

Aston on Clun Sunday 30th May 2010

It's that time again, when we will soon be visiting Clunbury School to recruit children to take part in the Arbor Day Wedding Pageant.

THIS YEAR IS DIFFERENT: NO FÊTE AFTER THE PAGEANT

Here's a brief outline of what happens on the day:

- 1.15pm: Morris Dancing under the Tree
- 1.50pm: The Wedding Pageant walks to the Arbor Tree for the Arbor Tree Celebrations

Then back to the Village Hall for Refreshments and Children's entertainment (on the green, if fine)

- Sports Equipment available
- Entrance and Parking is Free

Aston on Clun Village Fun and Sports Day Sunday July 4th

Broadplace Birthday Bash

Aston on Clun Broadplace is celebrating four successful years with an event on Saturday 17th April from 12 to 4pm at The Kangaroo Inn. There will be a cake, food, a free raffle and demos of family history research, Google Streetview and much more. Come along and find out what your local Broadplace is all about or go to www.astonbroadplace.ik.com

Parish Post Brings Back Memories

When Brian Morgan was asked by his wife to help deliver the Parish Post to Quilmore last month, little did he know what memories it would bring back. He said 'the last time I was here was on the back of a pony and that was

St Patrick's Night at Clunton

A very merry St Patrick's night, organised by Richard Webb, was enjoyed by a good crowd at The Crown, Clunton. We were entertained with music, songs and jokes, as diverse as Elvis Presley's 'Wooden Heart' played on the melodeon and a tongue in cheek love song dedicated to John Prescott, performed by Nonny James. Sally Samford (previously Vowles) came from Leinthall Earls for the night with an American friend now living in Ludlow and they delighted the audience with their amazing voices. As usual, the pub was very full, as many people come on Wednesday for the now famous fish and chip suppers cooked by Andy & Della. A couple from Lichfield, who were on holiday, saw the advert for the music; they had the supper and stayed to the bitter end, although they had to drive back home that night. A great night was had by all, thanks to St. Patrick.

Barbara Vesty

From the Archives

A chapter of accidents (1980s)

When Mr Williams, headmaster of Clunbury C of E School, broke his ankle in November, joining in a painful fashion Mrs Wood, who had broken both arms in a car accident a month earlier, the Vicar, Chairman of the school governors, was heard to remark that "he did not approve of both teachers at his school being plastered".

eighty years ago.' Had things changed? 'Not much, except some of the old farm buildings are now houses.'

Note from editor :- Glad we were able to bring back happy memories, Brian, just don't leave it so long next time.

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Serving Beambridge, Clunbury, Clunton, Coston, Cwm, Kempton, Little Brampton, Obley, Purslow, The Llan and Twichen

Village Hall Meeting 18th March

The closing of one era and the opening of another, was the way the new Chairman of Clunbury Village Hall, Phil Wright described the meeting held on the 18th March in the Village Hall, when the old committee retired and a new one was elected.

There were many smiles, and the odd tear, as Barbara Freeman spoke about the many community events that had been held in the past where villagers had come together to celebrate local, national and private events.

A special thank you was given to Mrs Penny Marsh who, since 1977, has been the backbone of the village hall committee. Over the years, Penny has been caretaker, secretary, treasurer and cleaner. She's been the one that people have turned to for help in organising the events that have left special memories. As Barbara said, 'we've all looked to her and we are



indebted to her for all the work that she's put in.' Several presentations were made to Penny, including a framed photograph taken by Ed Newton from the top of Clunbury Hill, where, as Penny said, she often walks the dog. Penny thanked everyone and assured us all that she'd make the most of her retirement.

Phil Wright then took over the meeting and stressed that it is very important that the village hall be used to bring the community together. 'A hall for all is what it ought to be,' he said. Offers of help and support were given during the meeting, particularly when Phil said we need to redecorate inside and, as 'The Post goes out, I have been assured that paintbrushes are poised and ready for action.

The new committee also have plans to increase the number of evening events with the aim of raising money specifically for the upkeep of the hall, these include quiz nights, theatre productions and a Blues Band. However, the village hall remains your hall and, to book it, please contact Helen on 01588 660446.

Sue Horder-Mason

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The editorial team does not accept responsibility for any opinions expressed by contributors and reserves the right to edit contributions if deemed appropriate.

Please send your contributions by the 15th of each month

Where have all the Lapwings gone?

The Lapwing breeding population in the Kemp Valley is likely to become extinct in the next few years, unless rapid and effective action is taken to improve and increase the available habitat, and protect nests from predation and agricultural operations.



