



A Merry Christmas to all our readers from The Parish Post Team

## Festive Wreath Making Workshop

Saturday 12 December

**9.30am – 1.00pm**

Clunbury Village Hall

Attend the workshop & make your own Christmas wreath

Tickets £12.50 inc refreshments  
Materials will be supplied but please feel free to bring trimmings

Numbers are limited

Tickets from Lynne Thompson  
661180

**11.00am – 12.30pm**

Come for coffee, tea & cake & see what's going on £2.00 per person

Come & buy your Christmas Wreath & other festive goods

In aid of local  
Air Ambulance



Winter Warmer

Clunton Village Hall

**Saturday 5 December, 7.00pm**

A warming winter stew, vegetarian option, plus puddings and an evening of entertainment by Val Littlehales with Christmas Carols and Songs led by Mike Fox

Tickets £8.00 (11 to 16: £4, u11 free)  
inc mulled wine and a mince pie  
Raffle Licensed bar

Tickets from Committee Members



Everyone is invited to the  
Clunbury School

# CHRISTMAS BINGO!

Tuesday 1st December

Clunbury Village Hall

Eyes down 6.00pm

Fantastic Prizes!

Refreshments provided

All proceeds to Clunbury School



## Christmas Joy at St Swithin's Church

Our annual Parish Carol Service, overflowing with mulled wine, mince pies and all the familiar carols and readings, is on 20 December at 5pm led by our new Vicar, Rev Simon Mondon.

Why not make it an opportunity to distribute Christmas cards to neighbours. Last posting day for 2<sup>nd</sup> class will have gone by then, but 1<sup>st</sup> class is the 21<sup>st</sup>...

A bit late for Christmas card distribution is the candlelit Midnight Communion at 11pm on 24 December, led by Rev Simon Mondon, this is a wonderful moment of stillness and thoughtfulness before the celebration of Christmas Day.

*Christina Whitehead*

Please send your next contribution by 20 January 2016

## St Mary's Church, Clunton Coffee Morning

Wednesday From  
9 December, 10.30am

At the **Crown Inn**

Entry : £1 Raffle,  
for coffee and a  
and biscuits. Christmas  
Bring and Buy



## Remembrance Poppies

If you still have not thrown away your remembrance poppy, do let any member of the PCC at St Swithin's have it – we hope to make use of the discarded poppies in 2018 to help Clunbury Parish mark the end of the Great War. You will also find a box for used poppies in the Church porch.



## Thanks to Ann Wadsworth

The St Swithin's PCC were all very disappointed and sorry to receive the resignation of Ann Wadsworth. Ann was elected onto the PCC in 1994 and has been a hard-working and valuable member throughout this time. She has been Deputy Church Warden for eight years. Church Warden, Christina Whitehead, said "She was an enormous help and will be missed very much". Nothing was ever too much trouble as she gave a cheery welcome to the congregation, gave out the service books and kept charge of the key, opening and closing St Swithin's regularly. Ann spent many years as voluntary cleaner of the church, always doing a very thorough job, resulting in it being immaculate. She was responsible for delivering the Deanery Magazine around Clunbury. She printed attractive posters and tickets for our fundraising events and was always willing to contribute delicious food. At the end of the day Ann was at the sink doing the washing up and still managed a joke and a smile.



We are very grateful for all Ann's great contributions, and her presence on the PCC will be missed immensely. However, she deserves a rest, and we look forward to seeing her at our services in the future and enjoying herself at the social events.

*Julia Brereton, PCC Secretary*

## Aston-on-Clun Last Minute Gift Market

Saturday 19 December, 10am-12.00pm  
Aston Village Hall

## Don't Miss the Christmas Post!

Last December Posting Dates:

### Inland

2nd class: Saturday 19

1st class: Monday 21

### Airmail

Australia: Thursday 10

Canada, USA: Tuesday 15

Europe: Thursday 17



## Shropshire Harmony Quire

present a

**Concert**

of

**West Gallery Carols**

West Gallery music is energetic and rousing and very melodic. It is what would have been sung and played in rural parish churches in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries

**Saturday 5 December**

**7.00pm**

**St Cuthbert's Church, Clungunford**

£6 includes refreshments

Enquiries/bookings 661056 or 630446

## Clunbury 100 Club November Winners

£20 Max and Sam Wadsworth; £15 Bernard Pugh; £10 Annie Sutton; £5 Barbara Freeman; £3 David Hill

## News from South West Shropshire Gardening Club

Our Christmas Celebration: a talk and supper from

**Fordhall Organic Farm**

**Wednesday 16 December**



**A**fter the huge success of our Spanish themed evening last Christmas, we knew we had to find something special to follow this year. With Charlotte Hollins and her inspirational talks and delicious food from Fordhall Organic Farm – we are in for another treat!

