

for Beambridge Clunbury Clunton Coston Cwm Kempton Little Brampton Obley Purslow The Llan & Twitchen

## White wildlife

I've been lucky to see a Little Egret on a number of occasions recently. The first sighting was on the Clun, near Purslow New Bridge, on 27 December. Subsequently I, and others, have, on several occasions, seen one on the Kemp at Kempton. These heron-like birds are all white, apart from their dark bill and legs and yellow feet. They are elegant and small – measured from tip of beak to end of tail they are no bigger than a crow. It was 1992 before the first was seen in Shropshire, but sightings are now becoming more and more frequent. Little Egrets first bred in the UK in 1996 and there are now in the order of 1,000 breeding pairs!



## A Sign of Spring

From a white bird to some white blossom: look out soon for the white flowers of the cherry plum, occurring locally in hedgerows and woodland margins, the flowers appearing with the leaves. Sometimes a very few flowers only will open, then frosts delay further progress for a week or more. The smaller flowers of blackthorn open a few weeks later, usually before the leaves. Damson, with the largest flowers, and often found in smallholders' hedges, blossoms last. The numerous races of cultivated plums, damsons and gages originated from hybridisation of blackthorn and cherry plum. Damson and cherry plum were

once valued food sources before better alternatives came along, and damsons were also used as a source of dye. There are fine displays of cherry plum to be seen on the hillside above the road from Clunton, just before Purslow, best seen from further away, and if you turn left along the back lane to Kempton, a spectacular line of trees runs right down to the road as you approach the village, clearly visible from the main road on the other side of the valley.



*Dave Simpson*

## Clunbury Village Hall Games Night

Sat. 21st February  
from 7pm



Free entrance – Fun  
for all ages



Table Tennis, Darts,  
Dominoes, Cards,  
Table Games

Tea and coffee  
available or bring  
your own drinks



Please send your contributions by the 20th of each month

## Jack's 'Blog from the Dog'

There was a strange phenomenon that occurred last month that I have now experienced 7 times in my life. It began with a lot of cleaning (not something they do a lot here unless there are visitors coming), followed by the arrival of a TREE. A tree indoors - now don't you think that's odd? Not an interesting tree at all, no lovely smells of previous visitors, or one it would be acceptable to put your leg up on, so not much use at all, except it gets things hung on it and the humans are heard to say, 'Aaaahhh, doesn't it look nice?' There's a friend of my female human that had a giant tree in her house, with apparently, 720 lights on it!

Oh yes, they think I'm just a dumb dog, but I hear EVERYTHING! And trust me, a lot of it is drivel but I'm far too discreet to comment!

A lady arrives. I'm told: 'Here's Auntie Sue', which I know anyway - they really do think I'm stupid. I know what this means - they will be playing Scrabble and I will have to wait a long time to go for a walk.

Never mind, kiss the visitor, be polite... and Oooh! How kind, you've brought me a present! It is on these rare occasions that I am encouraged to tear paper apart! Extraordinary! But hey, let's get stuck in, this is fun! Inside the paper is a small plastic duck that quacks when you bite it. Unusual - I normally have things that squeak, but it is an interesting noise and I'll do my best to show my appreciation by trying to kill it and making it quack for mercy. I must have killed it in the end because it stopped quacking.

During the humans' lunch, they pull things that make a loud bang and then they wear silly hats - what DO they think they look like? Then THEY have fun tearing paper off things and THANKING each other. What is it all FOR?

But I am just a dog, so it's not for me to question; time to retire to the sofa or



perhaps I'll lie in front of the wood burner, so long as it doesn't get too hot. I shan't tell them about the strange man that came down the chimney in a red coat because I DON'T DO GUARD DOG DUTIES . . .

## Christmas Tree Festival

Clunbury Village Hall hosted its first Christmas Tree Festival on the Saturday before Christmas to support the work of the Community Larder at Clun. Groups, families and individuals presented trees on a variety of themes including our youngest residents in the toddler group who decorated a tree named "All our own work" and Jill's grandchildren who made decorations and dressed their tree, "Looking forward to Christmas" amid great excitement. In all there were fifteen trees of all shapes and sizes.

Visitors to the exhibition enjoyed festive refreshments throughout the day. Lucky children were able to choose sweets from The Freeman Family's "Old Fashioned Sweet Tree." Thank you to all who contributed and helped with their cooking and time. We were able to send £130.30 to CLAC to support their (sadly) needed work.

