

Meet Michelle Evans

Clunbury School is back in full swing for the autumn term, with Michelle Evans as the new Acting Head Teacher. Some readers may have been surprised back in July, when her photo appeared alongside retiring Head Pat Greenaway – her apparent youthfulness definitely doesn't fit the Head Teacher stereotype!

However, though young, Michelle is up to the challenge and brings some important credentials and experience to the job. After qualifying at Bangor University, specialising in Early Years Education, she came to Clunbury 5 years ago to teach the younger children and has been here ever since. For the last 3 years she has also worked closely with the former Head to introduce new policies and systems and help reach the goals which led to the excellent Ofsted report of last year. So much of a Head's work these days is about strategy and administration (and technology!), and keeping up to date with changing government policies, and Michelle obviously has the necessary skills for these tasks.

Asked why she had taken on such a challenging job, she explained, "This school means so much to me. I didn't



want what we'd accomplished over the last few years to be wasted." For a small rural school like Clunbury, continuity is really important. Someone coming in from a more urban situation may not appreciate the specific problems and opportunities of a village school, and the important role it has in maintaining a vibrant village community.

How does she find being 'in charge'? In response, Michelle emphasised that Clunbury School has a fantastic staff team who all know each other well and work together as a unit, with all contributing to the smooth running of the school. "It's really more like a family," she said, "and I'd like to thank everyone who has been so helpful and supportive." This

includes her staff colleagues, the governors and also other Head Teachers in the District, as well as her partner, who is in the RAF Regiment and currently serving in Afghanistan.

So far, she is thoroughly enjoying her new role. Even the daily commute from her home near Welshpool is a useful time for thinking and planning! Her goal for this year is to continue building on the accomplishments of the past few years and to see Clunbury School go from strength to strength. We wish her well and have no doubt her energy and fresh vision will be a real asset to our School.

Penny Valentine

Please send your contributions by the 20th of each month

Mennonites in our Midst (part 2)

They base their beliefs and lifestyle completely on the Bible and educate their children themselves. In the States, there would be a Church school, but here, the children are educated at home, following a specially written curriculum. The emphasis is on biblical and practical education and apprenticeship. "Our children are very literate" says Arland "and excel in many different fields". However, the drawback of living in such a small community means that the children do not have many contacts with other like-minded young people.

When asked about their attitude to the wider community, the Eberlys explained that, without wanting to appear conceited, they wish to be 'a blessing and a light' to the community. They desire to be a positive influence for good whilst remaining separate from 'the modern world'.

Simplicity is a keynote of their lifestyle and worship, and leadership of the Church is by a

team of three ministers, led by a Head Elder. These are not clergy but drawn from the community itself. Mennonites recognize Christians from other churches as fellow believers but would only work together with them in areas

where they agree in doctrine and practice. They meet as a church every Sunday morning they also sing in 4-part harmony once a month in Kempton Village Hall.



*Menno Simons
the most famous
leader of the
Mennonites*

The community works together to support each other, and be as self-sufficient as possible. It is a tall order as they need more land and the possibility of erecting polytunnels, for which they haven't currently got a suitable site. "We also need to learn", says Arland, as their experience in the States is not necessarily applicable to England. In the meantime they have established a small business, making and selling quality hardwood furniture. They invite you to 'pop in' their shop ('The Shepherd Hills Christian bookshop' in Craven Arms, on the A49) where you will be able to see the furniture they make and to 'check out books, schoolbooks, cards and gospel music' and enjoy a cup of tea.

And what about the women? What is their role? "We are the homemakers", says Brenda. What if they don't marry? What kind of work would they do? "Any work that does not interfere with our beliefs. For example they would not sell alcohol, but they could be carers, teachers, etc.". Amanda, who loves baking, produces nearly 40 loaves a week and cakes in their home kitchen which is licensed for commercial use (and has had another oven fitted to accommodate all the baking). You will find the loaves in the Aston-on-Clun and Lydham shops.

The Parish Post thanks Arland and Brenda for their warm hospitality and patience with our many questions and wishes them and their community a long and happy stay in our midst!

