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Shirenewton & Newchurch Parish Magazine February 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
Curate	Rev. Nansi Davies	01633 400519
Church Wardens:	Sally Saysell	641369
	Andrew Baker	641925
	Mrs Susan Lenthall	Newchurch 626389
PCC Secretaries:	Jane Smith-Haddon	641525
	David Heritage	Newchurch 641549
PCC Treasurers:	Kevin Bounds	Shirenewton 641818
	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	John Nicholas	641368
Mothers Union:	Auriol Horton	641844
Child Protection Officer:	John Waters	641449
Church Flowers:	Maureen Moody	641524
Parish Magazine Editor	Terry Walters	641338
200 CLUB	Pauline Dutton	641677

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
Police Contact:	P.C. Mike Cowburn	01633 838111
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
	e mail: michael.cowburn@gwent.pnn.police.uk	
Shirenewton & Mynyddbach	Beverley Moore	641532
Earlswood	Sue Leat	641207

Please send your notes, & emails for the March magazine to Terry Walters "Bywood" Mynyddbach, Chepstow, NP16 6RW (01291 641338) or email to terencewalters@hotmail.com by 9.00am Monday 22nd February 2010

Dear Friends,

One of the hardest questions that Christians face is: why does God let evil and suffering happen? Whether through human agency or natural disaster, it's a reality of human existence—indeed, a reality for living things generally—that suffering and struggle happens in the world, and it seems unjust and unfair. The problem for Christians is: if we proclaim (as we do) that God is both all-powerful and filled with compassion, how do we explain the suffering of the creatures that he has made? Why, for example, does he allow such disaster to fall on human beings, such as those in Haiti in these last few weeks?

Truth be told: I'm not sure. Like most Christian ministers, I've struggled with this question; I've studied it—as have thinkers far superior to me. I've never seen an answer that I would regard as satisfactory. It's easy—and glib—for a person who is not suffering at a given moment, to throw out platitudes about how God, in his mysterious will, must be working out things to a better good; or how God must be testing our faith. But that's pretty cold comfort to someone struggling with ill health, or someone who has just lost a home or a family.

I think we do well to avoid easy answers, because one day, inevitably, in some way or fashion, suffering will come our own way. And at that point, I've observed, we never really want pat answers or clever solutions from our friends. More often, what we really yearn for is someone sit with us—quietly—to listen and tell the truth: that sometimes things are just rotten; it's unfair, and we don't know why. What makes the difference is rarely the attempt to answer the question of suffering, but rather the presence of others prepared to stand with us.

If Christian teaching about why suffering exists in this world is far from clear, the teaching about what we should do for our fellow human beings is perfectly simple: we muck in—without judgement, platitudes, or expectation. We help where we can; we do what we can; but, most of all, we seek to be present. This is the example Christ set for us—God the Son—simply by coming to earth at all and choosing to live a human existence that usually yields more questions than answers. It doesn't mean we can't ask the questions. But it does mean that, even and especially amidst uncertainty, we should take action to serve others.

Continued on page 4

On this page, I am listing several organisations to which we can donate our money for relief in Haiti. What can we also do with our time for the sake of the suffering?

Blessings. Fr. Will

Donate to Haitian relief funds at ...

Christian Aid

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

Tearfund

<http://www.tearfund.org/>

Habitat for Humanity

<http://www.habitat.org/eca/>

Partners in Health

<http://www.standwithhaiti.org/haiti>

Avoid scams

<http://www.petergreenberg.com/2010/01/15/haiti-disaster-scam-warning/>

THANK YOU! £1,102 KERR-CHING FOR CHARITY!

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our various Christmas church services and fundraising events this Christmas. And thanks in particular to Gaynor Osborne-Tonner and Annabel Hancock for organising the Sunday Club Christmas Fair, John Nicholas, John Saysell and Mark Baldwin for setting up the Christmas Tree, Chepstow Town Band and The Netherwent Singers for the music round the tree and Karen Millar for organising the Carol Service. Oh – and the Irish Rugby Supporters who couldn't work out who had won their quiz so donated the money instead (it might have had something to do with the amount of Guinness consumed.....)

Advent Fair £586

Carols Round the Tree £120

Carol Service £96

Irish Rugby Supporters £100

That's a total of £902 which has been sent to Retrak (formally The Tigers Club – helping street children in Uganda)

Christingle Service £200

£100 each to The Archbishop in Wales' Fund for Children and The Children's Society.

A happy New Year to Everyone from
Jane and Glynis

WHIST DRIVES

I am glad to report that the December Drive exceeded expectations as 37 players attended and the spirit was all that one might expect in the approach to Christmas. I regret that I was obliged to cancel the January drive due to the inclement weather but sincerely hope that all will be as usual on Thursday, 4th February and Thursday 4th March with the drives starting promptly at 7.30p.m.
Auriol Horton. 641844

UNSUNG LOCAL HERO

During the recent cold spell there has been an unsung hero going round the villages. He's continued to do his job regardless of the weather and we can't be alone in being really grateful for his services. So we'd just like to say a big thank you through the Parish Magazine to our village milkman, Alun Jones, who has heroically managed to deliver the milk on time three times a week during the recent bad weather. He's kept us supplied with milk and groceries over Christmas and New Year, even though the lane has been six inches deep in snow and ice for much of the last month. He's made our lives much easier.
Claire, Ritchie and Eleanor Tout.

