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Shirenewton & Newchurch Parish Magazine April 2010



The Church of St. Thomas à Becket Shirenewton

Church of St. Thomas à Becket Shirenewton

Priest in Charge.	Revd. Dr. William Ingle - Gillis	424984
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	Andrew Baker	641925
	Mrs Susan Lenthall	Newchurch 626389
PCC Secretaries:	Jane Smith-Haddon	641525
	David Heritage	Newchurch 641549
PCC Treasurers:	Charles Eickhoff	Shirenewton 641716
	Enid Heritage	Newchurch 641549
Gift Aid Secretary	Ruth Savagar	641411
Church Maintenance & Safety Officer	John Nicholas	641368
Organists:	Karen Millar	650521
	Ruth Savagar	641411
	Kath Whittington	641600
Sunday School:	Jane Smith-Haddon	641525
Tower Captain:	Mike Penny	650653
Church Hall Booking Secretary	Glynis MacDonald	641818
Mothers Union:	Auriol Horton	641844
Child Protection Officer:	John Waters	641449
Church Flowers:	Maureen Moody	641524
Parish Magazine Editor	Terry Walters	641338
200 Club	Nerys Wilson	641935

Names to Note

Community Council	John Eede (Chairman)	
Clerk to Community Council	Carole Jones	641791
WI:	Claire Lewis	
Scouts:	Dave Richardson	620356
Guides:	Helen Cann	650835
Brownies:	Jackie Broughton	641797
Cub Scouts	Geoff Marlow	641407
Beavers:	Becky Lewis	650304
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Rec. booking secretary:	Beryl Saysell	641637
Traidcraft:	Marion McAdam	641316
Local History Society	Shirley Bonsey	641362

Neighbourhood Watch Contacts

Community Police Officer	Michael Cowburn	01633 642068
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Shirenewton & Mynyddbach	Beverley Moore	641532
Earlswood	Sue Leat	641207

Please send your notes, & emails for the May magazine to Terry Walters "Bywood" Mynyddbach, Chepstow, NP16 6RW (01291 641338) or email to terencewalters@hotmail.com by 9.00am Monday 19th April 2010

Local Organisations

*If you know of any changes or omissions please contact the Editor Terry Walters
Telephone 01291 641338 or email terencewalters@hotmail.com*

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Cubs
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geoffmarlow@btinternet.com

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Earlswood & Newchurch West
Memorial Hall
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Earlswood Valley Methodist Chapel
Avril Smith 01291 650733

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Girl Guiding
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641797

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Shirenewton Mothers Union
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auriol@btinternet.com

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Whist drive
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WI (Womens Institute)
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Resurrection & Creation
April 2010

Dear Friends,

An interesting thought occurred to me recently: all our eco-friendly, carbon-neutral stuff—actually, it isn't about the altruism of saving the planet and life on earth. Not in the least. If I'm right, "life" and "the planet" will do just fine all by themselves. No—this is entirely about us and the choices we are called to make.

Stated cynically, it's about self-preservation. The truth is: the earth has been here for millions of years. It has sat out hundreds and thousands of catastrophes along the way and always adapts to meet new conditions. Life, likewise, has shown itself to be infinitely malleable. Species rise and fall, but life always goes on—renewed, invigorated. Dinosaurs were here for a season; then, when the ice age arrived, the dinosaurs could not survive—yet the mammoth arose and thrived. Thus, we have a choice: over centuries, the earth—life—will adapt to all the chemicals we pump into the air. Cockroaches can survive a nuclear blast, in fact. So don't worry about the earth: it'll do just fine. The question is: will we? How much would you like to gamble on that?

Stated more positively (at least from my Christian perspective), the question of our stewardship in creation presents a chance to respond faithfully to God's will. I believe that God, as creator, has handed us, as pure gift, a planet teeming with life. He has done it because he is, in his very essence, a life-giver. His life-giving will is built into the very dynamism of the universe itself—from the motion of atoms, to the spinning of galaxies; from the flailing of single-cell microbes, to the rich melting-pot of creatures and plants in Africa's tropical forests.

God will not be moved from that position. That much is already decided. If a view of the planet's natural history were not enough, in Christ we have a most decisive sign. For, when Christ rose from the grave at Easter, God nailed his colours to the wall: he will give life; it will thrive; and death will not prevail. Easter is about redemption—not just of human beings personally, but also of creation as a whole. Easter is about renewal, transformation—the promise of a Kingdom built by the hand of him who created in the first place. Thus, we, as individuals and as a people, have

the chance to share in God's vision of a world of justice and mercy, where creation, life, and humanity thrive together.

God's will is a creation teeming with life, justice, grace, and hope. We can choose to be on the inevitable side of that future history, or else, by doing nothing, take a losing gamble far more damaging to ourselves than life as a whole. Take your pick.

Blessings,
Fr. Will

200 CLUB

MARCH

No. 78 Dave Cornwall - £40

No. 85 Phylis Jones - £30

No. 120 Gordon Hughes - £20

No. 95 Simon Roland - £10

Please note that Nerys Wilson (641935) has now taken over the running of the 200 club from Pauline Dutton

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates for Spring Term

Date		Time	Venue
Easter			
18	April	9.30 am	Sunday Club - Church Room

Shirenewton Sunday Club welcomes all children from 3 years.

