

# The Parish Post

Number 16  
June 2011

Serving Beambridge, Clunbury, Clunton, Coston, Cwm, Kempton, Little Brampton, Obley, Purslow, The Llan and Twitchen

## Cliff Robinson Remembered

Cliff died on 27 April 2011. For 5 years he had lived a private and contented life in Kempton, away from the spotlight



that he had known for many years. As a young man, he wanted to become a professional cyclist, but when his hopes were dashed, he studied dress design to make full use of his formidable drawing and design skills. He then worked for a number of architects on some prestigious projects. It is perhaps no surprise that such a talented and eclectic man should become a film Art Director.

He was a brilliant speaker and enthralled his audience with his anecdotes, as those who were lucky enough to hear him at the Assembly Rooms or in Lydbury North Village Hall will remember. The film he seemed to be most proud of was Gandhi, but he was Art Director for many more including Gladiator and a Harry Potter. He brushed shoulders with many famous people, yet he was a modest and private man, happy to participate in local events (his Address to the Haggis on Burns Nights at Kempton was performed with great gusto), happy to meet and talk to people, but equally happy with his own company.

Film was not his only interest: he loved books and had a large library covering every imaginable subject. He was fascinated by well-designed and well made machinery such as classic cars and historic firearms.

Latterly life had been difficult for him, spending many weeks in hospitals, particularly Bishop's Castle hospital of which he, and his family, could not speak too highly. He certainly lived life to the full and will be much missed by those who had the privilege to know him.

For a fuller tribute to Cliff by Malcolm Turner, who knew him well, visit [theparishpost.org](http://theparishpost.org) website.

## £10,000 Lottery Grant for Clunbury Village Hall

Congratulations to the Clunbury Village Hall Committee on their successful application for a grant of £10,000 from Awards for All (part of the Big Lottery Fund). Their aim is to try to encourage people of all ages to make more use of the hall by improving the facilities it can offer.

The grant will be used, amongst other things, to buy new tables and chairs, some staging, lighting and a projector, a notice board and book racks and to improve the kitchen and storage facilities. Money is also included to buy paint and curtain fabric to freshen up the hall, but not to pay for the labour involved - so watch this space - volunteers will be called for at some time in the not too distant future!

The Committee would particularly like to thank Juliet Morgan for all her work on the application.

**Please send your contributions by the 20th of each month**

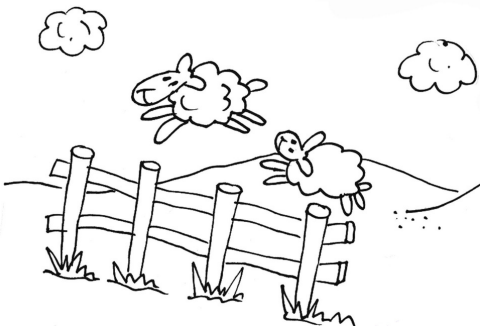
## Unreliable Observations

It's adolescent time. No, not me! I can remember the Festival of Britain for goodness sake. It's the time-of-year adolescence. Well late adolescent as I write. Almost in full bloom but not quite.

A lot like human adolescence now I come to think about it. An abundance of promise, all that floral beauty ready to burst into colourful abundance. Or not, as the case may be. The awkward child ready to turn into the handsome and confident young adult. Or not as the .....

I was admiring the roses in our garden. David Austin's finest. Lots of lovely almost-out buds. Will the horrible black spot attack? Will I treat it in time? Will people notice the spots? Ah yes, memories of adolescence.

Looking out of the window from my desk, I can see the lambs – definitely adolescent now. A frisky little gang of them hanging out on the street corner,



with nothing much to do – sorry, hanging out in the corner of the field. Not quite so cuddly now, fewer 'aaahs' and 'ooohs' from our visitors, but still full of charm. Oh! There they go, charging across the field to absolutely nowhere. Looking round again for something else to do. Looking for a hole in the hedging to squeeze through and cause trouble. Definitely ASBO potential.

This morning there was a huge bee buzzing in the woodshed. Is he adolescent as well? Maybe not.

Probably having a first futile look round for a spot of pollination. So maybe yes. I left him to his own devices.