Charlotte's father Arthur took over the tenancy of the farm in 1915 at the age of fourteen. In the 1940s he adopted organic principles which are still very much at the heart of the farm today. Today, Fordhall is England's first community-owned farm, with one farmer, Ben, and 8,000 landlords! It is a unique, pioneering and inspirational place. Come and enjoy their organic produce with us.

The party will be held at Lydbury North Village Hall at 7.30. Tickets are £15 for members and £20 for non members. For bookings, see contacts below.

**“Alpines, Dwarf Bulbs and Hardy Cyclamen”, Jim Almond  
Wednesday 27 January**

**T**his talk is all about the joys of growing alpines and dwarf bulbs, tips on cultivation, good plants for particular seasons and a brief look at Jim's other 'activities'. Expect a riot of colour and 'conversion' to alpines - they can grow well given the right treatment!

It is free to members of South West Shropshire Gardening Club; visitors are also welcome at £5 per person including refreshments. Any further queries to our Chairman, Carol Clarke 660753 or our Secretary, Allison Walter 620055 or look at our website:

[www.gardeningshropshire.co.uk](http://www.gardeningshropshire.co.uk)

Angie Salmon

## Clunbury Village Hall AGM

**Monday 4 Jan 7.30pm**

in the Hall

This will be a very informal meeting, come along and enjoy a glass of mulled wine and have your say if you wish.

## New Clun Valley Correspondent

**R**os Patching has succeeded Elisabeth Taylor as our local correspondent for the South Shropshire Journal, the Ludlow Advertiser and the Shropshire Star. If you want to advertise any local events contact her on 640772 or at [clunpatch@btinternet.com](mailto:clunpatch@btinternet.com). The deadline is the Thursday of the week before the publication.

## Burns' Night

**Kempton Village Hall  
Saturday 30 January**

from 6.30pm



Traditional Haggis Supper  
will be served at 7pm  
*(or vegetarian haggis if  
ordered when booking)*



Tea & Coffee included

*Please bring any other drinks*

Music by

**Anything Goes**

Tickets: £10

Bookings: Richard Bright 660250 or  
Margaret Goodwin 660388

*Please book by Saturday 23 January*

## Clunbury Christmas Tree Festival Cancelled

**E**irlys Ellams would like to thank those who expressed an interest in taking part, but unfortunately this event has had to be cancelled due to lack of enough support.

## Future Fit Update

**S**hropshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) – the doctors who dreamed up the Future Fit plan – is now in special measures and under the direct control of NHS England. This is NOT because the CCG isn't providing proper care for us, but because Future Fit, as currently planned, will not provide enough cuts to cover the existing budget deficit and keep the CCG solvent in the years ahead.

This has confirmed the belief of many critics who claimed that Future Fit was designed to cut costs and not a genuine attempt to reshape health services in order to provide us with better quality care.

The NHS England official sent in to run the CCG says there will be new plans soon, and she is bringing in a 'turnaround team' to manage the deficit and the expected 'winter crisis' caused by seasonal illnesses. Shropshire CCG will have to pay for the 'turnaround team' imposed on it, and this extra cost will come from dwindling funds that should be used for our healthcare.

Determined campaigning has forced NHS officials into a public promise not to close one of our two accident and emergency departments this winter. But unfortunately there is enough wriggle room for them to close one A & E 'temporarily' on staff and/or patient safety grounds. Inevitably there are fears that once one is shut, for whatever reason, it may never re-open, even when or if conditions improve.

There are still no plans for any investment in the ambulance service in order to improve attendance waiting times which remain among the worst in the country.

Plans for rural urgent care centres at local hospitals like Ludlow and Bishop's Castle (one of the really good ideas in the original Future Fit) are in a state of

flux. At a health forum meeting chaired by Philip Dunne, a Future Fit official admitted that there will be no money to set up these centres until about four or five years down the line.

