



Clunbury Parish Says A Huge Thank You

Thank you to all those people working with such dedication to keep the country functioning: the NHS frontline and backroom staff; care sector workers looking after people in their own homes and in residential care; all those working in shops to make sure we have access to food; the volunteers giving practical and emotional support; the bin men; the postmen and women; and all the many door-to-door delivery services that make our rural existence possible.

We are so lucky to have so many willing people going above and beyond in these extraordinary times. Throughout the Parish we clap, rattle our pans and bang our wheelie bin lids every Thursday at 8pm to thank each and every one of you.



Children's rainbows on Clunton bridge, picture Pat Harding



Lucy Lewis, Maisy, Charlie & Martin Angell outside their home in Kempton, picture Gisèle Wall

Sewing for the NHS Shropshire

Can you sew, have you got machines at home, are you at home isolating? Then you could help the NHS. **Sewing for the NHS Shropshire** have organised and co-ordinated a group through Facebook to support NHS workers by providing much needed PPE. To date 2,433 members have signed up and are beavering away at home making wash bags, head bands, scrubs and hats.



If you would like to help you can request to join the group on Facebook. If you do not have access to Facebook contact Catherine Crowther 07972 743613. She is the main contact for our area; she can let you know what is needed and arrange for collection. If you do not sew you can still help by donating to the Just Giving Page, Sewing for the NHS Shropshire. This

money will be used to buy materials to make what's needed. It feels good to be making a difference no matter how small and helping to protect those who are caring for us in these difficult times; it is our way of saying thank you.

Lynne Thompson

Please send your contributions by the 20th of each month

Easter Under Lockdown

This year there were no Easter services in our churches, and no gatherings of any sort allowed but our readers still managed to celebrate Easter with reverence and style.

Christina Whitehead writes: "It was especially meaningful when, by the kindness of Jeremy and Barbara Freeman, the cross was once again carried up Clunbury Hill for Easter. It was a great morale booster. It is such a powerful symbol and this year especially it can give us the encouragement and the faith that despite the virus we will come through this sadness and separation and we will be there at the crossroads next year to take the cross up the hill again".

And having no-one around to see (apart from partner Colin) didn't stop Claire Hern in Kempton from displaying a most beautiful Easter bonnet on her front door, or from laying out this vintage -style Easter breakfast!



Picture by Julia Mansfield

Both pictures below by Claire Hern



Clunbury & Clunton 100 Clubs

Due to the current crisis, both Clunbury and Clunton are suspending their 100 Club Draws until further notice. We will take a break until it is safe for us to meet to draw numbers and then deliver any winnings.

Purslow Sports and Show

It is not yet clear if this will be going ahead, but preparations are underway in case it can be held on Monday 31 August.

You can view or download documents, including the show tent items list, at <https://theparishpost.org/purslow-show/>, alternatively contact Annie Sutton 660141 or email atsutton@btinternet.com

Remembering Old Friends

Harry and Rene Collins

Harry and Rene Collins of Fold Farm in Clunton were so well known across a very wide area, especially amongst the farming fraternity.

It was with sadness that we heard on 30 March that Rene at age 98 had passed away peacefully in her sleep.

Harry died just 11 days later on Saturday 11 April. He had lived all his life at Fold Farm.

Harry and Rene had been married for almost 72 years. They were hard working farmers in Clunton, looking after around 400 Welsh Half-Bred sheep. Many a tale has been told of hard winters digging the sheep out of snow drifts. Harry was on the committee of the Welsh Half-Bred Sheep Breeders Association for many years, and was an experienced judge of sheep at agricultural shows.

Rene had a wonderful sense of humour and a lovely smile. She was a good cook and many have sat in their farmhouse kitchen enjoying some good wholesome food. A nice bit of fat bacon certainly didn't seem to have harmed them and as for the sugar that Harry heaped on his porridge and in his tea - well enough said!

Harry was churchwarden of St Mary's Church, Clunton, Chairman of Clunbury Parish Council, President of Purslow Sports, Show and Gymkhana, to mention just a few of the activities he was part of. He had always been a keen horseman, and ran the Purslow Gymkhana for many years and judged at the Anchor Show. "Always a thin wind up there" he would say.

There have been many happy times of celebrations, birthdays and anniversaries, surrounded by their family, neighbours and friends from near and far. They will be truly missed in Clunton, leaving a huge hole which will be hard to fill. Harry was such a character and enjoyed meeting and talking to everyone he met. We thank all those who spent time with him during the last few years, when he was not able to get out so well. His regular visits from Good Friends and neighbours popping in were much appreciated. He missed all his visitors during the recent difficult times.

It is tragic that during these times of isolation we are unable to give those who die a proper funeral. The church would have been packed to overflowing under normal circumstances. We look forward to a time when we can hold a thanksgiving service to remember them both and give thanks for their long lives. However, on 16 April friends and neighbours turned out in force to line the roads as their coffins passed by towards Clunbury church. A fitting tribute of love and respect to such a well-loved couple.