*Eirlys Ellams*

**Editor's note:** *The Parish Post supported the festival with a tree named "Christmas Post".*

### Advance Notice

Clun Valley Good Friends

### Garden Tea Party

Sunday 17 May 2015, 2.30 – 5pm

Purslow Hall

by kind permission of Annabel Morris

### Early Music singing group in BC

looking to welcome new voices, Please contact Mark on 07538 568378 or email [jacquelinesw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jacquelinesw@hotmail.co.uk)

## News from South West Shropshire Gardening Club



“Westonbirt Arboretum”

A talk by Director, Simon Toomer  
Wednesday 25 February, 7.30pm  
Lydbury North Village Hall

**S**imon originally trained in biology and forestry; he then worked as a practical forester, woodlands advisor and arboriculturalist in private and local authority sectors. He has worked at the National Arboretum since the year 2000. As Director, he is responsible for overseeing the management and development of one of the finest tree collections in the world. He has travelled widely in Europe, North America, Asia and Africa in pursuit of trees, and has written two books. He has particular interest in conservation and management of native woodland and the use of ornamental trees in garden landscapes. Come and join us for what promises to be an extremely interesting talk by a leading expert.

The event is free to members of South West Shropshire Gardening Club; visitors are also welcome at £3 per person including refreshments. Any further queries to our Chairman, Carol Clarke 660753 or our Secretary, Allison Walter 620055 or look at our website [www.gardeningshropshire.co.uk](http://www.gardeningshropshire.co.uk).

*Angela Salmon*

### BC & District Carers Group

**Mon 19 Jan, 2-4 pm:** Coffee and chat about what you would like to see happen in the group in 2015. We welcome any ideas for fundraising/events/speakers.

**Mon 16 Feb, 2-4 pm:** PCB Solicitors will be giving a talk about the New Care Act, wills, Power of Attorney, Court of Protection, probate, property ownership and how this can be affected by going into residential care or caring for your loved one at home.

If you would like to talk about any issues you may have relating to your caring role, please telephone Jenny **01694 722024**.

### I am Charlie

*Charlie Angell is 9 and goes to Clunbury school. He broke his leg at the end of October and sent his story to the Parish Post.*

**T**here once lived a fierce hero and his name was Charlie Angell. He saved the world lots and lots of times from crazy villains but one tragic day he broke his leg and villains went wild robbing banks, but Charlie didn't stand that, so... he sat down.



Well, I might have exaggerated a little bit; what really happened is: I fell over and broke my leg, just playing. My leg was in agony. I went to Telford hospital and had it manipulated in theatre and had a cast put on. Now I am

getting better.

*Thank you Charlie; we wish you a speedy recovery. If anyone else from Clunbury School has a story to tell, please let us know.*

#### Advance notice

Clunbury Village Hall Committee present

### The Open Gardens Tragedy

A Murder Mystery set in the Clun Valley  
Saturday, 14 March, 2015

Clunbury Village Hall at 7 pm

Actors from Clunbury and Clungunford will be performing the specially written play for the audience to try to guess 'Who Dunit?'

Bring and Share supper  
booking is essential

Entry £2.00 pp (tea/coffee + free raffle ticket). Bring a plate of food to share & your own alcohol if you like; you might need it!  
Ring Lin Brown 660578 to book a place

### Clunbury Church 100 Club

**Dec results:** Marjorie Davies: £20; Ruth Seabury: £15; Trevor Owens: £10; Jim Whitehead: £5; Jane Cassford: £3.

**Jan results:** Carol Griffiths: £20; June Gissing: £15; Bob Richards: £10; M & S Wadsworth: £5; Lynne Morris: £3.

**FOUND:** a pair of Specsavers glasses in church after the carol service.

## Clunbury Parish Council Meeting 8/1/15

**Present:** 6 councillors, the Clerk + 5 members of the public

### **Matters arising from the last meeting**

Julian Spenceley has kindly offered to help with the Parish Post website, which is used by the Parish Council.

List of standing orders: still to come.

Parish Land on the Black Hill: two of the Trustees for the Charity in charge of the Parish Land (Cllr Croxton and Cllr Bailey) will call a meeting of all the Charity's Trustees before the next Parish Council meeting and examine the content of a 'big box of stuff' related to the matter, which is in their possession.

Fly tipping: no further news

AED in Kempton: the matter is apparently in hand; no further news.

