

The Parish Post

Number 47
April 2014

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

Two Days of Shivering - Two Minutes of Stardom

If you are interested in nature and wildlife, you may have watched the BBC Winter Watch series at the end of January, and noticed the features with the University of Brighton, following the fortunes of urban foxes and hedgehogs.



Kate (left) and Michaela

The hedgehogs form part of my postgraduate Ecology study and, through working with the RSPCA, we are hoping to identify the best practice for rehabilitated hedgehogs, as well as determining the factors which support strong hedgehog populations in our urban parks and gardens.

The BBC were initially only going to feature the fox study, which I was just helping with, but on hearing about the hedgehog research they wanted to include this as well and I was asked if I would present it. I agreed, as I thought it would be interesting and fun (it's not everyday you get the opportunity to get onto TV). Filming began, firstly with Chris Packham, and later with Michaela Strachan. What I wasn't quite prepared for was just how long making a programme takes. We were outside virtually all the time, as there were so many takes for them to get just what they wanted, with the sound, light and what we were saying. With the animal content, we had to be very careful not to cause them to be disturbed. This I could well understand and support, but standing around in the bitter cold for half an hour,

while they filmed Michaela Strachan arriving in her car, did seem a little tedious! Especially when you find out that this, along with a good deal more material, never made it onto the TV screen. I would like to say though, that she was lovely to meet and very supportive to work with.

My study involves monitoring 10 hedgehogs (using very high frequency radio tracking), all of which went safely into hibernation late last year. Some are now just beginning to wake up so I'm busy again now, trying to keep track of them. Incidentally the BBC are also making inquiries again for Spring Watch; so who knows, I may get another minute or two on your screens; hopefully it will be a little warmer.

Kate Davies, Clunton

Unity Community

Teams and Teas

Sunday 27th April 3 p.m.



A fun afternoon for families and the community to be held at Clunbury Church

Take part in our fun quiz about the Church and enjoy afternoon tea.

Free entry

Voluntary Collection to cover expenses- any surplus to be given to The First Responders charity

Please send your contributions by the 20th of each month

Hedgehogs in April

At this time of year there will be lots of hungry hedgehogs trying to fatten up after their hibernation, so a plate of hedgehog food, or meaty dog or cat food, will be appreciated; plus a dish of water.

Although it is a little early for hoglets there may well be some courtship going on. Hedgehogs prefer their own company as they are solitary animals. However, in the breeding season, the male will be on the look-out for lady friends. Most meetings, whatever the sexes involved, will start with a lot of huffing and puffing. Indeed this will often be the first time you will notice there are hedgehogs in your garden. If the hedgehogs are one of each sex, the male will start to circle the female. She will keep turning to face him but eventually the noise will stop and the female will lower her prickles so a careful mating can take place.

If the hedgehogs meeting are both males, the larger one may well butt the other one, making it cry out in fear (a loud sort of scream). Sometimes the larger one will push the other over and roll it around (the smaller one having rolled into a ball when attacked).

The noise may not be the only sign of visiting hedgehogs. They also leave their calling cards. Hedgehog droppings can be as large as a lady's little finger. It is often black in colour, with some shiny bits: the wing casings from any beetles they have eaten cannot be digested and come out the other end, giving the dropping its dark colour.

If you seem to have a regular visiting hedgehog at this time of year, it may well be a female as the males are mainly nomadic looking for females. Whereas the females just want a small home patch that will support them and their expected litter. If you are concerned about any hedgehog that you see, contact the



British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890801 (if you can weigh the hedgehog first that is always helpful). Out of hours you will be directed to other numbers but whatever the time, with patience, you should be able to speak to a real person. For more information about hedgehogs and how to help them, visit the BHPs website.



Jenny Aylwin-Foster

Hedgehog Awareness Week

4 - 10 May

Details on the BHPs website:
www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk

Nature Tip

Log piles provide valuable hibernating places for frogs, toads, shrews, hedgehogs, ground beetles, centipedes and rove beetles. Think how many slugs a frog can slurp down in a night, how many veg-destroying mites a big black beetle can eat. Site the log pile in a shady area in a corner of the garden or near a hedge, so wild creatures can make their getaway in spring without being spotted by hungry predators.

