

Events Diary for September 2014			
Tue 2		Start of Clunbury School Term	
Tue 2	Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am, Obley 12.45-12.55pm		
Tue 2	7.30	Flicks — 'Oh What a Lovely War'	Lydbury North Village Hall
Wed 3	7pm	Royal Shakespeare Company 'Two Gentlemen of Verona'	SpArC
Thur 4	7pm	NT Live 'Medea'	Aston on Clun VH & SpArC
Sun 7	11.15am	Morning Prayer	St. Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 7	12-2pm	Charity Luncheon - contact 01547 530282	Bedstone & Hopton Castle VH
Sun 7	From 3pm	Clunton Summer BBQ	Clunton Village Hall
Sun 7	7pm	Songs of Praise in four-part harmony. Tel 661171 for info.	Kempton Village Hall
Mon 8	9-11am	Parent & Toddler Group-every Mon in term time. Just turn up	Clunbury Village Hall
Mon 8	7-9pm	Free help with using computers at AoC Broadplace	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Wed 10	8pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society - 'The Lunch Box'	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Thu 11	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Thu 11	7pm	Flicks — 'Tracks'	SpArC
Sat 13	10am-5pm	Shropshire Historic Churches Trust 'Ride & Stride'	
Sat 13	7pm	Little Big Band Concert	St. George's, Clun
Sun 14	6.30pm	Joint Evening Prayer	St. Swithin's, Clunbury
Tue 16	Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am, Obley 12.45-12.55pm		
Tue 16	7pm	NT Live 'A Streetcar Named Desire'	Aston on Clun VH & SpArC
Wed 17	9.15pm	Live Acoustic Folk Music	The Crown Inn, Clunton
Thu 18	8pm	Parish Council Meeting	Kempton Village Hall
Fri 19	12-3pm	Clunbury Craft Group	Clunbury Village Hall
Fri 19	7.30pm	Heads South Latin Jazz Quintet	SpArC
Sat 20	7.30pm	Flicks — '12 Years a Slave'	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sat 20	7.30pm	Flicks — 'Saving Mr. Banks'	Clun Memorial Hall
Sun 21	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	St. Swithin's, Clunbury
Wed 24	7.30pm	SWSGC AGM with two Guest Speakers	Lydbury North Village Hall
Wed 24	8pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society — 'Inside Llewyn Davies'	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Thu 25	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Thu 25	7pm	Flicks — 'Calvary'	SpArC
Sat 27	8 till late	Live Music with Tony Hughes + Bring & Share Supper	Clunbury Village Hall
Sat 27	9pm	'PooBaha's'	Hundred House Inn
Sun 28	11.15am	Joint CW Holy Communion	St. Mary's, Clunton
Sun 28	3.30pm	Pick a Pic 'A Flavour of Kempton' with Cream Tea	Kempton Village Hall
Tue 30	Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am, Obley 12.45-12.55pm		

## Flu Immunisation and Health Promotion Day



Open to patients of the Craven Arms Surgery (65+, pregnant, with chronic diseases, diabetes, weak immune system)

### Flu Immunisation Day

**Saturday 27 September, from 9am**

**At the Craven Arms Medical Practice**

**Call 672309 to book your appointment**

## CONTACTS

**Email:** theparishpost@gmail.com

**Website:** www.theparishpost.org

**Phone:** Sue Hill 660355

or Lin Brown 660578

or Gisèle Wall 660561

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

# The Parish Post

Number 52  
Sept 2014

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

## SUMMER BBQ CLUNTON VILLAGE HALL From 3pm, Sunday 7 September Food served at 4pm



Cooked on the BBQ by the Chairman  
Salads and vegetarian option, plus puddings

Raffle  
Licensed bar  
Games and competition for children  
Tickets £10.00 (includes a glass of Pimm's)  
Primary school children free  
Tickets available from Committee Members or phone 660169 or 660652

## Clunbury Village Hall



Live Music from Tony Hughes  
Bring and Share Supper  
Saturday 27 September  
8 till late  
Limited tickets, £5 in advance  
£6 on the door (if available)  
BYO drink  
Tickets available from Eirlys Ellams 660625 or Sue Hill 660355

## Purslow Sports, Show and Gymkhana - The Show Must Go On

The crowds poured in to the Show this year – oops no – perhaps it was the rain that poured in!! What a shame to have such a wet day – with not a single “carbooter” prepared to tough it out.

