

The Parish Post

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

Clunbury Village Hall Committee News

The new committee in Clunbury has served almost a year now. We are very happy that the hall is used almost every day of the week, by either Clunbury Under Fives or Clunbury Primary School. The committee have been meeting regularly, and have discussed plans to start an occasional Youth Club. The hall is very lucky to have been donated a projection screen, and the committee has formulated ideas of hosting the occasional film night. The current favourite idea is a viewing of *The Italian Job*, with pizza!

We are applying for an 'Awards for All' Grant that would pay for the projector that is needed for the film nights.

There is no shortage of good ideas on using the hall, but what the committee lacks is the time to organise them. All the members have young families and work commitments. They would welcome any additional volunteers who would like to organise events.

The hall is available for hire at the reasonable rate of £3.00 an hour, bookable by calling 660446.

Pippa Halliday

Ceilidh

Kempton Village Hall
Saturday 26 February



with Ron and Dot Cox

Admission £5

7.30 pm start

Light refreshments

Bring your own alcoholic drink

For more details, ring Richard Bright on 01585 660 250



Clunbury Carol Singers

A large group of singers, old & young, braved the icy weather on Wednesday evening before Christmas to sing carols around Clunbury. They enjoyed a warm welcome everywhere (thanks especially for the sweets & mince pies) & raised £55 for the Air Ambulance. Thanks to Barbara Freeman for organising this enjoyable annual event.

Our First Anniversary!

The Parish Post has now been in production for a year. The editorial and distribution teams have worked hard to make this project a success. We hope you agree it is, but unless we get feedback from you the readers, we have no way of telling. We would welcome your views, positive or negative, and also any suggestions about topics for future issues. Contact Gisèle Wall 660561, Barbara Vesty 640596 or email theparishpost@gmail.com

Please send your contributions by the 15th of each month

Caring for Friends and Neighbours

At the Clun Valley Good Neighbours AGM last October Paul Cronin, CEO of the Severn Hospice, talked about Compassionate Communities. In response to interest in this a subsequent meeting was held when he explained that a major role of the Severn Hospice is outreach work involving volunteers, focusing on friendship and activities, but **not** personal care. Dr Jill Gray endorsed the benefit of engagement that helps overcome loneliness and said the practice has patients in these circumstances for whom regular contact would be very valuable. It was further recognised that should a visiting scheme get under way, there may be requests from other sources such as hospitals, churches and other caring organisations. The tasks that might arise, such as chatting, walking, going shopping with, form filling, being alert for problems and a possible link between patient and professionals, were discussed.

All agreed that befriending is more appropriately done by local groups, and that all these situations fall within the current terms of reference of The Clun Valley Good Neighbours Scheme, hence Paul's approach. Any 'new' scheme could be organised as part of Good Neighbours, although run in a separate way and there should be no expectation or pressure on existing Good Neighbours volunteers to participate if they felt it was not right for them. Paul gave the assurance that the Hospice would undertake appropriate training over the equivalent of 2 days and would also offer ongoing monthly support.

Many present felt very positive about the prospect of setting up such a scheme and so a further meeting was proposed. This will be held on Wednesday 16 February at 7.30pm at Haslehurst Community Centre and will be chaired by Ann Ogram. You are all welcome to attend this meeting, even if you are at

the stage of wanting to know more, before thinking about any commitment. If you cannot attend the meeting but would welcome further discussion, please contact either Jane Kent on 640642 or Ann Ogram on 640830.

*Joan Kerry
Clun Valley Good Neighbours Scheme*

Egrets, I have just one – so far. How about you?

A Christmas Day stroll round Kempton was rewarded by the surprise sighting of a Little Egret taking off from a pool by the footbridge over the River Kemp.

Between 1826 and 1950 there had been only nine records in England of this medium-sized white heron, but thereafter, following a rapid expansion of the French population, the number of sightings quickly increased and the first UK breeding record came in 1996. Amazingly, by 2008, the most recent year for which information is available, the UK breeding population had exceeded 750 pairs (though none in Shropshire) and post-breeding numbers were in the order of 4,500.

Why this rapid expansion? Delicate plumes trail from the napes of Egrets and these were used in hat making; the birds were hunted for this purpose and they were served in prodigious numbers at banquets too. Given protection the population has jumped back; climate change may be a factor as well.

