean Jones
2. Cheryl Lloyd
3. Roy Raikes-May

REPORT ON THE FETE

A big thank you to the fete organising team led by Janet Horton, Seirian Orrell and Jane Eickhoff. They pulled off a magnificent fete for the village once again in spite of the weather and everyone had a splendid time. From the setting up party under Dave Cornwell to the striking down party (also under Dave Cornwell) volunteers pulled their weight and made a great success of the day. The fete was opened by the stilt-walking tennis-player Harry who kept the kids entertained for most of the afternoon, and Adam Richards the magician who filled in the gaps. John and Wendy's dog show, welly-wanging, axe throwing, skittles, coconut shy, the plant stall, Gwent Wildlife Trust, the Pimms stall, the beer tent, the burger stall, elderflower and lemonade, WI teas, face painter (thanks! Emma), Fair Trade, Shirenewton Local History Society, the Coast Guard (thanks to Rhianon Miller!), cake stall, bottle stall, Mike Penney's Morgan, Widders Border Morris Side, the Tudor Connection musicians, the Wi-Fi providers Countryside Connections, Andy Orrell on the public address system, the Art club, the Scouts second-hand books, games and videos stall. There was something for everyone and all ages. Many thanks to the school who organised the bins and the posters and the parade and offered last minute parking. And those behind the scenes in trying conditions (e.g. Keith Holden and John Burroughs and the car parking team). And to everyone who came and supported, led by Zoe and Barney and Finwe, Thank You.

There are montages of photographs taken on the day on pages 30-35 of this magazine which show everyone having fun and enjoying the day. It is thought that the fete made about £3,000 for Shirenewton Church.





PSALM 107

23. Some went out on the sea in ships. they were merchants on the mighty waters.
24. They saw the works of the Lord, his wonderful deeds in the deep.
25. For he spoke and stirred up a tempest that lifted high the waves.
26. They mounted up to the heavens and went down to the depths; in their peril their courage melted away.
27. They reeled and staggered like drunkards; they were at their wits' end.
28. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out of their distress.
29. He stilled the storm to a whisper; the waves of the sea were hushed.
30. They were glad when it grew calm, and he guided them to their desired haven.
31. Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind.
32. Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders.



Why we celebrate Sea Sunday 14th July 2024.

When a ship comes into port, you might think that seafarers would be queuing at the gangway: impatient to stretch their legs and explore the local town. That might be true for some, but for most, the pressure of work means there is little time for such luxuries. Even if there is time, many seafarers choose to remain on their ships. I remember doing exactly that. You arrive in a port, think you ought to go ashore, but somehow you never get round to it. Life on a ship is different. You develop a different way of living, sleeping and socialising. Sometimes it is easier to stay with the familiar than enter the hustle and bustle of shore life. Nothing wrong with that, but eventually, it can lead to isolation and loneliness. I'm sure many people ashore who live alone can identify with that. Sometimes it's easier just to stay in than risk going out and not meeting anyone.

I loved being a seafarer, but it can take its toll. In Matthew 25, Jesus talks about how a visit from someone who cares can bring light and peace. That's why we at Mission to Seafarers visit ships. We care, and we want to show the love of Jesus to seafarers – no matter who they are.

Our Sea Sunday theme is Psalm 107. The Psalm not only reminds us that God looks after seafarers, but also that they see things that we don't: "They saw the works of the Lord, His wonderful deeds in the deep."

Seafarers don't just bring us goods and cargo; they see God's world in a raw and powerful way that we can learn from. When we visit a ship, we do God's work by showing love and compassion. In return, we are changed by entering their world. Everyone benefits when God's work is done, and He in turn is worshipped.

Kindest regards,

Revd. Steve Morgan

Regional Director for Europe, The Mission to Seafarers (My Boss' boss – Ros Downs)

SEVERN WYE MINISTRY AREA

MONTHLY BIRTHDAY PARTIES!

Second Sunday of every month

3:30pm

Free cream tea in one of our
homes; if it's your birthday
that month, come along!

Hosted by
**David & Catherine Carne
and
Revds Zoe & Barney Pimentel**



For venue information and to RSVP, please contact Revd Zoe:
severn.wye.MAL@gmail.com / 07754 306229

63 Chepstow | Usk | Pontypool | Cwmbran

Timetable from 1 April 2024

via Chepstow Community Hospital, Shirenewton, Earlswood,
Gaerllwyd, Llangwm, Gwernesney, Coleg Gwent, Croesyceiliog

Monday to Friday except Bank Holiday Mondays

	Sch	HOL
Cwmbran Bus Station [Stand H]	0712	0712 1020 1325 1650
Croesyceiliog Edloglan Square	0717	0717 1025 1330 1656
Pontypool Town Hall	0726	0726 1034 1339 1713
Pontypool Park Road	0727	0727 1035 1340 1714
Pontypool opp Town Hall	0728	0728 1036 1341 1715
Little Mill Pont-y-pia	0735	0735 1043 1348 1722
Usk Colleg Gwent Main Road	0743	0743 1051 1356 1730
Usk Twyn Square	0748	0748 1056 1401 1735
Llangwm Bridge Inn Road	0756	0756 1104 1409 1743
Gaerllwyd Cross Roads	0804	0804 1112 1417 1751
Earlswood West End	0808	0808 1116 1421 1755
Mynyddbach Horsemeadow Rise	0818	0818 1126 1431 1805
Chepstow Community Hospital Main Road	----	0825 1133 1438 1812
Chepstow Comprehensive School	0825	0825 1137 1442 1816
Chepstow Bus Station	0830	0829 1137 1442 1816

Saturdays

0712	1020	1325	1650
0717	1025	1330	1656
0726	1034	1339	1713
0727	1035	1340	1714
0728	1036	1341	1715
0735	1043	1348	1722
0743	1051	1356	1730
0748	1056	1401	1735
0756	1104	1409	1743
0804	1112	1417	1751
0808	1116	1421	1755
0818	1126	1431	1805
0825	1133	1438	1812
0829	1137	1442	1816

Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays

Sorry, there is no Sunday service on route 63

via Croesycellio, Coleg Gwent, Gwernesney, Llangwm, Gaerllwyd,
Earlswood, Shirenewton, Chepstow Community Hospital

Monday to Friday except Bank Holiday Mondays

	Sch	HOL
Chepstow Comprehensive School	1525	----
Chepstow Bus Station	0835 1142 1532 1820	----
Chepstow Community Hospital Main Road	0839 1146 1536 1824	----
Mynydd-bach Horsemeadow Rise	0846 1153 1543 1831	----
Earlswood West End	0855 1202 1552 1840	----
Gaerllwyd Cross Roads	0858 1205 1555 1843	----
Llangwm Bridge Inn Road	0905 1212 1602 1850	----
Usk Twyn Square	0913 1220 1610 1858	----
Usk Coleg Gwent Main Road	0918 1225 1615 1903	----
Little Mill Pont-y-pia	0926 1233 1623 1911	----
Pontypool Town Hall	0934 1241 1631 1919	----
Pontypool Park Road	0935 1242 1632 1920	----
Pontypool opp Town Hall	0936 1243 1633 1921	----
Croesycellio Edlogan Square	0944 1251 1641 1928	----
Cwmbran Bus Station	0948 1255 1645 1932	----

Saturdays

0835 1142 1532 1820	----
0839 1146 1536 1824	----
0846 1153 1543 1831	----
0855 1202 1552 1840	----
0858 1205 1555 1843	----
0905 1212 1602 1850	----
0913 1220 1610 1858	----
0918 1225 1615 1903	----
0926 1233 1623 1911	----
0934 1241 1631 1919	----
0935 1242 1632 1920	----
0936 1243 1633 1921	----
0944 1251 1641 1928	----
0948 1255 1645 1932	----

Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays

Sorry, there is no
Sunday service on
route 63

Sch Operates on schooldays only

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SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Extracts from the minutes of the monthly meeting held on 3rd June 2024.

Planning applications considered

DM/2024/00626 - 1st floor bedroom extension at Beech Grove, Argoed Road, Earlswood

Beech Grove is a 4 bed detached house with a double-garage. The proposal is to link the first floor to an additional bedroom to be formed in the roof of the garage, with its en suite in the link at first floor level. Although not shown in detail there would also be a link at ground level presumably to enable covered access to the garage. The link is fully glazed to the north west elevation

The applicant adds that he had consent under ref M11119 in 2004/5 which has lapsed. The present application is a repeat. No detail of finish or materials is given. The 2005 planning consent stipulated that the materials and finishes of the walls and roofs should be the same as existing. The record also shows consents in 2002 and 2003 for a first floor extension to add bedrooms and for the double garage.

Recommendation: No objection and a request to MCC to add the previous condition regarding materials and finishes, [was unanimously agreed by Cllrs.](#)

DM/2024/00643 - Dormer conversion with ground & first floor extension &

DM/2024/00643 - Front dormers removed from proposed plans, and replaced with roof lights at Willowbrae, 8 Orchard Rise, Shirenewton, NP16 6AY

Willowbrae sits at the top end of Orchard Rise. It comprises a 1½ storey detached house providing 2 bedrooms in the loft and a further bedroom on the ground floor. The proposal is to

extend the kitchen diner outwards at the rear with a further bedroom over. This will require a gable from the existing roof. The ridge line of the gable appears slightly lower than that of the main roof. The new bedroom has a wide balcony overlooking the garden and field beyond.

The additional floor area provided is not totaled up but at some 120 m² against 102 m² appears not to exceed an additional 30% of the existing floorspace. Materials and colours are not given in detail, stating only there will be slate tiles, white render and composite cladding.

Councillors wished requesting clarification of the materials and colours or a condition requiring these to be the same as existing.

Recommendation: No objection to both was unanimously agreed by Cllrs.

DM/2024/00651 Resurfacing of an existing forestry car park with EcoGrid permeable ground reinforcement plastic grids - 500M South from the 3-way junction at Pen-y-cae-mawr

Councillors may know of this car park by the top of road up from Parc Seymour through Wentwood Forest. The surface is rough and partly overgrown though in regular use by forest walkers.

The Ecogrid system comprises 33cm square blocks of recycled polyethylene. Councillors may wish to consider whether the car park is in need of extension as it can be full at popular times.

Recommendation: No objection and a comment '*can a better non plastic biodegradable, environmentally friendly alternative/ solution be sought*' was unanimously agreed by Cllrs.

DM/2024/00390 Retention and completion of boundary wall/ fence at Hillside House Usk Road

Councillors will recall this retrospective application for the block wall alongside the Usk Road. SCC had no objection, provided the colouring of the proposed boarding blends with the surrounding countryside. Highways had no objection as the wall is not constructed on any part of the highway.

An amended plan changes propose boarding to the wall from 225mm stained boards with 100mm gaps to 50mm stained boards with 10mm gaps.

Whilst the applicant proposes a crevice bat box on the west side of the property and a swift nesting cup of woodcrete construction on the east, along with new low level low wattage external lights on a PIR timed switch The MCC biodiversity officer notes originally there had been a hedge and possibly a tree or two and thus recommends replacement planting and/or boxes suitable for use by common garden bird species, with locations of planting/boxes shown on a plan.

Recommendation : No objection and the recommendation of the biodiversity officer should be included as a condition was unanimously agreed by Cllrs.

Councilor Vacancy – there is 1 vacancy currently advertised on the website & noticeboards.

Church Clock update: Smiths reported they are unable to do a like for like replacement of the clock. Communication has been received from PCC, and consultation with the community needs to be considered.

