

# The Parish Post

Number 115  
June 2020

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

## Victory In Europe 75th Anniversary

Sadly many plans for VE day were cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic but that didn't stop people from marking the occasion in their own way.



Jeremy Freeman sounded the air raid siren bringing residents of Clunbury outside for a socially distancing celebration, while Clunton and Kempton residents enjoyed a special afternoon tea vintage style, at home in the garden.



Please send your contributions by the 20th of each month



# Colour for Victory

The children of Kempton produced some lovely posters for VE day. Here is some of their artwork



Hector aged 9



Maisy aged 10



Fynn aged 3 years



Charlie aged 14

## Clapping Rainbow

Just as we started clapping on a Thursday night, Rachel Downs from Kempton noticed the appearance of this rainbow.



Children from Clunton provided colourful pictures of rainbows in support of key workers

## Postman on a Roll

Our postman Jim has been a busy man. What a star! Jim has taken part in a short video to show support and appreciation for key workers. You can see this fun video using the link below.



<https://www.facebook.com/wistanstowplayers/videos/276936220005510/>

## CONTACTS

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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](mailto: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.



## Night Out but In!!

Spending a night at the theatre or the ballet is something many people like to do and are missing, but a truly amazing development in on-line entertainment has made it possible to escape into performances of excellent quality through the computer. A recent production of the Royal Opera's ballet 'A Winter's Tale' was just lovely and provided a diverting afternoon in the comfort of the living room. An ice cream break in the interval made it a real treat! and no queue for the loo!!

SPARC are producing a regular bulletin on their website of productions which can be viewed on-line. People with a SMART TV can access these on U-tube, or they can be watched on a computer or tablet.

The National Theatre, The Royal Shakespeare Company, Chichester Festival Theatre, all offer access to a wide range of plays, musicals, and activities to suit all ages and tastes. If ballet and opera are more your thing the Royal Opera House is offering free access to a different production every two weeks

To find out more visit these Websites:

[www.theatre@bishopscastle.co.uk](http://www.theatre@bishopscastle.co.uk)

[www.nationaltheatre.org](http://www.nationaltheatre.org)

[www.roh.org.uk](http://www.roh.org.uk)

[www.cft.org.uk](http://www.cft.org.uk)

[www.rsc.org.uk](http://www.rsc.org.uk)

The Arts Society (previously known as NADFAS) has an interesting programme of on-line lectures and many museums have exhibitions on-line which are no longer accessible due to the lockdown but still available through their websites. The National Gallery has a range of tours, as has The Royal Academy, Salisbury Cathedral and The Tate. Even those galleries abroad offer some great chances to see wonderful art and

sculpture. If anyone finds a particularly interesting website, do let the Parish Post know. Happy viewing!

*Judith Payling*

Websites:

[www.nationalgallery.org.uk](http://www.nationalgallery.org.uk)

[www.theartssocietytemevalley.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietytemevalley.org.uk)

[www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk)[www.salisburycathedral.org.uk](http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk)

[www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)

## Not quite the London Marathon

Aware that charities are suffering under the present limitations I decided to join the 2.6 challenge which replaced the London Marathon this year.

I thought through various physical challenges and finally settled on playing the piano non-stop for 2.6 hours to support The Severn Hospice and The South Shropshire Furniture Scheme, both charities close to my heart. I put up notices around the village and a sponsor box outside my house and at 2 o'clock opened all the doors and windows and began. Those of you who know me are aware that I do not normally play publicly; however I surprised myself by managing the challenge and played pieces such as Chopin's Nocturne and several Sonatinas without too many mistakes. As I finished with a flourish at 4.36, I heard a round of applause and was greeted by Karen and Catherine who had been listening for a while and I gather quite a few people had stopped awhile to listen. Thank you for your support, together we raised £216.02p for these amazing charities.

*Eirlys Ellams*





## Letter to the Editor

The article "Rooks on the move?" in last month's Parish Post reminded me of the fate of the rookery in our garden on the edge of Kempton.

