

The Parish Post

Number 71
June 2016

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

PURSLOW SPORTS, SHOW and GYMKHANA

Saturday 4 June

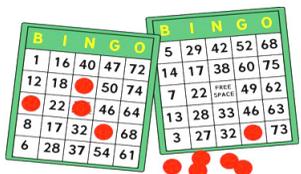


Spring Fundraising Event in Clunbury Village Hall

Light refreshments, raffle and licensed bar

Hall open from 6pm

EYES DOWN at 6.30pm



Coffee in Clunton

There will be a coffee morning in aid of Clunton Church. Wednesday 1 June from 10.30am at the Crown Inn. Bring & buy, plants, bric a brac, cakes, with a raffle. Entrance £1 (inc. tea or coffee and biscuits).

Advance Notices

There will be a **Flower Arranging Workshop** on a Saturday Morning (tba) in Clunbury VH in July. Proceeds to go to the Air Ambulance. For more information or to register your interest please contact Lynne Thompson on 661180

There will be a **Pet Service** at St Swithin's Church, Clunbury on Sunday 31 July at 11.15 am. Join us to give thanks for your pets. All are welcome - so bring them along to the service. More details on both events next month.



CLUNTON VILLAGE HALL

AFTERNOON TEA

Saturday 25 June from 3.30 pm

Come and enjoy an afternoon tea, with a table quiz, and a raffle.

Tickets £6 (Children £3)

available from Committee members

(or contact Pat on 660169 or Alan on 660652)

Bring and Share Lunch

Clunbury Village Celebrates
The Queen's 90th birthday
Sunday 12 June 12.30 onwards



In The Vicarage Orchard
or Clunbury Village Hall (if wet)

All Welcome

Promoters – Clunbury Village Hall in
conjunction with Clunbury PCC and
village members

Contact Eirlys Ellams 660625

ellams999@btinternet.com

Clunbury 100 Club May Draw

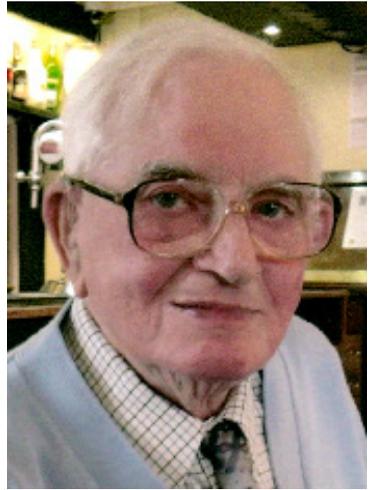
Catherine Lishman £20: Julia Dumbell
£15: Nick Matveieff £10: Margery
Davies £5: Sarah Watkins £3

Please send your contributions by the 20th of each month

Farewell to Gilbert Jones

Clunton lost one of its stalwarts when Gilbert Jones passed away peacefully at home following a short illness. The week before he celebrated his 94th birthday when he had 33 visitors. He was unable to go to the Crown that day but treated everyone to a birthday drink that evening. That was typical of his generosity and love of Clunton and the people.

Gilbert's family moved from Hay-on-Wye in 1931 when they took the tenancy of New House Farm, Kempton. He was just eight and they came by horse and cart - little Gilbert riding his pony. He wondered where he was going and when they got to Twitchen and enquired if they were on the right road - they were told "not far now". So he arrived at New House where he lived and farmed until he was sixty-six and retired to Clunton. He attended school at Clunbury and later, Bishop's Castle, making the journey by pony, bicycle or on foot with friends Harry Collins, Brian Morgan and my mother and having great times along the way.



Gilbert was an excellent and respected farmer and increased his acreage by purchasing The Anchor and Stepple Farms. He was highly regarded in the farming community and was involved in many agricultural organisations where he also held office – Clun YFC, South Shropshire Farmers, NFU, Shropshire Highland Seeds, and many more. He was part of starting The Anchor Show and, when he owned the farm, kindly hosted the show on his property for many years. My mother always said he was very clever - he was a good businessman as well as a good farmer.

In World War II Gilbert served in the Home Guard and was the sergeant for Clunton and Kempton. There were far more funny stories than in Dad's Army. One of the most exciting things was seeing the plane crash on Burrow Camp.

When The Crown was purchased by the community, Gilbert was very supportive and helped bring in investors, and became one of the shareholders. According to a fellow shareholder, if it hadn't been for Gilbert it would not have been possible. How very proud he was of it, and pleased that it is in the good hands of Della and Andy now.