Anyway, lots to look forward to – the beauty of Spring turning into Summer. Not really like our adolescence – that's a one off, thank goodness. Time-of-year adolescence comes every twelve months. And very welcome it is too.

*David Oakley*

## Barbara Freeman's Muffin Recipe

When we first came to the village, Barbara very kindly sent me a plate of her muffins which were like no muffins I'd ever tasted! She later gave me the recipe, and even I could do them, and now they are being made not only around here but in Northamptonshire, Surrey and even Canada! They turn out so well – try them for yourself.

### Ingredients

(Note Barbara's cup holds 250ml / 9fl ozs)

2 cups self-raising flour

1 cup sugar

¼ cup brown sugar

1 egg

½ cup milk

½ cup plain yoghurt

1 cup berries

Flaked almonds for topping



### Method

Gently mix all the ingredients except the berries and flaked almonds together in a bowl. Add 1 cup of your chosen fruit. (I've made them with whimberrries, blackberries and raspberries and they've all been good.) Place in a muffin tin and sprinkle flaked almonds on top.

Bake at 180C, 350F or Gas mark 4 for 30 minutes. Makes 12.

*Lin Brown*

## Volunteers needed

Could you be our correspondent for your part of the parish?

## Clunbury School Corner

The spring term was certainly a busy time and looking back we experienced some exciting events.

Our Science week in March was a great success. We had visits from Science Boffins and Victoria Hodges who works for Astrium a company who make and send satellites into space. We learned a great deal and were inspired to become engineers or scientists. We made rockets and slime and investigated electricity.

Our Easter bonnet parade at the end of term was great fun with many amazing hats on display.

We cannot believe we are already into the summer term. We started off the term celebrating the Royal Wedding by holding an informal street party on the playground. We invited parents and members of the community. The sun shone and we had a great afternoon.

We have lots of other activities planned for the summer term including sports day, cross-country and swimming gala.

In June we are holding a community assembly in church so we will be busy practising.

Finally please don't forget our first Summer Fair on 18 June.

## Clunbury Summer Fair

We are holding our first Summer Fair at Clunbury Primary School on **Saturday, 18th June**. There will be a variety of stalls and we would love to see you there too!



Please contact Mrs Turner in the school office (01588 660207) if you would like to have a stall to sell your produce/goods

## Mobile Library Alert – New Timetable

The Mobile Library is now visiting our parish alternate weeks on a Tuesday (instead of Wednesday or Monday

as previously). The stops remain in the same places with the times as follows

Clunbury 10.10 to 10.30am

Clunton 10.40 to 11.00am

Obley 12.15 to 12.25pm

**The first date in June is Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>  
Support your Mobile Library!**

## Rookeries in Clunbury Parish: a Response

A crow in a group is a rook and a rook on its own is a crow - a key difference between the two. Rooks are social birds and nest in groups – rookeries – while Carrion Crow pairs nest well away from each other. And while Carrion Crows (and their larger cousins Ravens) will take carrion and sometimes sickly young lambs, Rooks mostly just eat leatherjackets and are thus the farmers' friend.

From a county survey begun in 2008 which found 549 rookeries (there will be many more) I currently know of just six within the parish of Clunbury.

The parish rookeries I currently know about are at Kempton (about 56 nests in 2008), Clunbury (36, down to 22 this year) and nearby at the bottom of Clunbury Hill (2, discovered this year), Purslow (41, up to 55 this year), Coston Manor (number unknown) and behind a little quarry north of Clunton (6, found this year). But you know better and if so I'd love to hear from you. I look forward to learning more ...

Email: [john.tucker@lanius.org.uk](mailto:john.tucker@lanius.org.uk)

John Tucker

**QUIZ and SUPPER**  
**Clunton Village Hall**  
**Saturday 25 June 2011**  
**at 7.30 pm**

**Tickets: £7.50 each**

**Teams arranged on night**  
**Contact Tracy on 660730**  
**or Pat on 660169**

**Top Tea in Abcote**

**A**fter hearing that Rocke Cottage Tea Room had been named Top Tea Place 2011 by the UK Tea Guild we thought a visit to the other side of Clunbury Hill was called for. Karin Clarke, who has run the tea room for the past four years, offers about twenty different kinds of tea and a selection of home made food. We sat inside, entertained by music from the 1920's and 30's, enjoying excellent tea and very big, scrumptious pieces of chocolate and ginger cake. Well worth a visit.