Penny Valentine and Gisèle Wall

AED training courses

Refresher updates only at The Sitwell Arms, Bucknell, on Monday 28th October starting at 7.00pm. Depending on the numbers attending, it should only be for about an hour. Details: Eddie Jones, 640856

Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child

This is a worthwhile cause in which you are invited to take part. Fill a shoebox with small gifts, stationery, soap, sweets etc, which will be sent to underprivileged children in Montenegro by Christmas.

Leaflets are in churches, or available from Pat, to explain how to fill your box. The Orchard, Clunton is a collection point, and boxes should be ready by the 1st week in November.

Please contact Pat Harding with any queries on Tel: 660169.



Clunbury School Corner

Bike Ability is on at Clunbury School. The children have been cycling in the playground and Clunbury, for a test of safety. We learnt how to cross a road, dodge obstacles and signal what you're going to do safely.

Class Two are also going to Lucton School every Wednesday for swimming lessons. Not everybody looks forward to it too much, but after we've done it we always feel better.

We have had Jeans for Genes day during September. We wear jeans instead of our normal uniform and donate money for equipment for those who have genetic disorders. Everybody brought at least one pound and together we raised £57.52.

Jake and Tengri

REMINDERS

e-Petition for Better Broadband

If you haven't yet done so, it is not too late to sign the e-Petition. Go to <http://petitions.shropshire.gov.uk/petitions.ti/betterruralbroadband>

Juicing Day

10am 5 Oct

Clunton Village Hall

Details 660120 or 660309



Cream teas for First Responders

A huge thank you to everyone who supported the event, especially to Lynne, Barbara and Eirlys for baking scones, and to Mary Jones for a fabulous cake. With many generous donations to add to proceeds from teas and crafts, we raised £160.00 for the First Responder Scheme, which will go towards acquiring a Scheme car for the Clun Valley group.

Lin Brown

Festival of Churches, Clunton

Arts & Crafts Exhibition, St Mary's

Visitors across the weekend enjoyed refreshments and admired a wonderful display of local talent, ranging from paintings, embroidery, tapestry, knitting, woodwork, rag rugs, cushions and marquetry, to a display of photographs taken across the world. On Saturday our 2 cyclists visited 10 churches and covered 35 miles in the Ride and Stride event. Thank you to all who supported the weekend.

Pat Harding

Ron Mold Memorial Auction

Friday 22 November

7.30pm

Hundred House, Purslow

Proceeds in aid of

Clunbury and Clunton churches

If you can offer an item or promise for the auction please let us know by the end of October

Contacts: Maddy 660458, Mary 660316, Pat 660169

2013 South West Shropshire Garden & Produce Show

We had a fabulous show this year which was held at the Clun Memorial Hall at the end of August. Members of the Garden Club and non-members took part in categories such as Flowers and Foliage, Vegetables, Floral Art, Photography, Produce etc. We had to move things around at the last minute as the entries kept coming on the day and the hall was full! We introduced new classes this year such as handicrafts, children's and "just for fun" which included a strange-shaped vegetable category!

Once the exhibits were set out, the judges came and the show opened to the public. Many people came and enjoyed the show, having refreshments, buying cakes, plants and produce.

Everyone had a great day and exhibitors were eager to see if they had won their class or even if they had won best in category.

Thanks to all who helped and took part in the show – looking forward to the next one.

Sandy Burton, Show Organiser



*1st and 2nd prizes
for Mary Cooper's cucumbers*

Clunbury 100 Club Winners for September

£20 Olive Payne, £15 Shirley Baker, £10 Mr & Mrs. Goodwin, £5 Mr. & Mrs. Davies, £3 Pat Turley

Clunbury Parish Council

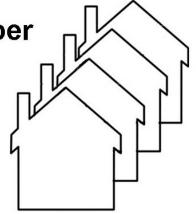
Public Meeting about Development Plans for Clunbury Parish