Trampoline Park drainage update – MCC have confirmed they will attend after they have completed their current installation

Audit Notice of Electors rights – Approved for display on website and notice boards.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Louise Brown reported:

Performance and Overview Committee 14th of May 2024

The Performance and Overview Committee covered reports on Additional Learning Provision and Supporting Vulnerable Learners. The reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=305&MIId=5847>

Cabinet 15th of May 2024

The Cabinet reports confirmed the proposed adoption of the Local Transport Policy and the Climate Emergency Strategy. As well as a report on the use of section 106 monies from housing developments but not any impacting our local ward. In addition, a proposal for the Green - fingers site in the grounds of the Melville Centre for the Arts in Abergavenny to develop a community gardening project. The reports can be found at the following

link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=144&MIId=5748>

County Council 16th of May 2024

As it was the start of this Council year, the County Council covered reports on the appointments to committees and outside organisations, together with a number of questions asked. The reports can be found at the following link:

<https://democracy.monmouthshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=143&MIId=5747>

20mph Consultation

The Head of Highways has indicated as follows (in quote marks and italics):

"If residents want to contact Monmouthshire County Council regarding the Welsh Government announcement (WG Press Release) that they will be revising the guidance on which local roads can be made exempt from 20mph they can do so here <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/welsh-governments-default-20mph-speed-limit/> Welsh Government are keen to hear from residents which streets they think should be reverted back to 30mph.

We need residents to submit their suggestions (along with valid reasons) for why a road should be made exempt from the 20mph national speed limit in Wales via an online form which we have developed, this can be accessed via this link <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/welsh-governments-default-20mph-speed-limit>

We will log their feedback and review it once the new exceptions guidance is available from the Welsh Government. We expect to receive this guidance by the summer. Current guidance on setting exceptions to the 20mph speed limit can be found here <https://www.gov.wales/setting-exceptions-20mph-default-speed-limit-restricted-roads-html>

If their feedback/suggestion relates to a Trunk Road, these are not the responsibility of Local Authorities, they can email Trunk-Roads20mph@gov.wales More information on Trunk Roads is available on Datamap Wales.

We won't be logging any general comments about the 20mph National Policy, as this is a matter for the Welsh Government and Welsh Government Ministers.

To ensure the team are not diverted from our main priority, keeping our highways safe, we will not be providing individual

responses to 20mph enquiries.”

Local Note on 20mph Consultation

In our area, 20mph zones were made in the villages of Mathern, Pwllmeyric, Shirenewton and Mynyddbach in the Shirenewton Ward, which were supported by the local residents.

The 30mph on the Pwllmeyric Hill is not listed as part of the exceptions to the 20mph default speed limit as it was made by a separate traffic order and is therefore not part of this W review at a local authority level of 20mph default speed limits.

It is useful to note that the 20mph on the A48 into Chepstow town from the High Beech roundabout is a trunk road.

Any comments on trunk roads should be sent by email to

TrunkRoads20mph@gov.wales

The link for any responses can be found here which **should not be sent to MCC Highways:**

<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/welsh-governments-default-20mph-speed-limit/>

The Welsh Government have already published a report in May 2024 on the 20mph default exceptions, but the findings of that report will feed into the development of the Welsh Government new exceptions guidance, which will be published in July 2024.

<https://www.gov.wales/20mph-default-speed-limit-review-exceptions-final-report>

Dates of the next meetings – Monday 1st July 2024 at 7.00pm - can be attended in person at the Shirenewton Recreation Hall or remotely via Microsoft Teams (a link will be provided on emailing the Clerk), with prior notice.

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

Contact the Clerk to the Community Council E-mail:
shirenewtoncc@gmail.com

Mobile: 07410 580961



12th & 13th
October
2024
6.30pm

Shirenewton And Mynydd Bach iLlumination Extravaganza 2024 – the latest

What is this 'ShAMBLE' thing again?

Shirenewton and Mynydd Bach iLlumination Extravaganza (or ShAMBLE to its friends) is a free, annual event in which the residents of the village are invited to decorate their windows at dusk over one weekend in October, with the aim of creating a spectacular outdoor gallery for everyone to enjoy. 2024 will be its **seventh** glorious year! **This year's theme is Movies & Theatre.**

When is ShAMBLE 2024?

The evenings of 12th & 13th October - starting 6.30pm. **GET IT IN YOUR DIARY!**

How do I take part?

If you'd like to decorate your window, that's great. So that we can include you on our map please follow this link and complete the very simple form: www.shirenewtonshamble.org.uk Please, please, please register by **27th September** as this gives us time to get the **maps** printed. Remember, you don't need to register to walk around the village, looking at the windows.

Will there be a craft afternoon this year? YES!

'**Craft, cake and conversation**' will be on 29th September 2.00-4.00pm at The Rec Hall. We will have art materials available for everyone to have (for a small donation). A nice excuse for a chat & a cuppa!

Opening night refreshments Saturday 12th October 6.30pm

Don't miss the opening night party at the Recreation Hall on Saturday 12th October, where you can collect a map and hi-viz for all the family! AND of course indulge in some lovely home made cakes and a beverage of your choice. We will have a selection of wine, beer and soft drinks available at **very good prices!** Everyone is welcome.



ShAMBLE windows from previous years



Shirenewton, Mynydd Bach & Earlswood Community



shirenewton_shamble



@ShireShAMBLE



@shirenewtonshamble

How to

take part in ShAMBLE

***decorate your
window**

**Come to the party
at The Rec Oct 12th**

Mingle with friends

Pick up a map

Borrow our hi vis

**walk the ShAMBLE
window art trail**

Happy Shamble-ing

Sat October 12th & Sun 13th 2024

***or just come and enjoy the party and window art!**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CYNTHIA



90 years young on 22nd May!



Pet Blessing Service

Sunday 28th July

3.00 p.m.

Your Pet is One of your Family

Come to Penycmaewr and join us in a whole new experience!

Come and enjoy our special 'Pet Blessing Service' - a wonderful opportunity to bring your dearly loved pets - whatever the animals to receive God's blessing.

Set in beautiful surroundings with stunning views across the Usk Valley and of Twmbarlwm Mountain and the Sugar Loaf.

At Penycmaewr Methodist Chapel, NP15 1ND



THE GLADE TEA ROOMS, WENTWOOD

**Looking for something to do with the children
in the school holidays?**



TREASURE TRAIL & FUN ACTIVITIES

WITH FREE ICE-CREAM AND A BUBBLY PRIZE!