NEWS OF PAT & DAVE FEATHER

We have received news from Pat Feather complimenting us on our magazine.

She loves to read all about the activities of the village but was sad to hear about Ian McFarlane and sorry to learn about Bob O'Keefe's illness. A big compliment to David Cornwell with the shopping portal. She has used it to get some good bargains. Husband Dave has had a mild stroke but has now recovered.

HAVE YOU LOST A RECORDER ?

A recorder has been found in the snow on the recreation field. To claim it, please ring Barbara Davies, 641553.

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL.

MON 7TH DECEMBER 2009

(Don't forget, if you want to read the Official Council Notes, you can find them on the village notice boards or by going to the Church web-site)

I know this is last year's news but I simply had to include PC Cowburn's Report which begins with the intriguing 'strange incident'. Where is Sherlock Holmes when you need him? Or for that matter Bo Peep (*see 13/11 or 19/11*)

- 2/11 Strange incident - Chain and a lock placed on a gate by an unknown person near Shirenewton.
- 8/11 Mini motorcycles being used in Wentwood.
- 8/11 Air rifle appears to have been stolen from a house in Shirenewton.
- 11/11 Road accident near The Huntsman Inn. Car and motorbike. No injuries.
- 12/11 Telephone call received at Earlswood regarding home security. Genuine call from an approved Company.
- 13/11 Sheep in the lane near St Pierre Wood.
- 13/11 Tree down on the road between Crick and Shirenewton.
- 19/11 5 sheep lost near Earlswood.
- 26/11 Car being driven erratically on the Usk Road - car not located.
- 27/11 Suspicious vehicle looking for scrap near Earlswood. White Transit van BG02X--. Owner from Pontypool.
- 1/12 Report of ice on the B4235 near Shirenewton.
- 2/12 Cyclist nipped by a sheep dog near Shirenewton. No formal complaint. Farmer advised.
- 5/12 Car on its side B4235 between Chepstow & Shirenewton. Road blocked. No injuries.

Planning

The Recreation Hall, Shirenewton

Demolition of small storage shed and extension to larger storage shed.
Approval recommended

Land adjoining Clearview

Residential Development

6 members of the public were present to speak at the meeting which discussed the outline planning permission to build 8 houses on this site. Objections were raised but a representative from David Adams was anxious to point out that Mr Adams is a local resident who wishes to work with the community, that they would be very keen to have dialogue, that they are agreeable to flexibility and this could be a mixed commercial space which could include plans for a shop!

Approval recommended

Items of Local Concern

This included reports about the adoption of charters with One Voice Wales, an update on shop premises and details of a Wentwood Mountain Mike Centre Feasibility Study.

Shirenewton Recreation Hall Committee has been successful at getting the contractors who damaged the new carpark just after it had been freshly laid to admit liability. Now they are trying to get the car-park resurfaced. Oh and some of the training meetings attended by some of the councillors weren't very good. Poor delivery and poor material...

Then there was the donations to local bodies which goes as follows:

Shirenewton PCC	£150	Earlswood Valley Chapel	£60
Earlswood Hope	£60	Gaerllwyd Baptist	£60
St Peters	£60	Chepstow CAB	£60
Shirenewton Rec Ass	£300	Earlswood hall	£300
Community Christmas Tree	£50	Shirenewton Playgroup	£100

And some of the village notice boards have got a little shabby. The clerk of the council, Carole Jones has been getting quotes to see about getting them fixed and some quotes that have come back are really quite high! So it was suggested that I ask in the mag whether there anyone out there who can make/repair notice boards? If so, can you contact your local councillor or Carole.

That about wraps up November's notes

From your own correspondent - Glynis MacDonald.

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

4TH JANUARY 2010

Police Report from PC Cowburn

- 6/12 Workshop broken into at Earlswood. Motorcycle, power tools and a lawnmower stolen. The motorcycle recovered nearby.
- 7/12 Untaxed vehicle in Shirenewton - owner reported.
- 8/12 Suspicious vehicle in Earlswood. Flatbed van BG02XY- 2 men looking for scrap.
- 8/12 Complaint about a parked vehicle in Shirenewton. Fixed penalty ticket issued.
- 8/12 Tree down on the Crick Road.
- 8/12 Suspicious white Iveco van at Earlswood. 2 men selling garden furniture.
- 11/12 Broken down lorry B4235 between Shirenewton & Chepstow.
- 13/12 Motorbikes in Wentwood - area search negative.
- 14/12 Cars near the school in Shirenewton causing an obstruction. Social function.
- 20/12 2 vehicle accident B4235 near Barnets Wood - no injuries.
- 21/12 Car turned over Mounton to Shirenewton road - no injuries.
- 23/12 Car in ditch B4235 near Shirenewton. No injuries.
- 26/12 Dog bite in Shirenewton. Owner warned.
- 26/12 Motorbikes in Wentwood Forest.
- 30/12 Fire at house in Mynyddbach

Planning

Parsons Grove – demolish existing barn and replace it with a new building for leisure purposes for use with holiday lets.