However – around 350 loyal supporters turned up with children and dogs, donned their wellies and macs and enjoyed the entertainment.

The Show Tent was a splendid sight of flowers, vegetables and baking, as well as the crafts, photography and children's entries. The Gymkhana and Dog Show carried on regardless of the weather, and the music from “Anything Goes” cheered us all up. The Catering tent was well used and even the ice cream man sold a few.

The runners in the Hill Run didn't seem to mind the rain and mud, and we were pleased to have local winners – including Kate Davies from Clunton, and (Pip) Jack Blackburn, who came up from Devon especially for the event (and to see Kate!!).

Thanks to all the Committee for their hard work in putting up (and taking down) the marquee, the fences and jumps, to the Show Tent committee, the organisers of the Hill Run and finally to all who braved the weather to come. Better luck next year. *Pat Harding*

**Please send your contributions by the 20th of each month**

## Purslow Show report continued

### Clunbury Hill Run

A remarkable 43 entrants braved the miserable weather (and some flighty cattle!) and every class was run in a faster time than last year.

The 2013 overall winner ran 14 seconds faster this time, but only achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place behind Jack Blackburn from Devon, who won the Edward Whitehead Memorial Trophy.

Other notable achievements were Gareth Lewis, aged 14, from Ely Runners in Cambs. who won the Boys under 16 class (and was 6<sup>th</sup> overall); Jazz Maddocks aged 13, from Oswestry Olympians, who won the new class for Girls under 16, and Kate Davies from Clunton who won the Ladies Open.

The youngest competitor was 7 year-old Tom George from Ludlow who came in ahead of many adults!

*Lin Brown*

### Purslow Show - Unclaimed Prize Draw Numbers!

The following prize draw numbers were unclaimed on the day Nos. 72, 170, 293, and 355 If you have a programme with one of these numbers on it please contact Annie Sutton on 01588 660141 to claim your prize.

### Raining Rats & Relays

The Parish Post Team, resplendent in wellies and waterproofs spent the afternoon at Purslow Show encouraging visitors to 'Splat the Rat' and 'Beat the Buzzer'. Both games proved to be very popular: Rats were splat with great enthusiasm whilst concentration and steady hands were needed to prevent the buzzer foiling the chances of a prize! Sadly, the afternoon was shortened following a deluge, but we still managed to collect £65 towards Parish Post Funds. Our thanks to those who kindly lent us our 'shelters' and to everyone who took part and contributed.

*Sheila Downes*

### Handicraft and Produce Tent

Thank you to all the competitors who made our show a success this year. The WI Cookery and Store Cupboard judges commented on the volume and high standard of entries – well done to all cooks. The Handicraft section was well supported with a range of entries displaying our considerable and diverse local talent. Once again the vegetable and fruit growers were able to stun us with their amazing produce – I had no idea marrows could grow that big! The flowers made a lovely show particularly appreciated as a break from the dismal weather outside. The flower arrangements looked lovely but we need more - a challenge for budding arrangers - "Have a go in 2015". A new competitor commented to me what fun she had had taking part, even if she hadn't got to bed until midnight. The photographs, though slightly down in number from last year, made a super display with some interesting interpretations of the subjects. Finally the committee were delighted at the response from children to our changed schedule. The level of entries in most classes was up and it was good to know that we have budding chefs enjoying our own version of the "Great British Bake Off".

*Eirlys Ellams*

### Cup Winners

**Sheila Train Perpetual Children's Cup** - Liam Lewis

**Dr Hamar Vegetable Cup** - Paul Grimes

**The Ken Davies Perpetual Challenge Trophy** – Gordon Bailey

**Monica Reynolds Cup for Cake Making** - Nicki Williams

**Dr Hamar Cookery Cup** - Rebecca Huffer

**WI Store Cupboard Cup** - Susan Grimes

**Mrs J F C Woosnam Flower Cup** – Lin Brown

**Ted Lewis Cup for Roses** – Ann Williams

**Margery Price Rose Bowl for Flower Arranging** – Richard Bott

**Dr Hamar Handicraft Cup** – Lorna Goodwin

## A Cautionary Tale!!

### Part 1 - A Grisly Discovery

A grim sight awaited some members of Clunbury Village Hall Committee when they opened up the hall to set up for the Summer Lunch.