Gilbert met his wife Grace when she was teaching at Clunbury School and they married in 1947. They were married for sixty-eight years and enjoyed and shared all the usual birthday and wedding celebrations along the way. Grace passed away last year and he missed her tremendously. Both had sharp brains until the end and he really missed the conversations they had together. They have left a great family having had three children, Malcolm, Kathryn and Gillian of whom he was very proud. They produced seven grandchildren who all have degrees, apart from one who is a successful businesswoman, and there are nine great grandchildren whom he loved dearly.

Gilbert lived a full and happy life and had been retired for nearly 30 years although he kept his eye on Malcolm and the farm until a couple of months ago! He loved to drive his old battered Daihatsu around the farm and reminisce on all the great times he had and improvements that had been made. His retirement allowed him to travel all over the world - he had been around twice.

Gilbert will be laid to rest with the love of his life, Grace, at Clunbury on 31 May. His memory will stay with us all for years to come and his legacy will continue through his wonderful family and all he has left for the community of the Clun Valley and beyond. RIP Gilbert and thanks for everything.

Julia Breerton

Annual Parish Assembly and Annual Parish Council Meeting

19 May 2016

Seven councillors present and six members of the public. Apologies received from Cllr Sylvia Jones and Nigel Hartin (Shropshire Councillor) who would be arriving later.

Annual Assembly:

Cllr Croxton welcomed everyone. The Clerk read the minutes of the Assembly held in 2015 and all councillors agreed that they be signed as a true record.

Chairman's Report: Cllr Croxton thanked all his colleagues sincerely for their work and effort during the past year. He thanked everyone involved with the Parish Plan Review for their hard work. Positives to take from the year are that this is a Parish that gets things done, eg, access to the Burial Ground, and the completion of the Parish Plan Review. Despite this, there are still negatives: (a) roads: pot holes; Purslow Crossroads (although better, still not perfect); issues in Clunton (signs and a mirror in place but speed limit still not observed); still no signs in Twitchen; the speed limit at Kempton is still causing concern. (b) forthcoming cuts to library services and leisure facilities. Shropshire Council (SC) is suggesting that Parish Councils take on some responsibilities but there has been no inkling as to what and/or how. The Parish will have to face up to the fact that 'rural' is at the bottom of the queue. (c) the NHS Future Fit Programme where nothing has been resolved yet. (d) Broad Band provision – we wait to see if anything happens following the recent meeting with a representative from BT.

Shropshire Councillor: This item will appear later in the report. However, the Clerk read a letter received from Mathew Mead, our Community Enablement Officer, outlining the following: SamDev has now been formally approved. However, the new national Housing Bill will mean that developers will not have to provide affordable housing on sites of less than 10 new houses. The LJC awarded £3000 to youth projects this year. A further £3000 will be available in 2016/17 – please let him know if you have any projects for consideration. SC Annual Revenue Grant has been reduced to zero. The Community Charge will be kept by SC. Non statutory services will not be maintained by SC. Town Councils are in talks with SC now regarding how they can take over services – Parish Council talks will follow later in the year. Mathew Mead is ready to help with any local issues. Note: there is a full copy of the report on file with the Clerk if anyone wishes to see it.

Accounts to the Year Ended 31/03/16: Copies circulated to councillors and explained by the Clerk. Main expenditure was for the Burial Ground and the Parish Plan Review (which was funded by a grant from SC). A member of the public asked for details regarding the burial ground access and Cllr Davies explained that it had now been returned to the original entrance as shown on maps – the entrance is now through the lane and there is no right of way through gardens. Cllr Bailey proposed and Cllr M. Jones seconded that the accounts be accepted. All agreed. The Annual Government Statement: it was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Hill would meet to discuss whether more information needed to be published.

There were no questions from the floor.

Annual Parish Council Meeting: There were no declarations of interest but councillors will declare them before discussion should they be affected by anything on the agenda.

Election of Officers: Chairman - Cllr Croxton. Agreed unanimously. Vice Chairman - Cllr Davies. Agreed unanimously. Agreed cheque signatories remain the same for this year: There will be Parish Council elections next year when signatories may need to change.

Minutes of Meeting held on 17 March: These were agreed following two amendments.

Matters Arising: The joint meeting with Clun is still to be arranged.

Parish Plan Review: Cllr Hill has circulated Parish Plan Review Supplementary Information but still has some work to do following a suggestion that all comments be included for the Parish Council. It was agreed that Councillors would receive an electronic copy and that the Clerk would hold a paper copy.

Planning: there were no planning requests.

Cllr Hartin joined the meeting.

