

New Year Honour

Congratulations to Pat Harding who received a British Empire Medal in the New Year Honours List. The award was specifically for services to the community in Clunton but she also deserves a big thanks for the many contributions she makes to the life of the whole parish (not least for her role as part of the Parish Post editorial and distribution teams).



Sue Hill

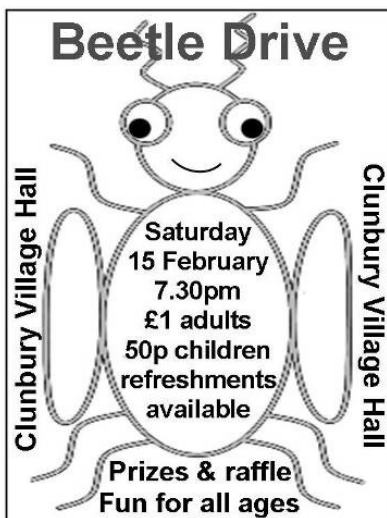
Burns Night



As an ex-pat Scot who has spent most of her life in Shropshire, I am always delighted that the village of Kempton chooses to celebrate the works of one of Scotland's most famous poets: namely, Robert Burns.

On entering the village hall, I could see the thought and care which had gone into the preparation: the table bedecked with Scottish flags and heather and a blue and white theme. The committee members were focused on assembling an excellent, traditional supper.

Beetle Drive



Clunbury Village Hall

Clunbury Village Hall

Saturday
15 February
7.30pm
£1 adults
50p children
refreshments
available

Prizes & raffle
Fun for all ages

Café Supports Fairtrade Fortnight

Clunbury Café always serves Fairtrade coffee and tea but, on Thursday 27 February, Fairtrade products will also be on sale in support of Fairtrade Fortnight, a national awareness-raising campaign which runs from 24 February to 9 March.

The master of ceremonies arrived, and at first I thought he must be a visiting member of the MacCherokee tribe but was assured that the feathers in his bonnet were appropriate Scottish dress.

The meal arrived to the sound of the pipes, and the haggis was duly addressed and stabbed. The evening proceeded with enthusiastic dancing and leaves me only to say, thank you once again Kempton for a wonderful event.

Isobel James, Ludlow correspondent

Please send your contributions by the 20th of each month

St. Michael's - The Church in the Desert

This month's story was kindly told to me by Tricia Uzzell of Clunton and is a fascinating tale that goes back to the Second World War.

Tricia's father was Cyril Mason, a Sergeant in RAF 111 Maintenance Unit, attached to 208 Squadron. After serving in France and Italy, Cyril was



dispatched to Egypt, to the RAF camp at Tura, some 14 miles south of Cairo.

The history of 'treble-one' really started in 1941, when RAF officers gained permission to take over the caves at Tura to store explosives, as other bases were being repeatedly bombed. There was a vast expanse of caves, some of which were used by the Egyptian government to store treasures. There was a cave for everything - a Hospital cave, a dining room cave, power station cave, etc! The pictures Tricia has, showed that each cave could reach the size of a mega warehouse and there were dozens of them! A huge tented camp was built, and by 1943, they reached a strength of 1355 other ranks and up to 2000 civilian personnel. The camp boasted its own sports stadium, swimming pool and a church - all built by the airmen themselves in their free time. The stone they used for the church was easily accessible and was the same stone used centuries ago to build the pyramids.

The foundation stone of St Michael's Church was laid by Lady Rosalinde Tedder, wife of Air Chief Marshall Sir A W Tedder, and Tricia showed me the Order

of Service leaflet printed for the opening ceremony on 6 June, 1943, which was broadcast by the BBC.

After the war, Cyril returned to his native Wolverhampton, but later, he and his wife moved to Little Stretton, where they ran a guest house for many years, and eventually retired to Clunton in 1970.

Tricia relates what a creative man her father was: "Despite his very large hands, he was really adept at model-making, and made things out of 'rubbish', all sorts of odds and ends; he never

threw anything away!"



Cyril created an amazing model of the church they built in the desert, and

Tricia has it

proudly sitting on a table in her home. It is a real work of art and I was able to look at the photo and the model to see how he has captured it in every detail.