*Sue & David Hill*

**Clunbury Under-5s**

**OPEN DAY**

**Monday 27 June**

**9.00-11.30 am**

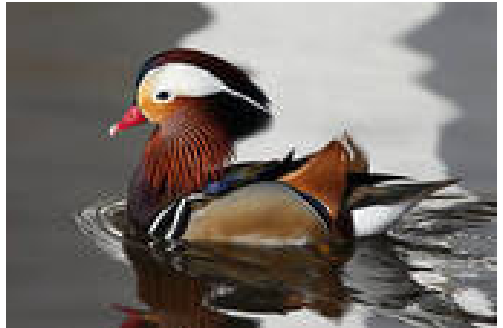
Come and join us in

**Clunbury Village Hall**

Activities and Displays  
Refreshments

**Chinese Couple Grace Kempton**

**O**n 27 April I spotted a pair of Mandarin Ducks on the Kemp by the footbridge in Kempton. The plumage of the male is beyond exotic: a fine crest, a generous ruff and two prominent 'sails', all coloured in a bold mix of orange, chestnut, green, blue, purple, gold, bronze, buff, white and black. Too exotic one might think for the UK and in fact they come from the Far East, but so



Male Mandarin Duck

extraordinary is their plumage that they have long been prized by collectors of waterfowl. London Zoo is said to have paid as much as £70 for two pairs in 1830. A century later Ronald and Noel Stevens purchased birds for their wildfowl collection at Walcot Hall where the population is said to have peaked at over 100 birds. They died out here but free-flying birds have dispersed from other collections, particularly in the south of England, and bit by bit wild populations have become established. Though birds have been seen on occasion in Shropshire since the late 1970s, it is only over the last few years that numbers have really 'taken off'. Recently I have seen birds on the Lugg, Onny and Teme including broods on the last two, and a pair was seen on the Clun at the end of March – perhaps the same birds as I saw on the Kemp. Have there been other, perhaps much earlier, sightings? Do please let us know.

*Tom Wall*

## **Pete Postlethwaite reads from A E Housman's 'A Shropshire Lad'**

Recently the BBC broadcast a programme of Pete Postlethwaite reading poems from A E Housman's anthology A Shropshire Lad. The readings were recorded in 1996. If you missed the programme or would like to hear it again go to [theparishpost.org](http://theparishpost.org) website and click on the Audio, video & photos tab and follow the links.

## **Parish Assembly / Parish Council Meeting Notes**

The annual Parish Assembly and regular bi-monthly Parish Council meeting took place on 26 May in Kempton Village Hall.

Present: Harry Collins (Chairman), John Croxton (Vice Chairman), Nancy Adams (Clerk), Karl Bailey, Ian Davies, John Hoskins, Penny Marsh, Sandra Morgan, Stuart Seabury, Shropshire Councillor Nigel Hartin, Shropshire Council Community Action Officer Mathew Mead, four members of the public. Apologies: Malcolm Jones.

In his annual report the Chairman mentioned the refurbishment of the War Memorial and the improvements made to notice boards and seats. Flooding problems were still under investigation and concerns over schools reorganisation remained. In conclusion he thanked everybody who had supported the PC during the year.

NH reported that Shropshire Council were anticipating a 'hard federation' of four local schools. This would probably involve a joint governing body and possibly a shared head teacher. Another consultation on the Local Development Framework will take place in September and a new plan will be published in 2012. LJC funding for grants has been reduced to £29,000 this year. New grant guidelines are available. A funding

application is going through for Clunton Village Hall.

At this point Parish Councillors were provided with copies of the accounts and the Annual Governance Statement. These were approved. This concluded the Parish Assembly.

