

The Parish Post

Number 80
April 2017

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



Clunbury Village Hall

Fun Quiz

with a Ploughman's Supper
(optional)

Saturday 29 April, 7.30pm

Teams of six

Quiz £2.50 per person

Optional supper £2.50

Raffle

Tea, coffee and soft drinks available

No bar – Bring your own

To book a table contact Eirlys Ellams

660625 or email

ellams999@btinternet.com



Coffee Morning

Saturday 29 April

10am to 12.30pm

at The White Cottage, Clunbury

By kind invitation of Marilyn & Julian

Bring & Buy, Tombola

In aid of St Swithin's Church

Everyone welcome

Your Community Needs You!

Reductions in local government funding are placing at risk services you take for granted. Clunbury Parish Council is being asked to help maintain these services and could benefit from your skills and enthusiasm. **Become a local councillor - elections for town and parish councils will be held on 4 May 2017.** If you would like to make a difference and be involved in shaping the future of your local community, why not stand for election? For more information contact



Nancy Adams, Clunbury Parish Clerk,

Tel: 01686 670579, Email:

nancy@adamsanchor.co.uk

or visit the Parish Council page of The Parish Post website:- theparishpost.org.

The closing date for nominations is 4 April 2017 delivered by hand to Shirehall, by 4pm.

Good Friday Walk up Clunbury Hill

with the cross



3pm at Clunbury crossroads

Enjoy the views

bring the dogs and family

Hot Cross Buns afterwards

in the village hall



Church Lilies

Anyone wishing to purchase a lily for Easter in memory of a loved one, please contact Mary Jones 660316 before 8 April.

Please send your contributions by the 20th of each month

Patient Group Meeting Provides Update on Medical and Social Care

On 16 March a packed meeting of the Meadows Medical Practice Patients Group (PG) received updates from PG leaders and surgery staff. The report from the Practice was positive, the reorganisation onto a single site had gone smoothly and the doctors found the new working arrangements less stressful. More space is needed and a bid for funding to enlarge the surgery is being prepared. The new practice manager, Peter Allen, was introduced and Hilary Fowles, the retiring practice manager, was presented with a bouquet of flowers by the PG. Parish Councillor and PG committee member Sylvia Jones reported that NHS England funding for the Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was amongst the lowest in the country despite Shropshire's older than average population and rurality. Sylvia also reported that Social Care was failing many Shropshire residents, especially those in more remote locations as carers were not paid for travelling time and many were unwilling to visit isolated areas. Mary Eminson, Chair of the PG emphasised the importance of lobbying Shropshire Councillors, our MP, Philip Dunne, and national politicians about the problems faced by the NHS/CCG and social care in Shropshire. She also reported that the criteria for treatment at The Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital in Oswestry were being tightened to reduce costs and that patients should not downplay their symptoms. Shropshire people tend to be resilient and may understate their pain and problems – not a good move when seeking treatment.

David Hill

Matthew's Gifts

Thank you to Matthew Jones of Twitchen for his gifts of £425 to Clunbury Church Fund and £425 to Mac-Millan Cancer Fund, in memory of his parents Charlie and Wendy; from donations received at his 50th birthday party.
Mary Jones

100 Club

Richard Bott: £20; Marion Humble: £15; Shirley Baker: £10; Eileen Addy: £5; Ron Cornes: £3.

SpArC News

The campaign to 'Save the SpArC' is now registered with the Charity Commission. The campaign continues. Details on www.savethesparc.org

A Different Sort of Umbrella

Claire Hern witnessed these Kemptonians taking their constitutional in the rain and felt it was a must for The Parish Post. Please share with us your photos of the curious or amusing.



From left to right: Tom Wall, Gary Hickenbottom and Gisèle Wall

Barbara Crump

Barbara, who died recently, came to live in Shelvewell in the mid 1970s, and taught music at Bishop's Castle School until her retirement in 1990.

Music was always her first love, and she played the organ regularly in St Swithin's church, Clunbury, after the resident organist, Mr Albert Lane, died. She had a completely contrasting style: brisk, loud and challenging new tunes, leaving the choir quite breathless to keep up!!! But she always demanded a high standard of performance, followed by a kind smile of appreciation.

