



Photos taken by Andrew Fusek Peters
(www.andrewfusekpeters.com)
near Walcot Farm (where Robert Evans
reports seeing one a year ago)

Egrets, we have a few... a great big one

And it's really worth a mention. On 27 November

Dave Simpson spotted a Great White Egret at Kempton. The name says it all: it's great (fully the size of a heron), its plumage is all white and it's an egret, a group of birds in the heron family, which typically, in the breeding season, have delicate plumes on their napes or backs that used to be used to adorn



ladies' hats. Only eight had been seen in England up to 1958. It was 1995 before the first sighting in Shropshire, and the second didn't turn up until 2007. Great Whites used to be birds of southern climes. They didn't nest in France until 1994, but, benefiting presumably from climate change, the population grew rapidly, reaching 180 pairs by 2007, and in 2010 a pair

bred in Somerset. Dave has now seen the Great White over a dozen times, including as we go to press (end of January), and many others in Kempton have seen it too; it has also been seen along the Clun. So do look out for it, but be aware that there are Little Egrets about as well. They too are all white, but they are much smaller, and have black bills and yellow feet; in winter the Great White has the opposite: yellow bill, black feet.

*Kempton bird-spotters
(there are quite a few)*



Spring Comes Early

This snowdrop cultivar flowered in the garden of Bob and Barbara Richards at the Twichen in November 2017. How come this flower, which has sometimes been called February Fairmaid or Snow Piercer, was out so soon?

Clunbury Village Hall presents a Family Film Matinee



Thursday 22 February
(Half Term)

Doors Open 4.30pm

£4.50 adults

£3.00 children

Hotdogs and drinks on sale

All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Contact: Alister Thompson 661180 or
Barbara Freeman 660629

John Muir Award, Clunbury School

At the end of the autumn term, the children of Clunbury School reported on the work they had done towards their John Muir Award. Each group explained what they had been doing. They observed the wildlife and landscape around them and learnt about conservation. In Clunton Coppice, armed with trays, they shook the bugs off the hedgerows, examined them and put them back. They watched birds (flycatcher, wood warbler) and learnt about mammals, such as pine martens, and installed nest boxes for dormice. In the River Clun, they did some 'kick sampling': catching organisms with their nets. A Bullhead fish was one of the great catches. At Brynmawr, they came face to face with the animals and learnt about organic farming (and bats). At Bury Ditches, they explored the environment, heard about its history and met the Forestry Commission officers who look after the woodland.



They learnt about safety: lighting a fire and learning about the dangers of fire lighting; using loppers and saws they carried out essential woodland management work in Clunton Coppice.

Back at school, they wrote about their experiences, which they shared with the audience. They all seemed to have greatly enjoyed their adventures, and it was obvious that they had worked very hard, well deserving their John Muir Award and certificate to prove it.

The John Muir Award is an environmental award scheme focused on wild places. It helps people connect with nature and enjoy and care for wild places. With funding from the AONB Conservation Fund, Cath Landles (Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership) and Ellie Larkham (Shropshire Wildlife Trust) ran the award with Clunbury School.

Gisèle Wall

My Heroes

A card came at Christmas saying that I had two tickets to go to Manchester United for a tour of the ground. I was so excited I could not sleep. My Mum had arranged it. Soon my Mum and I were on a train to Manchester. I saw the Etihad Stadium from the train, but that is not my style. Manchester United has been my team for ever; except when my Granddad, as a joke, put a Sunderland shirt on me when I was a baby. Mum and I had a taxi to our hotel. We got the keys to our room and there was a mini-bar with drinks and chocolate in. The top of the hotel had a mini football pitch on the roof. We could see Old Trafford from there. We couldn't play football there, as it was let out for a party. We went for our tour of Old Trafford – it was a fantastic day and I was chosen to be the captain of the Manchester United team to walk out to the pitch through the players tunnel. They played 'Glory, Glory Man United' as we walked through. I had to shake hands with a Manchester City team leader. The next day I went down to breakfast in my pyjamas. I was hungry. I could see a Range Rover through the big window and Ryan Giggs walked through the door. I ran up to him and asked for a piece of paper to get his signature but I had not got my phone with me so I legged it up six flights of stairs to get my phone and legged it down again. Ryan Giggs agreed to a selfie with me and I was still in my pyjamas. It was one of the best days of my life and I never imagined that I would have my photo taken with one of my heroes, still wearing my pyjamas.



