

Pat Harding, BEM



I would like to express my thanks to those who nominated me for the British Empire Medal which I was presented with on 19 May, in a ceremony that took place at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury. The presentation was made by The Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire, Sir Algernon Heber-Percy.

It was a lovely day and made memorable by the family and friends who were able to attend the ceremony. It is an honour to receive such an award, and it is a pleasure to live in this community. Thank you all very much. *Pat Harding*

Domino Challenge Cup

Bank Holiday Monday drew a gathering of domino players, friends and family to the Crown Inn at Clunton for the 3rd Annual competition for the Gilbert Jones Domino Challenge Cup.

Gilbert started the competition on his 90th birthday in order to keep the interest in dominoes alive for the next generation. Gilbert was pleased with the turnout, he said " It was a wonderful evening. I was so thrilled to receive a birthday cake with candles on – but pleased there were not 92 ! The cake was made by Annie Sutton and presented by Della. It was nice to see competition from as far afield as Church Stretton and Newcastle."



Gilbert presented the Challenge Cup to John Morris of The Spoad, Newcastle-on-Clun. He thanked all the other competitors for taking part, Andy Coull from Lydbury North for running the competition and Della and Andy at the Crown Inn for putting on a wonderful spread.

More Crown News

On Tuesday 3 June, The Rotary Club of Ludlow will be holding its Luncheon Meeting at the Crown in support of the forthcoming celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the rescue of the Inn by a small group of local people. *David Pearson*

A Dip in the Clun

One Wednesday morning in May I gathered my gardening equipment, which includes a portable radio tuned to Radio 4, and headed off to do some weeding. Imagine my surprise when the first word I heard on the radio was 'Clunbury' and someone talking about wild swimming. Later, using Listen Again, I heard the whole piece which included the following poem –

And the River Loves Me

I love the river and
The river loves me
Down by the Clun
At Clunbury.

Climb the gate
Of the village hall,
Oh follow me son
And follow me all.

Skirting fields
By hem and hedge,
Then over the fence
To a gravelly edge;

A jungle of alder
And nettles that sway,
Keen to sting those
Who brush past this way.

Beyond is the water,
Her song and her swerve
Held by the clay
In a tight-fisted curve.

Just as we dare
To dive with a splash,
Out of the shadows
A wallowing crash,

As something, yes something
Leaps out of the Clun,
All sleek and wet-heaving,
One blink and he's gone.

And all that he's left
Are his prints in the mud,
The echo of otter
Stirring our blood.

Oh for the magic,
The bright mystery
As we dip in the Clun
At Clunbury.

The poem is by Andrew Fusek Peters, by whose kind permission it is reproduced here. Andrew has lived with his wife Polly and their family in Lydbury North since 1991. He is a successful poet, well known for his entertaining school visits and has published many children's books with Polly, who is also a writer and storyteller.

The Radio 4 programme I happened upon was 'Midweek' with Libby Purves and Andrew was talking about his latest (adult) book 'Dip – Wild Swims from the Borderlands' which describes how he re-discovered a love of 'wild' swimming that helped him recover from a severe bout of depression. Swimming in the Clun at Clunbury inspired him to write the poem. Photography is another one of his passions and the book is illustrated with many of his own (and his daughter Rosalind's) evocative black and white photographs. More of his photographs of the local landscape and wildlife will be on show in November in an exhibition at SPaRc in Bishop's Castle and in the Christmas Show at the Twenty/Twenty Gallery in Much Wenlock.



Sue Hill

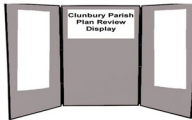
Wildflower and Wildlife Alerts

Siobhan Reedy at Shropshire Council is running a 'campaign' to prevent the early mowing of flower-rich verges. Anyone who knows of a good, species-rich verge can let her have the details so that the information can be put on a database to alert SC to avoid mowing too early. Contact her by email at siobhan.reedy@shropshire.gov.uk. There is also a worry that some people may be strimming stream and river edges too early which is not good for wildlife at this time of year. This should take place in the autumn instead.

Parish Plan Review update

There was a good attendance for the display and consultation held on a Wednesday at The Crown Inn. This coincided (deliberately) with the coffee morning and fish & chips which, no doubt, helped to boost numbers. There will be one more opportunity to see the display (see below). The Review Group has started preparing the questionnaire which will be circulated later in the year.

