

The Parish Post

Number 77
Dec 16/Jan 17

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year to all our readers from the Parish Post

Festive Tea

Clunbury Village Hall
29 December
from 3pm



Free entry
Hamper Raffles

Christmas Coffee Morning

The Crown Inn, Clunton

Wednesday 7 December
from 10.30am

Entry: £1 for coffee & biscuits

The Charity Book Shop



Wondering what presents to get
for Christmas?

*Why not visit our bookshop
in Craven Arms?*

We will have a table of
pristine books for sale
all through November
and December

Don't forget:
Our wonderful collection of
Antiquarian Books
also make great presents

Everyone is invited to the
Clunbury School

FAMILY BINGO!

Wednesday 14 December

Clunbury Village Hall

Eyes down 6pm

Fantastic Prizes!

Refreshments provided

All proceeds to Clunbury School

Please send your next contributions by 20 January 2017

Parish Post AGM
18 January, 7.30pm
Clunton Village Hall
All welcome

Bishop's Castle Railway Museum
OPEN EVENING

School Lane, off the High Street,
 Bishop's Castle

Saturday 3 December
4pm—8pm

Free Entry

Barry Norman's 'S' Gauge Model, Lydham
 Heath will be in full operation



Christmas presents

for the railway enthusiast:

*railway prints, books, replica wagon
 & engine plates*

News from South West
Shropshire Gardening Club



"Blossom and Bullets"

Wednesday 21 December, 7.30pm
Lydbury North Village Hall

Our Christmas celebration this year is exploring a Japanese theme. One of our members, Allison Walter and her husband Martin, have kindly agreed to give us a flavour of their 2015 travels in Japan, sharing tales and images of their high-speed rail journeys on Japan's "bullet" trains coupled with visits to some exquisite gardens and historical landmarks in the iconic and beautiful "cherry blossom" season.

We are asking everyone to bring a plate of finger food to share and their own drinks. A glass of mulled wine will greet you to start the party with a swing! Tables will be decorated in keeping with our Japanese theme, complete with an opportunity to try your hand at origami (the Japanese art of paper folding, not a painful form of physical exercise, in case you were wondering!)

Queries to Sandy Burton 680454 or Carol Clarke 660753 or online at www.gardeningshropshire.co.uk

Angie Salmon

An Exciting Exhibition Coming to the Clun Valley

From Saturday 17 December until Sunday 1 January, St George's Church in Clun will be holding a rather special exhibition. On loan from St George's United Reform Church, Hartlepool, the exhibition depicts 33 of the better known Bible stories from the Old and New Testaments. Each of the characters, animals, and many of the props have been cleverly knitted, showing skill and tremendous attention to detail. It is called **The Knitted Bible**.



It is a fun exhibition suitable for all ages. Come and see Daniel in the lion's den, Jonah and the whale, Moses being found in the bulrushes and later bringing down, from the mountain, the Ten Commandments, Noah's Ark complete with snails and Christ's triumphant ride into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Each story is simply told. Although, on one level, it is a collection of knitted figures, the whole thing comes together to form a moving account of 33 well known Bible stories. This is suitable for the young and not so young alike – stories children read in their children's Bible or hear about in school, and stories most adults remember from their childhood. The exhibition is free and is open every day between 9.30am and 4pm.

Further information from Joan Kerry, churchwarden 640401.



The Last Supper

100 Club

Steven Cornes £20; Nick Matveieff £15;
 Anne Williams £10; Pat Turley £5; Jean
 Christian £3.

Parish Council Meeting 17/11

Present: 6 councillors, the clerk + 2 members of the public

AED Kempton: A new defibrillator is being installed and action to avoid previous problems is being taken. A relaunching of the group will take place soon.

Planning

Poultry sheds at Hurst Barn: No further forward. A Planning Committee meeting is due on 6 December in Shrewsbury. Two councillors visited a broiler shed at Meadow End; the shed had been cleaned recently and filled with new 4-day-old chicks. It was therefore difficult to judge the impact of the operation on the area.

Clun Farm: the planning application for 2 barns was not objected to; the barns would be bigger but would be superior in every way to the present arrangement.

2 Walcot Avenue: application for an extension. No decision.

Lower Coston Farm: this application for a change of use (to: 'use by a rural worker employed in the locality') lacked clarity. Cllr Croxton will investigate further.

St Mary's Cottage, Clunton: an application for solar panels has been turned down for visual impact reasons. Cllr Davies to investigate.