Finn McDermott, aged 9

The selfie!

Interview with Em Marshall-Luck, Founder-Director of The English Music Festival

Can you remember the first piece of music that you heard as a child which stopped you in your tracks, and stayed with you all your life?

This is the question I asked myself after meeting Em Marshall-Luck, the Founder-Director of The English Music Festival, who has moved back to our area from Dorset, to return to her roots and continue her life's work in Clunton, in the landscape that she loves.

I asked her how she had come to start her charity, and she explained that, as a small child, her father had sung to her during her infancy, and she had been immediately captivated and inspired. The song was Linden Lea, a Dorset folk song with words by Williams Barnes, set to music by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

This was the moment her interest in English music was ignited, an interest that she pursued through school and university years, and her early career in publishing, writing and working with famous music festivals. Her mission has always been the same – to restore English music, particularly early 20th century music, to what she describes as its 'rightful place in the repertoire', both sustaining important works by major British composers and giving access and air to exquisite works by lesser known composers, who for unfathomable reasons had fallen out of fashion.

Her charity, The English Music Festival, is the vehicle for her passion to share and celebrate this rich musical heritage. In 2018, the Festival is in its 12th year, and the main event will take place in Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. But the charity is more than one annual event. It has grown and developed its range, with a Yorkshire Autumn Festival

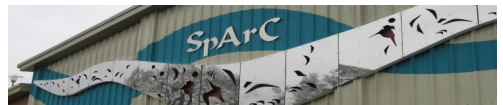


series, and concerts both throughout the UK and in Europe. It also has a publishing company, making books and scores accessible world-wide; and a record label, EM Records, which takes the work of the charity to a new level.

I asked Em if she had any plans to bring English Music events to our area, and she said she would love to! Like any small charity though, new plans involve lots of work and she is already working to full capacity. So I asked how The Parish Post could help and she said it would be great to hear from anyone who loves English music, and has a few hours to spare. All skills would be welcome – and there are a range of projects to get involved with, from overseeing the recording of CDs through to helping to set up local concerts, or just helping with a little admin.

So, if you love English Music and would like to help develop concerts in this area, do get in touch with her at em.marshall-luck@englishmusicfestival.org.uk or 01588 660188

Gill Haynes



SpArC News

Christmas Prize Bingo raised over £500.

The Save the SpArC Campaign has been selected as one of three local charities to be supported by Bishop's Castle Co-op. If you shop at the Co-op you can nominate SpArC to receive a contribution every time you shop and use your Co-op members card.

You can apply for a Co-op card in store and register to support SpArC on line at <https://www.coop.co.uk/membership/local-community-fund>

Correspondence

Barking Up Trees

I'm a dog lover and was an owner of a beautiful Collie for 13 years. I also love running and have been for over 38 years. Running is my main treatment for controlling my particular form of arthritis. I run regularly on the Black Hill, Bury Ditches and around the lanes. However, my pleasure is often being marred by uncontrolled dogs. According to the Law, dog owners must "*Ensure your dog responds to basic commands so that you can keep them under reasonable control when in public places and in your home.*" Almost every week, I am coming across dogs running way ahead or behind their owners, who are often chatting to a friend, unaware of what their dog is doing. I always call out "Runner coming through" or put my hand up if I am out of earshot. Many owners do call their dogs and some put them on a lead but others obviously have no recall, and the dog comes charging at me. I have been snarled at, nipped, jumped upon, herded, cornered, tripped over, you name it. It won't be long before I am actually bitten or take a serious fall or my specialist running clothing gets damaged. I regularly have to shout, "Call your dog off!" and I am equally regularly met with comments like "Well, you shouldn't be running!" or "He's only playing".

I know dogs will protect their owners, they will respond to a moving figure heading their way, and owners should be aware of this also. It is only the natural instinct coming out in the dog; but I'm afraid, if you cannot control or recall your dog, then you are breaking the law and this is an offence.