Thursday 17 October

7.30pm

in

Clunbury
Village Hall



**Come and find out what the
options are and give your
views**

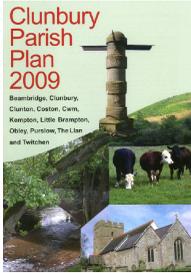


UnityCommunity in Clunbury

This new initiative aims to bring together the main groups in Clunbury village: Church, School and Village Hall, to share in the organisation of three events a year. They will be social events rather than fund raisers for the groups involved, with any profits being donated to local charities. A small committee has been formed with representatives from the groups and the first event will be: **Afternoon Tea at 3.15pm on October 15 in Clunbury Village Hall** which will feature a pumpkin-themed stall with products made from pumpkins grown by children in the school garden and transformed into delicacies by village, church and school members. These will be sold with the recipes, and profits will be donated to the First Responders charity. For more details, or to get involved, phone Eirllys Ellams 660625 or email ellams999@btinternet.com

Parish Plan Review

It is four years since the Clunbury Parish Plan was produced and the Parish Council has agreed that it is time that progress was reviewed and plans and objectives updated. If you would like to join the small team of volunteers who will be organising the review please email John Hoskins on johnhos@btinternet.com or phone him on 660192.



Community Engagement Strategy

Bill Longmore, Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia, has issued a Draft Community Engagement Strategy which outlines how he proposes to engage with communities and interest groups and work with them to effectively reduce crime and disorder. It is available to view online at: www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk

Any comments should be emailed to opcc@westmercia.pnn.police.uk or sent by post to OPCC West Mercia, PO Box 487, Shrewsbury SY2 6WB, by 14 October 2013.

He is also launching a search for five Community Ambassadors who would be keen to act as his “eyes and ears” in the five territorial policing areas they will cover. Each Ambassador will be asked to commit at least 3 days per month to work alongside the team to deliver the Community Engagement Strategy and elements of the West Mercia Police and Crime Plan. For more information go to www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk

Editors note: Anyone who does not have access to a computer but wishes to read these documents please contact The Parish Post.

Harvest Events

Thanksgiving service at St Mary's Church, Clunton at 7pm on Friday 4th October, followed by a Harvest Supper in the Crown Inn. Please buy your ticket in advance: £8, available from The Crown, committee members or Pat on 660169.



Come and join in Clunbury Harvest Thanksgiving on Friday 18th October. The service is at 7pm and will be followed by supper in the Village Hall at approximately 8pm. Everyone is welcome but please bring your own drinks! Tickets on the door £6 (children under 14 free).

THE REDLAKE CONSORT

at St. George's Church, Clun
Sat 19 Oct, 11.00am

The Redlake Consort is made up of 5 local musicians, predominantly from the Clun Valley area, who meet about twice a month at the Old School House at Bucknell.

Tickets on the door, £6, which includes coffee and cake.

The Redlake Consort play short pieces from the 16th century and use a variety of unusual instruments.

CONTACTS

Email: theparishpost@gmail.com

Phone: Sue Hill 660355
or Lin Brown 660578
or Gisèle Wall 660561

If you (or family or friends living outside the parish) would like to receive The Parish

Post by email please contact us at theparishpost@gmail.com

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

Don't be fooled



Recent media hype has latched onto a report from the Zoological Society of London entitled *Wildlife Comeback in Europe* detailing the 'comeback' of 37 iconic species of mammals and birds, many of them predators or carrion feeders. Red Kite is amongst them and from our own observations we can all provide supporting testimony. Another species enjoying a comeback in our area is the Polecat, and I was reminded of this recently by the sorry sight of two 'Polekittens' dead on the road at Kempton. Once common throughout Britain, Polecats, like Red Kites, were persecuted to such a degree that by the early years of the twentieth century they only occupied a small enclave in central Wales. Since the 1950s they have crept back into England and are now quite widespread in the Midlands, but being nocturnal are rarely seen. I remember some 20 years ago participating in a live-trapping survey of Polecats in the Marches and never having seen any locally I was surprised to catch two near Kempton. Such surveys of nocturnal animals are time-consuming, and subsequently the population of Polecats has been monitored through volunteers recording road casualties whose numbers are calibrated against mileage and traffic volumes so as to give indications of population density as well as distribution.