Do come and join us: Jane Smith-Haddon 641 525
 Glynis MacDonald 641 818

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL NOTES

March 1st 2010

Now back at Shirenewton Recreation Hall for the spring and summer after wintering in Earlswood, there were 6 members of the public attending in total.

Police Report

- 30/1 Theft of scrap and old batteries from a farm near Shirenewton
- 30/1 Car set on fire at St Pierre woods
- 2/2 Fraudulent Bank transaction. Victim from Shirenewton
- 3/2 Two overnight dwelling burglaries in Weyloed Lane. Various small items stolen including a handbag, mobile phones, keys, laptop computer etc
- 13/2 Disturbance near the Huntsman Inn. Youths in vehicle causing a nuisance
- 16/2 Suspicious vehicle and persons seen near Shirenewton. Persons checked by Police. No actual offences disclosed
- 23/2 Suspicious incident near Earlswood. No actual offences

Planning applications

Building of a detached house on land at the rear of Hill View Cottage, Shirenewton (that is between the cottage and the church).
Refusal recommended.

Seaview Nursery, Earlswood. Erection of an agricultural building as equipment store and workshop.
Recommended approval provided it is clear that this only for agricultural use.

A member of the public raised the matter of the status of the green lane adjacent to the recreation ground as it has been further improved and widened. It is also being increasingly used by traffic other than the farm vehicles, causing issues for those walking their dogs.

Moles are becoming an issue in the recreation ground; the Recreation Committee would appreciate any help that is available via the council.

Grant Applications

None of the smaller groups around the village have applied for grants *(seems the council were hoping to encourage applications from the smaller organisations in the area Scouts, Brownie, Whist Club etc. so be prepared for next years funding round).*

Despite this the small amount of money available is not sufficient to meet all the applications received, so all those who applied will get some funding – every little helps.

Shop Update - Application submitted to the Lottery 'People & Places' who have responded with a number of questions and requests for further information.

Best Kept Village prize - Most likely option is to provide a naturalised floral display by the village signs.

Notice Boards – The one in Earlswood will be repaired soon.

Local Development Plan – It has come to light that some new sites have been added to the Local Development Plan without any consultation with the community or local residents including the field adjacent to school currently up for sale. These sites have been added as addendum to the plan and are now on Monmouthshire's list of potential development sites. This is contrary to the previously agreed 'green wedge' strategy and as this is a five acre site which could be developed many houses if it were to go ahead. *Unfortunately Councillor Down had left the meeting before this was discussed so Carole will be chasing up on this – watch for more news in next month's magazine or check out Monmouthshire's planning web site.*

Allotment meeting with MCC will go ahead later this month.

Shirenewton Community Council

Annual Meeting

Monday May 10th 2010 at 7.30 pm

The Recreation Hall Shirenewton

Everyone Welcome

Shirenewton Community Luncheon Club

Please book early to secure your place for lunch on Wednesday
April 28th 2010

Tredegar Arms, Shirenewton
Telephone 641274

WHIST DRIVES

Don't be an April Fool – join us at the Whist drive on 1st April at 7.30 p.m. at the Recreation Hall. New players are made welcome, please join us, our Table fee is £1. per person which includes light refreshments. We also have a Raffle which raises funds for the upkeep of the Hall. In May the Drive is on the 6th, same time , place and conditions.
Auriol Horton. 01291 641844

You are cordially invited to a

Coffee Morning In Aid of Velindre Hospital

**At The Cayo, Shirenewton
On
15th May From 10.00 AM – 12.00**

**£1.00 per person to include coffee and Welsh
cakes**

BRING AND BUY, RAFFLE, PLANTS AND MORE

For further details ring
Lyn McFarlane on 01291 641594

SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS UNION



After the March AGM Patsy Lewis gave a fascinating illustrated talk about the Watoto (Children) Project in Uganda. She and five others from Caerwent were involved in the building of new accommodation in one of the Watoto Orphan Villages near Kampala.

At our April 14th meeting Mrs Maggie Riches will speak to us about some of our local Saints, stretching back to Celtic times. Everyone is most welcome. We meet at 2.30 p.m. in the Shirenewton Church Room.

The Focolare Group will not meet in April. My apologies. I will be at another MU function.

Rosemary Carey MU Branch Leader

SHIRENEWTON WI OCTOBER 09

March sees our WI birthday party, this year we celebrated 58 years. We invited our Federation Chairperson, Mrs Daphne Bindon, and our WI advisor, Mrs Jo Dawson, to join us for the evening. Committee and members worked hard to provide a lovely festive table and a sumptuous spread. After our meal we were entertained with guitar and lute music interspersed with anecdotes and readings from Mr Neville Cooper, our speaker. His programme was titled 'String Talks', a short history of entertainment through the ages illustrated with music.

Neville plays and teaches guitar, he writes and arranges music. Everyone enjoyed the entertainment which was concluded with a request for Neville to play one of his own pieces, which he graciously did. We were privileged to hear a new arrangement not yet heard by anyone else.

Our next meeting is on the 8th April 7:15pm at the Rec Hall. Our speaker will be Richard Jordan, with a talk on wartime memories.