I am worried that one day, a child might be running through the woods and end up seriously hurt. I've seen cyclists attacked on their bikes and horses spooked, all because the dog owner has no recall or control of his/her animal.

Gerry Dance

Clunbury Churchyard

After continuing complaints the churchwardens would ask dog walkers to keep dogs on the lead while walking through the churchyard and to clean up after them, please.

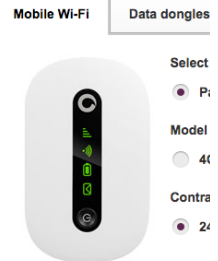
Christina Whitehead

Mobile Signals

I wanted to share some information that people in the Parish may find useful. For years now, many of our neighbours here had to make do with either satellite broadband and the latency problems inherent to that system, or a painfully slow BT connection. A few weeks ago I became aware that my mobile phone, which runs on Vodafone, was not only displaying the normal bars for mobile signal strength, but also now 3G. A visitor commented on how much faster the connection now was on her ipad too.

The Vodafone 3G network seems to be pretty reliable here now and we now have a mobile wifi device/dongle, (see attached screenshot) which is so small I even take it out in my pocket sometimes! Several of our neighbours have tested it and it works very successfully for them too. Other networks may well provide a similar strength of signal, although in our experience, the EE signal has deteriorated here over recent years.

Christine Pendleton



Help Please!

As the new 'Parish Paths Warden' for Clunbury, I am happy to be contacted on catherinelishman@hotmail.com with information about any stiles or gates that need attention, missing markers or obstructions across rights of way. I can then either deal with the situation or liaise with the appropriate people to resolve the problem. Thank you.

Catherine

The Meadows Patient Participation Group, Clun, would be interested to hear of your recent experiences of ambulance response times in our area. You can contact the PPG by email : meadowsclunppg@gmail.com or contact Mary Eminson on 01588 640921. Thank you.

Mary

Parish Council Report 11/1/18

Present: 8 councillors, the clerk and 3 members of the public.

Apologies: Cllr Morgan.

Matters arising from Minutes of meeting held 9/11/17

The street lights in Clunton have ordinary bulbs; there is no requirement to change the type. It was agreed to get the faulty ones repaired.

Footbridge behind Chapel House, Clunbury: Catherine Lishman (the new Tree Warden) met the Outdoor Partnership Officer, David Hardwick; he has ordered some new tubing to replace damaged sections of the bridge and is arranging the repair/replacement of stiles (between Twitchen and Clunbury).

Planning: No applications received and no decisions reported.

South West Shropshire Local Joint Committee: No meetings held.

Sylvia Jones could not attend the Parish Council meeting, but sent a letter to keep the councillors aware of the situation regarding the NHS as follows.

Sadly, there is little to report that's new, with continuing problems at our two district hospitals over Christmas and New Year (one woman in her 90s is reported to have waited more than 60 hours in a corridor before she was admitted, with many patients at RSH A&E lying on the floor, when they ran out of chairs, among other horror stories).

Maternity services are again under the spotlight after a healthy 26 year old first time mum died after giving birth at Shrewsbury, suffering post-birth complications, and then bled to death after inexplicably being transferred to Telford. This is being investigated.

Future Fit has still not been signed off and is now with a national programme board because of the huge amount of capital needed - more than £310 million. It is apparently in competition with a similar sized plan from the East of England. It is hoped there will be a decision by Feb 1. If FF is approved, it is hoped to begin consultation 2-4 weeks

after that, so by the beginning of March or just before. So you may need to put that into the decision for your next meeting again!

Shropshire CCG is currently at serious odds with three of its main service providers: SaTH over continuing problems with neurology, the Community Trust for not providing community services data for trying to work out how to do things better, and SSSFT, the mental health trust, over failings in care for under 25s.

Roads:

The ford at Kempton needs to be better signposted; a car ended up in 3ft of water on New Year's Eve.

Several potholes were reported including in Clunton and on the lane from Kempton to the Hundred House, where there has been a lot of standing water. Parishioners are reminded that they can report potholes directly online by going to Shropshire Council, Highways Maintenance, Report Potholes.

Clunton burial ground: the clerk's idea of a working party to cut the tall hedges has been held over. Cllrs Croxton and Davies will visit and report back.