In 1987, Tricia's daughter sent a photo of Cyril's model to Air Mail magazine, an RAF publication, which was duly printed, and from this article, Cyril was contacted by Radio Shropshire who requested an interview with him which was broadcast on Remembrance Sunday that year; Tricia has a copy of the recording.

Tricia said, "Now I'm going to make you a cup of tea and leave you to listen to it in peace!" and it was very moving indeed to hear Cyril talking about his time at Tura.

"We had Church Parade on a Sunday morning and then went to St Michael's for a service. It was very cool inside the church which was a relief from the desert heat. We had Remembrance Sunday service there - just the same as at home. We destroyed the camp when we left at the end of the war - can't leave anything for the enemy to find - but we left the

Church, and knowing the Egyptians as we did, I don't think they would have destroyed it, as they were quite religious themselves.

We packed everything up and boarded the train to Cairo. We weren't sad to leave the desert - it was a lonely place - but it was very sad to leave your friends; they were real pals."

Over tea, Tricia then tells me her father made other models, including one of Clunton Church, which is apparently now on display in the Church.

As I look again at the St Michael's model, Tricia explains how her grandchildren like to decorate it for Christmas - indeed it is still enhanced with snowy cotton wool and looks lovely!

Sadly, Cyril passed away in 2005, but Tricia says his grandson is so like him, with the same great sense of humour and always full of fun. He also enjoys making things so perhaps he will one day inherit his grandfather's model and be proud of the history that goes with it, as Tricia understands from her father's colleagues who re-visited Tura, that the Church in the Desert no longer exists.

Lin Brown

Clunbury School Corner

The new term started with a bang with the KS2 attending an inter-schools athletics tournament in Ludlow the first week - everyone tried hard but sadly they came last. However the 5-a-side football teams did better a few weeks later, with the A team coming second!



Win or lose, everyone enjoys these sporting events with their opportunities to meet with other children and get lots of exercise.

The next excitement was the Winter Vintage Pop-Up Restaurant! Invited guests were entertained to a delicious afternoon tea which was served by the smartly dressed waiters and waitresses of Years 5 and 6. The children also enjoyed planning the event and decorating the village hall for the occasion, and are looking forward to doing it again sometime.

A group of children from Years 3-6 travelled to the LG Arena in Birmingham for the Young Voices event. About 120 schools took part, and in the



afternoon they rehearsed together the songs and dances they had already learned at school and then in the evening, gave a performance. Singing with about 5000 others was amazing, but the absolute highlight for many was seeing Stacey Solomon, runner-up on The X Factor, performing live. Definitely worth the late night return home!

Penny Valentine with input from Acina, Tengri & Will.

Visitors from Spain

Two adults and two children from Spain, who are regular visitors to Clunbury (where the children attend school during their stay), require self catering accommodation from 4 to 12 April. If you can help please contact Stuart Seabury on 660494.

100 Club Results

£20 Julia Dumbell, £15 Tim Croxton, £10 Penny Grimes, £5 Barbara Freeman, £3 Lisa Cox.

Turkey Oaks Get the Bird!

Parishioners will have noticed the recent felling of mature trees along the roadside between Aston-on-Clun and Lydbury North. We asked the Kempton Estate for an explanation.

It is always a shame when beautiful mature trees have to be felled, but trees growing alongside busy roads such as the B4368 and B4385, must be treated with caution. All responsible landowners take their duty of care very seriously when roadside trees are involved, as a tree falling into a road can cause injury or even a fatality to road users.

In the case of the Kempton trees a visual Roadside Tree Survey was carried out in the autumn of 2013, to inspect the trees for defects. The recommendation was that fourteen trees in total should be felled as it was felt that these were a danger to road users. Included in this total were 7 mature Turkey Oak. The others were five smallish Ash, one Horse Chestnut and one group of dead Elm. Obvious faults were bracket fungus, brown staining and loose bark. In fact one of the seven at the lay-by above Oaker quarry, fell down before the tree surgeons could be called in!

Turkey Oak (*Quercus cerris*) is a native tree to South Eastern Europe and Asia Minor and was first introduced into Britain in the eighteenth century. It is an amenity tree and not sought after by sawmills. The Kempton trees are likely to date back to the nineteenth century.

When felled it was found that several trees had very little sound timber holding them up – in fact in three cases the entire

tree centres were akin to blotting paper and therefore very dangerous indeed.