Diana Such 650638



1ST SHIRENEWTON GUIDES



Girlguiding UK

The Guides continue to celebrate their Centenary year with various activities within the unit. We have had a "Day at the Races" with races taking various forms. The most hilarious of which was the butterfly and snail wind up toy races – great support from the Grandstand with the snail proving to have stamina regardless of ground conditions whilst the pink butterfly ran around in circles just out of the starting gate – some resemblance to its owners perhaps? In true racing tradition hats were worn and a collection taken for the Girlguiding "Hats for Haiti" appeal to help re-establish Guiding in the devastated island.

We have celebrated Guiding in Italy with a little bit of opera and a lot of Brushetta pomodoro. We also attempted "La testa, la spalla, il ginocchio, il ditto del piede" with very limited success! (Head, shoulders, knees and toes in Italian).

We still have a long way to go to achieve our Adventure 100 challenge but we are looking forward to the lighter evenings when we can get outside a bit more.

Yours in Guiding,

Kestrel Helen Cann 01291 650835

Kitten Amanda Turner 01291 650763

Koala and Panda

1ST SHIRENEWTON BROWNIES

Leaders Required.

As a Girl-only organisation leaders need to be female and between the ages of 18 - 64. No previous experience is necessary as training will be given. Opportunities to "Job Share".

Enthusiasm and a sense of humour are most important qualities. Please note leaders are subject to a CRB check.

Contact Jackie (01219 641797) if you think you can help us.

1ST SHIRENEWTON CUB PACK



We would like to welcome our four new cubs; Ollie Lewis, Jacob Lawson, Harry Connell and Julian Roland. We also have to say a sad farewell to Matthew Bonvisin, Matthew Gough and Harry Lewis who are moving up to scouts. We will miss you however we would like to wish you all the best and good luck knowing that you will make very good scouts.

On the 5th March eight cubs, representing the pack, with their parents and most of the leaders and the District Commissioner for, Chris Munslow, attended the Dedication Services celebrating 100 yrs of Scouting. It was a great evening with plenty to eat and drink in the church room afterwards.

This month we have been building lots of things including bridges that would take the weight of a football; old fashion siege machines that would fire a missile across the hall and last week after a talk about Noah and his Ark the cubs had to build two boats that would be powered by sails and could hold two cubs. (Photos are available on our web page) We also had some fun with a few new games including indoor golf, and the Battle of Trafalgar.

Future Cubs Activities for 2010:

Sunday 18th April Sugarloaf Climb, Hotdogs on the summit.

Sunday 4th July, Cubs District Triathlon

Sunday 25th April: St Georges Day Parade at Abergavenny

Saturday 15th May: Gwent Area Cubs Link Day for Cubs at Pontypool Park

Fri/Sat/Sun 28th May: PGL Activity Weekend; canoeing, archery, climbing, shooting, quad-bikes and much much more.

Fri/Sat/Sun 27th Aug Cub Camp Botany Bay

Saturday 16th October: District Rugby tournament

Saturday 20th November: District Swimming Gala, Newport

SHIRENEWTON SCOUTS

Jonty Cann and Bas Cornwell have been selected to be part of a party of Welsh Scouts attending the International Jamboree in Sweden in 2011. Both boys have to raise significant sums of money to attend and are selling a quiz sheet at the moment and would love to sell more if people contact them! Other events will be organised and it would be great if the readers could support in any way they can.

Many thanks, Helen Cann

STARGAZING IN APRIL 2010

In the first week of April, at twilight, both the planets Venus and Mercury are low in the west, with fainter Mercury just to the right of bright Venus. The slightly orange-coloured planet Mars lies high in the south-west, to the left of two bright stars: Castor and Pollux. On the 22nd, the Moon lies to the lower right of Mars.

Saturn lies in the south-east. On the 25th, the Moon is to the lower right of the planet. Saturn is yellowish in colour. In 2005 the spacecraft Cassini released the probe Huyghens which landed on Saturn's moon Titan. The images beamed back to Earth reveal strangely familiar hills, valleys and cliffs. Titan is the only moon in the Solar System with an atmosphere, but Titan's is very different to that of Earth, consisting of methane and ammonia. It is of particular interest since the present conditions on Titan are believed to be similar to those on the surface of primeval Earth before life began.

The seven stars of the Plough lie pretty much overhead. It is one of the "circumpolar" constellations that are always above our horizon. Its classical name is Ursa Major, the Great Bear.

American slaves were taught a song in childhood, which runs:

*When the Sun comes back
And the first quail calls
Follow the Drinking Gourd
For the old man is a-waiting for to carry you to freedom
If you follow the Drinking Gourd*

The song gave a time, after the December solstice, when the Sun begins to climb higher into the northern sky and the calls of migratory quail can be heard in the southern United States, and a direction – the Drinking Gourd is another name for the Plough and lies to the North. This gave slaves the vital information which allowed them to escape to the North and to freedom.

Dave Thomas

THE BELLS, THE BELLS

On the 5th of March Shirenewton bell ringers rang a quarter peal of Grandsire Doubles before the special service to commemorate one hundred years of scouting. There was a plaque dedicated to mark the occasion. The intricate wooden statue of a saint carved by Alan Saysell was also dedicated at the same service.