FREE FUN FAMILY EVENT

Meet at The Glade Tea Rooms in Wentwood Forest

(located just above the Wentwood Reservoir, please see map)

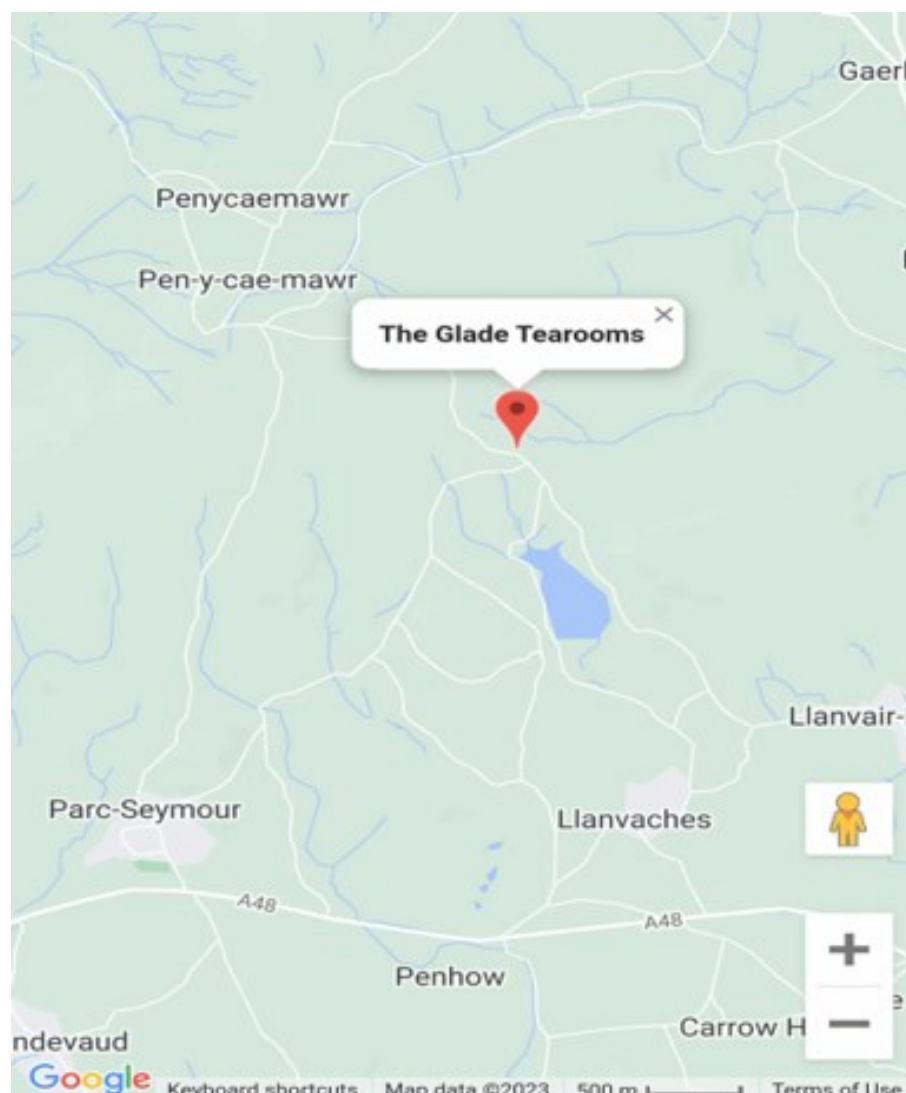
Monday 22nd July for a 1.30pm start to the trail

Includes free squash and biscuits for the children

Hot/cold drinks and snacks available at the Tea Rooms

Sponsored by The Glade Tea Rooms and Penycmaemawr Methodist Chapel

Like and follow the Penycmaemawr Chapel Page on Facebook



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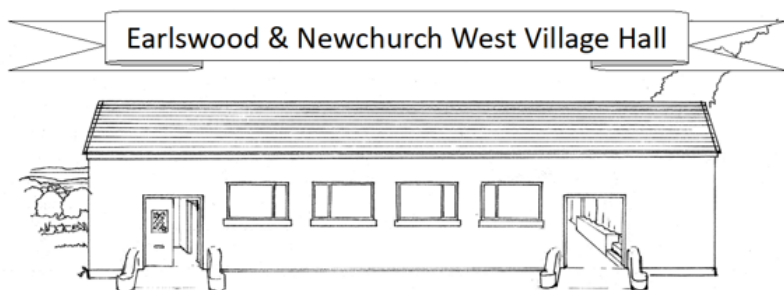


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FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S NEWCHURCH

Diary Dates 2024

21 st Sept, 7pm	Harvest Supper	Church Farm
15 th Dec, 4.30pm	Christingle Service	St Peter's Church
24 th Dec, 4.30pm	Christmas Carol Service	St Peter's Church
25 th Dec, 10am	Christmas Day Service	St Peter's Church



Elvis Night

Friday 2nd AUGUST

Back by popular demand

A night of music and laughter with Keith Davies (as seen on the BBC's One Show!)

❖ Tickets £20 (includes cold supper & dessert)

Save the Date!

October, 26th	Barn Dance
November, 30th	Christmas Market & Craft Fair
December, 14th	Xmas Quiz

2025

May, 10th **Plant and cake sale**

To book tickets, hire the hall or sign up for emails:
07889 762 840 / 07855 301 806



CHEPSTOW AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 516919

Annual Membership of Chepstow Agricultural Society is now open

Benefits of Membership:

Members, Vice Presidents & Family Members have free entry to Chepstow Show, with access to the Members Enclosure. Additionally Vice Presidents have access to dedicated parking (near the main ring).

In the Members Enclosure you will find lunch, refreshments and drinks & dedicated toilet facilities.

In fine weather you will be able to sit directly alongside the Main Ring.

More details:

membershipsecretarychepstowshow@hotmail.com

Chepstow Show

Sat. August 10th 2024



At Chepstow Racecourse

Main Ring programme commences 10:00am.
Attractions include.