Such comebacks are a consequence of more enlightened attitudes and a relaxation of persecution. They are very welcome, but don't be fooled, most of our wildlife is on a path of decline, which in many cases is steep and appears inexorable. Earlier this year another report, *State of Nature 2013*, compiled by 25 wildlife organisations reported that of 3,148 UK wildlife species, 60% have declined over the last 50 years and 31% have declined strongly. So we may be

seeing more Red Kites and Polecats (albeit dead ones!) but what about Lapwings and Skylarks, Curlews and Cuckoos, and very many others? As the report concludes, 'targeted conservation has produced inspiring success stories' but 'determination, resources and public support' are needed to turn the fortunes of wildlife around.

Tom Wall

Bishop's Castle & District Carers Group

Please come and join us at our monthly carers meeting on Monday 21 October 2-4pm, at Coverage Care Home, Stone House, Union Street, Bishop's Castle SY9 5AJ.

Guest speaker: Christine Lloyd-Knight, Dementia Support Worker for South Shropshire. She will be talking to us about services offered by the Alzheimer's Society both nationally and in South Shropshire. She will be available to chat on a one-to-one basis. Refreshments available.

For more information contact:

Jenny/Dice 01694 722024 or e mail: maysi@hotmail.co.uk

Local Artists Exhibiting at The Old Surgery Gallery, Clun

Noel Shepherdson, Clunton's popular and well-known artist, is showing his work in The Old Surgery Gallery in Clun from Thursday, 10 October. Joining him are other premier artists including Jacqueline Fletcher and Keith Noble, both from Clun, and Sophie Bignall from Knighton.

Showing her jewellery at the gallery is **Lin Brown of Clunbury** and there is a stunning array of ceramics by Ralph Jandrell from Mellington. This makes it a truly local exhibition. The gallery opens from 10am-5pm daily including Sunday; the exhibition runs until Monday, 4 November. For more information contact Tim Wood on 640506.

Parish Council Meeting Report

7 councillors present, the clerk and 4 members of the public

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Matters arising: Litter Bin at Twitchen: A member of the public has approached Cllr Bailey, suggesting that a bin be put by the bench. It was decided to monitor the problem before making a decision.

Forestry Commission gates: The key to access the Parish land at Black Hill has been requested and should be available soon.

Clunton Burial Ground: The councillors present went to have a look at the site before the meeting. The issue is one of access to the Ground which impinges on the properties of local residents. Messrs Smith and Bay, who attended the meeting, pointed out that the right of way to the Burial Ground which appeared on Land Registry records was not mentioned in their deeds. It was decided that further research was needed to find out the legal position, and that the matter would be discussed again at the next meeting.

Clun Valley AED: trying to get a 4x4

LJC: No decision-making meeting had taken place, but matters for discussion were put on the agenda for the next meeting, such as:

Request for a grant from Kempton Village Hall Committee to provide safety ramps.

Clun Fire station possible close down, along with other services (eg libraries, museums, etc).

SAMDEV: A meeting will take place on 17 October in Clunbury Village Hall to outline the 2 options available. Everyone interested in the planning issues of the parish is invited to attend.

Planning: Clunton, 6 Gunridge: An application has been submitted, and approved, for a skylight.

Clunbury: The plans for an extension to a bungalow near the school have been submitted. Cllr Hill to look into the matter.

Roads: Speed limit at Twitchen: Cllr Bailey has approached 12 of the Twitchen residents. All but one are in favour of interactive 30mph signs at both ends of the village (encompassing the farm exit at the south end and the blind bend at the north end) rather than a 40mph buffer zone. Cllr Jones pointed out that whilst Glyn Shaw (Shropshire Council) had been advised by the Police that given a 40mph buffer zone they might be willing to take enforcement action, without it there would be none. Cllr Bailey assured her that nevertheless this was the wish of the residents. They could ask for a camera sign. A further sign 'Slow, horses' is also being arranged. Cllr Bailey did not feel that there was a need for a local sub-committee, as had been proposed, and he was asked to get in touch with Glyn Shaw to pursue the matter.

Cllr Davies has spoken to the occupiers in respect of bushes overhanging an adjacent footway at Clunton; they have agreed to cut them back.

The capsized bollard at the war memorial should be replaced in the next few days by Shropshire Council.

Correspondence: A copy of The Good Councillor's Guide was distributed to every councillor.