Her teaching aptitude was reflected in her involvement with Clunbury's Women's Institute who performed 'Trial by Jury' in 1980, directed by her in the village hall. This caused much fun, entertainment and a huge sense of achievement by the local women, for the community and their families. This was a forerunner for 'Clunburyella' and 'Dick Twitchen and his Cat'. In 1980, Barbara was instrumental in assembling The Domesday Book for Clunbury WI, one of 69 Shropshire WIs who collated every aspect of village life in 1980: the church, school, pubs, shops, buses running, birds and flowers recorded, babies born in that year... They were all exhibited in Shirehall, Shrewsbury, copies of which are still highly treasured to this day. In 1987, Barbara and Elizabeth De Leuw collaborated to organise, inspire and instruct local women to design and complete 57 tapestry kneelers for St Swithin's. These are a wonderful record of people, families, craftsmen, professionals and where they lived in the Parish. Barbara was a perfectionist, which was exemplified when I had to unpick half of my kneeler of the church bells because 6 top stitches were not correctly aligned. We all conformed to her high standards!!

Her work, generating interest in schools, and support in organising all the entries for the WI tent at Purslow

Show, was unwavering for many years. She was a huge exponent of local crafts, produce, flowers and talented cooks.

Barbara had a dry sense of humour, was a stickler for punctuality and perfection, and had an amazing memory for names, families and was always interested in helping children.

She was a truly memorable character who lived and breathed the community spirit of the Clun Valley. Never to be forgotten by those who knew her!

Barbara Freeman



Barbara playing accordion in the pantomime Dick Twitchen in Clunbury Village Hall

Rooks Wax and Wane

In 2008, I counted 60 nests in the Kempton rookery.

This year I have only found 41 (although there may be one or two more in conifers where the nests are difficult to see), but this is an improvement on the 32 reported in the Parish Post in 2011. In the same year, the long-standing colony in poplars between the Hundred House and Purslow Hall held 55 nests, whereas this year there were 41 in the poplars, 5 a little further to the west, and 3 in a Walnut on the Clunbury side of the Inn; total 49. John Tucker from Aston-on-Clun, has counted the rookery there since 2005, when there were 42 nests; last year there were only 21. John knows more than anyone about Shropshire rookeries, which are such a quintessential element of our country villages. He says that there are more than 816 in the county, holding, in all, in excess of 7,900 nests.

Tom Wall



Parish Council Meeting 23 March

Present: Nine councillors, the clerk and one member of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Hartin

Minutes of the previous meeting: agreed and signed

Matters arising: the footbridge behind Chapel House, Clunbury has not been repaired, however SC are aware of it and have said that they will repair it.

Planning: *Clunton poultry sheds application:* no decision yet, should go to the April Planning Committee meeting. The clerk should ask to be kept informed.

Tansy Cottage, Sunley Clunton and Greenvale (extensions, etc): no objections.

Broadband: Cllr Hill summarised the meeting which had taken place immediately before the Parish Council meeting (see details in following article). Cllr Jones stressed the importance of good broadband communication for the 'mobile points of care service' which the NHS wishes to put in place to treat people in their own homes. Communities need to register their interest in a good Broadband service: "you need to shout to get it". The Council agreed that Matthew Trustman and Nigel Holland who have been very active trying to improve Broadband service, should be thanked. It was agreed that the Council would pay for the hire of the hall for the Broadband meeting.

Future Fit: no progress on the decision-making process. There should be a consultation in June, but there is no money available (£82 million short this year); Shropshire has the sixth worst-funded Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) in the country. There could be more money available (as this is a rural area) but it seems that there is a reluctance from the authorities to apply for it.

Clun surgery: A very positive report on progress so far. Due to the large number of transfers from Knighton, there is a need to enlarge the practice. The

intention is to join a big cooperative of GP practices, to ensure economies of scale and a better use of technology. The appointment system is working well, anybody can be seen on the day if necessary.

Roads: *Potholes:* reported in Clunton.