Recommend refusal on the plans as presented, request that MCC ask for full site plans for future consideration.

Items of local concern

Peniel Chapel – guard dogs, confirmed that this is not a planning issue. Anyone who feels they are causing a nuisance should contact the police directly.

Possible Village Green status for the field at Blethyn Close - various options were discussed now that SAMFAL have decided not to pursue leasing it from MCC. Eventually decided that SCC would ask MCC to transfer or sell the 'allotment' land to SCC and in the meantime Councillor Down will facilitate a meeting between SCC & MCC officers to discuss options for the field.

Next meeting at 7.30 pm on 1st February 2010 at Earlswood Memorial Hall

Please note:

Glynis and I only provide the edited highlights (and our occasional opinions thereon) from the community council meetings. The full minutes of the meetings can be found on the church web site and the village notice boards. If anyone is interested in taking a turn reporting on the meeting for the Parish Mag then please contact myself, Glynis or Carole Jones.

Alison Broughton 641739

SHIRENEWTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

GRANTS FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS 2009/2010

Shirenewton Community Council has a small amount of money available to distribute amongst local organisations for the year 2009/2010

All local organisations are invited to apply for funding from this 'small pot' to help projects or capital expenditure.

An application form can be obtained from the Clerk Tel: 01291 641791 or email: commcouncilclerk@aol.com

Closing date 26th February 2010

REFURBISHMENT OF LOCAL NOTICE BOARDS

Shirenewton Community Council is seeking quotations to carry out the refurbishment of the four local notice boards, in Earlswood, Gaerllwyd, Mynyddbach and Shirenewton

If you wish to tender for this work and/or require further information would you please contact the Clerk 641791 or

email: commcouncilclerk@aol.com

Closing date 26th February 2010



Happy New Year! We are having a rather late start to the year due to the weather conditions but we are hoping to party at our next meeting! We are going to spend some time this term completing various challenges and then move on to the Centenary 100 Challenge. Lots of planning to do so I hope all the girls come back full of ideas.

Just before Christmas we attended a presentation evening in Chepstow where many Senior Section young women received a wide variety of awards. Our local contributions to the evening were Lucy Duckham, Alice Thomas and Bethany Cann who were recognised for their contributions to the community and were awarded their Queens Guide Award. Alice and Bethany also gained their gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. Lucy should be completing hers very soon! Now we are waiting for the invitations to presentations in London – hopefully by Sophie, Countess of Wessex as Patron of Girlguiding and her husband representing the Duke of Edinburgh.

This is going to be a very busy year with all the Centenary celebrations planned so we are looking forward to reporting back to you on all the good times.

Yours in guiding,

Kestrel Helen Cann 650835

Kitten Amanda Turner 650763

Shirenewton Community Luncheon Club

Please book early to secure your place for lunch on Wednesday
February 24th 2010

Tredegar Arms, Shirenewton
Telephone 641274

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH 200 CLUB

During February and March we will be collecting subscriptions for the year 2010/2011. The monthly prizes will be first £40, second £30, third £20 and fourth £10. There will also be extra prizes at Christmas.

Nerys Wilson 641935 has kindly agreed to take over from me organising the collection, and will be collecting subscriptions normally done by me. Barbara Davies, John Nicholas and Peter Jones will continue as normal.

Thank you to all our collectors, and to Auriol Horton for banking the money and keeping us all in order. If you are not already a member and would like to join, please call Nerys 641935.

The 200 Club raises over £2,000 a year towards helping with the Church running costs.

Thank you all very much for your continued support

Pauline Dutton

RESULTS OF THE 200 CLUB DRAW

Xmas Draw

44	Sebastian Cornwall	£100
102	Carol Jones	£50
33	Stuart Dutton	£25
146	Evan Davies	£25

STARGAZING IN FEBRUARY 2010

The constellation of Orion the Hunter lies directly to the South in the evening. Four bright stars represent his shoulders and legs whilst a further three form his belt. The reddish star at the top left is called Betelgeuse and is one of the larger stars that can be seen. It is a red super-giant star and is destined to blow up as a supernova. If it were to explode today, it would become as bright as the Moon. The bright white star at lower right is called Rigel and is a blue super-giant. This is an extremely powerful star but at great distance, and is at least 60,000 times more luminous than the Sun.

At the beginning of February, the bright planet Jupiter is near the south-west horizon as darkness falls in the evening, whilst at the end of the month very bright Venus can be seen just above horizon in the early evening. In the early morning, the reddish planet Mars lies in the west to the right of the head of the constellation of Leo. At the same time, the planet Saturn is to the left of Leo in the South-West. Leo's head looks like a reversed question mark. The Moon can be seen to the bottom left of Saturn on the 3rd and lies to the bottom right of Mars on the 26th. The reddish appearance of Mars is due to iron oxide (rust!) prevalent on its surface.