Clunbury Parish Plan Review 2014



**Display and Consultation Event
Tuesday 3 June**

Kempton Village Hall

6.00pm to 8.00pm

**Come and see what has been
achieved and help decide what
needs to be done in the future**

Faster Broadband Update

It's arrived in Clunbury at last! BT cancelled the first two appointments but it was third time lucky and on 21 May BT's contractor, who was paid by the job, spent at least six minutes plugging in the new router and checking that it worked before dashing off to the next customer. The result, around 25 Mbs download speed -about eight times what we were getting previously. If you live within about 3Km (as your telephone wire runs) of Little Brampton crossroads you may be able to get faster broadband as well. You can check availability at www.bt.com/infinity

David Hill

Clunton Village Hall Italian Evening

A beautifully decorated hall welcomed everyone to the evening. The food was very Italian, all home cooked and quite delicious. A table quiz and the usual raffle added to the fun and it was a most enjoyable evening. Thanks to all who came and to the committee for their hard work.

Pat Harding

Don't Get Caught by Courier Fraud

Elderly residents are being warned about a phone fraud where victims are being duped out of cash by people posing as police. Seventy of these offences have been recorded in our region since March. The offenders are targeting older people as part of a national scam which is commonly known as a 'courier fraud'.

In many cases a person claiming to be a police officer will contact an elderly or vulnerable victim by telephone and inform them that their bank card has been used fraudulently. The victim will then be tricked into thinking they are either calling or being put through to their bank, but in fact they are still speaking to the fraudsters. The victim will then disclose banking information and will be instructed to either place their bank cards in an envelope for a courier to collect or attend the local branch of their bank to withdraw a sum of money and pass it to a courier sent by fraudsters. Sometimes the fraudsters use legitimate Taxi companies to make the pick up.

If you receive a phone call of this nature, police advise that you:

- Do not give out any information and end the phone call immediately. Wait at least five minutes to clear the line from the scammer before making any other calls, or use another phone. Make sure you have a dialling tone.
- Report the offence as soon as possible to police by telephoning 101

Please remember:

- Your bank will never attend your home.
- Your bank and the police will never collect your bank card or cash
- Your bank and the police will never ask for your PIN.

Anyone with any information about this fraud can contact police on 101, quoting Operation Ardent.

South West Shropshire Gardening Club News

There was a good turn out to welcome the gardening club back to Lydbury North and to hear Alun and Jill Whitehead talk on "Irises, some history, some people, some plants". They started the evening by discussing the history of Auden Farm, where their National Collection of Siberian Irises is housed, before going on to talk about fellow iris enthusiasts and their own love of the plant. They explained the various types, their habitat and soil conditions needed. With over 200 varieties available they explained that irises have a full range of colour, pattern and scent. Their enthusiasm was infectious and we all came away with a list of irises we wanted for our own gardens.



surrounding a tangle of streams and ponds against a backdrop of mature trees. There is a wild flower meadow where you can walk along the Curl Brook and a spiral path leading up to splendid views of the surrounding countryside. There are several follies which the RHS Garden Finder describes as "dotty but delightful", reflecting Richard Pim's belief that a garden should be beautiful but also fun. Other unusual creations to amuse us range from a sparkling grotto made out of wine bottles to a giant cuckoo clock which has been featured on TV. I often

have trouble remembering one garden from another but I do not think that will be a problem this time!

If you would like to join us contact Carol: on 660753. The cost is £20 for members and £22 for non-members (includes coach fare, entry to the garden and a 2 course meal at The Boot). *Carol Clark*

P.S. Don't forget the Garden and Produce Show to be held on Sat. 30 August at Lydbury North Village Hall. Classes are open to anyone – only 30p per entry or 50p on the day. For more info. contact Sandy Burton on 680454 or email keith.burton785@btinternet.com

Coming soon...

Westonbury Mill Water Gardens

An afternoon/evening trip to this beautiful three and a half acre garden near Pembridge, on Wednesday 25 June returning via The Boot at Orleton for a delicious meal.

About half the garden is filled with colourful, moisture-loving plants,

Local Open Gardens

Hopton Castle

Gardens will be open on Saturday 14 June 11am - 4.30 in aid of Hopton Castle Church. Come and have a walk around our village, look at and admire our gardens. Refreshments available in Castle Barn Garden - enjoy a light lunch or cream tea, or both! For more information phone V. Mellings on 01547 530457 or Anne Williams on 660268.

Hopesay

On Sunday 22 June, 2 - 5pm, Chris and Carol Clarke are opening their garden at Caudibook House, Hopesay for charity under the National Garden Scheme.

It is a garden of hardy herbaceous perennials and shrubs with a large vegetable plot, fruit trees and soft fruit and a thyme lawn. Admission £3.50, children free. Refreshments. All welcome

Annual Parish Assembly / Parish Council Meeting Report

Eight Councillors, the Clerk and five members of the public present.