Fiona Gommersal, Wildlife Trust

Kemp Valley Nature News

The Kemp Valley Community Wildlife Group met on 17 March and outlined the following results for 2013.

- Lapwing: too few young fledged to sustain a rapidly declining population
- Barn Owls: in decline
- Dippers: stable
- Red Kites: doing well

Please email sightings, photographs and any other items of interest to kempvalley@live.co.uk, or phone Chris Penny 680590, or Vince Downs 660369.

A number of events are coming up. Look in the PP or online for dates.



Parish Plan Review News

The first Clunbury Parish Plan was published in 2009. You can view or download a copy from our website www.theparishpost.org. In 2013, Clunbury Parish Council decided that a review and update of the Plan should be undertaken. A Parish Plan Review Group has been formed to undertake this work. It is anticipated that the results of the review will be published early in 2015. Consultation with residents of the Parish will start with a display which will show progress to date, and at which residents will be invited to raise any issues they think should be considered. The dates and locations for the display and consultation events are:-

Friday 18 April (Good Friday): Clunbury Village Hall 2.00pm to 5.00pm. (This coincides with refreshments following the walk up Clunbury Hill); **Wednesday 7 May**: The Crown Inn, Clunton 10.30am to 12.00 and 5.00pm to 8.00pm. (A third event will be held at

The Old Wheelwright's Tearoom, Little Brampton - date to be confirmed).

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the review that you would like to raise now, please contact a member of the Parish Plan Review Group or email tpp.org@gmail.com. The current members of the Review Group are: Sheila Downes, Carol & Jonathan Griffiths, Pat Harding, Sue & David Hill, Fiona & John Hoskins, Sylvia Jones and Annie Sutton.

Clunbury Parish Plan Review 2014



Display and Consultation Event

Friday 18 April
Clunbury Village Hall
2 to 5pm

Come and see what has been achieved and help decide what needs to be done in the future

From Washer-up to Landlord!

Rhys Jones, the twenty-three year old landlord of The Hundred House Inn at Purslow, comes from a farming family at Bryn, near Clun. He loved cooking from an early age, so in 2007 he joined the Hundred House staff as a washer-up, while working for his City and Guilds certificates from Shrewsbury College and County Training in Ludlow. Rhys gained practical experience working under Martin, the previous chef, for two years and when he left, Rhys was given the opportunity to take charge of the kitchen.

In December 2013 Rhys took over the lease of the pub from Sue Berry. His plans for the pub include weekday lunches during the summer, and monthly live music evenings when a special menu will be offered. Rhys believes in supporting local suppliers, with meat coming from Walls and vegetables and bread from Lydham Market.

Friendly competition between our two parish pubs, The Hundred House and The Crown was replaced by cooperation when Rhys and Andy Peers recently organised a very successful joint brewery trip for their customers to Joules in Market Drayton. Rhys still maintains his links with the family farm - the evening before I met him (his night off from the kitchen) he was helping with the lambing!

David Hill



Clunbury School Corner

The Spring Term will soon be over – it has been a good one at Clunbury School! From the smallest child to the biggest, there's been plenty to keep them busy. Outside the classroom, tag rugby and cross country teams have enjoyed competing with other schools in the area, at various sports events. Many children went to Birmingham to take part in the Young Voices massed choirs, back in January, and the seniors greatly enjoyed a Young Shakespeare presentation in Clun which introduced them to the delights of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'!

Books and stories have featured heavily this term. Key Stage One focussed on fairytales, and knights and castles, whilst Key Stage Two have looked at different kinds of writing, including newspaper reports and biographies. On World Book Day, the children (and staff!) dressed up as various favourite characters which was fun for everyone. The children were also encouraged to take part in a Readathon to raise money from sponsors for two children's charities.

The Year 6s have been working extremely hard on improving their literacy and numeracy skills in preparation for the SATS tests in May, and they are making excellent progress. At the opposite end of the school, the nursery is thriving with 12 children, and another 3 due to start next term – an encouraging sign for the future!