Local Joint Committee

Health issues: The future of Clun surgery and pharmacy seems safe; however, 'open surgery' will no longer be available and an 'appointment only' system will apply instead.

The future of the Health Service in Shropshire is still uncertain. There will be a consultation meeting soon. Look out for the date in local papers as it is most important to attend.

Due to a lack of funding from Central Government, the cost of social care in rural areas can no longer be met. As the number of hospital beds are being cut, more frail and elderly people will require help at home and will have to pay for this

themselves, which some will not be able to afford.

SpArC: appears to be safe for another year, but the future is still uncertain.

Roads: Potholes have been repaired quickly, but not thoroughly.

B4385 at Kempton: at a meeting with some residents, Glyn Shaw from the Council, said that the police would not support any other than a 50mph mandatory limit. People from Kempton feel that this is insufficient: all exits from the village are hazardous, particularly as many people drive too fast. Other solutions would include more signage or interactive signs. The latter are expensive (about £3,700 each) and the Parish Council doesn't have the funds to help with this. However it was suggested that interactive signs should be applied for from Shropshire Council, but there is a long waiting list. Cllr M Jones suggested that visibility at one of the Kempton exits could be improved if a hedge were to be cut back further. He will contact the owner.

Safer Roads Partnership in Clunton: Cllr Harding reported that her repeated efforts at getting the police to come and observe had failed so far. It was suggested that the police should be asked to come and discuss solutions for the whole parish.

Correspondence

SpArC: A request for support was received. Cllr Croxton doubted how much use people from Clunbury Parish made of SpArC.

AONB (Area of Outstanding National Beauty): A request for a letter of support was discussed, as, from 2019 there will be no European money to support the AONB. Cllr Croxton doubted the usefulness of the AONB, Cllr S Jones and Cllr Davies felt that the AONB represented a view that must be heard and expressed the wish to investigate further. The item will be put on the agenda again for the next meeting.

Phone boxes: BT has warned that the future of the 3 phone boxes in the parish is threatened. They could be 'adopted' (ie kept in place, but without a phone inside). First reports from the public show that residents feel that BT is a service provider and, as such, has a duty to keep the phone boxes available, if only for emergencies (**NOTE: in case of emergency, you can dial 999 without inserting money or a card**). Shropshire Council has a right to veto BT's plans. A response will be sent to the Council to ask them to exercise this right. This must be done before 28 November.

Broadband: If the County Council cannot deliver adequate broadband, a private company could intervene. Cllr Hartin had written to ask the Parish Council to support a public meeting with this private company to discuss the issues and the possible solutions. The Council agreed.

Finances: In the accounts: approx £6,780; Expenses to pay: approx £560. A new, cheaper 3-year contract for electricity was accepted.

AOB: One of the 3 ashes at the *Twitchen* has been chopped down. Cllr Bailey to investigate who did this and why.

The *footpath monitor* who had kindly accepted this duty cannot continue. **Any volunteer to become a Tree/Footpath Warden?**

Elections: There will be elections next year. **If people are not on the electoral register or need to change details, go to: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or phone: 0345 678 9015. If you wish to become a Parish Councillor, you will need to get a nomination form.**

Next meeting: 12/1/17, Clunton VH, 8pm.

Gisèle Wall & Sheila Downes

Note from Cllr Harding after the meeting: "The original 3 ash trees were on the grass triangle. Only one left now. 3 replacement ash trees were planted in the hedgerow opposite - near the notice board and one has been chopped down by Western Power as likely to cause a problem with overhead power lines. Only a stump left. Nothing known about permission."

A Great Promise

Clunbury held another Promise Auction at the Hundred House, raising in the region of £3,700 for St Swithin's Church. A special thank you to all the helpers and generous donors and bidders, as well as our Auctioneer, Les Thomas, and Sue and Matthew for their hospitality, all contributing to an enjoyable and successful evening.

Maddy Matveieff

Any Excuse for a Christmas Kiss?

We established last month that Gorse was still flowering in our parish – confirmation, if such were needed, that kissing remains in fashion in our neck of the woods (sorry, the pun just dropped onto the page and had to be embraced). But do we have any Mistletoe beneath which a kiss may be claimed? Do please let us know if you are aware of any growing in the parish.