Our ringers are now on film. Want to see?
Google Mon-TV and look for the 5 minute film called "On the Ropes", in the life style section, it is all about Shirenewton ringers!
Pip Penny

EARLSWOOD & NEWCHURCH WEST MEMORIAL HALL AGM

The Earlswood and Newchurch West Memorial Hall AGM will take place on Monday 19th April at 8.00 p.m. A new committee will be formed to run the hall and we would welcome any new members. For further information please come along to the AGM at the hall or contact any of the existing committee members.

Simon Stanley Chairman

CHEPSTOW AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Homecraft Section
Are holding a
COFFEE MORNING
ON
WEDNESDAY, 21ST APRIL
AT
ST ARVANS HOUSE
ST ARVANS
AT 10.30 AM
Everyone welcome

SHIRENEWTON & MYNYDDBACH FIELDS ASSOCIATION

At last the Spring flowers are in bloom bringing a bit of colour to the landscape. The blackthorn blossom is out and buds are bursting. Frogs laid spawn in my wildlife pond on Saint Patrick's day (17 March). The perimeter fence is being continued; a fine job and also we intend to plant a hedge along the north eastern boundary which will consist mostly of hawthorn mixed with holly and hazel and several trees will be allowed to grow to maturity, e.g. oak, ash etc. on the subject of boundaries it is quite possible we could have a new neighbour if the field adjacent to the school changes hands at auction and we all hope we get along well.

On 7 March I was called to a wood near Earlswood with the report of an injured goshawk being sighted. Usually these turn out to be common buzzards but I was surprised and saddened to find, after a short search, a female goshawk in juvenile plumage, stood on a fence post, glaring at me. Goshawks are normally shy and secretive so I knew from the fact that I was able to approach that it was in a bad way. It flapped off and I was immediately aware that half of its left wing was missing. I ran it down into a fence and picked it up to take home where I examined it.

The wound had healed over but the bone was sticking through. I felt the sternum which was the sharpest I have ever felt and the body weight was at least 25% down on the average for a female goshawk. It was starving. I made up a gluco-saline solution which I syringed into the crop and put it to rest in a darkened mews. After two days of feeding up it was strong enough to be examined and x-rayed by a vet. The two outer phalanges (which compare to the fingers of a hand) were missing and there was a clean hole through the bone. It appears to have been shot and will require further amputation and a course of antibiotics. It will never fly again.

Although I do not for one minute think that the person who did it will be reading this, I would like to point out that it is an offence under The Wildlife and Countryside Act " to intentionally kill, injure or take any wild bird or their eggs or nests." Special penalties are available for offences related to birds listed in schedule 1, of which the goshawk is one. The bird is now recovering at the Gwent Hawk Rescue Centre where I am on the board of trustees. We have had to inform DEFRA who will want to get it micro-chipped or ringed and will probably inform the police.

On a lighter note , I am up and about before dawn most days and walking the fields and it has been cheering to hear, and then see ragged skeins of geese honking their way northwards to their summer feeding grounds; a sure sign that the weather is changing. Have a good equinox.

Mike Gambold, voluntary warden.

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

At our February meeting the topic of the talk was 'A History of the Monmouthshire Canal and what is being done to restore it', Phil Hughes who is Chairman of the Trust gave an interesting insight to life on the canal in its heyday and eventually its decline due to the introduction of the steam engine and the railways. We were invited to visit the canal, and we hope, perhaps later in the year when the weather improves to make arrangements for this visit.

Our first annual dinner took place on Friday, 26th February at the Huntsman Hotel, our after dinner speaker for the evening was Mr Ivor Cavill . The evening celebrated the start of the Society's tenth year, we hope to make this an annual event and everyone who attended agreed that a good evening was had by all.

Dates for your Diary:

Resource Meeting, Monday, 12th April
At the Recreational Hall, Shirenewton
2.00pm – 5.00 pm
Everyone welcome

Meeting on Tuesday, 27th April
Huntsman Hotel, 7.30 pm
'Gwent Rural Life: An interactive talk with pictures and artefacts'
Given by Ann Mansell

ST PETER'S CHURCH NEWCHURCH

Please note there will be no Palm Sunday service at Newchurch on the 28th of March
Also the annual vestry meeting will take place on Sunday 2nd May after the service at 2.30pm.

Please come and support our church

FAIRTRADE NEWS



During Fairtrade Fortnight (22nd Feb - 7th March) people were urged to swap at least one of their regular purchases for a fairly traded one and register the swap at thebigswap.org.uk. The aim was to achieve one million and one swaps. Our group at the Chepstow Fairtrade Forum thought the idea of registering might be a bit of a gimmick but of course the real aim was for the swaps to happen. There is now a truly vast range of fairly traded products available. During Fairtrade Fortnight there was a small display in the library with general information and also leaflets showing all the businesses in Chepstow where fairly traded goods are available. Speaking to people I found that many did not realize that Chepstow has attained the status of Fairtrade Town (incidentally quite a long, complicated, daunting operation!) Quite a lot of people were interested in the beautiful cards and purses that I had brought. Many are real works of art, with intricate, delicate embroidery done by ladies in Bangladesh. The cards cost about £2.50 and the purses £4 or £5. Even at this relatively modest cost it is interesting to consider that the workers can be paid, as they perceive, a realistic income.