Its surface features include craters as seen on the Moon and the volcanoes, valleys, deserts and polar ice caps of Earth. Geological evidence gathered by unmanned space missions suggests that Mars once had large amounts of water on its surface. Radar data has revealed large quantities of water ice at the poles and at mid-latitudes. The Phoenix Mars Lander has directly sampled water ice in shallow Martian soil.

Dave Thomas

THE BELLS, THE BELLS

Shirenewton ringers held their annual winter tour on the 16th January, it had been planned for the previous Saturday originally but luckily due to the fact that a lot of people couldn't come we had changed the date. So instead of snow we had a lovely day even if some roads were flooded and only passable with care.

17 ringers set off just before sun rise for the pretty villages of Worcestershire around Upton on Severn. At one church there had been a foot of water in the lane outside one hour before we arrived; it was lucky for us that it had now drained away but had made for a very wet wedding for the bride and groom getting married that morning. The soggy remains of the confetti littered the lych gate.

The Swan Inn at Birlingham was a wonderful venue for lunch. There were real fires; real ales and real cooked at home ham. We were all seated at one long table which gave the whole proceedings a party type atmosphere.

After the final ring at Upton, we were joined by non-ringing family members at the home of Chris and Melissa Jones for a drink or two and a lovely supper.

Pip Penny

SHIRENEWTON & MYNYDDBACH FIELDS ASSOCIATION

Christmas and New Year are now out of the way, and hopefully so is the snow....it is nice to see it in small doses but not to the extent when it becomes disruptive to people's day to day lives and indeed disruptive to the fencing work around the perimeter of our fields. Hopefully the contractor will make a fresh start once the ground is a little drier and hopefully before the Spring growth starts; I have already noticed the blackthorn in bud and catkins on the hazel and I am sure that over the weekend I saw a rook carrying nesting material. The birds seemed to have a hard time over the cold snap judging by the amount that visited my feeding station, even normally shy ones like the coal tit have been emboldened by hunger to take their chances among the larger regular visitors. (we must not, by the way, forget to leave out fresh clean water in these icy times.)

It will soon be time again for amphibians to start spawning and I would like to repeat my request of last year to please, if you feel you have excess spawn in your pond (as I always do) not to dump it in the water system of the Fields Association as we have a problem with Himalayan Balsam, a non-indigenous plant which spreads rapidly along riparian channels until it becomes a pest species to the detriment of local flora and can choke waterways. The few volunteers who turned up on a Sunday under monsoon conditions last summer will know what a battle we have on. Apart from "rogue" seeds which can be transferred from ornamental ponds there is also the chance of fish disease and unwelcome invertebrates being let loose in the water which could be impossible to remove.

The delicate problem of the phantom dog bag flinger has not only not gone away but increased; or maybe it is because the lack of foliage in winter that allows me to see more of them, or maybe he or she has got an apprentice. Could I once again ask this person(s) to desist as it is not a very pleasant task to harvest this unpleasant, sometimes fetid fruit and dispose of it in an environmentally way.

Enough of me going on, all that is left is to sadly report that the planned fund raising gig at Earlswood hall for Valentines day has been cancelled due to a couple of headlining bands pulling out and there being no real time to re-organise. As usual, any sighting of what anyone thinks is exotic or unusual, please contact Mike Sayce or me.

Many thanks. Mike Gambold, Voluntary Warden.

SHIRENEWTON LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 1090167

We held our December meeting at Mounton Church on a cold wet evening, despite the weather, 25 members turned up to a warm welcome from the Rev. & Mrs Julian White and were given a comprehensive talk on the history of the church given by Mr Utting. We have historical links with Mounton as the Hollis Family memorial is in the church (the Hollis family built Shirenewton Hall) and a memorial cross of Ian Liddell V.C. is here as well. We all enjoyed a sherry and a mince pie while walking around the church and an enjoyable evening was had by all.

Our usual solstice walk took place on 27th December (a little late, I know) meeting at the Woodland Tavern at 7.30am and continuing up to Grey Hill to see the sunrise at 8.10. The sunrise was obscured by cloud initially, but after a while the sun appeared and everyone agreed what a fantastic sight especially at that very special place on Grey Hill. Twenty members and one dog then proceeded to The Woodland Tavern to have a hearty breakfast.

Our January meeting was held at the Recreational Hall, Shirenewton. It was to be an evening for members to check out our resource in our small archive. The weather that evening was bad and we did not expect anyone to attend but we have stalwart members, one came from Chepstow and one walked from Itton, although the attendance was down we were very pleased to see those who turned up.

Dates for your Diary:

Monday, 8th February,
Resource Afternoon
at the Recreational Hall, Shirenewton
at 2.00 pm.
Drop in session, everyone welcome.