But, at a recent Shropshire CCG board meeting, there was a tacit admission that bed-blocking by patients fit to be transferred from Shrewsbury and Telford acute hospitals will not be reduced until there is sensible co-operation with community hospitals – which are run by a different NHS Trust and have their own financial problems and performance boxes to tick. Earlier this year Ludlow Hospital closed a whole ward and there are no known plans to re-open it, despite cases where vulnerable Ludlow patients have had to be sent to other local hospitals, miles away from their families and friends.

There is evidence that Shropshire CCG was underfunded from the start and therefore very unlikely to operate without running up a deficit unless it slashes services. Although NHS England admitted, a year ago, that healthcare in rural areas like ours costs significantly more, the expected 'rural premium' has never been paid. Shropshire is also doubly disadvantaged because areas with an ageing population – and we have one of the highest in the country – actually receive less per person under the new NHS funding formula.

## Hips and Knees Update

Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group has refused to change its controversial joint replacement policy to reduce operations. But it will 'monitor' the situation and carry out a full review next March.

In a direct challenge at the recent CCG board meeting, Dr Julian Povey – the doctor who proposed the cut – admitted that the number of hip and knee ops would have to be reduced by around 180 in order to save £850,000.

Although he claimed that there would be exceptions in the plan to increase the threshold for patients with severe problems, he failed to explain exactly how others would be cared for in rural areas with drastically reducing social and community services.

In order to mount a forceful counter argument to get this policy reversed, it will be important to collate information from those who are affected in Clunbury Parish or any other area in Shropshire.

Please contact me on 660114, or [sylvia.jones@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:sylvia.jones@hotmail.co.uk) or you can contact your parish councillor to pass information on.

*Sylvia Jones*

## **Parish Council Meeting 19 Nov**

Eight councillors present and two members of the public.

### **Matters Arising from previous minutes**

*Parish Land on Black Hill:* Cllr Bailey reported that no meeting had been held yet. However, the boxes of documents have been gone through and the papers show that the land on the hill was given to trustees (Clun Church Wardens) in the 1800s. There is no indication that the Parish Council has any responsibilities. The land should be administered solely by the trustees. The Charity trustees are hoping to meet during the first week in December.

*AED Kempton:* Cllr Hoskins to follow up whether this is now operational.

*Ridgeway BOAT at The Cwm:* Cllr S Jones has followed this up. Slow progress is being made – there should be two sources of funding.

**Bridleway at Ashbeds:** Cllr Hill attended the Enquiry and reported the decision that the path should be opened as a bridleway to give access to Purslow Woods.

**Clunton Burial Ground:** Cllr M Jones declared an interest as he had done some of the work. All work is now complete and access to the burial ground

is now easy and clear. The hedges will need cutting approximately every two years. One hedge needs to be cut back now. The Parish Council have arranged for a wicket gate as requested by the owner of the property. The Clerk had attended a seminar on Burial Grounds and emphasised how important it is for records to be kept of the graves. Two collapsed graves need to be back-filled.

**Parish Plan Review:** Cllr Hoskins reported that the analysis is complete and the third draft is now being refined. It is hoped that the final document will be out by the end of the year – one copy to each household. Larger packs of more detailed information will be available for Parish Councillors a few weeks later.

**Planning:** *The Villa, Clunton* – back extension. The site has been visited by Cllrs Davies and Harding – no objection. *Cider House, Clunton Coppice* – gazebo between house and the road – no objection.

### **West Shropshire LJ Committee – NHS**

**Future Fit Programme:** The Chairman and Cllr S Jones will attend a meeting on 25 Nov. at Worthen. It was agreed that everyone is now confused about the situation. Cllr S Jones updated councillors as far as she could. The new person appointed to Future Fit is hoping to have a plan ready within weeks. The CCG is in special measures but was under-funded from the beginning. The situation regarding hip operations is to be reviewed in March. Please let Cllr Jones know if you have any stories about hip operations. (See article on previous page). All Councillors agreed that Cllr Jones should continue fighting the cause. It was agreed that a meeting be called with other Parish Councils once some decisions have been made, as, at the moment, matters are changing daily.

### **Roads**

*Road Conditions and Street lamp failures:* All street lamps are working. It is

not clear whether the pot holes have been dealt with. Flooding in Kempton Lane – the Chairman will report this to Shropshire Council and arrange a meeting to show them the problem. The ditches are not being cleared regularly in Clunton.