Many shops and companies have (a few!) fairly traded products available e.g.: Warehouse, Monsoon, Accesorize, John Lewis, Pants to Poverty (they're fab!), M and S, Boots, but the most memorable has to be: Life's not Fair but my Knickers are!

'Traidcraft' seems a bit dull and earnest after that but they do sell a wide range of goods and food!

Marion McAdam 641 316 msm316@gmail.com

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

As we move into Easter and into thoughts of summer holidays, there are a few ways the church website can help.

Firstly, under the 'interesting sites' page (linked from the home page) you will find links to some interesting travel related sites. Currently I have featured a cool site which allows you to track flight status, airport delays and other airport information for anywhere in the world. Also featured is an even cooler site which shows live aircraft traffic in the airspace above Europe. All aircraft equipped with an ADS-B transponder are visible on the map. Take a look – you will be impressed.

Secondly, when it comes to booking travel, the church website shopping portal has multiple options under the travel and holidays section. As well as British Airways, Emirates, KLM and Virgin under airlines, it has eBookers, Expedia, Monarch Holidays and Opodo under 'general travel portals'. There are also extensive Church website accommodation options (including the everpopular 'hotels.com'). Personally I can strongly recommend 'Holiday Autos' for car hire and 'Holiday Extras' for airport car parking. These are but a few of the options available. Remember every penny counts.

Year to date (mid-late March) the Church has received £330.54 from the shopping portal so, currently, the trend is to a higher revenue than last year's £1,164.

Safe browsing.

David Cornwell

Webmaster

www.shirenewtonchurch.com

CONTINUING EXTRACTS FROM "WORKING TO LIVE" BY ERNEST E. JONES

Chapter 2. Cave men.

As we know from the discoveries that have been made that even in the times of ancient cave dwellers man was creative. It is difficult for me to try and understand how the cave people lived. They had to hunt for their food, which must have been a problem in winter, as for clothes there was not much difficulty in keeping up to fashion, as for the household chores, there was no furniture to polish or windows to clean, so they must have had a lot of spare time, and I wonder, what moral code did they follow. A film documentary of those days would have been interesting, and by the carvings found in the caves they were creative. That is when the emphasis can change more towards living to work. Even a bricklayer building a house, he can very soon start to see the result of his labours, even here where we live there are some stone walls very well built in days past, and that must have been a hard laborious job, and yet it would have been a creative job done with a sense of pride.

Man has worked with stone for generations even in ancient Egypt, then of course they used slaves, slavery did exist in the past as instanced by the sugar plantations or the oarsmen of Viking ships. But there was no paid labour. The stone masons who built our fine churches and many works of art in stone no doubt had to work to live, but they would have worked with a sense of pride. There are those who work in wood, and what a wonderful medium that is to work with, there are many materials that man has at his disposal to create the needs of life and that has always been a desire of mankind, not a necessity I might add. It is a fact that mankind has always felt he had a need adorn themselves, especially the female of the species. The strange part about it is that it is not a matter of culture or class. The primitive tribes were very fond of this strange phenomenon, the strangest of all was the native African women who would add coils of metal around their necks, and if these coils are removed they are then unable to support their heads. Then we have the upper class of society with jewellery made by man, fine delicate work made of precious metals as opposed to the heavy ornamental ironwork of gates and railings. All these crafts are a mixture of working to live and living to work.

Then we have house work and how that has changed, and I feel sure that in the days when many young girls went into service, that is to work in the households of the better off or the gentry before the days of electricity and modern floors, scrubbing the stone floors and many of the repetitive jobs

were examples of working to live. As with many aspects of life there was an element of luck in the situation, if a person found themselves in a situation where the head of the household staff, if that person was strict but also kindly and fair, then that was good training for later life. Indeed strange as it may seem some of our younger girls today could be better off in such a situation. There are many stages in life which we pass through, like going to school and how many of us longed for the day when we would leave school, but when we look back was it really such a terrible ordeal. Compared to going to work the hours at school were much shorter, sport was the only physical part about it and the holidays at school were much longer than the holidays when at work and the school pupils had no financial responsibility, there was strict discipline and that was good training for adult life, discipline these days is not strict enough. I wonder if there of Man are Many, yet his Needs are very Few", just dwell on that for a few moments and you will find that it is very true. Food, water, clothing, warmth and shelter are the basics, but then it is not as simple as that, modern society expects a certain standard, to name but a few, to own their own house and garden with all that a modern house provides, a motor car, perhaps two, a caravan and or a boat to tow behind the car, education for the children, leisure activities for the whole family, provision for holidays, very often taken abroad something inborn in mankind seeking a free spirit. Back to the cave dwellers, when the only law was that if the chap in the next cave was bigger than you and he had a heavier club you did as he wished. I am perhaps the last person who should speak about conformity, because I have in the main been self employed and as such I have been able to please myself how I should spend each day, to a large extent. But I honestly think if everyone was prepared to live by a few simple rules life in this modern age could be very good, not a cave man life for me, no matter how free he was. If only people would observe the Ten Commandments, that would solve a great many problems. Maybe they could be modified a little. I would add two more; do not indulge in harmful drugs and do not drink alcohol in excess of thirst. As this century is drawing to its close with automation the flavour of the month as it were and man has got very clever in this respect and in some walks of life the time actually spent working has been much reduced and yet in the E.E.C., of which at the present time the U.K., is a member, the Council of Ministers are trying to pass a bill restricting the working week to forty hours, and the U.K., are opposed to it

