

The Parish Post

Number 113
April 2020

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

Not a Normal Parish Post!

But then these are not normal times. With most events cancelled, in this issue we focus on publicising the support plans springing up across our community. News on these is currently changing so fast it is difficult to keep up; we apologise for any details that we may have inadvertently left out.

If the current restrictions on movement are still in place for our May issue, the editorial team has decided it will not distribute a printed edition next month. Instead it will be circulated more widely on line and will, of-course, be posted as normal on the Parish Post website. Please send your email address to: theparishpost@gmail.com to receive your copy. We are aware that not everyone has e-mail so please print it out for a neighbour if you know that to be the case. We will restart deliveries as soon as we can.

Offsetting some of the anxieties we are all facing we are at least blessed with lovely weather for our solitary walks, the cessation of all that endless rain (hurray, at last!) and the emergence of spring flowers in our gardens and hedgerows.

With Easter just around the corner, please send us photos of your celebrations in these troubled times, maybe an Easter egg tree, or a tableau in the garden, a puppet show, or what about a spring poem or a picture? Please inspire us all with something cheerful! We will



include as many of your contributions and ideas as possible. To kick us off, thanks to Gisèle Wall for this lovely collection of winter-to-spring flowers pictured above.

Thank you everyone, health, public service and shop workers, deliverers and volunteers, for all your hard work in supporting our communities.

Please send your contributions by the 20th of each month

Local Support Groups, Shopping, Food Deliveries

Covid-19 has changed all our lives beyond recognition. It will impact the most on people who are 70+ and with underlying health conditions. We are fortunate to live in a community where we are all very good at looking out for each other. Here we gather together contact information for support groups and other forms of help and services.

Clunton: Conquer Covid-19 in Clunton! "Like the rest of the world, we're making this up as we go along, so any suggestions/requests will be very welcome". If you would be happy to be a friendly voice on the end of the phone to anyone feeling isolated or just in need of a chat, please phone Angie Salmon 661025 and she will put you on a list to be distributed round the village. This may be particularly suitable for volunteers over 70 who should be minimising any social contact. If you would be happy to help in any other ways which may involve walking round the village, perhaps delivering news, shopping etc and you are under 70, please let Angie know.

Clunbury & Twitchen: Barbara Freeman 660629 and Judith Payling 660292 are collating a list of people who are willing to run errands for those who are in social isolation or are socially distancing themselves. Please contact them if you need support or are willing to provide it.

Kempton: Kemptonians Against Coronavirus! Claire Hern has set up an email group for villagers to share information, run errands, and to generally help keep our spirits up. There is also a Facebook page for those who use or would like to use it. Email cecchetti08@aol.com or phone her 660844 to be added to the group list.

Bishop's Castle Surgery and School Catchment Area

Help for anyone in the catchment area: for help and advice ring Jeremy Hall 07967 306615; Anne and/or Glyn Roberts 630165; Grant Perry 07949 714959; Josh Dickin 07530 691106; Valerie Woodmansey 650940. To OFFER your help to this group ring: Evelyn Bowles 638851; Gwilym Roberts 638141.

Local Community Shops & Food Deliveries

Aston on Clun Community Shop, 660849: will only be opening 9am-1pm. Card only purchases. No entry to the shop, you will be served at the door. This is due to the lack of non-high-risk volunteers.

Lydbury North Shop Committee have made the very difficult decision to close the shop temporarily until the current situation improves. 'We feel it is important to safeguard our customers and volunteers, many of whom are elderly or in 'at risk' groups, and that it is irresponsible to encourage customers to visit us daily, against government guidelines, just to get a newspaper or a pint of milk'.

Wall's Butcher Craven Arms 01588 672308 are working on a delivery run to villages on different days but this is still in the planning stage. You are welcome to visit the shop, with the usual distancing precautions. They are also taking orders and payment over the telephone for you to collect.

The Crown at Clunton have closed, along with all other pubs, but they offer food boxes, a couple of times a week, with fruit, vegetables, milk, eggs and bread for £25. If you cannot pick up the box from the pub, there is a team of volunteers ready to deliver, please call Angie Salmon 661025. The pub can also order meat from their suppliers but fresh fish has become more difficult to come by; they do have some available so get in touch. To meet demand, they have been cooking a couple of times a week, a take away service based on their style of cooking, priced between £10-£16, check out local posters. For more information or for orders, call the pub on 01588 660265.

The Hundred House at Purslow:

They are also doing large hampers of fruit, veg, milk, bread, eggs etc for £20. They are more than happy to deliver in the area. The contents of the hampers can be varied. Do call them if you would like one or with any item suggestions. Cash only for these boxes. Telephone 660541

Tuffins will deliver goods. You can order online or by phone (672202 & pay by card), or ask a volunteer to place an order for you.