It is worth pointing out that, due to the difficulty of working on, and felling roadside trees, involving traffic control, climbing and skilful felling, this becomes an expensive operation for a landowner – thousands of pounds rather than hundreds – so this work is not done for profit.

The plan is to replace all fourteen trees with more suitable English Oak, which will enhance the area and, hopefully, last for several hundred years.

Stephen Habershon
Forestry Adviser to Kempton Estate



Women's World Day of Prayer

On Friday 7 March Clunbury will be host for the Benefice celebration which will take place in the Village Hall at 6pm. The Christian women of Egypt have prepared a short play with the title 'Streams in the Desert' and Penny Valentine will be giving an address reflecting her work in Egypt. Everyone is welcome.

Christina Whitehead

St Cuthbert's, Clungunford will also celebrate this event with a service at 2.30pm in the church. Everyone welcome - men, women and children!

Sandra Schofield

Clunton News

Two well supported Church Events in December (a coffee morning and a Carol Service) were followed by another successful Folk/Carol Evening at The Crown. This was hugely enjoyed by musicians and audience alike. Thank you Della and Andy for hosting this. Folk Evenings are held every third Wednesday of the month starting at 9pm.

Ruth Webb

Remembering the First World War – The Next Phase

Malcolm and Val Redgrave have really got off the starting blocks in their research into the lives of those named on our war memorials (with the help of the computer programme Ancestors). They also keep finding other names of men born in Clunbury, who died in the Great War – so there is plenty of work to be done before the proposed exhibition in July.

If you are interested in the project please contact Christina on 660424 or email ajwhitehead@farming.co.uk, or phone Val on 660707.

Community Policing Update

The police station at Craven Arms has closed. There will be a Community Policing Post (CPP) at the Community Centre allowing officers and staff to have a presence in that community.

Clunbury Parish is policed from the Bishop's Castle police station in Union Street.

Ways of contacting West Mercia Police:

- In an emergency call 999
- To report a crime or talk to your local team call 101
- Log on to www.westmercia.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods/shropshire/bishops-castle-and-craven-arms-rural
- Email your local team bccar.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

To link to the newsletter from the Police and Crime Commissioner go to:

www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk/Document-Library



West Mercia
POLICE



SERVING - PROTECTING - MAKING THE DIFFERENCE

Clean It Up (Please)

There are complaints about dog poo along the roads and verges in and around Clunbury. Please clean up after your dog and take it home with you - no one else is going to pick up the bags which are left



on verges or hung on hedges. Apart from consideration for the rest of the community, remember that children from the school are often out and about in the village.

'Gold Plated' Broadband Update

On 21 January Shropshire Council and BT announced the next communities to benefit from the £24.6 million Connecting Shropshire fibre broadband partnership. They include, Aston on Clun, Clungunford, Little Brampton and Purslow. "Fibre broadband will be coming soon to these areas with people able to order services from Spring 2014". Concern has been expressed that most if not all the funding is going to BT who are installing expensive ducted fibre when alternative, more cost effective systems are available from other providers which might enable additional communities to benefit more rapidly. To keep up to date go to www.connectingshropshire.co.uk

David Hill

CONTACTS

Email: theparishpost@gmail.com
Website: www.theparishpost.org
Phone: Sue Hill 660355
or Lin Brown 660578
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.

Parish Council Meeting Report

17 January 2014

Six Councillors present, the Clerk and three members of the public.

Matters arising: Forestry Commission gate: No progress.

Rural Broadband: No development. Cllr S Jones asked the Parish Council to join forces with others in the campaign to provide better service to rural areas. A meeting is planned at the County Hall; she suggested the Council should be represented. Clerk to write expressing the Parish Council's engagement with the issue.

Parish Plan Review: The Parish Council has received the grant applied for (£1,000) which will be earmarked for expenditure on the project. Fiona Hoskins, who chaired the group when the original Plan was drawn up is looking for volunteers to sit on the new working group. It is estimated that it might take 12 to 14 months to complete the Review.

Fairtrade in the Clun Valley: Nothing to report, apart from an application from the Fairtrade Project to the LJC for £500 to be used towards publicity.