**Purslow Cross Roads:** grass cutting will be monitored next year and the Chairman will keep reminding Shropshire Council about removal of the pole. Cllr M Jones stated that having the grass cut had made a big difference.

**Clunton:** Cllr Harding reported that the sign and mirror should be erected by the end of the year. She should know in January if the interactive sign will be erected. The Safer Roads Initiative part is in abeyance until we can tell if the new sign and mirror have made any improvement.

**Correspondence:** The Footpath Warden has resigned. The Clerk has written thanking him for his work

**Any Other Business:** Cllr S Jones asked for the position regarding Councillors' access to archives in Shrewsbury to be clarified.

The telephone boxes in Clunbury and Clunton have been painted. The Clerk is to investigate whether they can be used without a card for emergency calls.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 14 January 2016 – 8pm – at Clunbury VH.

*Sheila Downes*

## Pothole Line

Instead of reporting potholes to your local Parish Councillor (which might delay repairs as the Parish Council only meets every other month) you can ring Shropshire Council directly on 0345 678 9000, choose option 3 - streets, roads and public transport, then, option 2.

Alternatively you can report matters on [www.shropshire.gov.uk](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk). On the home page click 'Report it' and on the next page under Highways and Traffic there is a link to a form to complete for potholes etc.

## Hare-y Times

Hare coursing was clearly a popular pursuit when the following



report of a meeting in December 1870 appeared in the local press. Coursing was banned in 2005, but even if it were still legal, there would be precious few Hares to chase. In 1870 they were so abundant that 761 were shot on the Walcot Estate (the annual average at that time was 832), many more than Pheasant (410), Partridge (270) and Rabbit (224) (*Data from Shropshire Archives*). In coursing, the 'slipper' (see below) releases two dogs at the same time in pursuit of the Hare.

*Tom Wall*

### Purslow Coursing Meeting

By permission of the Earl of Powis, this annual gathering took place on Wednesday week, the stewards being Mr C Blakeway, Mr T Griffiths (Clunton), Mr J Myddleton, Mr T Griffiths (Purslow), Mr T Woolley, and Mr W Statham. The judge was Mr Cherrington, and the slipper Mr Holmes. Notwithstanding the 'bitter cold' weather, the gathering was a large one, and after the day's sport about ninety of the company present partook, at the Hundred House, of dinner, served up in first class style by Host Smith. Mr W Evans (Aston) and Mr W Tudge were the presidents. Hares were rather scarce to commence with, but some excellent trials nevertheless took place. The judge, in his decisions, gave much satisfaction, except perhaps, in the course between Formosa and Posh Price in which a number of the assemblage seemed to think he was mistaken in the dogs. Mr Holmes was a capital slipper. (*Newspaper extract, courtesy of Alan Brisbane, local historian*)

## Omega Chatterbox - Action Against Loneliness Service

Chatterbox is a telephone befriending service which aims to help people who are feeling lonely and isolated, our volunteer Befrienders help us to talk to our clients and make a difference to their lives.

Omega Care for Life, established 2007, is a national charity based in Shrewsbury, our Chatterbox clients are carers, former carers, people with health issues and those who are going through a difficult time and just need someone to talk with and someone to listen to them. Our clients come from across the West Midlands as well as in Shropshire.



We need more volunteer Befrienders to help us, all we ask is for our Befrienders to commit just two hours a week; this is a home-based role. You will need to be available to travel for training purposes, usually within Shropshire, a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check will be carried out.

Omega Chatterbox is a time-limited service, a 12 week programme of support during which time we try and help the client to find other support, social groups, information or guidance. Sometimes it takes a little longer depending on the circumstances but we aim to signpost our clients to what is nearby in the way of social opportunities and targeted support.