The number of nests grew each year to a peak of 18 in March 2016, but then high winds blew off some of the topmost nests. The poor rooks never got a chance to recover as six ravens then moved into the territory, scoping out new nesting sites for themselves. The rooks put up a fierce and VERY noisy fight over several days but ultimately proved no match for their bigger cousins.

For two weeks after they'd seen off the last of the rooks, the ravens stood sentinel on the trees to make sure of their victory. They also performed victory flypasts in pair formation all around the trees! Since then, a pair of ravens has nested each year in our little wood, first choosing a tall old conifer to raise their young, and this year a huge and very old poplar tree.

We miss the rooks. It was fascinating to watch them building their community each year, squabbling between themselves in the evenings before settling down to sleep but also looking out for each others' families whenever potential predators came near. We would see them teaching their chicks to fly by walking them steadily along a branch, screeching all the while until the chick ran out of branch and was forced to either take off or, on one sad occasion, fall to its death! Rooks can be friendly and generous to humans – we used to leave fluff from the drying machine on top of the hedge for them to

like this fine rusty nail left on the doorstep one early morning!

Ravens are a different matter – much more private and much too



fond of pecking at the rubber seals on our car windows (as shown here). They also make a thunderous noise banging on the car windows in the early morning; we assume they are attacking their own reflection but we also feel under attack! And they're not afraid to threaten our

neighbour's dog when she has caught a rabbit.

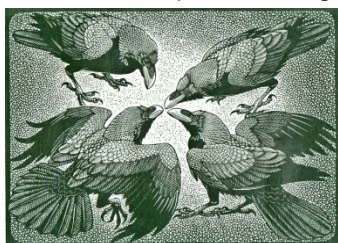
Janet Kregel

*NB: Late discovery of 6 or so Rooks' nests in the conifer by the road at the Twitchen not far from the turnings at 3 Ashes. This adds to the Parish total of nests reported in the last issue.*



## In Kempton

Martin Angell welcomed a new addition of Berkshire cross pigs



An unkindness of ravens, etching by Colin See-Paynton <http://www.see-paynton.co.uk>



Mary Cooper saw these small fry sunbathing by the footbridge in Kempton

# James Whitehead

It was with great sadness that we heard of the sudden death of James Whitehead on 24th April.

Jimmy was born in 1935 in Kashmir, India, where he went to school until coming to England at the end of the war in 1945. His family settled as farmers in the west country. He joined the army, serving for 11 years in the Kings Shropshire Light Infantry. Jimmy, Christina, and their family came to live at the Lawn Farm in the 1970s and Jim travelled at first to work in Birmingham as a stockbroker, and later was responsible for establishing a successful office in Bridgnorth. However, he also immediately immersed himself in running the farm which became such an important part of his life. He had a great love of the countryside and started a small shoot to which he invited many friends and neighbours.

Jimmy always had a great fondness for horses, and in particular for racing, and having held a licence for many years, trained them at home. He was of course, delighted when he produced a winner. He was involved in many organisations - the Clun branch of the Royal British Legion, a Governor of Clunbury School, chairman of the Clunbury branch of the Conservatives, and Clerk of the Course for the United Pack Point to Point at Brampton Bryan. He was a regular worshipper at Clunbury Church where he very ably led the Mattins services, giving some very informative talks.

Locally Jimmy will perhaps be best remembered for originating the Clunbury Hill Run at the annual Purslow Sports Show. This five mile run over Clunbury Hill starting and finishing on the showground was created in memory of his son Edward, who was tragically killed in the Gulf War in 1991. The event has grown every year with runners of all ages and competence taking part. The Ludlow Runners see the event as a highlight of their calendar. Jimmy took great care in setting up the course to ensure the safety of the runners. He and his family were always there to cheer on the competitors. The photo was taken in 2017, the 25th Anniversary of the Hill Run with Adrian Pickles, winner of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd run and Jack Blackburn, winner in 2017.