**Fire Service Display, Usk Valley Working
Gun Dog Club, Vintage Vehicle Display
and much more**



Homecraft, Horticulture, Livestock,
Dog Show, Food Hall, Craft Tent and
Vintage Vehicles



.....
ADULTS £12 •
UNDER 16's Free

FREE PARKING



www.chepstowshow.co.uk

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

You will note in the .Dates for your Diary, we have started our archive meetings once again, meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, everyone welcome. The Archive includes maps, documents, photograph sand quite a large collection of local interest books. I'm sure there is something of interest there for everyone.

Dates for your diary

2024

25 th June	Roman Houses XXVI & XXVII in Caerwent	Mark Lewis
3 rd July	Visit to Mounton House Garden	Helena Garrish
10 th July	2 p.m. Archive Meeting, Church Room	
30 th July	Oliver Cromwell	Prof Hutton



Village Mobile Hairdresser

Don't have the time to go to a hairdresser?
Have your hair done in the comfort of your own home!

Cut & Blow-dry
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Perms

Call for details;
Rachel
01291 641461
(29 years' experience)

Café Church

**Sunday July 7th at 3:30 and Sunday 4th August
in the Church Room**

And on the 1st Sunday of each month

Café Church is perfect for families!

Or indeed anyone who would like to try an informal style of worship.

Café style refreshments and fellowship for adults and children -

meet new friends and neighbours

Home made cakes!

Children's activities

Short service featuring:

- Modern worship songs
- Bible story
- All age address
- Prayers for the issues important to you

Come and give it a try!

Severn Wye Bible Study Group

We are a small group of Christians enjoying a warm and nurturing fellowship together. We read scripture and talk about what it means and how we can apply it to our daily lives. We are learning together and there is no such thing as a silly question. If you're even a tiny bit curious, come along. Give it a go....you may love it as we do!!!!

Where: Shirenewton Church Room

When: 14.45 Tuesday afternoons

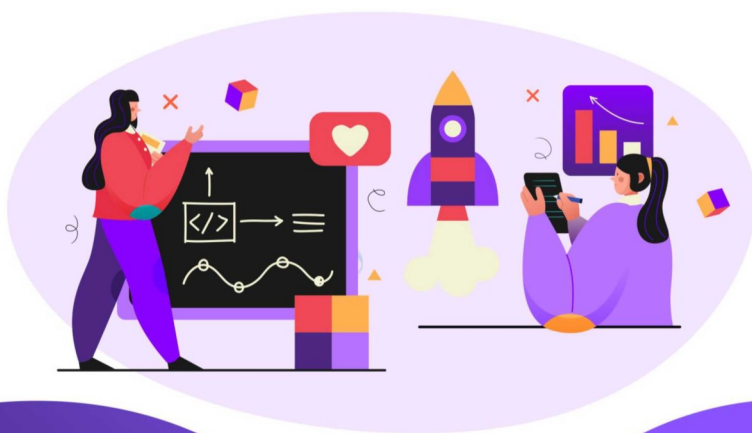
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Gardening Corner

We took a well-earned rest a few weeks ago. We decided to take a day off and, like all good 'busmen's holidays' went to visit a garden that I have been wanting to visit for some considerable time. This once belonged to Margery Fish and is situated at East Lambrook Manor in Somerset. Having decided that war was on the way, Margery, and her husband Walter decided it was time to move away from London, knowing what might be ahead. They still had to be able to travel back to London, as they both worked within Government circles. Instead of buying a well-established home and garden, they ended up buying a dilapidated house and barn, along with a large heap of manure (very handy I have to add!), as well as other farm buildings and a concrete yard. They gradually started to change things, creating a garden that today, is one of the only, if not the only, garden to be Grade I listed in the country. As with most partnerships, the pair did not always see 'eye to eye'! Walter loved dahlias, the brighter the better, which Margery likened to 'brash circus clowns', whilst Margery loved a cottage garden, much more subtle and understated. Walter was not impressed. They started with a mixture of both, but Margery was secretly pleased, if the dahlias didn't make it through the Winter hibernation! Walter died not many years after the war ended, so Margery changed things more to her liking, although for the love of Walter, she continued to grow some of the hardier dahlias, which were left in the ground to shoot the following year. Margery died in the 1990's and the house and garden have changed ownership several times. The current owner has done a lot to bring it back to what it would have looked like in Margery's time, but it is now back on the market again, if anyone reading this is looking for a challenge and a ready-made business?

We wanted to go now as the backbone of the garden, hardy geraniums, are now at their finest. It was a fine example of what a cottage garden should look like, and made us realise that actually our own efforts here at Barn Farm aren't that bad! They also had been subject to slug and snail attention this year, but the geraniums had sailed through undamaged as usual. Whilst out for the day, we also took the opportunity to visit two National Trust properties nearby. Tintinhull, and Lytes Cary. Both are mainly garden properties and well managed, but Lytes Cary does have an Arts and Crafts house attached as well. We didn't make it around the house, so that will be a trip for another day! The three properties made a full day. Just a pity that the drive home was not good due to major holdups on both bridges! Kibby's fish and chips (Bulwark) ended the day on

a high note!

Back home it is time to carry on trying to catch up with things in our own cottage garden, rejuvenated, after our day on the road. It was good to see others facing the same challenges as us, with slugs, endless weeding, including the odd pernicious weed such as bibby wine, couch grass and ground elder thrown in for good measure! One of the benefits of what has been a cold spring, is the fact that this year most of the flowers have grown slowly and are stronger as a result. Last year everything grew quickly and were very 'soft' as a result, meaning that they fell about all over the place. The under gardener had a lot of Chelsea 'chopping' to do last year (this is when you cut all the flower growth by about a third, around the time of the Chelsea Flower Show – hence the name. This obviously reduces the height of the plants which makes them more robust, and makes the flowering period later, but more intense, as you get more blooms. The skill is trying to cut some, but not all of the plants, so that the actual flowering period is extended for much longer. The best to give your attention to are the taller growing perennials, such as members of the daisy family, phlox and similar. For many earlier flowering plants such as hardy geraniums, geums and *Astrantia*, another trick is to cut the growth down once the flowers have finished. The plants will then send out new growth, and have a second, although smaller crop of flowers, later in the year. It is well worth trying.