### **Review of Parish Plan:**

Questionnaires should be ready by the end of February. In view of the costs involved the Parish Council was asked, and agreed, to earmark £150-£200 in case of need.

**SAMDev:** No particular development.

Cllr S Jones expressed concerns regarding the needs, present and future, of our increasingly ageing community: more demands on the Health Service, problems of mobility, ability to pay for care, etc. She suggested that a proper study of the community's needs should be carried out. Cllr Croxton is to speak to Mathew Mead. Nigel Hartin could also be contacted.

### **Planning:**

Erection of agricultural buildings for barn egg production, together with attenuation pond and access visibility splay improvement, Walcot Farm Lydbury North, Shropshire. Applicant: J Evans & Son.

Cllr Hoskins reported on the concerns raised by Kempton parishioners. After a discussion regarding the suitability of the

Parish Council commenting on the application, in view of the fact that the buildings would be in the Lydbury North Parish, Cllrs Hoskins and Cllr Hill expressed the view that, as the planning would affect Clunbury parishioners, and the Council was representing them, the Parish Council had a duty to represent their parishioners. The concerns expressed were as follows:

1. visual impact; 2. Noise pollution; 3. Smell; 4. Ecological impact; 5. Traffic impact; 6. Impact on tourism

Mr J Evans was present and responded to the questions asked as follows:

**Q:** Visual impact: each of the 2 buildings would be a big green block of roughly 100m x 20m, 5.5m high (+ ventilation fans), spoiling the views of and from the surrounding countryside. Big blocks of green tend to be highly visible.

**A:** *The building will be screened on one side by a belt of trees. May be seen in winter. The buildings have to be made in this particular material by regulation, but happy to slate the roofs.*

**Q:** Noise pollution from the birds; **A:** *Chain feeding is silent; the building will be insulated.*

**Q:** Smell: Waste will be stored and spread around fields. Chicken manure odour is notoriously disagreeable.

**A:** *The cleaning will only be done every 72 weeks*

**Q:** Ecological impact: Vapour of ammonia will be released in the air affecting the surrounding environment.

**A:** *None given*

**Q:** The use of antibiotics on animals is of concern as residues may permeate the underlying aquifer.

**A:** *Antibiotics would not be used.*

**Q:** Traffic impact: Visibility, speed and increase of traffic (particularly large feed lorries) on a fast and dangerous road.

**A:** *Visibility will be enhanced by the access splay improvement.*

**Q:** Impact on tourism: people come to Shropshire for its unspoilt and quiet rural aspects.

**A:** *Would not affect tourism.*

Cllr Croxton asked how Clunbury Council should respond. The form provided by Shropshire Council offered 3 possibilities: object/support/no comment. The part of the application which concerned the Parish Council directly (ie the provision of a better access to the avenue) was, in his view, dealt with satisfactorily, but it was decided that the views of the parishioners should be taken into account; the 'no comment' option was not therefore appropriate. Three councillors voted to support the application, two voted against; but it was agreed that the Parish Council should request that Shropshire Council consider carefully the views of the individual parishioners who had registered objections in a personal capacity.

**Roads:** Potholes were reported on the road from Cwm to Obley. Cllr Hoskins congratulated Shropshire Council for the speed and effectiveness of dealing with previous potholes.

Little Brampton crossroads: works should take place 26-28 January.

Purslow Crossroads: no news.

Interactive sign at Twitchen: will have to wait until next budget.

**Correspondence:** Requests for financial support from the CAB and SpARc; the Parish Council will think about it.

**Finances:** Accounts to pay: Clerk's salary: £304.16; Clerk's expenses: £100; Burial ground maintenance: £75. Bank balances: Current A/C: £1,362.96; Business Saver: £6,891.38.

It was agreed to keep the Precept at the same level as last year, ie: £3,250.

**Next meeting:** 19 March at 8pm, Kempton VH.

*Gisèle & Tom Wall*

## STOP PRESS

In the light of further information received, and research into the application, the PC reconvened for further discussion and, on another vote, decided to object to the application on

the following grounds: 'Because of the contradictory and inaccurate information in the application. There was an ad hoc change to the elevations, but there is still confusion regarding the "high velocity roof fans" - the Applicant insists these would be on the ends of the buildings, the plans show them on the ridges and this would affect the potential noise levels in the surrounding area. Clunbury Parish Council would like to see this application go to Committee, when hopefully more complete and accurate information would be to hand.'