Continued on Page 20

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I think we can sum up the situation with the quote; "The Aims of Man are Many, yet his Needs are very Few", just dwell on that for a few moments and you will find that it is very true. Food, water, clothing, warmth and shelter are the basics, but then it is not as simple as that, modern society expects a certain standard, to name but a few, to own their own house and garden with all that a modern house provides, a motor car, perhaps two, a caravan and or a boat to tow behind the car, education for the children, leisure activities for the whole family, provision for holidays, very often taken abroad and finally provision for times of sickness and for old age. I was fortunate if you would like to phrase it that way, as a country child remembering back nearly seventy years I have an understanding of what primitive life was like, even then it was very primitive when compared to life today, but crime and vice apart life is better today but there is a price to be paid, and there are many who are not prepared to pay that price.

In the preceding pages I have dealt with the title on the broad front as it were and if you only look at any part of life from the outside, broadly speaking that is the only way that it is justified. In the following pages I will try and deal more intimately with the subject from a personal involvement with the subject. I will have to write with reference to memory in that I have written these facts before. The idea being to try to give the reader if indeed there will be any, what may be **Working to Live or Living to Work.**

CHRISTIAN AID PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH



Saturday 8th May

Just pop in to 'The Chantry' between 12.00 and 3.00
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NERYS'S NATTY NOSH - BARA BRITH - YEAST FREE

Welsh bara brith, can be either a yeasty bread enriched with dried fruit or something more like a fruit cake made with self raising flour and no yeast. Traditionally the stove was lit for baking once a week. As the heat began to fade, a handful of currants was added to the last of the bread dough and this "speckled (brith) bread (bara)" became a treat.

There are many different recipes for the bread, which is baked and sold commercially in some parts of Wales. The yeast version of bara brith has a limited shelf life and is best eaten as soon as possible. The self raising flour recipe can be kept for a long time. Welsh recipes favour soaking the dried fruit in tea overnight before the baking.

Ingredients .

- 12 oz (300g) mixed fruit
- 2 oz (50g) cherries chopped
- 4oz (100g) soft brown sugar
- ¼ pint (150ml) cold tea
- 1 beaten egg
- 8 oz (200g) self raising flour
- Pinch of cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon mixed spice
- Little milk for mixing.

Method

- 1** Heat the oven to 150C/ 300F or Gas Mark 2.
- 2** Overnight soak the mixed fruit, cherries and sugar in the cold tea.
- 3** Line and grease a loaf tin.
- 4** Sift the self raising flour, cinnamon and mixed spice into a mixing bowl.
- 5** Add the soaked fruit into the mixing bowl .
- 6** Add the beaten egg to the mixture and fold, add a little milk until a dropping consistency is reached.
- 7** Put the mixture into the prepared loaf tin and bake for about 1½ hours.

Tips

- 1** Once the bara brith has cooled I wrap it in parchment paper and foil and freeze it until required. I find the freezing allows the fruit to expand, making the bara brith very moist and delicious.
 - 2** You can always double up the recipe and make two loaves.
 - 3** Some people like to add a little whisky or brandy to the tea, the choice is yours.
 - 4** To serve, slice the tea bread and spread with butter or margarine.
 - 5** Traditionally served as a tea-time treat with plenty of hot tea.
- Enjoy!



Saturday 8th May
Earlswood Memorial Hall
will be celebrating the
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KIDS AD LIB 2010

Not long to go now until the official start of our new season. We're kicking off with a 'Revue Night', to include an 'Earlswood's got Talent' competition, and foot-stomping music from our headline band 'Wasted Youth', on Saturday 17th April at 7:30, Earlswood Hall, tickets £5 adult, £10 family. All past, present and future members of Kids ad lib are welcome to participate, and we will provide ideas for sketches, funny poems and songs to work on individually or in groups – why not come along to our workshop on 9th April, with your friends to try out some ideas.

Casting for this year's show 'The Mountain King' takes place on the week beginning 24th April, so to all budding actors of the stage and screen (yes, as promised there is a lot of film in this show!), please get in touch if you fancy being involved. (You need to be between 6 and 18 years, and enthusiastic!).

For more details, contact Karen Jazzy.kaz@virgin.net

Gail Gail2009@btinternet.com

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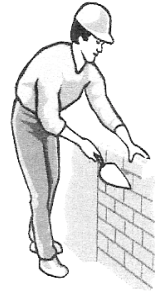
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Mountains of Adventure

The Church Room on Sunday 11th April (5:30 – 7:30pm).

The relaxed, social evening will include a talk about climbing mountains, information on the Shirenewton Kilimanjaro and Pen-Y-Fan challenge.