Street lights in Clunton: Cllr Croxton had been approached regarding the switching on and off of the lights. The clerk explained that the lights are not on a metered supply; they are switched on and off automatically. To change this, there would be a need for a timer. Cllr Harding to make enquiries.

B4385: Cllr Hoskins had been in touch with Glyn Shaw from Shropshire Council; any decision will have to wait for the new budget. Interactive signs could be installed if the community and/or the Parish Council could part-fund them, but they are very expensive. Cllr Croxton highlighted the fact that some people had been shocked by the 9.2% increase in the precept (which finances the clerk's salary and expenses, maintenance of the street lights, insurances and other minor expenses). Should the Parish Council part-fund interactive signs, this figure would go up dramatically.

Safer Roads Partnership, Clunton: despite numerous phone calls, Cllr Harding has not been able to speak to the officer in charge. She will contact Glyn Shaw from Shropshire Council.

Parish Council Elections: there has not been a contested election for a great number of years, and the council appealed to people to stand. There will not be an election unless more than nine people are willing to stand (see notice on front page for details). If less than nine stand, new members can be co-opted within thirty days of the election.

Correspondence: money is available for youth funding projects. Apply to Mathew Meade at Shropshire Council.

Finances: *balances:* £5,597.75 spread over 3 accounts. Expenditure of about £700 (audit for accounts, donation to Crucial Crew, clerk's salary and

expenses, booking of village hall and maintenance of Clunton's burial ground).

Small grants: these are available to communities from the LJC. The Parish Council is asked to contribute £100 to the fund. The councillors felt that, in order for the grant to be used locally, it would be better for communities in the parish to apply directly to the Parish Council.

Government grant for Transparency Code: the councillors agreed that the clerk should apply for one such grant to provide her with a computer, printer-scanner and software. At the moment the parish council uses The Parish Post website to publish its meetings, etc. It was agreed that the council should have a different website which would be serviced by the clerk. (Cllr Hill agreed to help set it up within about three months' time)

Schools: Bucknell, Clunbury and Newcastle are likely to form a federation in order to save money. This would mean sharing a headteacher, for example. Consultation will take place on 28 April.

AOB: The notice board in Twitchen is to be repaired.

Hedge cutting on the lane from Kempton to Purslow (at the Purslow end): large branches had been cut and left for a few days during a period of high winds, making the lane dangerous for vehicles and bicycles. Cllr Croxton apologised; the problem had been rectified.

Cllr Hoskins asked for news of the status of phone boxes. It was confirmed that the Parish Council had sent a letter of protest to Shropshire Council. No news. It has been suggested to Cllr M Jones that they could be used to hold the defibrillators.

There is a new defibrillator in Kempton. Cllr Hoskins is trying to get all the volunteers together and to organise a refresher course.

Cllr Davies had been approached by the new owners of the house by the

burial ground in Clunton, who wished to put a wall on the south-side boundary instead of a hedge and wanted to have the views of the council before proceeding. The councillors felt that they needed more detail. Cllr Davies to find out.

Cllr S Jones is moving out of the area and therefore will not be standing again. She was thanked for her work.

Next meeting: Annual Parish Meeting 18 May, 7.30pm in Kempton Village Hall followed by the regular Parish Council meeting. Parishioners are encouraged to attend.

Gisèle Wall

Twitchen Broadband Update

A well attended meeting held in Clunbury Village Hall on 23 March was informed that BT had provided an initial estimate for providing a Fibre To The Premises (FTTP) very fast broadband service in Twitchen and parts of Clunbury. This estimate appeared competitive and BT are now preparing a second estimate covering Twitchen and a larger part of Clunbury. This approach will only be viable if SWS, the provider selected by SC, withdraw or are deselected due to lack of progress and SC subsidise the cost of installing the BT infrastructure which would otherwise not be commercially viable. All of these conditions may be met according to the presenters. For more information contact



Matthew Trustman at
mtrustman@btinternet.com
or Nigel Holland at
nigel@nfholland.co.uk

David Hill

Other communities in the parish, such as Clunton and Kempton who are on a different scheme, may want to get together and see if they can push for improved broadband sooner.