South West Shropshire LJC: A meeting held at SpArC with Malcolm Pate, the Chairman of SC and Clive Wright, the Chief Executive, had been very well attended. Those present were told that if the Council cannot find organisations to run and fund non-statutory resources, they will close. This includes all Leisure Centres in Shropshire. They had met with Greg Clark, the MP with responsibility for local government who had confirmed that no additional money was available for Shropshire.

Shropshire Councillor's Report:

Shropshire Council (SC) lost 50% of its staff during the past 4 years. Consequently, staff left are working under great pressure, eg, the planning department who now use consultants to help with the work load – among these consultants are people who lost their jobs with the Council!

Savings: £80m during the last 4 years; £27m this year; £40m next year. Following a question from the floor, Cllr Hartin confirmed that the annual council budget is approximately: £600m including schools, adult social care and other statutory responsibilities and £28m without these. Council Tax rose 3.99% of which 2% is ring fenced for Adult Social Services and 1.99% is the amount allowed by Central Government. The 2% will raise £4m but the Social Services budget deficit is £6m. Following a question from a member of the public as to whether SC could become bankrupt and whether its reserves were untouchable, Cllr Hartin informed the meeting that because of the increase in Council Tax, together with an £8m grant, SC had managed to balance the books. If, however, there was any likelihood of bankruptcy happening, the Council's Section 151 Officer (the Chief Finance Officer) would ensure steps were taken to avoid this.

Cllr Hartin repeated what Cllr Croxton had said that SC will only be responsible for statutory matters in future and is talking to local councils and communities about what they want to do regarding non-statutory responsibilities under the heading of 'The Big Conversation'. The LJC is trying hard to get Parish Councils and local voluntary groups together. It is hoped that Clun Council will arrange a joint meeting soon. Enterprise House now runs the library in Bishop's Castle and it is to be hoped that someone will be found to take over the running of the SpArC Centre.

The Council's Ringway Contract: there had been many queries regarding the quality of the work done by Ringway and it had been mutually agreed that the contract would end early (within the next two years). However, unless Parish Councils can help, future road maintenance is likely to be slower and become a lower quality service.

SC's IT system: Following a question from the floor, Cllr Hartin confirmed that SC is

seriously considering spending £45m on a new computer system! However, some of this would come from a Central Government grant. There was some disquiet from the public members present about this spending while services are being cut and he stated that some Councillors were concerned as well but that SC had been struggling for some years with an outdated system. It was agreed that the SC should be publicising the Government grant aspect when publicising this new system.

IP&E: This company set up to find outside bodies to provide some services had proved unsuccessful and has now been disbanded.

Road Maintenance: A member of the public asked what the future would hold. Cllr Hartin responded that the law states that roads have to be to a standard for travelling but that not all roads have to be of a high standard. There is a Government grant available when whole roads have to be resurfaced but not for pot holes. For example, Hereford Council does not fill pot holes but waits until the whole road needs renewing. He confirmed that the A49 is a Central Government responsibility. It is likely that gully cleaning, etc., could become the responsibility of Parish Councils. A member of the public reminded the meeting that the Environment Agency were not happy for surface water to be put into rivers because of the salt, etc., it contained.

Housing: Cllr Hartin referred to the recent Government Housing Bill which now states that starter homes must be included on a development of 10 or more houses. These are very different from affordable housing as they are for purchase and not for rent or joint ownership. SC had joined with other councils to oppose the 'no affordable housing' concept, the Government had challenged this and won. Developments of less than 10 houses no longer need to include affordable housing. This will cause great problems for the young in rural areas particularly as Housing Association tenants now have the right to buy – no rents mean no income which equals no money to build. All Shropshire Councillors, regardless of their political persuasion are very angry about this.

Shropshire Fire Authority: The Government want the way the Fire Service is governed to change and come under the auspices of the Police Commissioner.

Health Service Future Fit: No progress has been made with regard to the business plan as no agreement can be reached regarding which hospital should house the A and E Department.

Rural Primary Schools: The Government has recently altered its stance on academies by stating that schools deemed good or outstanding will not be forced into becoming academies. However, they are stating that small schools must have at least 50 pupils and one site schools at least 120 pupils.

It was agreed that a meeting of Parish Councils needs to be held and that Mathew Mead will hopefully be able to set one up with the LJC. Cllr Croxton confirmed that the Parish Precept cannot be set until next Spring.

Roads: Cllr Bailey reported that reactive signs for Twitchen were 'on the list' but not happening yet. Clunton cannot join the Safe Road Partnership until they can prove that the new signs and mirror had made no difference. Cllr Hartin suggested that this be looked at now while it would be in the SC budget – in future the village will have to pay.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 14 July, 8pm, Clunbury VH.