If you would like to know more about Omega Chatterbox please contact us:

Email: [chatterbox@omega.uk.net](mailto:chatterbox@omega.uk.net) or telephone: 0845 259 3163

To find out more about Omega Care for Life see [www.omega.uk.net](http://www.omega.uk.net)



### Events Diary for DECEMBER 2015 (see next page for January 2016)

Tue 1	6pm	Clunbury School Bingo	Clunbury Village Hall
Tue 1	7.30pm	Flicks—Suite Française	Lydbury North Village Hall
Wed 2		Quiz—proceeds to Midlands Air Ambulance	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Sat 5	7pm	Clunton Winter Warmer	Clunton Village Hall
Sat 5	7pm	Shropshire Harmony Quire-West Gallery Carols	St Cuthbert's, Clungunford
Sat 5	7.30pm	Flicks-Shaun the Sheep:The Movie	Clun Memorial Hall
Sun 6	11.15am	Morning Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 6	5pm	Flicks-Casablanca	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Mon 7	9-11am	Parent & Toddler Group-every Mon in term time. Just turn up	Clunbury Village Hall
Tue 8	Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am, Obley 12.45-12.55pm		
Tue 8	7pm	NCT Live—Jane Eyre	SpArC
Wed 9	9.15am	Tim's Travels—Cheltenham Christmas Shopping - 640506	
Wed 9	10.30am	Coffee Morning for St Mary's Church, Clunton	The Crown Inn, Clunton
Wed 9	8pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society—Of Horses and Men	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Thu 10	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Fri 11	7.30pm	Flicks-Mr Holmes	Bedstone Village Hall
Sat 12	9.30am-1pm 11am-12.30	Christmas Wreath Workshop-661180 Coffee, tea and cake to see what is going on, £2 for Air Ambulance	Clunbury Village Hall
Sun 13	6.30pm	Joint Evening Prayer	St Mary's, Clunton
Mon 14	7-9pm	Free help with using computers at AoC Broadplace	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun

continued over page

Wed 16	7.30pm	SWS Gardening Club Fordhall Organics + Buffet Supper	Lydbury North Village Hall
Fri 18		Clunbury School Last Day of Term	
Fri 18	6pm	Flicks—Get Santa	SpArC
Fri 18	7pm	Carol Service followed by refreshments in The Crown	St Mary's, Clunton
Sat 19	10am-noon	Craft & Collectables Market-Last Minute Gifts	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sat 19	9pm	Live Music-The John Hardman Band	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Sun 20	5pm	Carol Service	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Tue 22	Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am,		Obley 12.45-12.55pm
Thu 24	6pm	Carols & Candles round the Crib	St Cuthbert's, Clungunford
Thu 24	11pm	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sat 26		Quiz—proceeds to Midlands Air Ambulance	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Sun 27	10am	Benefice United Service	St George's, Clun
Mon 28	7.30pm	Live Acoustic Folk Music	The Crown Inn, Clunton

### Events Diary for January 2016

Sun 3	11.15am	Morning Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 3	7pm	Songs of Praise in four-part harmony. Tel 661171 for info	Kempton Village Hall
Mon 4	7.30pm	Clunbury Village Hall AGM	Clunbury Village Hall
Tue 5		Clunbury School First Day of Spring Term	
Tue 5	Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am,		Obley 12.45-12.55pm
Wed 6	8pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society-8½	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Wed 6		Quiz—proceeds to Midlands Air Ambulance	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Thu 7	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Sun 10	6.30pm	Joint Evening Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Mon 11	9-11am	Parent&Toddler Group-every Mon in term time. Just turn up	Clunbury Village Hall
Mon 11	7-9pm	Free help with using computers at AoC Broadplace	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Thu 14	7pm	NCT Live—Jane Eyre-Encore	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Thu 14	8pm	Parish Council Meeting	Clunbury Village Hall
Sat 16	7.30pm	Flicks—45 years	Clun Memorial Hall
Sun 17	6.30pm	Evening Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Tue 19	Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am,		Obley 12.45-12.55pm
Wed 20	8pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society—71	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Thu 21	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Sun 24	11.30am	Joint Holy CW Communion	St Mary's, Clunton
Mon 25	7.30pm	Live Acoustic Folk Music	The Crown Inn, Clunton
Wed 27	7.30pm	SWS Gardening Club-Alpines, Dwarf Bulbs & Hardy Cyclamen	Lydbury North Village Hall
Thu 28	7pm	NT Live-Les Liaisons Dangereuses	SpArC
Thu 28	7pm	NT Live-Les Liaisons Dangereuses	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sat 30	7pm	Burns' Night with Anything Goes	Kempton Village Hall
Sun 31	10am	Benefice United Service	Hopesay

### CONTACTS

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The Parish Post team are, as usual, having a break over Christmas. The next edition will be distributed at the end of January

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)

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