These beautiful and elegant birds are well worth looking out for. Although they have a black bill and legs and yellow feet, they are otherwise entirely white. Few birds are so easily spotted and readily recognised.

Tom Wall



Wet Walks to School

Chris Train, in his book 'A Country Education', used Clunbury School log books to describe the life of past generations of pupils. Even getting to school had its problem.

'... and then there were factors outside the control of master, managers or attendance officers. The weather played its part as it always had done. In May 1886 heavy rain and great floods closed the school, as they did again in April 1889, following heavy snow. It was not just the risk of getting a thorough soaking. "The river flooded considerably on Wednesday. George Brick in trying to reach home at dinner hour was in great danger till rescued by a man on horseback." 16th November 1894. In the first two weeks of January 1895 persistent snow and cold weather completely disrupted attendance and when the thaw came the river again caused problems. "This morning fifteen children reached school in a more or less wet condition. A bridge in Mr Anthony's field recently broke down and as the fields are just now being irrigated it is impossible to cross this field without getting into water. Two girls were wet to their waists and had to be supplied with clothes from the school house while their own were drying. Three more girls were wet to above their knees. All were carefully dried and made comfortable. A letter was sent to Mr Anthony (tenant) giving the above particulars and by the post another, enclosing a copy of Mr Anthony's letter was dispatched to Mr Ward, the agent." 23rd January 1895. Shortly after that the cold weather returned lasting until well into February. "Weather intensely cold both last week and this. Several children arrived at the school crying with the cold and their dinners frozen in their satchels. The roads now are fairly well beaten, still parents hesitate to start their little ones. The Cwm and Stepple children appeared

this week, impassable roads having shut them in in the great part of the storm." 15th February. In December 1904 the Heber-Percy family sent 51 pairs of shoes to the school to be used when children arrived with feet and shoes soaking and while their own shoes were dried. "The gift is a most seasonable one," wrote the Parochial Magazine in January 1905, "and has already been much appreciated; so much so indeed, that some young rascals have been found deliberately wetting their feet in order to have the change! Needless to say, they profited but little by the attempt."'

Thanks to Sheila Train for this extract

Clunbury School Corner

It seems a long time since our last article for the Parish Post. We had a very busy time before we broke up for our Christmas holiday. In November we had an exciting visit to Birmingham to take part in Young Voices, what a great evening that was.

Before Christmas we had a busy time. First we went to Shrewsbury, to Theatre Severn to see Cinderella. We were very lucky because we had a chance to interview one of the actors who played Cinderella's dad.

We put on a performance of our own, Class 1 performed a Christmas story about a reindeer called Ralph, and Class 2 performed the Night Before Christmas.

On Thursday 16 December we held a carol service at St Swithin's church. We had some traditional songs and some new ones with Mr Bennett. The village said "What a lovely service it was."

Lots of things are happening this term. Class 2 and 3 are having swimming lessons at Lucton school. We are working towards Safer Schools accreditation and in March we are holding a farmers market.

Georgina Morris

Threat to Bus Services

Local bus services are under threat as part of budget cuts within Shropshire Council. **From April 1 concessions will be removed** from Shrewsbury Park and Ride and from pre-9.30am travel, fares will be increased on subsidised local bus services including Shropshire Link and there will be an increase in passenger contribution to the Community Car Scheme.

Service reductions **proposed** within the bus strategy include reducing the frequency of the 435 Ludlow to Shrewsbury bus to every 2 hours between peak times (9am to 3pm).

Roadshows are taking place at the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre at Craven Arms on February 15 and in the Bishop's Castle auction yard car park on February 18, 10am - 2pm.

View the strategy and have your say online at

www.shropshire.gov.uk/transportconsultation
or call 01743 253013 or
email passtrans@shropshire.gov.uk

Our Local Joint Committee will be meeting in the Public Hall, Bishop's Castle, from 7pm on Thursday 10 February. As you know, there are proposals for major cuts to funding for local services. You are encouraged to attend this meeting to discuss our options.

Craven Arms NHS Dentist

Anyone still having difficulty in finding an NHS dentist should ring the dental clinic in Craven Arms as they are taking on new patients. Tel 676328.



Emergency Dental Service

If you have a serious dental problem 'out of hours' that cannot safely wait until your dentist's surgery is open, call 0845 1309642.