The PC meeting saw the Chairman and Vice Chairman re-elected for another year. SC is offering free residential property flood surveys / advice (contact The Parish Post for details). Richard Webb reported ongoing problems with 4x4s using the byway adjacent to his property. The possibility of getting it diverted is to be investigated. NA had obtained a lower quote for insurance and this was accepted. JH will produce a schedule of Parish Plan actions for consideration at the next meeting. NH reported that in future planning officers will charge for advice. SC has applied for a grant to improve broadband speeds in S. Shropshire. There will be a public Flood Forum at Acton Scott on 30 June at 2.00pm. NA to write to SC re damaged road edge near Clunbury VH & BT re damaged phone box in Kempton. Kerb needs lowering to allow wheelchair access at Crown Inn. Next AED training 4 June 10.00am, Clungunford. Road at Ford Cottages, Clunbury to be closed for up to a week in August. Next meeting of PC 28 July 8.00pm Clunton VH.

(PC-Parish Council, SC-Shropshire Council, VH-Village Hall)  
*David Hill*

### **CONTACTS**

**Email:** [theparishpost@gmail.com](mailto:theparishpost@gmail.com)

**Phone:** Sue Hill 660355  
Barbara Vesty 640596  
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](mailto: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.

**Events Diary for June 2011 - go to [theparishpost.org](http://theparishpost.org) for more details**

Date	Time	Event	Location
Wed 1st	10.30am -12.00pm	Coffee Morning in aid of Clunton Church - Bring and Buy, Draw etc.	Crown Inn, Clunton
Fri 3rd	9.00pm	Live music - Slowburner	White Horse, Clun
Sun 5th	6.30pm	Evensong	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Fri 10th / Sat 11th		Opera - Rigoletto by Opera A La Carte	Walcot Hall tel: 680570
Sat 11th	7.30pm	Flicks - Wild Target	Memorial Hall, Clun
Sun 12th	10.30am	Deanery Service of Holy Communion	Churchstoke
Mon 13th	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Free help with using computers at Aston on Clun Broadplace	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Tue 14th		Mobile library:- Clunbury Bridge 10.10am to 10.30am Clunton 10.40am to 11.00am Obley 12.15pm to 12.25pm	
Tue 14th		Hopesay WI - Midsummer meeting visiting member's gardens. New members welcome.	contact Judy Clarke 660278
Wed 15th	9.15pm	Folk music	Crown Inn, Clunton
Fri 17th	9.00pm	Live music - Plastic Pantomime	White Horse, Clun
Sat 18th		Clunbury School Fair	Clunbury School
Sat 18th	9.00pm	Live music - The XLs	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Sun 19th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St. Mary's, Clunton
Sun 19th	6.30pm	Evensong	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Tue 21st	9.30am	Clunbury School Community Assembly - all welcome	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Tue 21st	7.30pm	Bedstone WI meeting - Pam Collier, Honey and its uses	Bedstone Village Hall
Tue 21st	7.30pm	Silence & Meditation - an hour's quiet time	Forest View, Clunton
Wed 22nd	7.30pm	Andy Irvine in concert. Contact Shona 680651	Lydbury North Village Hall
Thur 23rd	9.00pm	Folk music	Sun Inn, Clun
Sat 25th / Sun 26th		Clun Open Gardens	Clun
Sat 25th	7.30pm	Quiz and supper	Clunton Village Hall
Sun 26th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Mon 27th	9.00am - 11.30am	Clunbury Under-5s Open Day	Clunbury Village Hall
Tue 28th		Mobile library:- Clunbury Bridge 10.10am to 10.30am Clunton 10.40am to 11.00am Obley 12.15pm to 12.25pm	

**Events Diary for early July 2011 - go to [theparishpost.org](http://theparishpost.org) for more details**

Date	Time	Event	Location
Fri 1st	9.00pm	Live music - BC AllSkas	White Horse, Clun
Sun 3rd	6.30pm	Evensong	St Swithin's, Clunbury

**Clun Walking Groups (everyone welcome, just turn up)**

Day	Start	Group	Location
Every Wed.	9.30am	Ramblers	Clun Memorial Hall Car Park
Every Wed.	10.00am	Peramblers	
1st and 3rd Wed. in month	10.00am	Amblers	