Finances: Bank balances amount to £7,264.47. Expenses to be paid: £381.21. Estimated further expenses to 31 March: £1,006.46. After discussion, it was decided to keep the precept at the same level as last year, ie £3,600.

Next meeting: 15 March, 8pm in Clunbury.

Gisèle & Tom Wall

CONTACTS

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or Gisèle Wall 660561

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.

The 'Managing your joint pain' Clinic has arrived in Bishop's Castle

Are you aged 45 or older, and had hip, knee or back pain for more than 3 months? Or are you aged 45 or older, and have suffered with Osteoarthritis for more than 3 months with no recent trauma? If you've answered yes, don't panic... 'Managing you joint pain' clinics are now here in Bishop's Castle.

'Managing your joint pain' clinics allow you to meet with one of our fully trained joint pain advisors to discuss your joint pain. Your joint pain advisor will give you advice on various ways of managing your pain, so that you can carry on with daily activities without pain.

On booking into the clinic, you will be invited to attend an initial 30 minute appointment to discuss your lifestyle, challenges, and personal goals with an advisor. Using this information, your advisor will work with you to devise a tailored, joint pain care plan, designed just for you. Advice and support is evidence-based. A follow-up appointment will be booked to fit in with you at 2 weeks, 6 weeks and 6 months, to check on your progress and continue to help you make positive changes and manage your pain.

Osteoarthritis can cause debilitating pain in your joints, and affects over 8 million people in the UK, it is becoming more common as we live longer. The risk of developing Osteoarthritis increases as we get older, become more overweight, or if the joint has been injured in the past.

It is important to keep moving, because your body works hard to repair itself, and by keeping active you can keep your weight down and stay healthy. Feeling more in control of your Osteoarthritis can help you to cope with the pain and stiffness better, making daily activities achievable.

'Managing your joint pain' clinics are run from Enterprise House, Station Street. To book an appointment just call Help2Change on 0345 6789 025.

South West Shropshire Gardening Club Wildlife in the Garden

A Talk by Margaret Herbert
Wednesday 28 February, 7.30pm
Lydbury North Village Hall

Margaret Herbert is a trained Horticulturist with over 27 years' experience. She has managed plant sales in a large garden centre for 10 years, and for the last 17 years she has been a garden designer and consultant. She is Head Gardener at Lake Vyrnwy Hotel.

Go wild in your garden! With just a few small changes we can all make our gardens more wildlife friendly.

Hedgehogs, bats, Song Thrushes, Stag Beetles, sparrows, butterflies and bees are just a few of the species in decline in the UK. How to choose the right flowers for pollinators? Planting the right mixture of shrubs and trees to improve biodiversity? The pleasures of water gardening... and just how tidy should we be?

Margaret has the knowledge and experience to inspire us to create and manage our own gardens in a way that can bring major benefits to both gardeners and the creatures that call it home!

Free to members; visitors: £5 inc refreshments. Further queries: Sandy Burton 01588 680454 or on our website: www.gardeningshropshire.co.uk

Sara Metcalf

Clunbury 100 Club

December Draw:

Lorna Goodwin £20; David Hill £15;
Jane Rose £10; Emma Jones £5; Ned
Morris £3.

January Draw

Julie Saunders £20; Henry Matveiff
£15; Jean Jones £10; Hazel Grimes
£5; Rosemary Jones £3.

Clunton 100 club

December draw:

1st Valerie Redgrave, 2nd Roger
Huffer, 3rd Wayne Shuker.



In the Bleak Midwinter

Photo taken in Kempton by Edward Cooper, December 2017. If you have any snowy photos (or others) that you would like to see on the Parish website, please send them in.

Advance Notice from Clungunford Players

Friday 9 March, Sat 10 March
Don't Get Your Vicars in a Twist
Clungunford Parish Hall

Report on Parish Post AGM

The Parish Post held their AGM on 14 December 2017 at Kempton Village Hall. Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting. The Chairman and Treasurer gave their reports followed by some interesting discussions and ideas for the Parish Post. The team are very grateful for the enthusiasm and ideas put forward and will consider these carefully. Everyone enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies, adding a bit of warmth and festive cheer on very cold icy winter evening.