Penny Valentine



Vincent, Mrs Fletcher, Isla, Mrs Shepherdson and Ethan dressed up for World Book Day

News from South West Shropshire Gardening Club



Following our enjoyable trip to Ashwood Nursery in February we are now looking forward to:

Wednesday 23 April

"Iris, some history, some people, some plants"

Since 1996, Alan and Jill Whitehead have created a beautiful garden from three bare acres around their home at Aulden Farm near Leominster. They are both "plantaholics" and have used a wide variety of wild and cultivated plants to create an informal and relaxed atmosphere in their garden. In 2007 they rescued a neglected collection of Siberian Iris which has been re-established with many additions, to form a new national collection. Jill is Secretary of the British Iris Society (BIS) and Alan has several posts in its Beardless Iris subgroup. They are also co-ordinators for Plant Heritage in Herefordshire. They open their garden for NGS, including an interesting weekend in August, when they will combine with like-minded neighbours to share their active interest in art and gardens, through many forms including print, mixed media, oil and sculpture.



You are most welcome to join us for what promises to be an inspiring and interesting talk. It takes place on Wednesday 23 April at 7.30pm in Clun Memorial Hall. It is free to members of South West Shropshire Gardening Club; visitors are also welcome at £3 per person including refreshments.

Advance notice: Garden and Produce Show, Saturday 30 August, Clun Memorial Hall. Further details coming soon.

Angela Salmon

Clunbury 100 Club Winners for March

Kathleen Fieldhouse £20; Julie Saunders £15; Valerie Redgrave £10; Mark Grimes £5; Heather Jones £3.

War Memorial Project

You may know that Malcolm and I are researching the names from the First World War on both the War Memorial at Purslow and the plaque in Clunbury Church.

We are finding out a great deal about many of the named people but we are having difficulty with two men: **J Davies** and **E Whittall**. They would probably have been local people, either born around Clunbury Parish or working in that area. In 1914 they would most likely have been between 15 and 40 years of age.

So far we can find nothing at all about J Davies and very little about E Whittall. If you have any information about these people and their families (or indeed any of the men on the Memorials) we would like to hear from you. Many thanks.

Valerie and Malcolm Redgrave 660707

Muntjac Deer

You have asked about other sightings.... I regularly see Muntjac Deer in our wood here, in Clunton Coppice. In bad weather, they can be seen sheltering in our outbuildings and, like the other deer I regularly see, have become quite used to both me and my dog, Jack.

I first saw Muntjac in our wood probably about 4 or 5 years ago, although I think I was hearing them well before then... their 'bark' is very distinctive... almost dog like; and their gait is most peculiar... I wondered what I was seeing at first! I see them far more often now than back then.

I also see Roe Deer. One family I am particularly familiar with had young this year, and, surprisingly they have become very used to me and Jack and would not run away when they saw us. One day, I had to drive into our hay field, and narrowly missed running over a very young deer that was very well hidden and lying in the long grass. I guess the mother had left it there, safely, during the day, whilst she was off feeding.



Young Roe Deer, lying in the grass. Photo by Pete Humble

I know that they do damage to woodland regeneration, but to see any wildlife at ease in their environment is a real joy.

Pete Humble

Strictly Jiving

On Wednesdays

High Town Room, Clun

April dates: 2, 9, 23, 30

Also: One off taster session at the new Lydbury North Village Hall, 31 March, 8pm. Beginners welcome.

There will be a 'Dips and Drops' workshop and a 'Blues for Jive' workshop in the coming months (depending on numbers). Look in future Parish Posts for dates. More information on 07800 634071.

Happy dancing!



Clunbury Craft Group

Clunbury Village Hall

First meeting: 4 April 12.00-3.00pm

The group will meet every 4 weeks at the same time. Dates are:

4 April; 30 May; 27 June; 25 July;
22 Aug

A very informal group

Everyone welcome, whatever your skill level

An opportunity to take some time out, to be creative, and meet like minded people. You can bring your own project, learn something new, and share your skills with others

cost per session: £5.00

More information please contact:

Lynne Thompson 661180

Parish Council Meeting Report 20 March 2014

Eight Councillors, the Clerk and one member of the public were present. An apology was received from Cllr. Sylvia Jones.