At the moment we are trying to catch up on the weeding and clearing. This was delayed because of the rain, and to some extent is now being slowed down by the lack of rain in recent weeks. One of the problems of our soil is that it is quite stoney and so makes weeding naturally difficult, but also it can set hard on the top as well when it starts to dry. This makes it impossible just to pull the weeds out, as you end up leaving the roots in the ground. You therefore have to loosen the soil with a fork first, but that then often results in the established plants wilting if the weather has really warmed up, which is not ideal. So, it is a case of getting a balance. We are always challenged by trees self-seeding as well as black berries and more than often, these will become established in the middle of our best flower plants! The only way to remove them, without digging everything out, is to cut them off as low as possible, and then brush on a weed killer. I still use Glyphosate for this job, as it is the only weedkiller that is up to the job. Unfortunately, if you need a large quantity, this is getting much harder to get hold of these days, unless you

happen to know a farmer! They can still buy in quantity as they have a 'holding number' details of which will be requested by the seller. Amateur gardeners can only buy a one litre bottle, and pay something like three times the price for the privilege!

Things in the vegetable beds have improved a bit in recent weeks as the growth has started to harden, and slightly drier weather has slowed down the slug attention, although it is still happening. In the big tunnel, we have been harvesting some lovely calabrese, cauliflowers, and early potatoes for some time, and more recently have started picking cucumbers, tomatoes and French beans. The shallots and garlic are also starting to die back, so these will be lifted shortly and allowed to dry off, before storing. Once dry, the beds will be cleared, and will be replanted. We usually try a further crop of calabrese, to mature late summer / autumn, as well as some of the over wintering greens, which will give us an early crop around April to early May next year.

We have some major problems in the large fruit cage, which has various varieties of currants, as well as raspberries. It drastically needs weeding before the weeds themselves set seed and spread further, But far worse, is that the raspberries have virtually all succumbed to raspberry root rot. This as the name suggests results in the roots all rotting off, and the infection will stay in the ground for many years. There is nothing that you can do, apart from dig everything up and plant something completely different. I'm thinking that there is a big bonfire in the offing!

The cold weather has also been very unkind to the bees, and twice so far, the National Bee Unit (part of Defra) has warned beekeepers to keep an eye out, as hives have been dying out due to starvation. I had been tempted earlier on to take some still runny honey off a couple of the hives, as they had way more stores than necessary, but other things got in the way and so I never did. Just as well really as it turns out. I have had a couple of swarms, which have replaced two further lost colonies over winter. Both of these were weak, and I should have really taken steps to combine the bees with stronger hives before winter set in. I have always struggled to do this successfully, so gave them the benefit of doubt, which unfortunately didn't work. Perhaps more of them next month.

Happy gardening until next month. Steve and Felicity Hunt.

Little and large

Perspectives from two international development organisations with overlapping objectives



WaterAid is an international NGO working globally for 43 years to make it possible for everyone, everywhere to have clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene.

Resource Uganda is a tiny grassroots organisation working in rural Uganda to bring hope and community transformation by equipping the local church.

Both these organisations have similar aims, even if their reach and approaches differ.

Chris and Heulwen will provide their perspectives on progress and challenges in WASH and development, working and volunteering for WaterAid and Resource Uganda.

There will be the opportunity for refreshments and to purchase sustainable Ugandan crafts after the talk.

Itton Village Hall

11th Sep 2024

7.30pm

RESOURCE
Uganda



WaterAid

Shirenewton W.I.

Flower Arranging

Shirenewton Recreation Hall was filled with flowers, vases and enthusiasm as our W.I. members assembled for the June meeting. Local florist and business woman, Becky Allen from Green Bee Blooms, skillfully led a flower arranging workshop. She began the evening with a talk which provided us with many tips on how to select, condition and build up a flower arrangement.



Becky then demonstrated an arrangement. She produced a stunning display of native flowers that are all around us including valerian, fox gloves, dill, cow parsley and ferns for a back drop.

With our new knowledge, W.I. members were then left to our own devices, having been asked to bring along flowers from our own gardens or bought flowers.

It was a wonderfully creative evening and I think we all felt that we had learnt a new skill and had achieved something we were pleased with.





Becky had prepared a handout for each of us with useful tips. It answered many of our troubleshooting questions about flower arranging e.g. how to solve the problem of drooping tulips in a vase arrangement. Wrapping the tulip heads in paper while conditioning is the answer.

We usually have a friendly competition at our monthly meetings, so this month we asked Becky to judge our evening flower arrangements. The photograph below shows the winners – Kha Koon, Kathryn and Marion. All beautiful and different arrangements.



Photograph courtesy of Angela Miller

Becky runs her business, Green Bee Blooms, from her home in Earlswood. She can provide handheld and boxed bouquets and also flower arrangements for birthday parties, small weddings and funerals. You can contact Becky via her website – www.greenblooms.co.uk /email at info@greenblooms.co.uk . or look out for her at the village markets.

Our next meeting is on Thursday 11th July at 7.15pm. This is our summer outside visit to Newport Sewing and Craft Centre, at J & B Sewing Machine Co Ltd, NP19 4SY kindly hosted by Angela and Rob Millar. Please contact a member of the committee if you require a lift for the event.

If you are interested in joining Shirenewton W.I. or would like to find out more about our group, then please contact Jane Butterworth at janeb247@gmail.com or Diane Ashton Smith (01291 628838)

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Shirenewton Clock Chimes no more!

Many of you will have noticed that our beloved church clock has not functioned for some considerable time.

The clock, which is located within the church tower was paid for by public subscription and erected in memory of the men of our parish who died whilst serving in the First World War. Since that time the clock has been lovingly cared for by the community, with servicing and repair works covered by Shirenewton Community Council.

The clock itself is well known in the horologist community, sharing elements of its' design with those employed in the design of Big Ben within the Elizabeth Tower. The clock is of high quality with an identical clock on display at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich.