## CLAC@CLUN

Our Busiest Two Weeks Ever: On 18 December a dozen of our wonderful volunteers gathered in the vestry at St George's to put together Christmas food parcels for some of our clients. They contained our usual non-perishable items, together with fresh vegetables, fruit, dairy produce and Christmas treats, donated by our supporters over the previous two months.

Everyone was over the moon with the parcels they received and all have asked that we pass on our thanks to 'the team'.

By the New Year a further 7 parcels had been given out, making a total of 24 supplied in just two weeks. These were for 37 adults and 26 associated children. As we supply food for at least a week, we estimate that this equates to nearly 900 meals. This is more than half the total number of meals we provided in our first full year of operation.

Although CLAC@CLUN is a success, the needs are still great, if not obvious, in this lovely area of rural Shropshire. It is our aim in 2015 to continue to help those in need. We cannot do this without everyone's support, and we thank you for what you have donated in produce, money and time in the 18 months that we have been running.

*Pat Harding, Margaret Garfitt, Douglas Ogram  
Trustees of CLAC@CLUN*

### Events Diary for FEBRUARY 2015

Sun 1	11.15am	Morning Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 1	7pm	Songs of Praise in four-part harmony. Tel 661171 for info.	Kempton Village Hall
Mon 2	9-11am	Parent & Toddler Group-every Mon in term time. Just turn up	Clunbury Village Hall
Tue 3	Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am, Obley 12.45-12.55pm		
Tue 3	7.30pm	Flicks—La Grande Illusion	Lydbury North Village Hall
Wed 4	8pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society—Ilo Ilo	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Thu 5	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Fri 6	7.30pm	Fumi Okiji's Old Time Jazz Band-640254	Clun Memorial Hall
Sat 7	7.30pm	Edge Chamber Choir, St. Laurence's Church, Ludlow — Tickets: £8 from Assembly Rooms	
Sun 8	6.30pm	Joint Evening Prayer	St. Mary's, Clunton
Mon 9	7-9pm	Monday Night Club-free help with using computers	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Wed 11	9.45am	Tim's Travels—Orchestra of the Swan Concert - 640506	Birmingham Town Hall
Wed 11	7pm	RSC—Loves Labours Lost	SpArC
Sat 14	7.30pm	Flicks-Grow Your Own	Clun Memorial Hall
Sun 15	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	St. Swithin's, Clunbury
Mon 16–Fri 20	Clunbury School Half Term		
Mon 16	2-4pm	BC & District Carers Group-talk by PCB Solicitors	Boar's Head Hotel, BC.
Tue 17	Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am, Obley 12.45-12.55pm		
Wed 18	9.45am	Tim's Travels—The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night - 640506	Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
Wed 18	8pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society—Time of the Gypsies	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Wed 18	9.15pm	Live Acoustic Folk Music	The Crown Inn, Clunton
Thu 19	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Sat 21	From 7pm	Clunbury Games Night	Clunbury Village Hall
Sun 22	11.15am	Joint Holy Communion	St. Swithin's, Clunbury
Tue 24	7.15pm	Royal Opera House Live—Der Fliegende Hollander	SpArC
Wed 25	7.30pm	SWS Gardening Club 'Westonbirt Arboretum'	Lydbury North Village Hall
Fri 27	7pm	Flicks—The Boxtrolls	SpArC
Sat 28	7.30pm	Flicks—What We Did On Our Holiday	Aston on Clun Village Hall

## Bishop's Castle Walking Festival 2015, 1 – 25 May

This year our sixteenth Walking Festival will be held over three weeks, including the May Bank Holidays, giving plenty of time for walking and exploring the area and all it has to offer. The Festival will include short and medium walks as well as more challenging hill treks and walks with a special interest like map reading, wild flowers and the dawn chorus. Walks booking through BC Town Hall; £2 booking fee pp per walk; under 16 free. Details of walks available in February on [www.WalkingFestival.co.uk/](http://www.WalkingFestival.co.uk/) or phone Lesley Baddeley on 630446.

### Advance notice of Arbor Day

The next Arbor Day Festival in Aston on Clun will be Sunday 31st May starting at 1.15pm at the tree.

It will be preceded on Saturday evening by a Ceilidh, further details to follow. We are in need of additional helpers for the day. Anyone able to help please contact either Sandra Spence 660657 or Roger Rankin 661088

### CONTACTS

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