If you should go looking for Mistletoe, concentrate your efforts on Hawthorn, Apple and Lime, the principal host trees in the county. Some years ago I tried 'grafting' berries onto a number of Hawthorns in our garden in Kempton and failed, but, somewhat vexatiously, a sprig then appeared 'spontaneously' on one of our Apple trees, though it has since shrivelled to nothing.

Should you spot Mistletoe growing on an Oak, you are on to something. Some years ago a nationwide search found just eleven examples in England and Wales, of which seven were in Herefordshire – the Mistletoe capital of the UK. But two of these were no distance away – one in Leintwardine churchyard and the other in the park at Brampton Bryan.

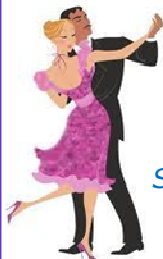
Tom Wall

CONTACTS Email: theparishpost@gmail.com Website: www.theparishpost.org

Phone: Sheila Downes 660626 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.

New Year's Eve Dance Aston on Clun Village Hall



Celebrate the New Year coming in with friends old and new, from eight till late

Live music for all ages
Special guest Beccy Lee, resident vocalist at the Grand Hotel, Llandudno

Bring your own drinks and food to share on our communal buffet

Information and Tickets £10
from Wendy Heighway 660218

Early booking advised
(Surplus proceeds donated to Air Ambulance)

Admission by ticket only

Clunbury Village Hall
presents

A Film and Supper Night

Film:  **2016**

Saturday 14 January 2017, 7pm

Bangers and Mash
(vegetarian option available)
and old fashioned puds

Cost £7.50 (under 12: £5.50)
Bring your own drinks

Contact Eirlys Ellams 660625
or email ellams999@btinternet.com

News from South West Shropshire Gardening Club



Wednesday 25 January 2017, 7.30pm

Lydbury North Village Hall

The Welsh Historic Gardens Trust
A talk by Glynis Shaw

Come and explore Welsh gardens with histories of heroic restoration. Aberglasny has been described as a magical "lost garden of Wales" in the Tywi valley. It includes the only surviving Elizabethan cloister garden and parapet walk in Britain, which has been rescued from years of abandonment and neglect. Many parks and gardens are at risk in Wales, having suffered from neglect, inappropriate development, diseases such as *Phytophthora ramorum* (causing "Sudden Oak Death"), invasive species and ignorance. See p2 for enquiries details.

Angie Salmon

Twelfth Night Supper

Clunton Village Hall

Saturday 7 January, 7pm

Licensed bar and raffle

Tickets: £8

to include a glass of mulled wine

Under 16s: £4; under 5s: free

Tickets available from Committee members

Clunbury Village Hall Annual General Meeting

Monday 9 January, 7.30pm

This will be an open meeting

All welcome

Why not come along; enjoy a glass of mulled wine & a mince pie and share your thoughts and ideas for the coming year



Clunton Scrumpers Quiz & Light Supper

With complimentary apple drink

28 January, 7pm

Clunton Village Hall

Food Raffle Fun

Tickets and information from Pauline Edie on 660120 or Anne Shepherdson on 660309

One for the Bake-Off?

As one brought up in France, I am often asked how we celebrate Christmas; apart from the fact that the celebrations take place on Christmas Eve (until the early hours of the morning) rather than on Christmas Day, the ingredients are pretty similar. However, there is one tradition which I have never encountered in England, that of the 'Fête des Rois' (the Feast of the Kings).

In origin, it was apparently a pagan custom: at the end of December/beginning of January, the Romans celebrated the god Saturn. This was the opportunity for memorable binges and for the slaves to criticise their masters. A dry bean was put in one of the dishes and the slave who was lucky enough to find it in his portion became the King of the Day; all his wishes would be realised (probably within reason: would he have been allowed to send his masters to the lions?) until he returned to his normal status the following day.

To end these pagan feasts, the Church is said to have designated this period as the Epiphany which celebrates the arrival of the 3 Kings in Bethlehem. This became the occasion for a get together and a more subdued feast; which is what it continues to be today. On 6 January, the bakers sell the galette (a round almond-flavoured pie), complete with a golden cardboard crown.

Inside the galette there is a 'bean' (replaced nowadays by a more sophisticated figurine). The galette is cut in as many pieces as there are guests and the youngest child is asked to disappear under the table. As each piece is served the child, who can't see the piece, is asked: "Who is it for?" and the child chooses one of the party, until all the pieces have been distributed. The person who gets the 'bean' is the King (or Queen) for the day, wears the crown, and may choose his Queen/King, by placing the 'bean' in that person's



glass of bubbly, which is, of course, served with the galette.