Lin Brown and Sheila Downes

News from South West Shropshire Gardening Club

Wednesday 22 June - Trip to Wollerton Old Hall and Hodnet Hall Gardens

As these gardens are only five minutes apart and are offered on a joint ticket, we decided to make the most of the opportunity by taking a slightly longer trip this year. Wollerton Old Hall has an international reputation and has been described as "Possibly the most beautiful personal garden created in the last twenty five years" by Chris Beardshaw. It is a formal, modern garden on an old site, divided into a series of rooms each having its own style and ethos. It is renowned for its salvias, clematis and roses, growing in controlled exuberance and its clever use of colour, form and scale.

By contrast, Hodnet Hall spreads over sixty acres of colourful flowers, magnificent forest trees, sweeping lawns and a chain of ornamental pools which provide a natural habitat for waterfowl and wildlife.

We conclude the trip with a tasty evening meal at The Station Inn in Marshbrook.

Tickets are £25 for members and £30 for non-members. This subsidised cost covers entry to both gardens, travel, a two course meal and gratuities. We still have some places left so if you would like to come or for more information please phone Angie Salmon 661025 or email angiesalmon@btinternet.com. Information can also be seen on our website www.gardeningshropshire.co.uk.

Angie Salmon

A Message From Our Shropshire Council Community Enablement Officer

As some of you will know, I ran (slowly) the London Marathon last year and raised funds for Bloodwise, the leukaemia research and support charity. Rather unwisely I've decided to carry on running and will be undertaking a range of events in the summer and hope to raise more funds for Bloodwise. Any support or publicity you could give to my fundraising would be much appreciated. I'll be running the following events -

Birmingham Great Run;
Manchester Great Run;
Shrewsbury Half
Marathon; Great
Newham run at the
Olympic Park; Severn
Bridges 10 km
Shrewsbury; London
Royal Parks Half
Marathon and
Birmingham Half
Marathon. Details of my
progress are on the
fundraising page [https://
www.justgiving.com/
Mathew-Mead2016](https://www.justgiving.com/Mathew-Mead2016)

Any support you can
give would be much
appreciated and go
towards the work of the
charity

Regards

Mathew Mead

Wise & Well Information Day

Bishops Castle Community College

Thursday 2nd June 2016

10:00am – 1.00pm

Come along to a FREE information day which finishes with a free, light lunch and the chance to have a Functional Fitness MOT. There will be a series of short talks & displays

- Avoid being scammed (Citizens' Advice Bureau)
- Reduce the Risk of Falling
- Exhibition of local charities and support
- Fire Service – Safety in the home
- Gentle Exercise Taster
- Functional Fitness MOT, please pre book

This is not a drop-in event – booking is required but it is free of charge. Friends & carers are welcome.

(Transport can be provided.)

Call Lisa on **01743 342162**

email lisa.darkin@shropshire-rcc.org.uk

STEAM & VINTAGE SHOW JUNE 26th

10am till 4.30pm



Adults £5.00 Children Free
Aston on Clun, Craven Arms,
Shropshire, SY7 0NT.
Miniature & Full Size
Steam Traction Engines,
Cars, Motor Cycles, Tractors,
Commercials, Oil Engines,
Trade Stands, Model Displays
& More, Plus Refreshments
ALL PROFITS GO TO CHARITY

Tim's Future Travels

On Thursday, 21 July, Tim's Travels will take you to Wolverhampton for the Chichester Festival Theatre's production of the musical, "Guys and Dolls". Good stalls seat and coach, £47.50. Leave Clun at 9.30am then onto Clunton, Brampton Cross Roads and Aston-on-Clun before Craven Arms and The Clive Restaurant at Ludlow on the A49.

Rather than the seaside for a summer outing the destination will be the National Memorial Arboretum on Thursday, 11 August. The fare of £20 includes coffee or tea on arrival and a ride on the Land Train which will take you around the site with a pre-recorded commentary. Leave Clun at 9.00am then onto Clunton, Brampton Cross Roads, Kempton, Lydbury North, Colebatch and Bishop's Castle.

Book for both trips with Tim Wood at The Old Surgery Gallery on 640506.

Fancy some Parsley?