Remembering Old Friends

John Payne



John was a familiar face to many of us, sitting in a cloud of smoke behind the desk of 'John Payne Building Supplies'. "Yes, boss?", he'd say, and then would understand your requirements straightaway, often better than you did yourself! And he stored in his brain all the details of stock and prices, working out how much you owed in a jiffy, even without a calculator.

Some will remember the young John, waiting for his sweetheart Olive, outside her house in Kempton. Olive had a car accident in 1969. She recovered and they went on to get married.

Before starting the business in Aston-on-Clun, in 1980, John was manager at Walsh Graham's (which

we know now as Jewson's). His building supplies business went from strength to strength, more so than the fortunes of his football club, but he showed his loyalty by flying the Spurs flag alongside the Union Jack at the entrance to his premises on the Clun road.

A keen reader of the Parish Post he suggested that there should be less of history and nature and more of the personal goings-on (good and bad) of the neighbouring parish - one of his tongue in cheek remarks much enjoyed by those who knew him.

Our thoughts and best wishes are with Olive and family.

Parish Post Editorial Team

Bishop's Castle Poetry Pamphlet Raises Funds for the NHS

A poetry pamphlet to raise money for the NHS, edited by Deborah Alma (creator of The Poetry Pharmacy, Bishop's Castle) & Dr Katie Amiel has so far raised more than £2,000 for the NHS.

The anthology offers a unique insight into the real experiences of the people at the heart of the NHS – from the student nurse at the start of his career to the heart surgeon on the eve of her retirement. £9.99 from The Poetry Pharmacy. All proceeds go to NHS Charities Together which supports over 135 official NHS charities raising money for hospitals, ambulance services, community and mental health services across the UK. Contact Deborah Alma, <https://www.poetrypharmacy.co.uk/product/these-are-the-hands-poems-from-the-heart-of-the-nhs/> phone 638069 or email hello@poetrypharmacy.co.uk



Spring Animalia

What a beauty!

This exotically beautiful male Mandarin Duck was photographed recently by Wilfred Morris at the river in Purslow. The arrival of Mandarins in the parish was announced in the Parish Post of May 2011 under the headline



‘Chinese couple grace Kempton’ – so good things do come from there too!

But should we be welcoming introduced species such as this? We may come to find a downside – think of other exotic introductions which were doubtless welcomed at first, such as Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, Grey Squirrels and the Ring-neck Parakeets which are now causing problems in the south-east of England.

Some Kempton Residents Excluded from Lockdown Rules!

We ordinary mortals felt quite envious when we saw Kempton’s Hensomen Herd unleashed for its first day out of the year. The ladies in this picture look quite sedate and seem to be observing social distancing rules nicely, but take a look at the YouTube film taken by Fiona Hoskins (link below) and you’ll see quite a different story! We only got a brief glimpse of their first-day outing though; herd-owner Mike Windsor says that the cows are only let out for a short time initially as they need a smooth transition to get used to the exercise and to make sure the fresh grass doesn’t upset their stomachs.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbKzbJ6NkI0>

Rooks on the move?

Birdwatching has of course been curtailed by the current crisis, but counts of rookeries on local strolls



have continued, and there has been a notable change with the desertion of the sizable and well-established colony between the farm and the hall at Purslow, where there were 41 nests in 2019, but none this year, although there are three in a Walnut tree at the bottom of the Hundred House car park.

John Tucker of Aston-on-Clun, the local fount of ornithological knowledge, wonders whether they have redistributed to Aston (up 7 to 36 nests), Kempton (up 39 to 79) and a new site with 8 nests on the back lane from the Hundred House to Kempton.

Article & picture Tom and Gisèle Wall



Apart But Not Alone

The phrase 'Apart but not alone' is taken from the leaflet advertising Bishop's Castle's new Community Food Bank and it seems to sum up how our community is responding and adapting to our extraordinary new circumstances.

Parish Support Co-ordination

Clunton: There are many volunteers willing to chat, deliver shopping, collect prescriptions, even advise on gardening, etc. Angie Salmon is the central co-ordinator angiejsalmon@btinternet.com, or phone 661025. For Tuffins orders, give her your order by 6pm on Wednesdays for Friday delivery. Phone The Crown Inn at Clunton 660265 to order a veg box, off-licence beer and/or a Thursday evening takeaway meal. Angie will co-ordinate delivery to your door if you need it.

Clunbury: Wall's butcher will deliver direct to your doorstep on Wednesday and Friday; phone your order to 672308 and pay by card. For Tuffins, the Ludlow Traveller (LT) is offering a free order and delivery service: phone 01584 700907 by midday Friday – they will take the order to Tuffins who will then call the customer for payment by card. LT will collect from Tuffins and deliver to your door the following Tuesday. For Hundred House veg boxes phone 660541, delivery to your door, pay on receipt with a £20 note in an envelope. For any other help please call Barbara Freeman 660629 or Judith Payling 660292; they will try and find someone to help you or give you information, including putting you in touch with someone who can collect prescriptions.