We are told that every year a galette with a diameter of 1.2 m/4ft, to cater for 150 people, is served at the Elysée; however, it has no 'bean' in it, as it would be inappropriate to find a king in the presidential palace of the Republic. If you are tempted to make a galette, albeit of a more manageable size; here is the recipe.

Ingredients: for 8 people

400g best puff pastry (made with butter)

Some plain flour for dusting

1 egg (for egg wash)

A 'bean'

For the frangipane filling

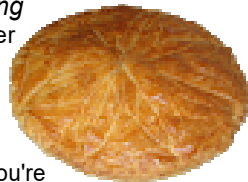
100g unsalted butter
(softened)

100g icing sugar

100g ground almonds

4 eggs

almond essence (if you're not too keen on almond, use some alcohol of your choice)



Oven 200°C/400°F/Gas 6

Roll out the pastry, on a dusted surface, into 2 rings about 30cm across and 2mm thick. Keep them in the fridge while you make the filling. Whisk the butter and icing sugar well. Add the almonds and whisk again. Add the eggs one by one and then the almond essence, whisking well after each addition.

Line a baking sheet with greaseproof paper. Place one of the circles on the baking sheet. Brush around the edge with the egg wash. Spread the frangipane on the circle leaving about 2cm around the edge and place the 'bean' in it. Place the other circle on top and seal the 2 circles, pressing all round the edge. Using a small knife lightly score the top to make an attractive design. Glaze the top with the remaining egg wash. Cook for 15mn, then reduce the temperature to 180°/350°/Gas 4, for another 15mn. Have a crown and the bubbly at the ready. Bonne chance! Gisèle

Events Diary for DECEMBER 2016 (see next page for January 2017)

Fri 2	7.30pm	BC Railway Society Tom Rolt—Tony Hirst	Methodist Hall, BC
Sat 3	4-8pm	BC Railway Museum Open Evening	BC Railway Museum
Sat 3	7pm	Soups & Puds for St. Mary's Church-660169	The Orchard, Clunton
Sat 3	7.30pm	Flicks-Florence Foster Jenkins-640254	Clun Memorial Hall
Sun 4	11.15am	Morning Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 4	6pm	Songs of Praise in four-part harmony. Tel 661171 for info.	Kempton Village Hall
Mon 5	9-11.30am	Parent&Toddler Group-every Mon in term time. Just turn up	Clunbury Village Hall
Tue 6	Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am,		Obley 12.45-12.55pm
Tue 6	7.30pm	Flicks—Oliver-680302	Lydbury North Village Hall
Wed 7		Quiz—proceeds to Midlands Air Ambulance	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Wed 7	8pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society—Hear My Song	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Thu 8	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Thu 8		Tim's Travels—Liverpool Christmas Shopping - 640506	
Fri 9	7.30pm	Flicks-Florence Forster Jenkins	Bedstone Village Hall
Sat 10	5.55pm	Met Opera-L'Amour de Loin-638038/630321	SpArC
Sun 11	11.15am	CW Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Wed 14	6pm	Family Bingo for Clunbury School Funds	Clunbury Village Hall
Thu 15	7pm	NT Live—No Man's Land-660493/660893	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Thu 15	7pm	NT Live—No Man's Land-638038/630321	SpArC
Fri 16		Clunbury School Last Day of Term	
Fri 16	7pm	Carol Service	St Mary's, Clunton
Fri 16	7.30pm	Live: Kit Hawes & Aaron Catlow-638038/630321	SpArC
Fri 16	8pm	Flicks—Absolutely Fabulous:The Movie 660727/660781	Parish Hall, Cluntonford
Sat 17	10am-12.30pm	Craft & Collectables Market-Last Minute Gifts	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sat 17-1	Jan 9.30am-4pm	The Knitted Bible Exhibition-640401	St George's, Clun
Sun 18	5pm	Carol Service	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Mon 19	3.30pm	Flicks—The BFG-638038/630321	SpArC
Mon 19	Early evening	Broad Band Update Meeting	Clunbury Village Hall
Tue 20	Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am,		Obley 12.45-12.55pm
Wed 21	7.30pm	SWS Gardening Club-Christmas Supper and "Blossom & Bullets: A journey round Japanese Gardens"	Lydbury North Village Hall
Thu 22	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Sun 25	11.15am	United CW Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Mon 26	7.30pm	Live Acoustic Folk Music	The Crown Inn, Clunton
Thu 29	From 3pm	Festive Tea	Clunbury Village Hall
Sat 31		New Year's Eve Dance-660218	Aston on Clun Village Hall

Advance Notice

**Tools for Self Reliance
South Shropshire and Borders**

Will be hosting a coffee morning/tea party
Sat 11 February 2017, 10am to 1pm
at Clun Hightown Community Room

*All local African charities are invited to
have a stall. To book a stall contact
Dave on 640550*

Don't Miss the Christmas Post!