Despite regular servicing, a recent inspection revealed a number of serious issues and the removal of the clock mechanism for complete renovation has been recommended. The quotation for the works is considerable coming in at a figure close to £30,000. Whilst the Community Council could look to extend some funding from community reserves to cover around half of this cost, we, as a community, would need to look at ways to fund the remaining 50%.

Before we start to consider ways in which such works could be funded, we first need to be sure there is the desire within the Community to see these works undertaken and our clock restored to full working order. If the answer to this is yes, then we would also welcome ideas and thoughts on potential fund-raising activities that we could adopt to get us across the line.

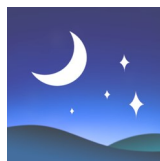
So, please get in touch with your thoughts and feedback as soon as possible by emailing the Shirenewton Council Clerk at shirenewtoncc@gmail.com

We look forward to receiving your thoughts and ideas.

Many thanks.

Shirenewton Community Council

STARGAZING



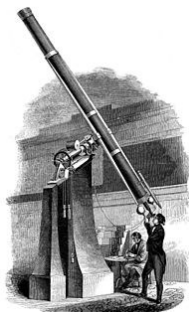
Later in the evening the Summer Triangle is overhead. This is a prominent triangle formed by the bright stars Altair, to the South of the triangle, Vega, closest to the Western horizon, and Deneb, to the East. Deneb forms the tail of the cross-shaped constellation Cygnus, the Swan. From our perspective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

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

The slightly yellow planet Saturn is low in the East in July, moving to the South-East and higher in the sky as we move into August. The almost Full Moon is near Saturn on 24th July. On 20th August the Full Moon joins Saturn.

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

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



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- Huntsman Hotel (on the Usk road)
- Recreation Hall (Shirenewton village)
- Shirenewton Sultan (The Square, centre of Shirenewton)
- Earlswood Hall (Erlswood)



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

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

In all the excitement, I forgot to mention in the May entry that the parish magazine has now been available on the church website for over 20 years! The first parish magazine we have on the website is from May 2004. Somethings never change. Hot topics from the Community Council minutes include dog fouling in and around Shirenewton, The Church clock, and traffic calming.

The magazine does provide a fascinating social history of the village. Jumping forward 10 years to May 2014, again it's the 'same 'ole'. Me bashing on about important it is to have different passwords for different websites and, interesting, a description of a hotmail "cross-site request forgery" attack – well worth reading if you are that way minded!

There was an interesting article in the Sunday Times back in April, which described how easy it is to use artificial intelligence to clone voices which are then used to instruct payments to fraudsters. In this particular case, it was an agreed experiment with the CEO of a company. The security researcher, used his social media posts to clone his voice, managed to convince the CEO's mobile phone company to send out a replacement SIM card, and then used that and the cloned voice to send a WhatsApp voice note to the company's Finance Director instructing him to transfer a sum of money to an account he controlled.

This raises two interesting things: (i) the ability to clone the voice of someone, and perhaps most importantly, (ii) the ability to get someone's sim card. This latter aspect is known as 'Sim-swapping' fraud and this type of fraud is on the rise. If you think about it, everything these days depends on your phone. And, more specifically, you being in control of your own phone. If a fraudster can convince your mobile provider that they are you and you've lost your phone/sim and to send out another sim card to their address, they have your digital life in their hands.

Therefore, it is really important to keep a sharp eye on your phone and check any unusual activity. Don't ignore any message from your provider (but make sure that they really are from your provider) and, if you suddenly lose signal and a re-boot doesn't get it back, be worried and contact your service provider immediately. To prevent such attacks (in so far as you can), have strong passwords and security questions with your service provider. Do not use information which fraudsters can get from your social media such as pet names, car types, etc.

Remember, and I regularly repeat this, when setting security questions you DO NOT have to answer literally the question asked.

So, for example, if a security question is "In what city were you born?" or "What is your mother's maiden name?" (i.e. answers which could easily found via social media), lie. The software simply has a question and stores the answer. If you answer 'The Moon' to the question "In what city were you born?", the software isn't going to reject that answer. It will simply store your answer and compare it against your answer to that question when you are asked. So, make something up, but make a note of your made up answer – in a secure way.

Again, at the risk of becoming repetitive, please don't stored passwords and security questions on an excel spreadsheet or text note on your PC. If you don't want to have a secure facility like a password manager, write down the password and any answers to security questions in a note book which you hide.

And briefly going back to the voice cloning, just be aware that when someone (perhaps a Grandchild or similar) sends you a voice note saying that they are in trouble and need money urgently, it may not be them. It may be a cloned voice. In the Times article we were discussing above, even the CEO whose voice was cloned thought it was his own voice when he listened to the voice note.

Finally, as a reminder, when you disappear on holiday don't be tempted to connect to the free wifi and doing anything serious like financial transactions. As Forbes says: One of the biggest risks associated with using public Wi-Fi is that it can be unsecured and vulnerable to attack. Hackers can use this vulnerability to steal your personal information or install malicious software on your devices without you knowing.

On that happy note, safe browsing and enjoy the summer holidays.

David Cornwell



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JULY

Monday 1 st 7.00 p.m.	SCC Meeting Recreation Hall
Wednesday 3 rd 2.30 p.m.	Visit to Mounon House Gardens Mounon House
Sunday 7 th 3.30 p.m.	Café Church Shirenewton Church Room
Wednesday 10 th 2.00 p.m.	History Society Archive meeting Shirenewton Church Room
Thursday 11 th 7.15 p.m.	WI visit J&B Sewing Machine Co Ltd, Newport NP19 4SY
Sunday 14 th	Sea Sunday
Monday 22 nd 1.30 p.m.	Muddy Church The Glade Tea Rooms, Wentwood Forest
Tuesday 30 th 7.30 p.m.	History Society talk—Oliver Cromwell Shirenewton Church Room

AUGUST

Friday 2 nd 7.00 p.m.	Elvis Night Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial Hall
Sunday 4 th 3.30 p.m.	Café church Shirenewton Church Room
Saturday 10 th 10.00 a.m.	Chepstow Show Chepstow Racecourse

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 1 st 3.30 p.m.	Café church Shirenewton Church Room
Wednesday 11 th 7.30 p.m.	Little and Large (WaterAid) Itton Village Hall
Thursday 19 th 7.30 p.m.	Men's curry night (tbc) Shirenewton Sultan
Saturday 21 st 7 p.m.	Harvest Supper Chapel Farm, Newchurch
Thursday 26 th 7.30 p.m.	Ladies curry night (tbc) Shirenewton Sultan
Sunday 29 th 6.30 p.m.	Community crafting evening (for ShAMBLES) Recreation Hall

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY—continued

OCTOBER

Sunday 1th
3.30 p.m.