Lynne Thompson

Pamper Evening

FRIDAY 9th MARCH

Clunbury Village Hall

6pm – 10pm

- Discounted treatments available throughout the evening
- Shopping opportunities
- Fantastic prizes to be won
- Refreshments available

FREE
ENTRY!



All proceeds to Clunbury School

Pizza Man With Pizzazz!

It was 10.15pm on New Year's Eve and we were sitting, having a peaceful evening by the fire, when we heard a rap at the door. On opening the door there stood a chap in a smart suit and white tie - was it James Bond we wondered? Alas no; it was the pizza delivery man out delivering supper for the guests over the road. He had perhaps thought it a good idea to take a short cut back through the ford, but had to abandon ship as the current took his car, and swirled it toward the bridge. He was anxiously asking: "can you help me please, the car is going under the bridge!" We tried a tow rope but to no avail; so he called a rescue vehicle. The chaps would not wade into the water so they sent James Bond in to attach the winch to his vehicle and dragged it out.

Claire Hern



Events Diary for FEBRUARY 2018

Thu 1	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Fri 2	7.30pm	BC Railway Society—The Bishop's Castle Canal	Methodist Hall, BC
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
Mon 5	7.30pm	Table Tennis every Mon not the last one of the month £1	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Tues 6	7.30pm	Flicks-Dunkirk (2017)—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—El Sur	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Wed 7	7.15pm	Royal Opera House—Tosca-630321/638038	SpArC
Thu 8		Tim's Travels—Mama Mia-640506 (waiting list only)	Wolverhampton
Sat 10	2pm	Box Tale Soup—The Wind in the Willows—630321/638038	SpArC
Sun 11	11.15am	BCP Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Tue 13	2pm	Singin' in the Rain—630321/638038	SpArC
Wed 14	12 noon	Ash Wednesday Service	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Wed 14	7pm	RSC Twelfth Night—630321/638038	SpArC
Thu 15	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Fri 16	8pm	Flicks—The Mountain Between Us—660159	Parish Hall, Clunton
Sat 17	10am-1pm	Craft & Collectables Market-660492	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sat 17	7.30pm	Flicks—The Limehouse Golem-660545	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sun 18	6.30pm	United Evening Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Mon 19-Fri 23		Clunbury School Half Term	
Wed 21-Sun 25		Bishop's Castle Arts Festival	
Wed 21	8pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society—Les Quatre Cent Coups	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Thu 22	4.30pm	Family Film Matinee—Paddington-661180/660629	
Thu 22	7pm	NT Live—Cat on a Hot Tin Roof—660493/660893	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Fri 23	7.30pm	Luca Silvestrini's Protein Dance Company—660152	Parish Hall, Clunton
Sun 25	11.15am	United CW Holy Communion	St Mary's, Clunton
Tue 27		Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 1040-11.00am, Obley 12.45-12.55pm	
Wed 28		Tim's Travels—CBSO-640506	Birmingham Symphony Hall
Wed 28	7.30pm	SWS Gardening Club 'Wildlife in the Garden'	Lydbury North Village Hall
Wed 28	7.15pm	Royal Ballet—The Winter's Tale—630321/638038	SpArC

The Parish Post thanks the Aston on Clun Community Shop for its generous grant

Clun Valley Good Neighbours Scheme

In an area where public transport is virtually non-existent, Clun Good Neighbours offers a valuable service to older people who would not otherwise be able to get to important appointments. If you live in a remote area, can no longer drive, and need to pick up a prescription from the surgery, just how would you do it? If you need to keep a dental appointment in Bishop's Castle or a physio appointment in Knighton, getting there would be impossible without help. These are the sorts of journeys Clun Good Neighbours are asked to help with. We operate a telephone helpline each weekday morning and we are now in urgent need of more volunteers to staff it. Could you commit one morning a month from 9-1pm to be on call to answer inquirers on the phone in your own home? Or perhaps you could offer to be contacted as a volunteer driver. We are particularly short of people in Clunton, Clunbury and Newcastle areas. If you would be interested in helping or knowing more, please get in touch.

Joan Kerry, 01588 640401