Ambulance Response Times: Concern about the times taken for an ambulance to attend recent local accident scenes led to a discussion about the current state of ambulance and paramedic provision. The fast response paramedic car that was based in Craven Arms has been replaced by an ambulance. If the ambulance is already conveying a patient to Shrewsbury when a new call comes in, it can take between one and two hours before it can attend. The nearest paramedic car is based in Ludlow and covers an area from Leominster to Church Stretton. It has been reported that ambulance response times have deteriorated since the new arrangements came into effect. The target time for response is 8 minutes. The Ambulance Service considers that this has been met if a Community First Responder (CFR) gets to the patient within that time. CFRs are volunteers with some medical training, but do not carry drugs, and so cannot administer painkillers. Councillors considered that the situation as reported was unacceptable, the Clerk is to write to Philip Dunne to ask him to press for improvements to the service. The Parish Council will also ask a representative of the Ambulance Service to attend a PC meeting to discuss this matter.

Looking on the bright side, the Chairman reported that Clun Fire Station had been relieved from closure.

Local Joint Committee: The Clerk reported on the recent meeting. LJC funding from SC is to cease, and SC staff support has been reduced. The LJC will continue as a forum for SC speakers, but otherwise its role is unclear unless it can raise funding from other sources. The possibility of Clungunford and Bucknell

transferring from the Bishop's Castle LJC to the Craven Arms LJC was raised.

Planning: Cllrs Sylvia Jones and John Croxton had attended a meeting at which the conflict between the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the wish for local development restrictions was discussed. Eric Pickles, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, appears to consider housing and economic development more important than local wishes to limit rural development. This is in spite of the Localism Bill which was supposed to give more power to local communities. There have been cases in Shropshire where local planning agreements have been overridden by Central Government and SC have failed to stand up to them. Once the SC SAMDev Plan has been accepted, the Council may be in a stronger position to resist rapacious developers. Until then, the door remains open.

A planning application had been received for development at Mossy Glen, Clunbury, and councillors are to hold a site visit before responding to SC.

Roads: Clun Bridge is to be closed for up to three weeks for repair, starting 24 March. The road to Clun will be closed for a period in May while 700 tons of boulders are used to repair the river bank at Hurst Corner. A pole at Purslow crossroads needs to be moved before the work there can be completed.

Finance: Payments totalling approximately £500 were approved for Crucial Crew (10 children from Clunbury School involved), Clerk's salary and expenses, Clunton Burial Ground maintenance and village hall hire. EON were to be asked to shed some light on a bill for £125 for replacing a street light bulb before it would be paid.

Next meeting: The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in Clunton Village Hall on Thursday 15 May starting at 7.30pm. This will be followed by the regular PC meeting.

Housing and Wildlife in Shropshire Meeting

More than 50,000 new houses are set to be built across the county by the mid 2020s and it is essential that people make their views known now, if they wish to influence which areas are built on. Shropshire Council is due to publish a draft version of the SAMDev (Site Allocations and Management of Development) plan shortly. This will set out proposals for the use of land and policies to guide future development in Shropshire up to 2026.

A public meeting, arranged by Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Campaign to Protect Rural England, to inform and encourage people on how to get engaged in the consultation, is to be held at Lord Hill Hotel, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, on Thursday 3 April, 6.30 for 7pm.

Bishop's Castle & District Carers Group

Please note that all future carers meetings will take place at the Boar's Head Hotel, Bishop's Castle, SY9 5AE.

Dates for your diary:-

Monday 21 April - No meeting

Monday 19 May 2-4 pm – Maria Franklin will be talking about Kinesiology, Nutrition and Energy Medicine which can help both you and the person you care for. All carers are most welcome. Further from Jenny: 01694 722024 or e-mail maysi@hotmail.co.uk

CONTACTS

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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.

A Corging Idea

While working with the Metropolitan Police's Dog Handling Unit on leg and arm protection armours, Douglas Buchanan from Kempton came into contact with dog handlers from the rescue services. Criminals and detainees had learned that dogs would not be sent after them where they had spread broken glass, while the paws of sniffer dogs searching for survivors amongst the rubble of collapsed buildings were at risk. Douglas's solution was the dog boot.



Boots were made individually to fit the dog's feet: tight enough (so that the dog doesn't lose or remove them) but also wide enough to accommodate the movements of the foot, and of different sizes because most dogs have smaller back than front feet.