Money could be available from the Community Planning Fund for the Parish Plan review, which is due next year, but an application has to be lodged before the end of the year. Cllr Hill suggested the Parish Council applied. The form requires details of how the money will be spent and it was decided to do some research work first. Cllrs Hill and Jones volunteered to look into it and draft an application for consideration at the next meeting.

Finance: Current A/c: £1,377.54; Business A/c: £3,711.68; Sports & Leisure A/c: about £3,600. Expenses: Clerk's salary: £300; Good Councillor's Guides: £20; Accountant: £60.

Next meeting: 7 November, 8pm, Kempton Village Hall.

Gisèle and Tom Wall

Events Diary for October and early November 2013

Tue 1		Mobile library:-Clunbury Bridge 10.10 - 10.30am, Clunton 10.40 - 11.00am, Obley 12.45 - 12.55pm	
Wed 2	8.00pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society - I Wish	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Fri 4		Clun Valley Beer Festival until Sunday 6th	
Fri 4	7.00pm	Harvest Thanksgiving Service followed by supper at The Crown. Booking for the supper essential.	St. Mary's, Clunton
Fri 4	9.00pm	Live Music: Slowburner	The White Horse Inn, Clun
Sat 5	10am start	Clunton Scrumper's apple juicing day	Clunton Village Hall
Sat 5	7.00pm	Jazz evening and supper	Kempton Village Hall
Sat 5	7.30pm	Flicks - Hitchcock	Clun Memorial Hall
Sat 5	9.00pm	Live Music: Electric Blues Reaction	The White Horse Inn, Clun
Sun 6	11.15am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 6	7.00pm	Songs of praise in four-part harmony	Kempton Village Hall
Thur 10	10 -11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Sun 13	11.15am	Holy Communion	St. Mary's, Clunton
Sun 13	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Mon 14	7.00 - 9.00pm	Free help with using computers at AoC Broadplace	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Tue 15		Mobile library:-Clunbury Bridge 10.10 - 10.30am, Clunton 10.40 - 11.00am, Obley 12.45 - 12.55pm	
Tue 15	3.15pm	Tea and pumpkin themed stall. Joint event between Clunbury School, St Swithin's Church and Clunbury Village Hall. In aid of First Responders.	Clunbury Village Hall
Wed 16	8.00pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society - Winged Migration	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Wed 16	9.15pm	Live acoustic folk music	Crown Inn, Clunton
Thur 17	7.30pm	Public meeting about future housing development plans	Clunbury Village Hall
Fri 18	7.00pm	Harvest Thanksgiving Service followed by supper in Clunbury Village Hall	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Fri 18	9.00pm	Live Music: Plastic Pantomime	The White Horse Inn, Clun
Sat 19	11.00am	The Redlake Consort concert	St. George's Church, Clun
Sat 19	7.30pm	Flicks - Les Miserables	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Tue 22	7.00pm	National Theatre Live - Hamlet	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Thur 24	10 -11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Fri 25	6.30pm	Flicks - English Vinglish	Clungunford Parish Hall
Fri 25	9.00pm	Dare To Wear it Pink with Dave Rea	The White Horse Inn, Clun
Sat 26	10.30am-4pm	Craft and collectables fair	St. George's Church, Clun
Sat 26	7.30pm	Flicks - Behind the Candelabra	Clun Memorial Hall
Sun 27	11.15am	Holy Communion (CW)	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 27	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	St. Mary's, Clunton
Tue 29		Mobile library:-Clunbury Bridge 10.10 - 10.30am, Clunton 10.40 - 11.00am, Obley 12.45 - 12.55pm	
Wed 30	8.00pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society - About Elly	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Sat 2	10am - 4pm	Crafty Vintage Autumn Market	Auction Hall, Bishop's Castle

Get Ready Early for Christmas

Craft and Collectibles Fair

Saturday 26 October

10.30am - 4pm

St George's Church, Clun

There will be a wide variety of quality
craft items for sale

by approx 30 stall holders

Entrance is free

Refreshments available all day

Crafty Vintage Market

Saturday 2 November

10am - 4pm

Auction Hall, Station Street

Bishop's Castle

Over 25 vintage, handmade
& upcycled stalls brimming with lovely
things and gift ideas for Christmas.

Refreshments in the Cafe

Entry: £1.00 (children Free)