Last December Posting Dates:

Inland

2nd class: Monday 20

1st class: Tuesday 21

Airmail

Australia: Saturday 10

Canada, USA: Thursday 15

Europe: Friday 16



Events Diary for JANUARY 2017

Sun 1	9.45am	Benefice United Worship	St George's, Clun
Sun 1	6pm	Songs of Praise in four-part harmony. Tel 661171 for info.	Kempton Village Hall
Tue 3	Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am, Obley 12.45-12.55pm		
Wed 4		Clunbury School First Day of Spring Term	
Wed 4		Quiz—proceeds to Midlands Air Ambulance	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Wed 4	8pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society-Anomalisa	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Thu 5	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Fri 6	7.30pm	BC Railway Society Ron Davies Films	Methodist Hall, BC
Sat 7	7pm	Twelfth Night Supper-tickets from committee members	Clunton Village Hall
Sun 8	11.15am	BCP Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Mon 9	9-11.30am	Parent&Toddler Group-every Mon in term time. Just turn up	Clunbury Village Hall
Mon 9	7.30pm	Clunbury Village Hall AGM	Clunbury Village Hall
Wed 11	7pm	RSC-The Tempest-638038/630321	SpArC
Thu 12	8pm	Parish Council Meeting	Clunton Village Hall
Sat 14	7pm	Film-Dad's Army 2016 with supper-660625	Clunbury Village Hall
Sat 14	7.30pm	Flicks—Money Monster-640254	Clun Memorial Hall
Sun 15	6.30pm	United Evening Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Tue 17	Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am, Obley 12.45-12.55pm		
Wed 18	8pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society—Tangerines	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Wed 18	7.30pm	Parish Post AGM	Clunton Village Hall
Thu 19	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Fri 20	8pm	Flicks—Eddie the Eagle 660727/660781	Parish Hall, Clungunford
Sun 22	11.15am	United CW Holy Communion	St Mary's, Clunton
Mon 23	7.30pm	Live Acoustic Folk Music	The Crown Inn, Clunton
Wed 25	7.30pm	SWS Gardening Club-The Welsh Historic Gardens Club	Lydbury North Village Hall
Thu 26	7pm	Flicks-Hunt for the Wilderpeople-630321/638038	SpArC
Sat 28	7pm	Clunton Scrumpers Quiz	Clunton Village Hall
Sun 29	9.30am 11.15am	Benefice United Holy Communion Benefice United Service	St George's, Clun St George's, Clun
Tue 31	Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am, Obley 12.45-12.55pm		

Blue Dots? Connecting Shropshire's Broadband Plans for our Area

Shropshire Council is inviting bids for a new phase of Connecting Shropshire (CS)'s broadband programme. Using public funding, this phase is designed to bring fast broadband connections to properties for which no commercial provision is planned.

However, the company known as Secure Web Services (SWS), is offering to extend its network coverage to our area without public funding. This would be a wireless, not a fibre cable service. In the light of this, the properties of the majority of Parish Post readers are marked by a blue dot on the map to be found on Connecting Shropshire's web page (<http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/public-consultation-outcome/>). Although these properties would be precluded from the publicly-funded programme, CS would review the progress made by SWS and, if it is unable to deliver within 2 years, CS's Chris Taylor can bring the blue-dotted premises back into public-funded support. Alternatives such as community-funded supply via BT/Openreach and other fibre based service providers are also being explored. A meeting with SWS will be held in Clunbury on 19 December, late afternoon/early evening. **Good broadband is an economic and social necessity and our community should not be left out.** Let steve.charmley@shropshire.gov.uk (deputy council leader with responsibility for the roll out), know your views. More info: contact Matthew Trustman on 660129 or Nigel Holland on 661192. **Please check if your home or business is blue-dotted and come along on 19 Dec.**