Website: The Parish Post website has been revived. Minutes and agendas will be posted on the site. Two people have volunteered to help David Hill.

Review of Standing Orders: The clerk will type out the list of SOs and distribute it to the Councillors, for discussion at a later date.

Clunton Burial Ground: In progress.

AED: A training course will take place in Clunbury, Sunday 26 January, from 10am. The new co-ordinator is Christine Kerry, on 640091. The Clunbury AED is not yet operative, but will be shortly. (*Ed. note - the AED was installed on 26 Jan.*)

LJC: There is a meeting tonight. No details known. Next full meeting, 3 February.

Planning: Windsong: no objection; Dutch Cottage: no planning consent

required, Listed Building consent has been received.

Clun Valley Lodges, Bush Farm: the manager wishes to correct the last report in the Parish Post: there is no question of a change of use; the application is merely for a change of wording to bring it in line with government regulations.

SamDev Consultation: The form has been submitted. The Clerk was asked to check whether there was anything to be done. For information on planning, contact Liam Cowden.

Roads: Interactive sign in the Twitchen will be installed; no precise date known.

Potholes on the road from Little Brampton to Lydbury North (just before the Avenue), to be reported.

Clunbury: need for improvement to passing places between the two bridges. Possibly some dangerous overhanging branches on way to Twitchen. Chair to investigate.

The Clerk to enquire about progress (or lack of) at the Purslow crossroads.

Correspondence: There will be a training session, by Hugh Richard, on sustainable rural planning, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework. Two councillors will attend.

There will be a meeting for people setting up in business and requiring advice, in Enterprise House on 29 January.

Clun Fire Station: Cllr S Jones wrote (as requested) to object to the closure. The consultation should be completed by mid-February.

Finances: Bank balances: Current A/C: £1,524.89 (this includes the £1,000 grant for the Parish Plan; therefore the true figure is £524.89); Business Saver A/C: £3,712.60; Sports & Recreation A/C: about £3,600.

Still to pay: Clerk's salary for 2 months: £300; Clerk's use of home and computer (for the year): £100; npower: £51.58. The National Joint Council has recommended

a pay increase for clerks of 1%, ie £18 a year. The Chair proposed an increase of £25 a year. This proposal was accepted.

Precept for the financial year: £3,000 had been the precept for a while. Cllr Hill suggested that, in view of the fact that expenditure was greater than the precept, it might be better to ask for a small increase each year. The Chair proposed an increase of £250, bringing the precept to £3,250; this was agreed.

AOB: Alister Thompson has been in touch with BT regarding the regrettable state of the phone box in Clunbury. BT is prepared to provide the paint and Alister is volunteering to do the work; would the Parish Council have any objections? No objections were raised.

Next meeting: 20 March, 8pm in Kempton VH.

Gisèle and Tom Wall

News from South West Shropshire Gardening Club

January: We had a packed hall, full of enthusiastic gardeners in need of inspiration during this month of mud and rain. As the talk by Kristian Hickson-Booth progressed, it became clear that she was not going to tell us her sources of inspiration in garden design or give us any quick fix solutions to our own gardens. However, we did receive a fascinating insight of the processes involved which could inspire keen, DIY, creative souls who would prefer to try out their own ideas (possibly at considerably less expense and far more fun!) I was encouraged by the statement: "There is no right or wrong" – how refreshing to be reminded that we do not have to follow fashion. So my New Year Resolution is to analyse my soil; attempt a survey of my site; sketch shapes, features and planting ideas and



then smother all bare soil in ten inch thick, well rotted farmyard manure (the latter worked for the fabulous borders at Powis Castle so hopefully it will work for me!) I will probably make all sorts of silly mistakes but I will learn by them and only have myself to blame...

If you prefer to pay for a more expert approach then contact three local designers with a range of experience and personalities. Prepare about five questions to ask, such as:

What are your favourite plants?

What horticultural experience do you have?

Do you see the project through to the end?

Do you source the plants?

Do not expect the project to happen overnight if you want a well thought out design. An initial consultation should take between one and three hours; the survey may take half a day; the concept plan should take about four to six weeks (rather than something produced instantly on a computer); allow a few days for walking round your site thinking about the concept and once that is agreed, the planting scheme will take longer than the concept plan.