Another of Jimmy's interests were trees and we will be reminded of him for many years to come as we look up Clunbury Hill at the trees he planted, and where he chose to be buried, on the land he loved. In the current situation, funerals are limited to close family. As a fitting tribute of love and respect for Jimmy, neighbours and friends stood out in the roads and at their gateways as his coffin passed by on the way to Lawn Farm.

Above all, Jim will be remembered for his warm and friendly personality and for the way he interacted with everyone he met. A true country gentleman who will be sadly missed and our thoughts continue to be with Christina and his family.

*Pat Harding and Maddy Matveieff*

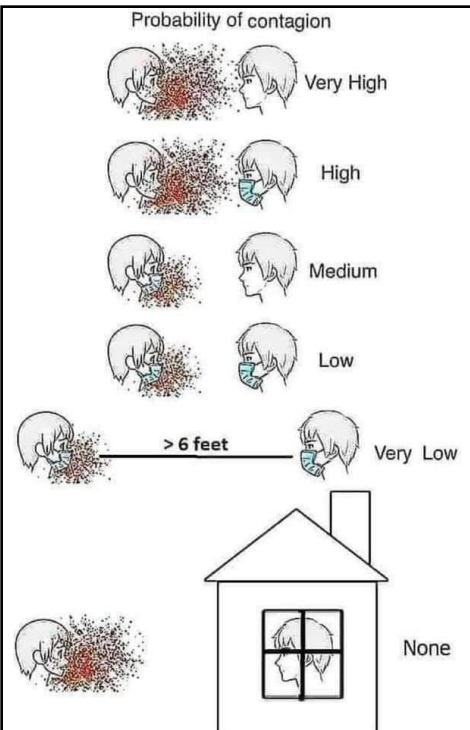
## It's Time to Talk About Masks!

New official guidance for England is that we are all advised to cover our faces in enclosed public spaces, such as supermarkets and on public transport. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) says the amended guidance is based on advice from SAGE after consideration of the latest scientific evidence which suggests face coverings can help reduce the risk of transmission in some circumstances. The World Health Organisation emphasises that masks are effective only when used in combination with frequent hand-cleaning with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water so keep washing your hands thoroughly and keep social distancing.

Some of us have been busy at home making cloth masks for family and friends. Yes, we know we look a bit silly, but in the bigger picture of our strange new world that seems a small price to pay if it means we can contribute to lowering the virus transmission rate.

Masks or other type of covering should be made of at least two layers of fabric, such that if you hold it up to the light you can't see through it.

You can find patterns to make four sizes of mask, with printable PDF instructions plus a video on how to put them together, on our website <https://theparishpost.org>. Alternatively, you can email the Parish Post and Lynne or Janet will send them to you.



This picture shows clearly how it makes common sense for everyone to wear a mask when out and about, but please bear in mind that this is no substitute for staying at home whenever possible.

### How to wear a mask

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Make sure the mask is right side up and properly oriented.
- Put the elastic around your ears, or tie the strings tightly behind your head. Make sure the mask fits your face with no gaps.
- Make sure the mask covers your face from bridge of nose to chin.
- If your mask has one, bend the nose fitting to fit your nose.
- Don't touch the mask while you're wearing it.
- Wash your hands again before removing.
- When removing it, grab the mask from the strings or elastic, don't touch the front.
- Clean it, if it is reusable, or dispose of it in a rubbish bag.
- Wash your hands again!



## For our Younger Readers

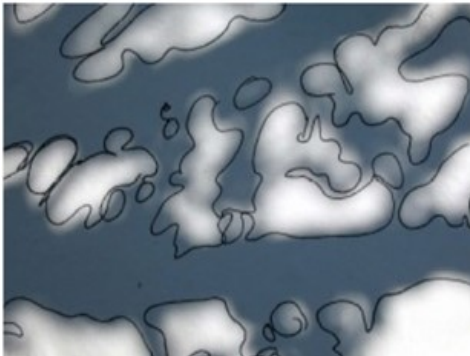
Here is a nice thing to do on a sunny day, suggested by *Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre*.

Walk around with a blank piece of paper, looking at the shadows that fall on the paper from plants, trees, fence, or anything else outside with you.