Café church
Shirenewton Church Room

Saturday 12th
From 6.00 p.m.

ShAMBLES—opening night party
Shirenewton and Mynyddbach

Sunday 13th
From 6.00 p.m.

ShAMBLES
Shirenewton and Mynyddbach

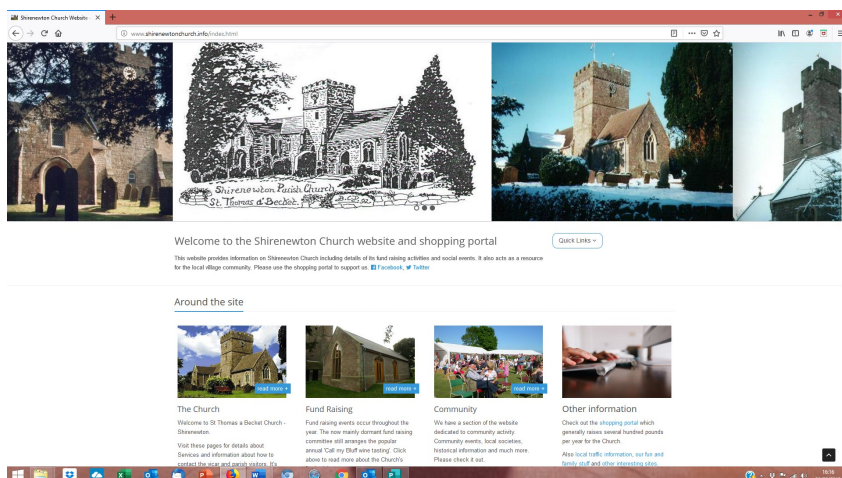
Thursday 24th
7.30 p.m.

Men's curry night
Shirenewton Sultan

Thursday 31st
7.30 p.m.

Men's curry night
Shirenewton Sultan

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Amazon Smile may be gone but you can still support Chepstow and Caldicot Lions with Easyfundraising!

We have some important news regarding the Amazon Smile program. Unfortunately, Amazon has discontinued this program, which means that we can no longer receive donations through it. However, we have some good news too! You can still continue to support Chepstow and Caldicot Lions by signing up for Easyfundraising. By doing this, you can help us raise funds for our community projects and initiatives, without any extra cost to you.

All you have to do is sign up through our Easyfundraising page at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/chepstowandcaldicotlions> and shop online as you normally would. The retailers you shop with will then make a donation to us, at no extra cost to you. It's as simple as that!

So, if you want to continue supporting our cause, please consider signing up for Easyfundraising today. Your support means the world to us, and together we can make a real difference in our community. Thank you!

The graphic features a man with a beard and dark hair, smiling as he looks at a smartphone. He is holding a credit card in his other hand. Behind him is a large yellow semi-circle. The background is a light cream color. At the bottom, there is a dark teal banner with the Easyfundraising logo and text.

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ooOoo***

***“Thank you to all those
involved organising and enjoying the Tea/Coffee
& Cake Event which raised £735 for the Village
AED Fund & Steve Bray’s 70’s Night raising
£100***



1						
2	Income					
3	Personal donations	£1,180.00				
4	Coffee event	£734.48				
5	Sing a long	£100.00				
6	Community C	£215.82				
7	Earlwood Hall	£300.00	£1,350.30			
8	Total	£2530.30				
9	Expenditure					
10	Batteries x 3	£612.00				
11	Pads x 3	£215.82				
12	Total	£827.82				
13	Surplus	£1,702.48				
14	Bank Statement	IN	OUT	Balance		
15	Jan 24	£975.00	£827.82			
16	Feb-24	£450.00	£0.00			
17	Mar-24	£1,105.30	£0.00			
18	Total /Balance	£2,530.30	£827.82	£1,702.48		
19						

The Huntsman Hotel

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



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ooOoo

Caldicot Male Voice Choir

Thursday 6th June 8pm

ooOoo

Pocket G's

Friday 7th June

ooOoo

Snow on the Mountain

Saturday 22nd June

ooOoo

Jayne Morrison & Friends

Friday 28th June

ooOoo

OffShoots

Friday 26th July

ooOoo

The Rohan

Saturday 17th August

ooOoo

Something Sultry

Saturday 6th July

ooOoo

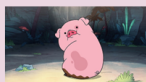
Ha Ha's

Sunday 25 August

ooOoo

Side of Pork Cutting Demonstration & BBQ

Time & Date to be Announced



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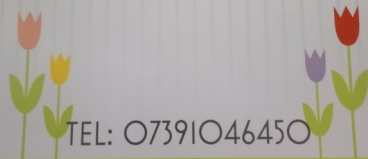
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LOCAL CONTACTS

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Ministry Area Treasurer	Kevin Higgs	

Church of St Thomas à Becket, Shirenewton

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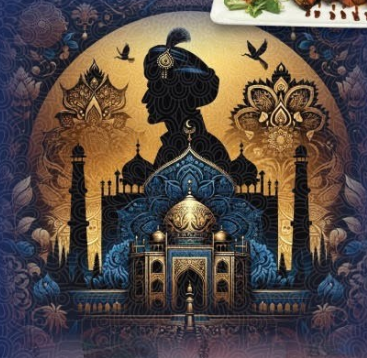
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