Easter Bingo at Clunbury Village Hall
Thursday 6 April, eyes down 6pm. All proceeds to Clunbury School

Hedgehogs in April

The large majority of hedgehogs will be awake this month. The males tend to wake a little earlier in preparation for the breeding season, when they wander over large areas, hoping to meet as many females as possible. They are not territorial, so do not have to defend an area from other males. If the weather is mild, they may not even bother to make a nest some nights, provided there is plenty of cover available.

The females, on the other hand, once settled, tend to stay in the same area. Obviously, once the hoglets are born, the females will be restricted on how far they can wander in a night. Encourage the females to stay by putting out food and perhaps offer some nesting sites or even a nest box. Keep a distance between the nest box and any food you may put out for her (and others). She will not be happy if other hedgehogs are encouraged to come close to her nursery nest to reach the feeding station and it may attract predators to the area too.



Take care if you notice any recent piles of leaves appearing under your plants or hedges, they may be the start of a nest. Hedgehogs like to build a nest under something that will hold the nesting material in place, this could be brambles, overhanging plants, under a shed, even under weed suppressing materials. If you are thinking of demolishing a shed do it early or late in the year, as this really is a favourite site for a nursery nest, and the British Hedgehog Preservation Society gets lots of calls from people who find a nest with hoglets when moving their shed.

Although hoglets do have long legs, if you have steps in your garden that hoglets might have difficulty navigating, you could place a house brick at the

edge of each step to provide an extra step up for them.

If you are concerned about your local visiting hedgehog, need advice, or find a sick or injured hedgehog, contact the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, they can give general advice and perhaps details of a local hedgehog rehabilitator that you can contact. Contact them on 01584 890801 or, for general advice, visit their web site www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk.

Kay Bullen

Deadly New Trap

DEFRA has just approved a new rat and stoat trap for use in the UK that was designed in New Zealand to kill hedgehogs too! There is no way that we can think of that would allow access for rats and stoats but not allow access for hedgehogs (and DEFRA haven't come up with anything either)! This trap resets itself so can perform multiple kills without inspection or resets. We have set up a petition to ask DEFRA to withdraw approval immediately. PLEASE sign the petition, two people from the same household can use the same email address to sign, and PLEASE share far and wide, we need to stop this ASAP before our precious hedgehogs have yet another problem to deal with. See <http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/a24-rat-stoat-hedgehog-trap/>

Fay Vass, British Hedgehog Preservation Society

Clungunford Bowling Green Opening



Beginning of April

Why not come along and try it out?

On Wednesdays at 2pm

For an afternoon of Social Bowling
There are bowls available at the Club

News from South West Shropshire Gardening Club

Soil and Health:

The Work of Sir Albert Howard
Wednesday 26 April, 7.30pm
Lydbury North Village Hall

A talk by Pat Robinson



Sir Albert Howard was born in Bishop's Castle in the second half of the twentieth century. He was a first-class scientist and chemist who applied his knowledge and skills to research crop production and he became a founding father of the organic movement. He made a strong connection between healthy soil, healthy crops and healthy human beings.

The talk gives a résumé of his life, looking at his research findings and recommendations which are still relevant today. Pat will also outline the plans of the Albert Howard Society in Bishop's Castle to develop a Community Organic Market Garden, modelled on Sir Howard's approach. Pat herself is an organic gardener and Founder Trustee of the Albert Howard Society.

Any further queries to Sandy Burton 680454 or Carol Clarke 660753 or on our website: www.gardeningshropshire.co.uk

Angie Salmon

CONTACTS

Email: theparishpost@gmail.com

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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.

Do you have a few hours per month you can spare?



Shropshire RCC are recruiting volunteers to become Relevant Persons' Representatives. This is an important and rewarding role and volunteers would have satisfactory skills and experience to carry out the role. You will be visiting people in Care Homes (in your locality). Full training and support is given. All volunteers will be DBS checked and reimbursed of travel expenses.



Can YOU make a difference?

There is currently a waiting list of people who need a representative urgently!