The fossilised remains of two local women were found seated in the main hall and are believed to have been there for at least a week.

Named locally as Mrs Barbara Freeman and Mrs Lin Brown, it is understood they attended the last Coffee morning and deep in conversation, were unaware the rest of the Committee had left and locked them in.

Committee members Sue and David Hill, Eirlys Ellams and Duncan Brown denied all responsibility, with each blaming the other for not noticing the women were still there when locking up.

It would appear the women had considered making some kind of rope to lower themselves out of a window, but had given up on this idea. From a note found near them, it seems they decided to sit it out and continue their conversation, to see how long it would take for them to be missed by their respective families.

Suspicion is now falling on the deceased women's husbands, due to the fact neither of them reported their wives' missing.

Mr Freeman is quoted as saying, "Well, I did think the house was getting a bit messy and the freezer wasn't as well stocked!"

Mr Brown said, "It's not my fault! I didn't know where she was!" (And obviously wasn't that bothered!)

Although Mr Brown did make the sensible remark, "Well, it's a pity they didn't realise they could have got out of the fire door!"

In the light of this, the local constabulary have advised the

Committee that they need to update their Risk Assessment, and a notice entitled,

**What to do in the event of being locked in the Hall** should be prominently displayed on the noticeboard. *Lin Brown*

### Part 2 - The Chairman's Riposte

The Chairman of the Village Hall commented "While I regret this unfortunate incident, anybody who attends Clunbury Café will be aware of the valuable merchandise (aka ~~junk~~ bric-a-brac – ed.) stored on the premises. Consequently security is of the highest importance and the Hall is kept locked whenever it is, or is thought to be, unoccupied. The Village Hall Committee would consider the suggestion of a sign at its next meeting. In the mean time, any gentleman in the area whose dinner is not served at the appointed time should contact a member of the committee and ask them to check the Hall."



### Part 3 - The Lady's Reaction

*Oh no!! I seem to have stepped into the Tardis instead of the outside privy and have arrived back in the 1960's! Apparently husbands expect their dinners to be served at an appointed time! This is terrible - help me Doctor - I need to get back to 2014!*

*Lin Brown*

## Tom's 'Singular Stiperstones'

Tom Wall has been a regular contributor to the 'Parish Post' since its launch, so I thought the recent publication of his book 'The Singular Stiperstones: landscape, reminiscence, literature and wildlife', was a good excuse to find out more about him.



Tom was born in Hertfordshire where he developed an interest in wildlife alongside his father, a keen bird watcher; but when it came to choosing a university course Tom went to Bristol to study Politics and History because "I had a very good history teacher and I liked writing essays".

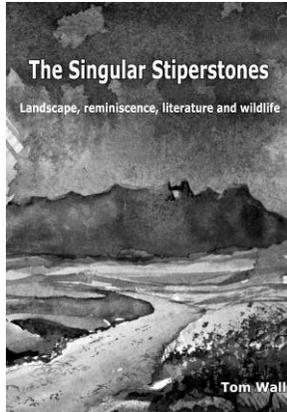
Before university he was an assistant teacher in a prep school and on a class visit to France he encountered a young French primary school teacher named Gisèle - he was smitten! He interrupted his university studies to go and live in France for a year and his persistence paid off as Gisèle agreed to follow him back to the UK and they were married.

After completing his degree, his interest in birds overcame politics and history and he found a job, as part of the ground staff, with the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge, and later, County Durham. His career path was now set. Although he had no formal scientific qualifications, he had, as he said, "learned on the job" and he became Warden of Rostherne Mere National Nature Reserve in Cheshire where he stayed for ten years.