Other Useful Contacts during this emergency

Education: school and education related enquiries. including school admissions, school transport and free school meals
0345 678 9008

Children: welfare and safety concerns or family support: 0345 678 9021

Adults: vulnerable adult welfare & safety, advice about social care:
0345 678 9044

Business related enquiries email:
COVID19business enquiries@shropshire.gov.uk

Business rates enquiries:
0345 678 9003 or businessrates@shropshire.gov.uk

Waste and recycling: collections and assisted collections:
0435 678 9007

All other enquiries: check the Shropshire County Council website or call
0345 678 9000

The Foodbank

The regular Thursday sessions at the Clun Community Larder are suspended. We are posting notices at the church to ask anyone in need of food to contact the Good Neighbours helpline 640016. This will alert us to the need and emergency food parcels will be prepared and left in the church porch for collection.

Scything in the Spring

Looking ahead to a return to normality, volunteers from Caring for God's Acre have scheduled a day at Clunbury on Tuesday 30 June. Learners are welcome to try their hand with a scythe, and experienced old hands are always needed. Who knows, this might prove to be the first group activity we can all enjoy for some time!

More Cancellations

All church services have been suspended until further notice & our Good Friday walk up Clunbury Hill with the Cross will not take place so there will be no hot cross buns in the village hall afterwards!



Clunbury 100 club - March draw

Marianne Hints £20; Mary Price £15; Lesley Holland £10; Lynn Morris £5; Joy Windsor £5.



Thank you Clunton, the brightest star in the Clun Valley galaxy

Five days after I returned home from hospital with crutches and a hip replacement, my husband Jim died.

I was "stranded" at home, virtually helpless, with my best companion Dazzer. Then it all happened - friends in the village and beyond brought me meals, soups and cakes daily. They took Dazzer for walks, when he would go, but sometimes he refused! They stacked and carried logs for the fire, shopped, and one doggie owner cleared up the front lawn after Dazzer. Nothing was too much trouble.

On the day of the funeral they decorated the church and prepared everything needed for a sumptuous buffet in the village hall when around 80 folks gathered. Some of the men were virtually chained to the kitchen sink to keep ahead of the washing up. I have been overwhelmed by the love and generosity, and I can only remember, on the saddest day for me, being enveloped with kindness, friendship and empathy.

Folks of Clunton you really are the best. THANK YOU.

Sheila Hindle

Dear Sheila, all of us on the Parish Post Editorial team send our most heartfelt best wishes to you at this time.

Swap Shop

You may have some household items you don't need which others would welcome and vice versa. Lucy Lewis has set up a 'Swap Box' outside her house which is on the road from The Hundred House to Kempton. Bring something to the Box and take something away in a free exchange. So as to reduce any risk, wash your hands carefully before leaving anything and again when you get home.

PS: Lucy has a good supply of eggs at the moment.

Dear dog-walkers of Clunbury

You'll have walked through the fields above the Pool House these past few years and met the ponies.

This year (because we didn't know the viral apocalypse was on its way) we are due to have a foal - yay! She or he is due around 25 May. Lily and Luna will be in the summer paddocks by then, near the Growing Field and we'd appreciate it enormously if you didn't walk dogs through the fields that have the ponies in around that time.



This is Lily's first foal and she's likely to be highly protective of it. We're developing an Equi Central system, which is the horse version of mob-grazing, in an effort to increase biodiversity and deepen the soil, so they'll be changing paddocks frequently.

If needs be, if you could detour round the farm that would be wonderful. Thank you very much.

Manda and Faith and all at the Pool House.



Hitting the Jagpot

Now for another health hazard! The B4385 which runs past Kempton has more than its fair share of potholes and quite a few unsuspecting drivers have had their hub-caps jolted off by some particularly deep craters at the Lydbury North end of the village.

Seven of the casualties



More seriously, the tyre of a Jaguar driven by an unfortunate couple from Aston-on-Clun was ripped apart leaving them marooned, because, for whatever reasons, cars nowadays are sold without spare wheels.

One of the culprits



This stretch of road is dangerous at any time, due partly to people not respecting the 30mph advisory speed limit and to the poor visibility for Kemptonians trying to get out of the village. On a number of occasions, drivers coming from the Bishop's Castle direction have lost control and ended up on the opposite side of the road embedded in the hedge of the front garden of Old Kempton Stores. The answer? What about well-signed speed bumps rather than hidden holes?

Gisèle & Tom Wall

Hot off the press: as we go to print the 7 hub-caps have disappeared!

Climate and Ecological Emergency Questionnaire Results

Following its declaration of a Climate and Ecological Emergency, Clunbury Parish Council supported the formation of an action group. Earlier this year the group delivered a questionnaire to all households in the Parish seeking to know your views, hear your ideas and learn of what actions you are taking. We have now analysed the 51 responses received and the results are given overleaf. This is only a small sample and will not be a representative one, but the responses are indicative of the anxieties, actions and wishes of a proportion of parishioners and as such are being drawn to the attention of the Parish Council.

All respondents answered the first question but 8% created their own category labelled simply 'worried'. Where there were 'Yes/No/Don't know' options not all respondents answered, so percentages do not add up to 100. There was some uncertainty about the meaning of 're-wilding' in question 3. The term is a reference to 'letting nature take the driving seat', a strategy adopted in the UK at Knepp in West Sussex, an estate where livestock graze but there is minimal human intervention. New habitats have emerged and wildlife has proliferated, as described in Isabella Tree's best-selling book 'Wilding, the return of nature to a British farm'.