For more information please contact Nickie Edwards at Shropshire RCC

tel: 01743 342165 or email:

Nickie.edwards@shropshire-rcc.org.uk

See and Hear Shropshire 2017



Wednesday 10 May
10am-4pm

Shrewsbury Sports Village



If you have sight or hearing loss, know someone who does, or work with people who do, the See and Hear Shropshire exhibition 2017 will be beneficial to you

There will be more than 70 exhibitors, seminars and workshops

For further information, contact Pauline Rose at VTTS on 01743 257746 or visit the website: www.shropshire.gov.uk/see-and-hear-17



Events Diary for April 2017

Sat 1	7.30pm	Flicks—I, Daniel Blake—640254	Clun Memorial Hall
Sun 2	2.30pm	The Apple's Rounded World—680302	Lydbury North Village Hall
Sun 2	11.15am	Morning Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 2	6pm	Songs of Praise in four-part harmony—Tel 661171 for info	Kempton Village Hall
Mon 3	9-11.30am	Parent & Toddler Group—every Mon in term time. Just turn up	Clunbury Village Hall
Tue 4	7.30pm	Flicks—Kes—680302	Lydbury North Village Hall
6 Apr-16 May		Aston on Clun Art Group Exhibition	Discovery Centre, Craven Arms
Wed 5		Quiz—proceeds to Midlands Air Ambulance	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Wed 5	7pm	NT Live—Twelfth Night—660493/660893	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Wed 5	7pm	NT Live—Twelfth Night—630321/638038	SpArC
Thu 6	6 pm	Easter Bingo. All proceeds to Clunbury School	Clunbury Village Hall
Fri 7		Clunbury School End of Term	
Fri 7	7.30pm	BC Railway Society—Swiss Railways—Martin Fisher	Methodist Hall, BC.
Sat 8	8pm	Whalebone!—680454	Lydbury North Village Hall
Sun 9	Noon-3pm	Hardy Plant Society Spring Plant Fair	Bicton Village Hall
Sun 9	11.15am	Palm Sunday United Holy Communion	St Mary's, Clunton
Tue 11		Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am, Obley 12.45-12.55pm	
Wed 12	7.15pm	Public Reading of St Mark's Gospel—640776	Sun Inn, Clun
Wed 12	8pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society—Grandma	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Thu 13	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Fri 14	3pm	Good Friday walk up Clunbury Hill with Cross	Start at Clunbury crossroads
Sat 15	10am-1pm	Craft & Collectables Market	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sun 16	6.30pm	Easter Day United CW Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Wed 19		Tim's Travels— Sunny Afternoon—640506	Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
Wed 19	7.30pm	Everything Fitz—630321/638038	SpArC
Thu 20	7pm	NT Live—Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead 660493/660893 (Aston) 630321/638038 (SpArC)	Aston on Clun Village Hall SpArC
Fri 21	8pm	Flicks—A United Kingdom-660727/660781	Parish Hall, Clungunford
Sun 23	11.15am	Service of words and Baptism	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Mon 24		Clunbury School start of Summer Term	
Mon 24	7.30pm	Live Acoustic Folk Music	The Crown Inn, Clunton
Tue 25		Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am, Obley 12.45-12.55pm	
Wed 26	7.30pm	SWSGC—Sir Albert Howard: His Life & Work	Lydbury North Village Hall
Wed 26	7pm	RSC—Julius Caesar—630321/638038	SpArC
Wed 26	8pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society—Ex Machina	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Thu 27	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Thu 27	7pm	Clun Valley Benefice, APCM	St George's School, Clun
Sat 29	10am-12.30	Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Tombola	White Cottage, Clunbury
Sat 29	7.30pm	Clunbury Village Hall Fun Quiz—660625	Clunbury Village Hall
Sat 29	7.30pm	Flicks—Allied—660545	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sat 29	7.30pm	Flicks—A Street Cat Named Bob—640254	Clun Memorial Hall
Sun 30	10am	Benefice United Service Holy Communion	Clun Methodist Church
Advance Notice: May 2017 Events			
11 May	7pm	NT Live-Obsession, starring Jude Law	Aston on Clun Village Hall
18 May	7pm	NT Live-Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf with Imelda Staunton	Aston on Clun Village Hall