These are the findings of the Kemp Valley Lapwing Project Group who met for the first time in March 2009, spurred on by the rapid disappearance of the Lapwing in Shropshire: the population is less than 25% of what it was just 15 years ago.

Over the nesting season (end of March to May), volunteers surveyed the Kemp Valley, but, although at least 8 pairs nested in the area, only one brood was found, in spite of intensive searching. There is no evidence that more than one young fledged. Why were they so unsuccessful? Work conducted elsewhere suggests 3 main reasons for poor breeding success:

- Nests and chicks may be accidentally destroyed by farming activities.
- Eggs or chicks may get eaten by predators.
- Chicks often starve to death because they can't find food close to the nest.

Ideal conditions would include bare earth or short vegetation for a nest, and wet ground, where chicks can find enough food – insects and worms. Unfortunately the River Kemp has been canalised and deepened, so the surrounding land is generally well drained and too dry for many invertebrates to occur close to the surface. The Lapwing Recovery Project

conducted by the Upper Onny Wildlife Group shows that conditions can be improved to encourage the return of the Lapwing; why not in the Kemp Valley?

This year, volunteers will be monitoring the area, not only for Lapwings but also many other birds which are declining in numbers: Curlew, Cuckoo, Barn Owl, Dipper... to name but a few. You can help: if you see (or hear) any of the above or if you spot some Lapwings nesting in your area, contact Leo Smith on 01588 638577.



The Red Kite is one of the few success stories in recent years, although, sadly, one was found dead on the road from Little Brampton to Lydbury North, hit by a car. Again, if you see them regularly in a particular area, ring Leo.

The next meeting of the Kemp Valley Group is scheduled for 24th May in Lydbury North Village Hall. Check in your next issue of the Parish Post. All welcome.

Do you have wildlife stories that you would like to share with us?

If you prefer to receive The Parish Post by email (which saves paper, shoe leather and the planet), please contact us at

theparishpost@gmail.com

If you have family or friends living outside the parish who, you think, would like to receive The Parish Post, let us know.

Volunteers needed

Could you be our correspondent for your part of the parish?

Parish Diva's Debut Performance



Following her most enjoyable sell out recital at Cwm House last year, local girl Lorna Griffiths returns home to give a concert in St George's Church Clun, on Sunday 11th April. Entitled "Purcell to Present" it traces the origin of modern song, with contributions from Handel, Mozart, Satie and Copeland amongst many others. Apart from favourites such as Purcell's "If music be the food of love" there will be some delightful surprises from composers not normally known for this genre.

Lorna is studying for a post-graduate diploma in solo performance at Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, and on the 16th of March a coach load of assorted family and friends went to see her performing the role of Vitellia (lead soprano) in the RNCM production of Mozart's opera 'La Clemenza di Tito' in Manchester. She was superb, but I'm her Dad so could be biased. However Mr and Mrs Tony Cooper from the Cwm said "A startling performance, we have a diva from our parish", and Mr and Mrs Noel Shepherdson of Clunton said "Lorna was a star among many great performances in a very professional production".

Tickets cost £5 with all proceeds to St George's Church and the Shropshire Air Ambulance. There will be a retiring collection for the performers, Lorna and her accompanist Lucy Young of University of Warwick Music Department. Interval refreshments available. Tickets from Davies & Son Newsagents in Clun, on the door, or from Jonathan Griffiths at Cwm Bydd Farm, 01588 660304.

Jonathan Griffiths

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

Genteel shabbiness may have attractions but the run-down look afflicting parts of Clunbury does not. Approaching from Twitchen one is greeted by the leaning posts that once supported the village name board followed shortly by the muddy patch that passes for the Village Hall car park. At the crossroads the signpost is turning green with algae. At the other end of the village the plaque on the millennium bench has gone missing and the grass area around the bench has been fouled by a dog. There are at least two recent cases of fly tipping close to the village. The dog excrement has now been removed and the fly tipping reported to Shropshire Council. With a bit more community effort I am sure we could make Clunbury an even better place to live.

Yours faithfully,

*Clunbury resident
(name and address supplied)*

Clunbury Under 5s

Despite the rain Clunbury under 5s, suitably clad in raincoats, braved the weather and enjoyed a trip to the Discovery Centre in Craven Arms.

Eleven children and five mums had a wonderful time taking part in a treasure hunt around Onny meadow led by Jackie Jones who runs Toddle Time which is held every Monday. The children collected leaves and twigs which they've made into pictures that now proudly decorate the village hall. In the afternoon they explored the library and listened to stories.

The Post Office is open at Clunbury Village Hall on Thursdays between 8.30am and 12.30pm.