Tuesday, 23rd February,
Meeting at the Huntsman Hotel, Shirenewton
at 7.30 pm
Talk entitled, 'Cradle to the grave and back again'
Given by Phil Hughes

FAIRTRADE NEWS



Fairtrade Fortnight is fast approaching: Feb 22nd - March 7th, and one important theme is the tea industry. The UK is the third largest tea importer in the world. We drink 165 million cups of tea a day. More than 20 million people in the developing world depend on the tea industry for their livelihoods. Small scale farmers and workers have the least power in the international trade and struggle to win a fair share of the benefits. Fairtrade brings significant improvement. Although I have been trying for a long time to spread the word about fairly traded products beyond the usual coffee, tea, chocolate and bananas (rice, cotton, flowers, fruit olive oil etc etc) and many people seem to imagine these familiar products are a rousing fairtrade success, only one in ten cups of tea drunk in the UK is fairly traded or to put it another way: 90% is not. As is often the case large companies control vast swathes of the consumption: the UK's 5 top brands - Tetley, PG Tips, Yorkshire Tea, Twinings and Typhoo account for 72% of the market. What a difference it would make if just one of them switched to fairly traded tea. As I have explained before some companies have instituted their own schemes to protect the environment or help their workers but it is impossible to validate these sorts of claims without proper independent evaluation. But you can trust the Fairtrade mark.

The spring catalogue will be available shortly.

Marion McAdam 641316 Email: msm316@aol.com

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH WEBSITE

I am please to report that the church website earned £1,164.89 for the church in 2009. That is calculated on the cash actually received by the church. Because there are payment thresholds (typically £20 - £25) from account we always have a little bit in the various affiliate account we have so I only count actually monies paid over.

So a big 'thank you' to all those you have used the church website over the last year. Please keep up the good work. We are constantly adding shops to the site and even old favourites (like Argos and screwfix) are now back.

At the time of writing the Haiti disaster is current and, unfortunately, this has brought about the usual spate of phishing emails, scam donation sites and malware from special links and photos. Also in the news (especially the techie news) is the cyber attack (allegedly by China's secret service) on Google. So the rule is 'be careful', run internet security software and keep it and your system up-to-date with the windows updates. Never install a 'special' codec to view photos of videos - ask yourself why its not in a standard format. Never open a .zip or PDF file (or any other file for that matter) unless you are certain of its origin. In December I was involved with disinfecting two PCs which had attracted malware - both were running up-to-date security software. So, just because you have protection doesn't mean you can be complacent - it's like locking the car doors but leaving stuff on the car seat - kind of!

Safe browsing.

David Cornwell

Webmaster www.shirenewton.com

SHIRENEWTON MOTHERS UNION



Mothers' Union last met in December for an afternoon of shared poetry and carols, as preparation for the real meaning of Christmas.

Our January meeting had to be cancelled for reasons of snow but three members have been able to plan most of the programme for the year. We do not meet in February so we look forward to March 10th when Patsy Lewis will give an illustrated talk on her visit to Uganda in November, when together with others from Caerwent she shared in a building programme providing a home for orphaned children. . the " Watoto". This will start with a short AGM at 2.30 pm in Shirenewton church room. All are most welcome.

Details from Rosemary Carey 425010

The Focolare home group meets the last Thursday of the month, Feb 25th at 3 pm at the Carey's house 83 Wentwood View, Caldicot.

The name Focolare comes from the Italian, meaning a gathering around the hearth. A group of Christians would gather with their friends and neighbours in war-torn Italy for mutual encouragement and sharing of their faith. It is now an ecumenical movement in many countries.

See the website www.focolare.org.uk

The Women's World Day of Prayer service will take place this year on Friday 5 March at 2 p.m. in Caerwent Parish Church. This annual ecumenical service is carefully planned by a group of Christian women in a different country each year, and is an inspiration to people all around the world. The Service will be followed by refreshments.

Everyone is welcome.

SHIRENEWTON WI OCTOBER 09



The festive season seems so long ago, can we have really travelled so far into the New Year already.

December saw us all happily entering into festive mode, our Christmas meeting a lovely sociable festive meal at the Dewstow Golf Club. Christmas cards were exchanged, crackers pulled and mottos/jokes enjoyed. After the meal we all took part in a 'modern, rendering of the Twelve Days of Christmas, a very amusing version. We finished off with our traditional exchange of gifts from the 'Secret Santa Box' and our only weather worry was a sudden downpour as we drove home.

After enjoying our Christmas celebrations and seeing in the New Year we were looking forward to the start of our 2010 programme, a musical entertainment by Mr Neville Cooper, to which we had extended invitations to there WIs in our group. Unfortunately the weather had other ideas, we were forced into giving in and cancelling our January meeting. One ray of hope, Mr Cooper has agreed to come to entertain us at our Birthday Party meeting in March.

Our February meeting, weather permitting, will have Dr Naylor Firth as our speaker with a talk on Namibia.

We wish all our members a prosperous, happy and healthy 2010 and would be very happy to see new members.

If you need any information please contact:

Mrs Claire Lewis 641675

Mrs Shirley Bonsey 641362

Mrs Diana Such 650638

SHIRENEWTON SUNDAY CLUB

Dates for Spring Term

Date		Time	Venue
7	Feb	9.30 am	Sunday Club - Church Room
14	Feb	9.30 am	Family Service - Church
Half Term			
28	Feb	9.30 am	Sunday Club - Church Room
7	March	9.30 am	Sunday Club - Church Room
14	March	9.30 am	Mothering Sunday Family Service - Church
21	March	9.30 am	Sunday Club - Church Room
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**

KIDS AD LIB 2010

Calling stars of stage and screen...