About the Talk:

Mike and Lizzie Peckham share their experiences and images of climbing all over the world. They have led expeditions to the Himalaya and the Arctic and include the rare experience of climbing a virgin peak. On Annapurna IV in the Himalaya Lizzie suffered severe frostbite to her toes and was carried for three days off the mountain. For some time she held the British Women's High Altitude record. They will be freshly back from leading an expedition to climb Mount Kinabalu, the highest peak in South East Asia with a mixed group from 6 – 60 years. This is not a talk about a single mountain but instead a series of stories of adventure on some of the worlds most beautiful mountains.

The unique Pen-Y-Fan opportunity

In addition there will be a sponsored walk up Pen-Y-Fan which, at 2,907ft (886m), is the highest mountain in South Wales, to experience the sunrise over Wales from the summit at about the same time as the Kilimanjaro climbers experience the sunrise over Africa. This does mean a very early start but, weather permitting; you will be rewarded with a very special and unforgettable experience.

The Kilimanjaro Challenge

A group of seven individuals will be flying out to Tanzania on July 4th in an attempt to climb Kilimanjaro. The team will comprise five from Shirenewton and two from Dublin. Kilimanjaro is the highest free-standing mountain in the world, the highest point in Africa and, at 19,340ft (5,895m), 1,640ft (515m) higher than Everest Base Camp.

"Mountains of Adventure" event will cost £5 per ticket (£12 per family) and will include a glass of wine and nibbles. Doors open at 5:30 with the talk starting at 6:00pm

Tickets available from Kevin Bounds (641818) and David Cornwell (641715) – strictly limited numbers.

The Kilimanjaro and Pen-Y-Fan events are sponsored walks aiming to raise money for Shirenewton Church and other other charities

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GARDENING CORNER

The weather seems to have changed at long last. The endless days of penetrating cold have given way to the first Atlantic front for some considerable time. Temperatures have risen, but unfortunately accompanied by the inevitable rain. Having said that I was surprised this week at just how dry the soil had got. I had decided to have a couple of days off work and took advantage of some of the dry weather to start weeding some of the main vegetable areas. Hence discovering how dry the soil was! I cleared one area off a couple of years ago, which is where we used to raise a lot of potted plants and so hadn't actually grown anything in the soil itself. Taking advantage of this fertile soil, I wanted to get this area dug first and get the first crops of the year in. Fortunately I timed this just right – when the cold weather had gone and before the rain started! Having raised plants in the greenhouse first, we now have a couple of double rows of broad beans, two rows of peas (sugar snap and mangetout), five rows of shallots, one of salad leaves and several rows of parsnip. The shallots were raised in pots as well, although you can plant these straight into the ground at this time of year. The “old gardeners” ways always claimed that shallots must be planted on the shortest day and harvested on the longest, but in recent years too much rain during the winter has tended to rot the bulbs off too easily. This time for the first time, we are growing more shallots than onions. Not only are they superior for flavour when cooking with them, but they store so much better as well. I checked the store this week and whereas the remaining shallots were still nice and firm, the remaining onions are all shooting out and not looking too good. An exception to this is the remaining red onions. These tend to be a little smaller than so called “yellow” onions, but keeping quality seems to be far superior.

In the tunnel we are currently picking calabrese and looks like we might be picking purple sprouting for our Sunday lunch this week. This is going to be at least two weeks, if not three, ahead of the same crop outside, and just goes to demonstrate the benefits of cover if you are able to provide it. Linked with a similar, longer growing period at the end of the season as well, it is giving you nearly two months longer production. We are just fortunate that we have more than enough space to provide such

cover. Have to say that I'm almost tempted to put a cover back on the area I mentioned earlier. The posts are still in the ground where the tunnel used to be, so it would be simple enough to erect a frame again. You may remember that the existing tunnel has four trees in it – two apricots and two nectarines. It's surprising how much space these take up as they grow, obviously reducing that available for other things! We shall see how things develop! I'm convinced that with this extra, under cover, space we could be self sufficient in vegetables. The only down side is that all crops would need watering, and when you are on a meter, this tends to focus the mind a little! If we did go this route, we would need to consider how to capture the rain water to best effect, in order to reduce costs. All of the raised beds in the existing tunnel have all been cleared and are ready for planting. The two beds that contain the trees didn't perform too well last year. I planted these with tomatoes, but crops were poor – I think because of the close proximity to the trees restricting light. This year I have decided that they will be planted with lower growing vegetables, and ones that I can grow early before the leaf cover gets too dense. I have planted up with several varieties of salad leaves and also some French beans. These should be well established before leaf cover gets dense. I will then replace them with a single row of peppers or similar, once the initial crop has been harvested. I've also sown several rows of carrot and beetroot in the top tunnel bed, and I noted yesterday that these appear to be germinating well. One good thing with the tunnel is that you aren't restricted by the weather conditions outside! The first seedlings have been re-potted in the propagating greenhouse, so the first tomatoes, peppers and aubergines are now well on the way. Hopefully we won't get the same problems as last year, where the roots never developed and left for very sick plants. This year I have doubled the number of plants that we are growing to make sure that we have enough if things do go array. There was one lot of tomatoes that looked very unhealthy and I have destroyed these. I realised that I'd used some of last year's compost again, and I'm convinced that this was to blame for all of the problems. A recent "Which" survey found that B&Q's own compost came out best in tests, so I thought that I'd give this a go.