Kempton: For Wall's meat orders, please contact Fiona Hoskins cflh@sky.com 660192 with your order by 10am on Wednesdays for Thursday delivery. Volunteers will organise and deliver to your house from a central location in the village. Claire Hern is co-ordinating Tuffins deliveries, place your order with her cecchetti08@aol.com 660844 by Tuesday for delivery on Friday. This system will start on Tuesday 5 May for Friday 8 May. As with Wall's, volunteers will deliver to your house from a central location in the village.

Other Food Producers and Deliveries (new from last month)

Amanda's Breads: Deadlines for ordering are Monday for delivery on Thursday, and Wednesday for delivery on Saturday. Thursday deliveries are after 2pm, Saturdays are throughout the day. Delivery can be to your house or to a collection point near you. Contact asimpsonatkins1@gmail.com, phone 07759 939526.

Marlon's at No19: Nutritious and delicious home cooking from Marlon and Liz's café in Bishop's Castle. Frozen meals in single portions and a range of sweet treats. Contact Liz.moran1969@btinternet.com, phone 680067 or 07966 230026. Delivery routes: **Thursday** - Edgton, Kempton, Aston on Clun, Hopesay, Broome, Clunbury. **Friday** - Brockton, Colebatch, Bishop's Castle, Mellington, Lydham. **Saturday** - Lydbury North, Clun, Clunton, Purslow, Mainstone, Banks Head. To other areas and at other times by arrangement.

Bishop's Castle Foodbank: A new foodbank is up and running. Open Mondays and Thursdays 2-4pm at the Methodist Church Hall, Station Street, Bishop's Castle. If you need its provisions but are not able to get there, please phone Andy Spelman 07773 006413; he will arrange a home delivery.

For information on business support, children's welfare, vulnerable adults, activities for children and much more, go to <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

Letter to the Editor

Fish Stunning in Rivers

Within the past 10 days, there have been 2 reports of 2 men stunning the fish in the Rivers Kemp and Clun, in broad daylight, with the intent of illegal catching. It is thought that they travel in a grey Peugeot van. Please be aware and report back to Rural Watch on 01588 660629.

Barbara Freeman

Until Further Notice

June Parish Post

It seems likely that at least some form of lockdown and social distancing requirements will still be in place by the time of our next edition on 1 June. Therefore, until further notice we will continue to circulate the Parish Post by email only.

If you have a neighbour who does not use email or other social media, please, if you can and if it is safe for you to do so, print off a copy for them.

Also please encourage friends and neighbours to send us their email address so that we can add them to our list.



CONTACTS

The Parish Post website:

<https://theparishpost.org>

Email: theparishpost@gmail.com

Phone: Lynne Thompson 661180
or Pat Harding 660169

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.

Cat under Lockdown

My cat has been adapting to the lockdown rather well, it must be said.

She leaves the sofa for very limited purposes, exercising once a day in the flowerbeds,

never failing to wash her paws for at least two hours upon her return.

She no longer meets friends or relatives who do not live in her home,

but contents herself in catching up with them

on Skype or Zoom. Should other cats

intrude on her territory, she's always careful

to maintain her social hiss stance,

and she deplors the action of her neighbour

who has been stockpiling mice for weeks.

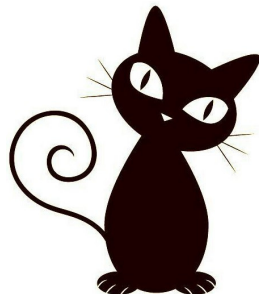
She bears it all with great fortitude although she knows everything is changed,

and, when the ambulances go by, they wake her and she looks at me

as if to say, don't worry, I'm here, I have no plans to go anywhere.

Brian Bilston

(circulated, he says, "with the kind permission of my cat").



For our Younger Readers

Calling young people aged 5-13, get your pencils sharpened and your imaginations fired up to enter this Shropshire-themed short story competition.

The competition is organised jointly between Button & Bear Bookshop in Shrewsbury and the University of Nottingham.

Your story needs to be a maximum of 500 words and must be based on one of the following twelve words, which all have a Shropshire link. The words to choose from are:

Fort; Viking; Bears; Witch; Goblins; Swamp; Queen; Archers; Dragons; Giants; Lynx; Forge.

The competition closes on Sunday 14 June. Prizes will be awarded in two groups - ages 5 to 9 and ages 10 to 13. Find all the details on how to enter at:

<https://www.learningthroughlanguage.co.uk/competition>

Try your hand at making this handsome origami T-rex, courtesy of the Natural History Museum
<http://ow.ly/iVdb30qyYGV>



See how much you can score on this wild flower activity sheet from Acton Scott Museum.

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

Wild Flower Peek-a-Boo!



Dandelion 5



Dandelion clock 5



Stitchwort 5



Snowdrop 15



Bluebell 10



Primrose 15



Jack-by-the-hedge 10



Wood sorrel 15



Violet 20



Forget-me-not 20



Celandine 10



Ramson 10



Herb Robert 10



Daffodil 10



Wild arum 20



Wood anemone 10



Red campion 10

Tick each plant if you see it and add up the scores next to each tick

How Did You Score?

Under 20

Nice Try

20 to 60

60 to 100

100 to 130

Over 130

Not Bad

Good

Very Good

Amazing!

Why not try again in a month

& see if there is a difference