Bedstone Women's Institute

Meetings are held every third Tuesday in the month. New members are always needed and made very welcome. Visitors are also welcome at a small charge of £3. The next meeting will be held on February 15, 7.30 pm at Bedstone Village Hall and the speaker will be Mr Bob Bates – Local Artist. For more information contact Margaret Grubb 01547 530277 or Barbara Osbourne 660711.

Shropshire Handyperson Service

Need help with small repairs in your home? It is often expensive and difficult to find someone you trust to help with small jobs. Anchor Staying Put Small Repair Service provides help and assistance to older and disabled people to carry out small routine jobs. No callout charge, no job too small, highly skilled and dedicated handyperson technicians providing a quality service, free advice.

Anchor Trust is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to helping older people live safely, securely and independently – with a choice of services to suit all needs.

For more information call
01743 363708 or look online at
www.stayingput.org.uk

Bookworms

The Bookworms meetings in December & January were postponed owing to the bad weather & ill health.

David & Janet Preshous will now be guests on February 9. The Malcolm Saville evening presented by Paul Woods is rearranged for March 9. Places will be kept for those who had reserved them. Meetings are held in The Green Room of Lydbury North Village Hall, 7.30pm. More information from Richard Beaumont, 680302.

Notes on Clunbury Parish Council Meeting

Held on 20 January in Clunton Village Hall

Present: Seven Councillors, the Clerk and two members of the public.

Apologies: Penny Marsh and Stuart Seabury.

Shropshire Councillor Nigel Hartin was absent.

Clerk's report: A site meeting between Parish Councillors and representatives of Shropshire Council about flooding from Clunton Brook would be held on 26 January.

South Shropshire Housing Association had received tenders for connecting the houses in Orchard Close to the Clunbury mains drainage system.

Shropshire Council is considering erecting signs to deter long vehicles from using Beambridge bridge.

The Advanced External Defibrillator Scheme is going ahead in other parts of the district without involving Clunbury Parish as no local volunteers had come forward for training.

Local Joint Committee: Vice Chairman John Croxton reported that the LJC had received more applications for grants than there was money remaining in this financial year. Next year the LJC will only have £24,500 to award as grants compared to £49,000 in each of the last two years. Shropshire Council has decided to cut the number of LJC meetings from four a year to two to reduce costs. *(So much for the local consultation promised when SSDC was abolished).* There is information about budget cuts on the Shropshire Council website.

Litter picking: The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's insurance policy appeared to cover volunteer litter pickers. Councillor Hoskins requested The Parish Post to advertise for potential

volunteers to contact him on 660192 or email j.hoskins@which.net Litter picking would probably take place in the Spring.



Litter degrades our environment

Planning: A partially retrospective planning application had been received for a fence at The Bungalow, Clunbury. Three Parish Councillors had visited the site and given their approval to the work already carried out and made recommendations for the remainder. *(A number of local residents have submitted objections, the Shropshire Hills AONB has objected and the Highways Department recommend that the application be refused).*

Precept for 2011/12: Councillors decided the precept should be £3,000, the same as last year.

The next meeting will be on Thursday 31 March at 8.00pm in Clunbury Village Hall. Formal minutes of Council meetings are posted on theparishpost.org website as they become available.

David Hill
(The comments in italics are my own)

CONTACTS

Email: theparishpost@gmail.com

Phone: Gisèle Wall 660561 or
Barbara Vesty 640596

Web site: theparishpost.org

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

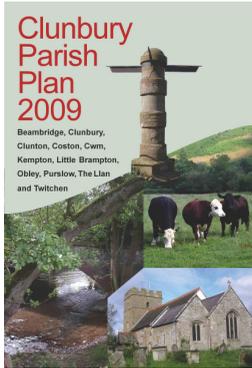
Clunbury Parish Plan - Update

It is now a little over a year since the Clunbury Parish Plan was completed and published.

The Steering Group which produced the Plan disbanded shortly after its completion and it has been the responsibility of the Parish Council to ensure that its Action Plan is carried forward as intended.

So just what has been happening since the Plan was launched? Well it would be unrealistic to expect all of the Plan's recommendations to be achieved immediately, but there has been progress on a number of issues, both by the Parish Council and others.