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They were on special offer at the time (3 for £10 I think), so seemed like a good deal. The compost is peat based, and I know that there is a lot of "anti" against using this natural resource. Having experimented for over forty years with differing types of compost I'm afraid that nothing proves as effective as those based on peat. Provided that it is harvested sympathetically with the environment in mind, its use has to be better than transporting coir fibres half way around the world. Anyway back to the compost! Having used it for several weeks now, I have to say that I'm quite impressed.

It does seem to dry out fairly quickly but is easy to re-wet, and the first plants to be grown in it seem to be more than happy.

One job that I have managed to finish this week was the last of the hedges. The hazel hedge in particular (you may remember that this has missed its annual cut for at least two years) was getting drastic. I needed a chainsaw to cut it down to the required height, but this has meant that I now have a good resource to cut all the bean and pea sticks for this year. I have promised myself for some time, that I would invest in a "wormery" for the garden. This obviously contains worms, and you feed it with all the scraps from the kitchen. Over a period of time they eat this and convert it into liquid, which is tapped off and used as a liquid feed. The other by product is a fine, crumbly compost that can be mixed for potting and replanting. So all in all, a win, win situation. This was ordered up and delivered this week and I started it into action, using the food block they had provided, and then adding scraps and kitchen waste. All went well until it started raining last night. Next thing I knew was that worms were escaping left, right and centre! Apparently they like exploring, and when there is rain in the air, crawl up to the top to avoid being drowned! Now they tell me! The wormery spent the night in the conservatory, with a light on! This way they were out of the rain, and as they are light sensitive, they stayed in the compost. I'll be blown if they are getting that treatment every time rain threatens, so will have to think up a solution! Happy gardening until next month.

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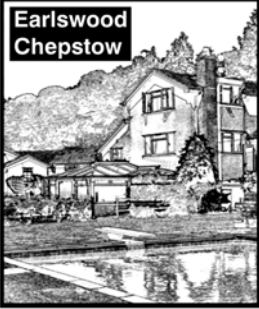
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SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

For further details see inside the magazine.

- 1st April Whist Drive Recreation Hall
- 8th April Womens Institute Meeting Recreation Hall
- 9th April KIDS ADLIB Workshop
- 11th April "Mountains of Adventure" at the Church Room
- 12th April Shirenewton Community Council Monthly Meeting
- 12th April Shirenewton Historical Society Meeting Recreation Hall
- 14th April Mother Union Meeting Church Room
- 17th April KIDS ADLIB "REVIEW NIGHT" at Earlswood Hall
- 18th April Cubs Sugarloaf Climb
- 19th April Deadline for Parish Magazine Contributions
- 19th April Earlswood & Newchurch West Memorial Hall AGM
- 21st May Chepstow Agricultural Society Coffee Morning
- 24th April KIDS ADLIB Casting night
- 25th April PC Cowburn Surgery Recreation Hall
- 25th April Cubs St Georges Day Parade Abergavenny
- 27th April Shirenewton Historical Society Meeting Huntsman Hotel
- 2nd May Annual Vestry Meeting St. Peters Newchurch
- 6th May Whist Drive Recreation Hall
- 8th May Christian Aid Ploughman's Lunch at The Chantry
- 8th May Monmouth Big Band at Earlswood Hall
- 10th May Shirenewton Community Council Annual Meeting
- 15th May Coffee Morning for the Velindre Hospital at The Cayo
- 15th May Gwent Area Cubs Link Day at Pontypool Park
- 28—30 May Cubs PGL Activity Weekend

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH - READERS AND SIDES-PERSONS ROTA

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
4th April	Easter Sunday	Sally Saysell	Allan Saysell
	Holy Eucharist of 9.30 am	Andrew baker	Kevin Bounds
11th April	Second Sunday of Easter	Auriol Horton	Auriol Horton
	Mattins Service at 9.30 am	Ruth Savagar	Ruth Savager
18th April	Third Sunday of Easter	Jean Jones	Jean Jones
	Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	Peter Jones	Peter Jones
25th April	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Diane Marlow	Diane Marlow
	Hoply Eucharist at 9.30 am	Barbara Davies	Barbara Davies
2nd May	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Lisa Morter	Lisa Morter
	Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	Margaret Locke	Margaret Locke
9th May	Sixth Sunday of Easter		
	Family Service at 9.30 am		
16th May	Seventh Sunday of Easter	John Nicholas	John Nicholas
	Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	Cynthia Smith	Cynthia Smith
23rd May	Pentecost Sunday	Kevin Bounds	Kevin Bounds
	Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	Mike Peirce	Mike Peirce
30th May	Group service at St. Peters, Newchurch at 10.00 am		
6th June	First Sunday after Trinity	Richard Grosvenor	Richard Grosvenor
	Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	Bob Grattan	Bob Grattan
13th June	Second Sunday after Trinity	James Leney	James Leney
	Mattins Service at 9.30 am	Kevin Bounds	Kevin Bounds
20th June	Third Sunday after Trinity	Andrew Baker	Andrew Baker
	Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	Sally Saysell	Sally Saysell
27th June	Fourth Sunday after Trinity	Jean Jones	Jean Jones
	Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	Peter Jones	Peter Jones