There was some uncertainty too about the term 'climate-proof' in question 7. The idea here is that when deciding anything, the Parish Council should ask itself 'what impact will this have on our climate?'. This applies most obviously to planning applications where issues of sustainability in respect to materials, insulation, heating systems and opportunities for the generation of renewable energy arise.

continued

Thank you to all who responded. Many of you provided commentaries and all of these will be reproduced on the Parish Post website. They make interesting and sometimes contradictory reading. If you are thinking of switching to a 'green energy' provider take a look – there is an offer here which will put money in your pocket and trees in the ground.

Pat Harding, Nick Morgan, Judith Payling, Manda Scott, Jo Selman, Tim Selman, Alister Thompson, Tom Wall

Questionnaire Answers

1. How worried are you about climate change and ecological breakdown? Please tick one of the options below:

Not worried at all	A little worried	Seriously worried	Don't know
	20%	72%	

2. Please tell us about what you are currently doing to combat the emergency

100%	Recycling
76%	Repairing and re-using
69%	Reducing road mileage
69%	Reducing air mileage <i>Not applicable: 10%</i>
24%	Changing to a green energy electricity provider
10%	Switching to an ethical bank
59%	Changing diet
86%	Buying local produce

3. Do you see ways in which we can reduce the loss of wildlife within the Parish?

100%	Wildlife gardening
75%	Changes to roadside-verge management
61%	Changes to agricultural management
57%	Re-wilding

4. Would you like to see more trees planted in the Parish?

Yes	No	Don't know
71%		16%

5. Would you like to take part in a community woodland project? This might involve the community purchasing land for its own woodland or orchard

Yes	No	Don't know
39%	27%	12%

6. Should the Parish Council be pro-active in standing up for nature and beauty in relation to:

90%	Planning applications?
86%	Tree felling licences?
92%	Pollution of watercourses?
84%	Tree planting?
92%	Road-verge management?

7. Should the Parish Council 'climate-proof' all its decisions and actions?

Yes	No	Don't know
65%	14%	20%

8. Should the Parish Council be active in exploring ways in which it can help to alleviate the Climate and Ecological Emergency?

Yes	No	Don't know
88%	6%	4%

9. Would you be interested in joining a community group seeking to source renewable electricity at a discount, rather than electricity sourced from fossil

Yes	No	Don't know
41%	25%	20%

10. Might you be interested in attending talks or events held in the Parish providing more information about the Emergency and what we can do about it.

Yes	No	Don't know
75%	12%	16%

Our MP has replied to a petition signed by many who attended the event on 25 January. His letter and a response from the action group will be posted on the Parish Post website.

Musings from an Isolated Bellringer

With more time to contemplate, here are some musings from an isolated bellringer. 'Well of course I miss bellringing, not to mention the odd drink. But let's be honest, bellringing is just an excuse to go out for a drink. Having a drink at home can alleviate not going to the pub, but of course the company is not the same, although I do find that after a few whiskies, the company doesn't really matter. Bellringing at home is not possible - or is it? Remember teenage years stood in front of a mirror playing air guitar? Well, why not try air bellringing? This requires some imagination, largely due to the lack of sound, which is easily rectified: just pretend that you're doing a 'muffled muffled' peel! The other thing is that how do you know who is ringing the other bells? and you need to be mindful that, if someone else is ringing the bell you want to ring, you both can't pretend to ring the same bell; how would that work? OK, there's a few teething problems to resolve, but I'm working on it'.



"The ringtones.....The ringtones....."

Lockdown

A poem by Brother Richard Hendrick, a Capuchin Franciscan living in Ireland, published on St Patrick's Day 2020



Yes there is fear.
Yes there is isolation.
Yes there is panic buying.
Yes there is sickness.
Yes there is even death.

But,
They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise
You can hear the birds again.
They say that after just a few weeks of quiet
The sky is no longer thick with fumes
But blue and grey and clear.
They say that in the streets of Assisi
People are singing to each other across the empty squares,
keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.
Today a young woman I know
is busy spreading fliers with her number through the neighbourhood
So that the elders may have someone to call on.
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples
are preparing to welcome
and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting

All over the world people are looking at their neighbours in a new way
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality
To how big we really are.
To how little control we really have.
To what really matters.
To Love.
So we pray and we remember that
Yes there is fear.
But there does not have to be hate.
Yes there is isolation.
But there does not have to be loneliness.
Yes there is panic buying.
But there does not have to be meanness.
Yes there is sickness.
But there does not have to be disease of the soul
Yes there is even death.
But there can always be a rebirth of love.
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.
Today, breathe.
Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic
The birds are singing again
The sky is clearing,
Spring is coming,
And we are always encompassed by Love.
Open the windows of your soul
And though you may not be able to touch across the empty square,
Sing.



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