2010 is our 10th season, so we're planning something a bit special - think lots of film, special fx, and a bang up to date script. Want to get involved? As ever, kids ad lib is open to all previous members, and there should be new places available as well (but only if you're 6-18yrs, and have a real passion for the stage). Don't feel left out if your 18th birthday is a distant memory - there's plenty for adults to do (anyone fancy themselves behind a camera or in the editing suite?). Making this year's show will be very different to previous seasons - there will be lots of filming on location during the summer months, so rehearsals for the stage play won't commence until school goes back in September, in preparation for performance in early November. We'll kick the season off at Easter with a review night, and casting workshop.

Don't miss out! – contact Karen (650521) or Gail (650861).

WEST WALES HOLIDAY COTTAGE

Mathry - between St. David's and Fishguard.
Hilltop village approx 1.5 miles from coast path.

3 Beds – sleeps 4.
Spacious and very comfortable.
Village pub.

Short breaks available out of high season.

www.cornerhousemathry.co.uk

Tel: 641722 Hugh and Pauline James.

Nerys's Natty Nosh

The word cawl in Welsh is first recorded in the 14th century, and is thought to come from the Latin *caulis* meaning stalk of a plant. It rhymes with 'foul' or cowl, rather than with shawl or ball.

Cawl has a good claim to be considered the national dish of Wales, and there are large numbers of regional variations.

Cawl (broth)

Serves 6

Welsh lamb is the basis of this substantial meat and vegetable broth: a meal in itself.

Ingredients .

*2lb neck of Welsh lamb
3 pints lamb or vegetable stock
½ lb peas
½ lb broad beans
1 lb potatoes
1 medium leek, diced
1 medium carrot, diced
1 medium onion, diced
1 medium turnip, diced
1 medium parsnip, diced
¼ cabbage, shredded
Salt and pepper
Chopped parsley to garnish*

Method

1. Trim the lamb to remove the fat.
2. Place the meat in a saucepan with very little cooking oil and brown on all sides.
3. Cover with stock and bring to the boil, skimming if necessary.
4. Prepare all the vegetables and set aside the cabbage, peas and broad beans until later. Add the rest of the vegetables to the meat and season with salt and pepper.
5. Cover and simmer gently for 2 ½ -3 hours. Add the cabbage, peas and beans to the broth 20 minutes before the end of the cooking time.
6. Sprinkle with chopped parsley and serve piping hot with crusty bread.

Tips

The root vegetables can be altered providing the quantity is the same , for example use 2 medium leeks and omit the onion. Instead of cabbage you can use cauliflower or broccoli.

Enjoy!

INTERESTED IN CLIMBING KILIMANJARO ?

In July a village team will be undertaking a fund raising climb of Kilimanjaro for the Church!

We currently have a team of about 6 people plus a couple of 'possibles/probables'. There is still room for a few more (max team size is 12).

We are flying out on July 4th and then commencing the climb a couple of days later. All individuals will be responsible for their personal costs (£600 for the airfare & \$1,600 for the climb and other stuff). There will be a major fund raising/sponsorship effort associated with this climb and you will be expected to be part of it.

Interested? Then contact:

David Cornwell 641614 or webmaster@shirenewtonchurch.com Kevin
Bounds 641818 or k.bounds@btinternet.com

ITTON VILLAGE HALL

Hall Management Committee Report

Forthcoming Hall events are as follows;

The **2010 Itton Parish New Year Lunch has been** postponed from January and will now be held on Sunday February 7th.

February 19th. February 2010 Fings ain't wot they used t'be a night not to missed with music, song and recollections with Chris Batters. See advertisement on page 28

Saturday March 20th. Living in the Light, the story of Hildegard of Bingen. Written and performed by **Alison Neil** who has performed before at the Hall. *"unmissable entertainment"*
See advertisement on page 29

Roger Evans for the Itton Village Hall Management Committee.

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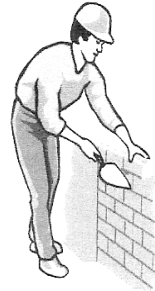
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30th ANNIVERSARY SEASON 2009/2010

Passiontide Concert : Sunday March 21st 2010

M. Charpentier : Te Deum
WA Mozart: Missa Brevis in B Flat
JS Bach: Magnificat
JS Bach: French Suite no.3
With CCS Orchestra
Soloists from Gloucester Cathedral
St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow, 7.30pm

**Summer Festival Celebration Concert
Wednesday June 30th 2010**

S Coleridge-Taylor: Hiawatha's Wedding
CV Stanford: Songs of the Fleet
A Borodin: Polovtsian Dances
The Drill Hall, Chepstow, 7.30pm

Craig Downes (Tenor) Roger Martin (Baritone)
Marjorie Duerden (Piano)

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Chepstow Choral Society welcomes new members. If you enjoy singing,
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Itton Village Hall

Reg Charity No. 1064508

Friday 19th February 7.30 pm

**Chris Batters from Devon presents:
*'Fings ain't wot they used t'be'***

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The audience are seated at tables so that they can form teams if they wish for a quiz based on jingles from well known commercials – prize for the winning team!