Cow parsley is normally regarded as a May flowerer, but as I write this, in the second half of the month, it is only just coming into its own, delayed perhaps by the cold weather of late April; so when you read this it should still be in full blow. Richard Mabey refers to it as 'arguably the most important spring landscape flower', and wherever you live in the parish, the chances are that your roadside verges are now decked with its white umbrella-like clusters of flowers, which, incidentally, are said to look good too in a vase. Why is it called 'parsley'? Because its leaf-shape is reminiscent of that of the garden herb. And why 'cow' parsley? Presumably to distinguish it from the real thing and to indicate that it is only good enough for cows. Yet Richard Mabey (famous for his Food for Free), points out that it is the closest wild relative of cultivated chervil, and claims that 'small quantities make a lively addition to most sorts of salads and a good flavouring for hot haricot beans, omelettes, baked potatoes and cassoulet'. However, should you go foraging, take a plant guide with you, because he warns that there are a number of related species which can cause serious poisoning, notably fool's parsley and hemlock; indeed in ancient Greece the latter was used to poison condemned prisoners, including Socrates. You have been warned!



Tom Wall

Events Diary for JUNE 2016

Wed 1	10.30am	Coffee Morning for Clunton Church	The Crown Inn, Clunton
Wed 1		Quiz—proceeds to Midlands Air Ambulance	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Thu 2	7pm	Flicks—Spotlight	SpArC
Sat 4	6pm for 6.30	Purslow Show Fundraiser—Bingo	Clunbury Village Hall
Sat 4	7.30pm	Jazz & Poetry Evening	Clun Memorial Hall
Sun 5	11.15am	Morning Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 5	7pm	Songs of Praise in four-part harmony. Tel 661171 for info.	Kempton Village Hall
Mon 6		Clunbury School PD Day	
Tue 7	Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am, Obley 12.45-12.55pm		
Wed 8	7pm	RSC Live-Hamlet	SpArC
Thu 9	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Thu 9	7pm	NT Live-The Audience (encore)	SpArC
Sat 11	7.30pm	Flicks—Dad's Army-640254	Clun Memorial Hall
Sun 12	11.15am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 12	12.30 onwards	Bring & Share Lunch for Queen's 90th Birthday	Vicarage Orchard, Clunbury
Mon 13	9-11.30am	Parent & Toddler Group-every Mon in term time. Just turn up	Clunbury Village Hall
Sat 18	10am-1pm	Craft & Collectables Market	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sat 18	1-5pm	NGS Open Garden for cancer and caring charities	Steventon Terrace, Ludlow
Sun 19	2-6pm	NGS Open Garden for cancer and caring charities	Millichope Park
Sun 19	2-5pm	NGS Open Garden for cancer and caring charities	Whistlewood, Boraston
Sun 19	6.30pm	United Evening Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Tue 21	Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am, Obley 12.45-12.55pm		
Wed 22		SWSGC Outing to Wollerton Old Hall & Hodnet Hall Gardens	
Thu 23	7am-10pm	Referendum Polling Station (no Café!)	Clunbury Village Hall
Thu 23		Tim's Travels—'Save the Last Dance For Me'—640506	Cheltenham
Thu 23	2-5pm	NGS Open Garden for cancer and caring charities	Avocet, Plealey
Fri 24	11am-3pm	NGS Open Garden for cancer and caring charities	Norton Farm, Norton, C.Arms
Fri 24	8pm	Flicks-Star Wars : The Force Awakens 660727/660781	Clungunford Parish Hall
Sat 25	from 3.30pm	Afternoon Tea—660169 / 660652	Clunton Village Hall
Sun 26	10am-4.30pm	Steam & Vintage Show for Charity	Aston-on-Clun
Sun 26	11.15am	United Holy Communion	St Mary's, Clunton
Sun 26	11am-5pm	NGS Open Garden for cancer and caring charities	Mynd Hardy Plants, Diddlebury
Sun 26	2-5.30pm	NGS Open Garden for cancer and caring charities	Holmcroft, Brimfield
Sun 26	7pm	North Country Theatre-Twelfth Night-picnics from 5.30pm	Walcot Hall
Mon 27	7.30pm	Live Acoustic Folk Music	The Crown Inn, Clunton

July

Sat 2	6.30pm	Clunton Scrumpers' Cider Evening	Fold Farm, Clunton
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North Country Theatre Presents Shakespeare's Twelfth Night

Walcot Hall 26 June 7pm

(gardens open from 5.30pm for picnics)
 Tickets available from: 680302 or 680366.
 Adults £15.00, U16s £7.50. Please bring
 your own chairs, groundsheets and wet
 weather gear for the performance.
 This is a joint promotion between Edgton
 & Lydbury North Village Halls.

CONTACTS

Email: theparishpost@gmail.com

Website: www.theparishpost.org

Phone: Sue Hill 660355

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.