Perhaps the most successful of these is the launch and continued publication of "The Parish Post". During the Plan's consultation period it became very clear that the people of Clunbury Parish would value a local newsletter/magazine, and it is thanks to the hard work of all the volunteers concerned that we now have this excellent monthly publication. In line with the desire for more local information, there is also a very informative and well organised Parish website, and the Parish Council now publish more openly the details of their meetings. Some work has also been done to improve the location and quality of Parish notice boards, and further work on this is in hand. On other issues, the Parish Council has increased its dialogue with the Highways Dept regarding alleviation of flooding in parts of the Parish, alerting them to specific areas of concern, and work has been undertaken by the Highways Dept in these areas. The PC's representative on the Local Joint Committee (LJC) has used information from the Parish Plan



regarding availability and speed of Broadband services to highlight the issue in discussions between the LJC and representatives from BT.

Unfortunately, attempts to progress some suggested actions have proved difficult. Examples include organising litter picking events, where it would seem that the intervention of the Parish Council brings about all sorts of "health and safety issues" that would simply not exist if such events were undertaken by ad-hoc volunteers. Similarly, Parish Plan consultations outlined a desire to see more use of the local village halls, perhaps with joint events between all three, but this can only happen with the involvement and agreement of the three village hall committees. Both of these highlight the need for all members of the community to be involved in carrying out the Parish Plan and not just the Parish Council.

There is still much to do to bring about all the desired "actions" outlined in the Parish Plan and the Parish Council will hopefully be focusing on some of these in the coming months. A number of issues rely on the support and decisions of other parties, and possibly on future funding decisions by Shropshire Council, but that should not discourage us all from pursuing a successful outcome to the things that matter to our community. Progress on the Plan's aims will continue to be reported through the Parish Council Meeting Notes in 'The Parish Post'.

The Parish Plan is of course more than just a "wish list" of items for change. It is also an interesting reference document about the Parish and provides data on how and where to get more information on specific topics. If you are new to the Parish, do not have a copy of the Parish Plan and would like one, please contact me on 660192 or at f.hoskins@which.net. Copies are also available from the Clerk to the Parish Council.

*Fiona Hoskins,
Ex Chairman, Parish Plan Steering Group.*

Keep Shropshire Warm

This is part of a countrywide initiative, funded by DEFRA. Aims: to reduce the number of households who find it a financial struggle to heat their homes to a healthy level and may be living in fuel poverty; to significantly reduce fuel poverty in Shropshire for vulnerable households by 2010 and for all households by 2016. We are currently offering **FREE** insulation (Loft and Cavity Wall) to anyone over the age of 70, if you pay your Council Tax to Shropshire Council (excluding Telford & Wrekin) and own or privately rent your property. If you are in receipt of benefits please contact Keep Shropshire Warm for information regarding grants and discounts available for affordable warmth measures and general energy efficiency advice. For those not in receipt of benefits you are still entitled to discounts for affordable warmth measures. For details of these and general energy efficiency advice please contact **01743 277 123** www.KeepShropshireWarm.org

The Archers Catch up with Us

Ambridge now has its own website. In November last year, when the BBC were looking to set this up they cited three real community websites as examples, including ours – theparishpost.org – mind you that was before our article about their misleading 'Escape to the Country' episode! Ambridge is at www.ambridgevillage.co.uk

Help keep our parish tidy

Volunteer litter pickers needed.

Contact Councillor John Hoskins on 660192 or email j.hoskins@which.net

Regular Local Walks

Day	Group	Location / time
Every Wed	Clun Ramblers	Clun Mem. Hall Car Park 10.00am
Every Wed	Clun Peramblers	
1 st & 3 rd Wed in month	Clun Amblers	

BBC Discovers Clunbury's Castle!