A rustic supper will be served in the interval

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£8.00 Family ticket £20.00

Come dressed in the garb of your favourite decade if you wish.

Tickets booked in advance:

Phone Elaine Cavill	01291 641 615
Roger Evans	01291 641 674
Ann Jones	01291 641 947

Itton Village Hall

Reg Charity No. 1064508

Saturday 20th March 7.30 pm

Alison Neal in *'Living in the Light'*

Alison Neal portrays one of the (only?) prominent women of the Middle Ages the nun, Hildegard of Bingham.

She had an outstanding range of talents and was most outspoken on the most delicate of topics and had the ear of the Pope and Emperor. We look forward to an exceptional evening, especially as Alison has performed here several times before and her work is of the highest quality.

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£6.00 Adults, £4.00 students

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GARDENING CORNER

I thought that it was time I made a New Year's resolution. Not your usual dieting, although after the excesses of Christmas I must admit that I'm finding it difficult to bend over! No, after 31 years of offering support and being the skivvy about the place, I have decided to give the under gardener promotion. The pay increase is poor – in fact there is no pay. The hours remain long and there is still no entitlement to holidays, but I thought that the least I could do is promote her to assistant head gardener. There are one or two sideway looks in my direction, I assure her that there is nothing to be concerned about. However, the look on her face tells me, that she is expecting some payback if she accepts promotion. There's no pleasing some people!

The heavy snow and penetrating cold has been causing us a few problems in the garden, not to mention disrupted life generally. I have spent a couple of late sessions in mac and hat (don't worry I haven't "turned") down in the tunnel with soft broom in hand. This to try and knock the snow off the polythene, before the weight tore the cover or worse still collapsed the frame. It's amazing just how heavy several inches of snow are, especially when it freezes. The first snowfall we had proved difficult to clear as it was dry and powdery and just wouldn't slide off the cover. The most recent was a lot wetter and so could be cleared much easier. The heaps either side of the tunnel are now several feet thick so no doubt will take some time to clear. Fortunately the greenhouses are pretty strong and obviously nowhere near the size of the tunnel, so I just leave these to get on with things! We have a problem with the water pressure this morning – there isn't much, so no doubt a pipe has burst somewhere or other. I've been around the garden to check all our outside taps to make sure the ice hasn't forced any pipes, but we appear to be OK. It looks like we have escaped any major damage in the garden, although the fruit cage is looking ten times worse than it did before. This is starting to look more like a complete rebuild job than a repair. I did check the greenhouses and they are fine from the outside, but I have a couple of

issues inside. In the small greenhouse I had some sweet pea plants and broad bean seed in pots. The mice have eaten nearly all the broad beans, and just started on the peas, so it will be a couple of mouse traps loaded with crunchy peanut butter I'm afraid. In the larger greenhouse border I had some carrots, salad leaves and some early onions. A pair of blackbirds has managed to find their way in (probably through the small broken pane through which the cats come and go. They have made a right mess in the border, throwing soil everywhere in their quest for food. All my salad leaves have been destroyed, but at least the carrots and onions were obviously too well rooted to be disturbed. If it brightens up later I'll need to get down there and brush all the soil back again and tidy up. One bird I managed to chase out the door, the other unfortunately had either succumbed to the cold or been sorted by a cat, although there weren't feathers everywhere, so I suspect the former demise. At least the cold weather should have sorted out some of the bugs and slugs that had built up their numbers. We certainly haven't had any penetrating frosts like that for some time, so I'm sure they could only do good. There were a couple of tidy, decent days to get out in the garden over Christmas, and I took the opportunity to blitz the hedges. We have a hedge on nearly every boundary, and I'm sorry to say that a couple hadn't been cut for a couple of years, so these had really taken off. The one comprises of hazel with dog rose and thorn, so not nice to cut. However the hazel has actually grown to a useful size, so I'm tempted to leave the top (I've cut both sides) for a few more months, until just before they start to bud up, and cut them then. This is because they are of a size that I can use them for pea and bean sticks. If I cut them now it will almost be too early and they will give way as they dry and rot, leaving the beans etc on the ground. Cut at the end of March or beginning of April, should mean that they will last the season without any problems. Leave it too late though and the sticks will continue to grow leaves which then encourage mildew on your crop, as they die off and start to rot.

Continued on page 34

The rest of the hedges are pretty well finished although we now have the task of clearing all the cut material. We haven't seen it for weeks because of the snow. I also started on one or two of the older beds where, due to neglect over the last couple of years I've got ash and willow trees and bramble taking root. Well did have. Most of these have now been cut and poisoned, so hopefully won't grow again. There are a lot of smaller ash trees about two to three feet tall. I'm going to dig these up and plant them up the field as I want to create a woodland that we can use for firewood in the coming years. It is starting to take shape now, and its surprising how quickly trees will establish themselves given the right conditions.