In 1986 Tom was appointed Site Manager of the Stiperstones and Downton Gorge National Nature Reserves and he, Gisèle and their daughter Bryonie moved to Kempton. Despite the landowners at Downton Gorge originally wanting to keep the public out, Tom was able to persuade them to allow guided walks there. I'm sure

I'm not the only reader who will remember being part of a group which was entranced by the amazing landscape of the gorge and the description of its birds and flora as we were led along the narrow paths by Tom.

The Stiperstones however was the site of Tom's major project, which became known as 'Back to Purple'. His idea was to fell the conifers that shrouded parts of the hill, clear away the brash and allow the native species - heather and bilberry (or wimberrry, winberry, whinberry - locals can have a good barney over this!) to regenerate. Nature was given a helping hand, as Lottery Funding meant heather seed could be broadcast from helicopters, and willing volunteers planted heather and bilberry plugs. Anyone who has enjoyed the sight of the heather in full purple bloom must applaud his achievement.



Tom started thinking of writing a book about the Stiperstones in 2000 and the project finally reached fruition this year. He used the recorded reminiscences of local people published previously in 'Never on a Sunday' and 'Once upon a hill', as well as searching for new material and photographs in Shropshire Archives.

Tom and Gisèle decided on self-publication. Gisèle worked on enhancing the old photographs and did the layout on the computer (a job for which she was eminently suited as this is what she does every month to produce your 'Parish Post!') and this enterprising couple then had 750 copies printed.

Anyone interested in local history and the environment will find this book fascinating. You can get a copy, price £18 directly from Tom (phone 660561 and he promises personal delivery locally) or they are on sale at local bookshops, the Discovery Centre, Craven Arms or The Bog Visitor Centre, Stiperstones. *Sue Hill*

## Clunbury Village Hall - It's All About Food!

### The Barbeque

Here we go again - after a blistering summer, the Saturday of the village hall barbeque dawned with a very 'iffy' weather forecast. Would it be a repeat of last year when the heavens opened at the last minute? No, we held onto our nerves (and the gazebo in the blustery wind) and succeeded in eating outside in the field. Many thanks go to Richard Bott who, with help from Eirlys, presided over the barbeque with his usual flair. Also thanks to Tim Croxton for allowing us to use his field.



### Scrumptious Summer Lunch

Over 60 people packed into the Village Hall for one of the favourite events on the calendar. Villagers, and visitors from 'off' (well Aston on Clun, Brocton and Ludlow anyway), enjoyed a fantastic spread. Thanks are due to all who contributed savouries, salads and puddings and particularly to Eirlys Ellams for organising the food and the committee! *Sue Hill*



## Ta for Cha

Lynne and Alister Thompson would like to thank everyone who supported the Strawberry Tea for Breast Cancer Care, at Tansy Cottage, Clunbury on 27 July. Everyone enjoyed the sunshine in the garden, with tea and scones and a chance to chat with friends. It was a perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon and together we raised £340 which was a fantastic effort, so well done and special thanks to all who helped behind the scenes.

## Bedstone and Hopton Castle VH Charity Luncheon

Sunday 7 September, 12 - 2pm  
adults £8, family of 4 £22  
Scrumptious buffet, gorgeous puds,  
tea or coffee, licensed bar too  
Please book: ring  
Margi Savery - 01547 530282

## Swing along to the LITTLE BIG BAND

Saturday 13 September, 7pm  
St George's Church, Clun  
Highly talented local musicians play classic  
tunes and songs from the big band era  
Tickets £6 on the door  
Refreshments available during the interval  
Further information from  
Joan Kerry 640401  
Fund raising event for St George's Church

## As Part of the Festival of Churches

### Open Day

Sat 13 September, 10am-5pm  
Free refreshments  
*Ride & Stride*

### Parish Breakfast

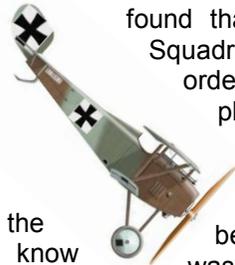
21 September, 10am  
Booking: 660158  
*Both events at St Cuthbert's,  
Clungunford*

## The Exhibition: Remembering The Great War in Clunbury and Clunton

The exhibition opened in St. Swithin's with a very moving service and was then moved to St. Mary's Clunton where a short vigil was held on the 4 August.