Locals were amazed recently to find out that Clunbury had a medieval castle. This came to light during a BBC2 'Escape to the Country' programme which featured a house in Clunbury. Part of the transcript of the programme reads 'Clunbury is one of the prettiest villages in the area with its Norman Church and, nearby the ruins of its medieval castle'. Some castle ruins were shown



Clunbury's castle courtesy of the BBC

on the film. Despite diligent searching we can find no trace of a castle near Clunbury. Several theories have been put forward to explain this mystery. One is that the film of the castle came from the BBC archives and is the only remaining documentary evidence of a castle that once existed at Clunbury but has now disappeared without trace. Another theory is that after a long liquid lunch in the White Horse the film crew stumbled out, spotted Clun Castle and said "that'll do". The part of the programme concerned is on YouTube. To find it go to the Videos tab at theparishpost.org

Clunbury Under Fives Playgroup Goods & Promise Auction in aid of the Air Ambulance & the Playgroup

Saturday 12 March 8.00pm
at the Crown Inn, Clunton



To donate items or promises contact Suzanne Hadwen on 640119

Events Diary for February / early March 2011 - go to the parish post.org for more details

Date	Time	Event	Location
Tue 1st	7.30pm	Flicks - Tamara Drewe	Lydbury North Village Hall
Wed 2nd	8.00pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society- Mid-August Lunch	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Sat 5th	7.30pm	Flicks - It's Complicated	Chapel Lawn Village Hall
Sun 6th	6.30pm	Evensong	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Wed 9th	9.20am	Mobile Library 9.20 to 9.50am at Clunton 10.00 to 10.45am at Clunbury	Crown Inn, Clunton The bridge, Clunbury
Wed 9th	7.30pm	Bookworms with David & Janet Preshous. Booking essential phone Richard 680302	Lydbury North Village Hall
Thur 10th	7.00pm	Local Joint Committee meeting - budget cuts	Public Hall, Bishop's Castle
Thur 10th	7.30pm	SWSHAS - talk on Chirk Castle	College Hall, Bishop's Castle
Fri 11th	9.00pm	Live music - String Thing	White Horse, Clun
Sun 13th	11.00am	Mattins	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 13th	6.30pm	Evensong	St Mary's, Clunton
Mon 14th	12.15pm	Mobile Library 12.15pm to 12.25pm	Obley
Mon 14th	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Free help with using computers at Aston on Clun Broadplace	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Tue 15th	10.00am - 2.00pm	Shropshire Council - Bus Strategy Consultation Roadshow	Discovery Centre, Craven Arms
Tue 15th	7.30pm	Silence and Meditation (phone Barney Bell 660342)	Forest View, Clunton
Tue 15th	7.30pm	Bedstone WI meeting - Bob Bates, local artist	Bedstone Village Hall
Wed 16th	8.00pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society - Ajami	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Wed 16th	9.15pm	Live folk music	Crown Inn, Clunton
Thur 17th		Folk Down the Track - The Castle Folk Group	Castle Inn, Knucklas
Fri 18th	10.00am - 2.00pm	Shropshire Council - Bus Strategy Consultation Roadshow	Bishop's Castle auction yard car park
Fri 18th	7.30pm	Flicks - Brassed Off	Lydbury North Village Hall
Fri 18th	8.00pm	Flicks - Tamara Drewe	Clunbury Parish Hall
Sat 19th	7.30pm	Flicks - The Disappearance of Alice Creed	Memorial Hall, Clun
Sun 20th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Clunton
Sun 20th	6.30pm	Evensong	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Wed 23rd	9.20am	Mobile Library 9.20 to 9.50am at Clunton 10.00 to 10.45am at Clunbury	Crown Inn, Clunton The bridge, Clunbury
Wed 23rd	7.30pm	South West Shropshire Gardening Club - talk - Powys Castle Gardens	Lydbury North Village Hall
Wed 23rd	8.30pm	Live folk music	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Thur 24th	9.00pm	Live folk music	Sun Inn, Clun
Fri 25th	9.00pm	Live music - Tommy Allen Band	White Horse, Clun
Sat 26th	7.30pm	Kempton Ceilidh	Kempton Village Hall
Sat 26th	7.30pm	Flicks - Tamara Drewe	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sun 27th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Mon 28th	12.15pm	Mobile Library 12.15pm to 12.25pm	Obley
March			
Tue 1st	7.30pm	Flicks - Sex & Drugs & Rock and Roll	Lydbury North Village Hall
Wed 2nd	8.00pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society - The Long Goodbye	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Sat 5th	7.30pm	Flicks - Tamara Drewe	Memorial Hall, Clun
Sun 6th	6.30pm	Evensong	St Swithin's, Clunbury

These diary pages are compiled by volunteers as a service to the community. The compilers do not accept liability for any errors or omissions or any consequences of any errors or omissions.