Douglas and his dog boots appeared on 'Midlands Today' and they were pictured on the front page of the 'Mail on Sunday'. The Keeper of the Queen's dogs came to hear of them and suggested them for the Queen's 'Dorgis' (a cross between the Corgi and the Dachshund) who have very sensitive feet. The Queen was so pleased with them that she thanked Douglas, personally, over the phone.



Tom & Gisèle Wall

Clungunford Village Choir Holy Week Workshop

Wednesday 16 April, 4.15pm-9pm

St Cuthbert's Church, Clungunford

Contact: Robert Bunting at

buntingbc@tiscali.co.uk or phone 638476

Events Diary for April and early May 2014

Tue 1	10.30am	Short Community Walk - every Tuesday	Maltings Tearoom, Clun
Tue 1		Mobile library:-Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am,	Obley 12.45-12.55pm
Wed 2	7.00pm	A Literary Supper with special guest Jim Perrin	Lydbury North Village Hall
Wed 2	8.00pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society - The Snows of Kilimanjaro	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Wed 2	9.00pm	Quiz night	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Thur 3	7.00pm	Flicks - The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug	SpArC, Bishop's Castle
Fri 4	12 -3.00pm	Clunbury Craft Group	Clunbury Village Hall
Sat 5	7.30pm	Flicks - Philomena	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sun 6	11.15am	Morning Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 6	7.00pm	Songs of praise in four-part harmony	Kempton Village Hall
Mon 7	9-11am	Parent & toddler group-every Mon. in term time. Just turn up	Clunbury Village Hall
Thur 10	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Sat 12	7.30pm	Flicks - Philomena	Clun Memorial Hall
Sun 13	6.30pm	Palm Sunday Evening Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Mon 14	7 - 9pm	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
Wed 16	4.15-9.00pm	Clungunford Village Choir - Holy Week Workshop	St Cuthbert's, Clungunford
Wed 16	8.00pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society - Lore	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Wed 16	9.15pm	Live acoustic folk music	The Crown Inn, Clunton
Fri 18	2 - 5pm	Parish Plan Review Display and opportunity for discussion	Clunbury Village Hall
Fri 18	3.00pm	Walk up Clunbury Hill with cross. Followed by refreshments in Clunbury Village Hall	Meet at Clunbury crossroads by the school
Sun 20	6.30pm	Easter Day Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Wed 23	7.30pm	SW Shropshire Gardening Club talk on Irises	Clun Memorial Hall
Thur 24	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Thur 24	2.00pm	Flicks - The Lego Movie	SpArC, Bishop's Castle
Fri 25	8.00pm	Flicks - Gravity	Clungunford Parish Hall
Sat 26	7.30pm	Flicks - Gravity	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sun 27	11.15am	Morning Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 27	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	St Mary's, Clunton
Sun 27	3.00pm	UnityCommunity - Teams and Teas	St Swithin's, Clunbury
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 - Inside Llewyn Davis	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Thur 1	7.00pm	NT Live - King Lear at Aston on Clun Village Hall and SpArC,	Bishop's Castle
Sat 3		Green Man Festival until 5th	Clun
Wed 7	9.00pm	Quiz night	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Thur 8	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Thur 8	7.00pm	Flicks - Mandela - Long Walk to Freedom	SpArC, Bishop's Castle
Sat 10	7.30pm	Flicks - Blue Jasmine	Clun Memorial Hall
Mon 12	7 - 9pm	Free help with using computers at AoC Broadplace	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Tue 13		Mobile library:-Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am,	Obley 12.45-12.55pm
Thur 15	7.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting followed by Parish Council meeting	Clunton Village Hall

Advance Notice: There will be a Food Fair in Aston on Clun, in and around the Village Hall, on Saturday 10 May.

For more information contact Di Williams 660378 or Janet Kregel 660209

More details in the next issue

The Old Surgery Gallery, Clun

Now open seven days a week,
10.00am to 5.00pm

Easter Exhibition Local Artists
Paintings, ceramics and jewellery

Short Community Walks, Clun

Every Tuesday from 1 April
Start 10.30am

Meet at The Maltings Tearoom, High St
Details: www.walkingforhealth.org.uk
or phone Helen d'Albert: 01743 255059