Col. Raymond Savill, who for many years took the Remembrance Day services at the Purslow Memorial and Clunbury Church, often commented on the lack of information about those named on the memorials. Efforts had been made to find out something about the men but with no success. The advent of internet records, along with my experience researching family history, gave me hope that in 2014 – when we would be commemorating the start of World War One – these new searches would be more successful. So it has proved and the exhibition held in St Swithin's Clunbury and then in St Mary's Clunton was well attended.

I have been able to identify all the men (save two) and we now know something of their backgrounds, families, employment, military service and finally their place of death and where they are commemorated. In all there are twenty-seven men named on the memorials but I now have information on other men who were not commemorated at the time but who had a definite, long standing connection with Clunbury or the surrounding area. In response to my requests in local journals and as word got out, families who still live in the area came forward with more information and even photographs and letters. All the men were interesting to research but two who were associated with Little Brampton will stand as examples of the lives I have explored.



Private Charles Job Lewis was born at The Wheelwright's, Little Brampton, the son of John and Kate Sarah Lewis. I was given copies of letters Charles wrote home and photographs of him and his family. Charles died from an abscess on his head, which was the result of an untreated scratch from a piece of metal in his trench. In the days before antibiotics, this proved fatal. Charles was a bellringer at St Swithin's Church, Clunbury and is further commemorated on the bell ringers' roll of honour in St Paul's Cathedral and in All Saints, Hereford. His fellow soldiers spoke very well of him in diaries and letters.

Second Lieutenant Bevan Carleton Smith was very difficult to track down. Finally, after searching many combinations of his name, my husband found that he was a member of 100 Squadron, RAF. In 1919 he was ordered to fly a captured German plane for evaluation. The plane crashed and Bevan died from his burns six days later. The plane was believed to have been sabotaged. Although he was born in Didsbury, Lancashire, his connection with Clunbury was through his mother's family. Bevan's mother, Adelaide, was the daughter of the Hamar family who lived at Little Brampton Farm. Bevan's sisters, Dorothy and Kathleen Mary are buried in St. Swithin's churchyard.

There are still two names that I have been unable to further identify - J Davies and J Morris. If you have any suggestions as to who these men might be, I would be very grateful if you would let me know.

All the information will be retained for the time being in St Swithin's, Clunbury but eventually I am hopeful that the information will be stored at Shropshire Archives, Shrewsbury.

Valerie Redgrave

## SWSGC - Two Treats from Club Members and an AGM "What's Up Doc?"

Dr Steve Reynolds is an expert in all things nasty in the garden – pests and diseases are his thing – so come armed with questions to challenge his thinking cap.

### Bamboo and Tea

Mick Bay's fishing trip to Assam in India was fortunately (for us) not all about catching fish! Mick is also a keen gardener and photographer, who will share his explorations of tea and bamboo plantations with us.



Wednesday 24 September, 7.30pm Lydbury North Village Hall. Free to members, visitors are also welcome at £3 per person including refreshments. For further information please contact our Chairman, Carol Clarke, 660753 or our Secretary, Allison Walter, 620055.

Angela Salmon



## Egrets, There Are a Few

Dave Simpson sighted a Little Egret by the T bridge in Kempton on 18 and 19 August. Once very rare, this small all-white heron is increasing in numbers year-on-year, as it pushes north, a beneficiary of climate change



### A FLAVOUR OF KEMPTON



**'Pick a Pic'**  
over a  
**Cream Tea**

**SUNDAY 28 SEPTEMBER**  
**FROM 3.30PM**  
at the Village Hall

Help us brighten the walls of the Hall: bring your photos of the Kempton area and vote for your favourites.

The most popular will later be enlarged and displayed on the walls.

There will also be another chance to see the photographs from the millenium exhibition.



**ALL WELCOME**



No charge - Raffle to cover expenses

**Clunbury 100 Club August Draw**  
£20 Caroline Bason, £15 John Jones,  
£10 Gareth & Victoria Seabury,  
£5 Michael Beedles, £3 Joey Matveieff