Although I've had seed catalogues for some time, it's taken me a long time to get around to sorting out my order for this year. This has now been done, so I expect that the packages will soon be arriving through the post. When they do, the new season will arrive in earnest. I'll turn the hot bench on in the small greenhouse to begin with and then consider what to start with. I'll need to replace the broad beans for a starter thanks to those mice. I hadn't heated them before though, so with a little warmth they will soon catch up. Seed wise it isn't a problem as I collected all my own seed last year, so have a good supply. I only kept one variety called "Red Epicure", which as the name suggests has red beans, but a fantastic flavour. Picked young they are an absolute delight, lightly steamed, with a knob of butter. Yum, I can taste them already! To these I'll add sowings of all the salad crops (especially leaves to replace those destroyed by the blackbirds!), tomatoes, peppers etc. I'll also sow the first peas and some early calabrese and cauliflowers so that we can beat the caterpillars. Well the snow has nearly all gone, and it's pouring with rain, so I can't get outside. Time to head off to my work room in the garage. I've got loads of frames from the beehives to clean up and new wax to put in. If I get this done now I won't be in my usual predicament of needing them when I get a swarm of bees! Happy gardening until next month.

Steve Hunt.

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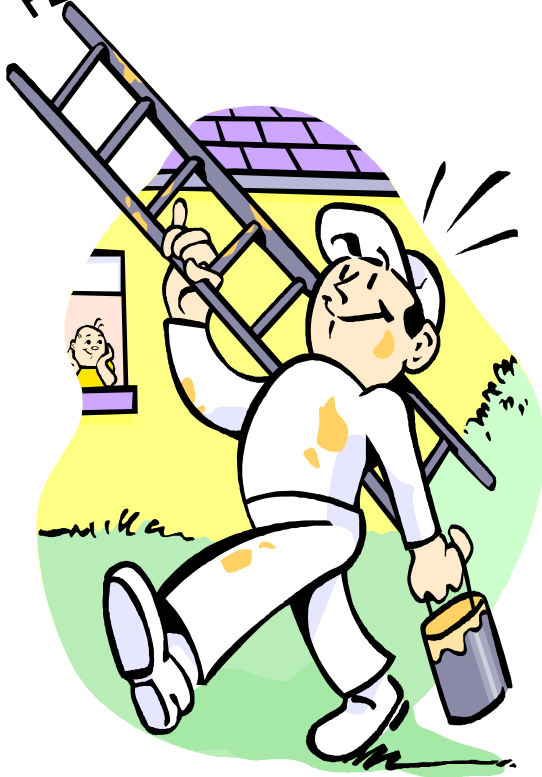
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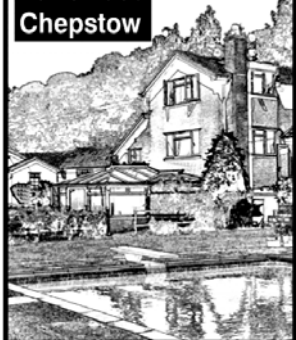
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SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

For further detail on all the above see inside the magazine.

February 2010

- Feb Subscriptions due to the 200 Club
- 1st Feb Community Council Meeting
- 4th Feb Whist Drive
- 7th Feb New Year Lunch - Itton Village Hall
- 8th Feb Local History Society Resource afternoon
- 19th Feb "Fings ain't wot they used t'be" - Itton Village Hall
- 22nd Feb Parish Magazine contributions Deadline
- 23rd Feb Local History Society meeting
- 24th Feb Shirenewton Community Lunch
- 25th Feb Foculare Home Group meeting
- 26th Feb Closing date for Local Grant Applications
- 26th Feb Closing date for Notice Board Repair quotation

March 2010

- 4th March Whist Drive
- 5th March Womens World Day of Prayer
- 10th March Mothers Union meeting
- 20th March "Living the Light" - Itton Hall
- 21st March Passiontide Concert - Chepstow Choral Society

SHIRENEWTON CHURCH - READERS AND SIDES-PERSONS ROTA

DATE	SERVICE	READER	SIDES-PERSON
7 Feb.	2nd Sunday before Lent Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	Margaret Lock Lisa Morter	Margaret Lock Lisa Morter
14th Feb	Sunday before Lent Family Service at 9.30 am		
17th Feb.	Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist in Shirenewton at 7.00 pm		
21st Feb.	1st Sunday of Lent Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	Kevon Bounds John Nicholas	Kevin Bounds John Nicholas
28th Feb.	2nd Sunday of Lent Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	Diane Marlow Cynthia Smith	Diane Marlow Cynthia Smith
7th March	3rd Sunday of Lent Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	Mike Peirce Richard Grosvenor	Mike Peirce Richard Grosvenor
14th March	4th Sunday of Lent, Mothering Sunday Family Service at 9.30 am		
21st March	5th Sunday of Lent Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	James Leney Bob Grattan	James Leney Bob Grattan
28th March	6th Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9.30 am	Margaret Lock Lisa Morter	Margaret Lock Lisa Morter