26 February: We are off to Ashwood Nurseries to enjoy a feast of Winter and Spring plants (did you say Hellebores, I hear my Mother-in Law ask?) There are only four tickets left (£10 each) so contact Heather on 650610 if you are interested.

Angela Salmon

Bishop's Castle & District Carers Group

February 17 2-4pm – speaker:-Jeremy Hall from South Shropshire Housing Association (SSHA). Topics will be:-

Compassionate Communities-a befriending project served by volunteers.

Support services available from SSHA

Contact Jenny Englefield 01694 722024
or maysi@hotmail.co.uk

Events Diary for February and early March 2014

Sun 2	11.15am	Morning Prayer	St Swithin's Clunbury
Sun 2	7.00pm	Songs of praise in four-part harmony	Kempton Village Hall
Mon 3	9 - 11am	Parent and toddler group - just turn up	Clunbury Village Hall
Tue 4		Mobile library:-Clunbury Bridge 10.10 - 10.30am, Clunton 10.40 - 11.00am, Obley 12.45 - 12.55pm	
Wed 5	8.00pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society - Wadjda	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Wed 5	9.00pm	Quiz night	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Fri 7	9.00pm	Live Music: String Thing	The White Horse, Clun
Sat 8	7.30pm	Flicks - Hysteria	Clun Memorial Hall
Sun 9	11.15am	Holy Communion	St Mary's Clunton
Sun 9	4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Swithin's Clunbury
Mon 10	9 - 11am	Parent and toddler group - just turn up	Clunbury Village Hall
Thur 13	10 -11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Sat 15	7.30pm	Beetle Drive	Clunbury Village Hall
Sun 16	4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Swithin's Clunbury
Mon 17	2 - 4pm	BC & District Carers Group talk - Compassionate Communities	Coverage Care, Bishop's Castle
Tue 18		Mobile library:-Clunbury Bridge 10.10 - 10.30am, Clunton 10.40 - 11.00am, Obley 12.45 - 12.55pm	
Wed 19	8.00pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society - Departures	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Wed 19	9.15pm	Live acoustic folk music	The Crown Inn, Clunton
Fri 21	8.00pm	Flicks - Summer in February	Clungunford Parish Hall
Fri 21	9.00pm	Live Music: The Rainbreakers	The White Horse, Clun
Sun 23	11.15 am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's Clunbury
Sun 23	4.00pm	Evening Prayer	St Mary's Clunton
Mon 24	9 - 11am	Parent and toddler group - just turn up	Clunbury Village Hall
Mon 24		Fairtrade fortnight until 9 March	
Thur 27	10 -11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Thur 27	7.00pm	NT Live - War Horse	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sat 1	7.30pm	Flicks - Undertaking Betty	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sun 2	7.00pm	Songs of praise in four-part harmony	Kempton Village Hall
Tue 4		Mobile library:-Clunbury Bridge 10.10 - 10.30am, Clunton 10.40 - 11.00am, Obley 12.45 - 12.55pm	
Fri 7	2.30pm 6.00pm	Women's World Day of Prayer	St Cuthbert's, Clungunford Clunbury Village Hall

CLAC@CLUN - Here When We Are Needed

Since the launch we have helped 23 adults along with 14 children, including 9 families with 9 children over Christmas and New Year. We have issued over 40 food parcels and supplied essential kitchen appliances and other household items, baby clothes and equipment. Volunteers have helped some clients with benefit applications and signposting to agencies for professional help. We have 5 trained Money Coaches who can give one to one confidential advice on budgeting and money management.

At St George's we have installed a BT landline, Broadband and a computer. This enables clients, under supervision, to make telephone calls and online applications in relation to their benefits. Volunteers staff the Centre every Thursday from 12.00 - 2.30pm and from 5.30 - 7.00pm, new helpers welcome. We are grateful for every donation of non-perishable produce and cash. In the run up to Christmas nearly £300 was donated which enabled us to buy extra goodies for the families. Though many think that in our area there is not a problem, statistically there is. People in our communities do suffer from rising costs, static incomes, changes to benefits, redundancy, unemployment, bereavement, and family crises. Our challenge is to let it be known that we are here to help in any way we can. We are relying upon you all to spread the word. Thank you for your support and generosity.

Douglas Ogram tel: 640830 email: douglas@ogram.com