Wait until you find one that really appeals to you.

Lightly outline the dappled sunshine on your paper.

Then with crayons, coloured pencils, felt pens, water colours, colour in the areas of either the shadow or the sun.



This and many other activities, including how to make your own pterodactyl kite, can be found at:

<https://www.shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk/whats-on-at-shdc/spring-activities/>

Another activity sheet for you from Acton Scott Museum - how much can you score this time?

Go to: <https://www.facebook.com/ActonScottMuseum/> for a full-size version and more activities.

## Acton Scott Wildlife Spotting Challenge

Try your luck at wildlife spotting on your daily walk...  
Tick the boxes when you see one of them. Each picture scores once. Good luck!



10 Points  
Swallow



15 Points  
Forget-me-nots



10 Points  
Stitchwort



10 Points  
Butterfly



5 Points  
Bird box



20 Points  
Beetle



10 Points  
Holly



15 Points  
Feather



10 Points  
Horse Chestnut Tree



20 Points  
Rabbit



10 Points  
Squirrel



15 Points  
Buzzard



20 Points  
Woodlouse—look under a log



15 Points  
Spider



5 Points  
Pine cone



15 Points  
Dragonfly or damselfly



5 Points  
Cobweb

### How Did You Score?

Under 20	Nice Try
20 to 60	Not Bad
60 to 100	Good
100 to 130	Very Good
Over 130	Amazing!

# News Round Up & Notices

## **Purslow Show cancelled!**

Only twice in 74 years has the show been cancelled. The first time was due to extreme weather conditions in 2012 and this year because of a global pandemic.

## **A gentle reminder**

As we are not printing the Parish Post at the moment, and if you have a neighbour who does not use email or other social media, can you please, if it is safe for you to do so, print off a copy for them. Please encourage friends and neighbours to send us their email address so that we can add them to our list and let us know if you are happy to continue to receive it by email. Thank you

## **2020 Aston on Clun Craft & Collectables Market**

After much deliberation Andra and I have decided to cancel all the market dates until the end of 2020. We may try to organise a one off Christmas Market if circumstances permit. We are sorry to make this decision and will miss all our stallholders, and visitors from near and far. Hopefully, we will be revived and back in March 2021. Wishing you all well.

*Andra & Judith*

## **100 Club Notice**

Subscriptions for Clunbury 100 club are due in June. Please note that April and May draws will be back dated as soon as it is safe to do so. If you would like to join or continue to take part contact Mary 660316 or Maddy on 660458 cost £12

## **Press Release**

### **Marches - growing a local food network**

Some of you may know that a group of us are involved in trying to create a local food eco-system in our area.

With this in mind, a group of us invited Simon Platten of Tamar Grow Local community agriculture project in Devon to give a Zoom Seminar in early May. Simon's tale of a decade spent supporting a thriving ecosystem of small and large producers, from allotment growers through local market gardeners, to dairy farms with fifty staff, was inspiring.

While Devon and Shropshire are clearly not identical, there is much to be learned from this and other schemes and a group of us are meeting (virtually, on Zoom) to brainstorm ideas and to find ways we can help join up the people with spare land with those who want to grow (or keep bees, or help others), with those who can teach best practice that will enhance our soil and increase biodiversity while also helping to sequester carbon, all in the aim of producing good, nutritious local food. We will need administrators and people who want to run food hubs, plus - crucially - those who are good with spreadsheets!

NB: The key to this is that whatever we create is there to support existing local producers and help others who want to become producers to do so. If you're already producing, please come along. If this sounds like something you'd like to be involved in, please do sign up to our mailing list here: <http://eepurl.com/g2JdWr> or contact Manda Scott ([manda@mandascott.co.uk](mailto:manda@mandascott.co.uk)) or Lizzie Hulton-Harrop ([liz.hultonharrop@gmail.com](mailto:liz.hultonharrop@gmail.com)) for more details.

*Additional note: A list of some of Shropshire's organic producers of meat, dairy fruit and vegetables can be found on the Parish Post website.*