Annual Parish Assembly:

Chairman's Report: Cllr Croxton gave a quick synopsis of the past year's events: Retirement of the previous Chairman, Harry Collins. Reprieve for Clun Fire Station after a threat of closure. Clarification of Clunbury Parish's status regarding housing development. Fibre optic broadband cables are being installed. A review of the Parish Plan has started and the Council has received £1,000 towards the costs. The Chairman thanked the Councillors and the Clerk for their input during the year.

Parish Council Meeting:

Election of Officers: re-election of John Croxton as Chairman and Ian Davies as Vice Chairman.

Matters arising from the March meeting:

Website: David Hill, who maintains the site, appealed for assistance.

Parish Plan: Public displays of the work done so far were quite well attended, in Clunbury and Clunton; the display will be on view in Kempton on 3 June, 6-8pm. The working group has now started formulating a questionnaire.

Parish Land (Black Hill): Cllr Morgan suggested organising an event, such as a picnic.

Ambulance Service: there is still concern about waiting times. Clerk to ask WMAS rep. to attend next PC meeting.

Clunton Burial Ground: The Parish Council is still waiting to see the deeds. The owner of an adjacent property is reasonably happy for people to have permissive access across his land but would welcome an approach from the PC to discuss the matter with him.

Clun Valley AED/CFR Schemes: Defibrillators now installed at Clunbury, Clunton, Kempton and Purslow.

Planning: Plans had been received for renovations at Church House, Clunbury and for a stable block in Twitchen

Roads: The Crown in Clunton has

suffered a considerable loss of business since the road closure. They asked if the Council could intervene to improve the signs indicating that businesses were open as usual and accessible.

Potholes in different locations were reported; the clerk will get in touch with the appropriate services.

The Purslow crossroads work is still unfinished. Cllr Croxton will try and hasten the process.

Little Brampton crossroads: Shropshire Council is working on some plans which will be sent to the Parish Council for consideration.

Shropshire Council, has received a request for a new traffic mirror at Three Ashes and wishes to hear the Council's views. After consideration, it was agreed that a site meeting should be arranged.

A footbridge at Clunton Coppice is in danger of falling into the river, following damage from floods. Cllr. Croxton is trying to get a footpath officer to come and inspect it.

Correspondence: Connecting Shropshire (Broadband) have offered to give a 10mn presentation followed by questions on the subject.

Finance: Payments: Clerk's salary (March & April): £304.16; npower: £50.45; Shropshire Association of Local Councils: £216.04; Insurance: £447.16; street light repair: £125.23.

AOB: Ashbeds right of way: after years of controversy, the matter is still unresolved in spite of the Inspectorate's order. Mr Sweetman went in detail through the background of the disagreement and asked the PC to follow up the application of the order by Shropshire Council.

Bottle bank: the pub in Clunton cannot get their bottles collected although they pay business rates. They would be willing to accommodate a bottle bank in the car park, which could also be accessible to other members of the public. The clerk will make enquiries regarding business rates and what they cover. Cllr Croxton will enquire from the Hundred House if they have the same problem and then contact the Council.

Next meeting: 17 July, 8pm in Clunbury.

Events Diary for June and early July 2014

Sun 1	11.15 am	Morning Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 1	12.30-4pm	The Big Lunch in The Old Vicarage Orchard	Clunbury
Sun 1	7.00pm	Songs of praise in four-part harmony. Tel 661171 for info.	Kempton Village Hall
Mon 2	9-11am	Parent & toddler group-every Mon in term time. Just turn up	Clunbury Village Hall
Tue 3	6 - 8pm	Parish Plan Review Display and opportunity for discussion	Kempton Village Hall
Wed 4	9.00pm	Quiz night	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Thur 5	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Sat 7	7.30pm	Flicks - Much Ado About Nothing	Clun Memorial Hall
Sun 8	6.30pm	Joint Evening Prayer	St Mary's, Clunton
Mon 9	7-9pm	Free help with using computers at AoC Broadplace	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Tue 10	Mobile library:-Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am, Obley 12.45-12.55pm		
Thur 12	2 - 4pm	BC & District Carers Group Carers Week Celebration	Boar's Head, Bishop's Castle
Thur 12	7.00pm	NT Live - A Small Family Business	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Fri 13	7.30pm	The Clun Valley Filling Station - A Faith that Works	Newcastle Community Ctr.
Sat 14	11am -5pm	Hopton Castle Gardens Open	Details from Anne, 660268
Sun 15	6.30 pm	Evening Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Mon 16	2 - 4pm	BC & District Carers Group - talk on Dementia	Boar's Head, Bishop's Castle
Wed 18	7.00pm	Royal Shakespeare Company - Henry IV Part II	SpArC, Bishop's Castle
Wed 18	9.15pm	Live acoustic folk music	The Crown Inn, Clunton
Thur 19	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Fri 20	8.00pm	Flicks - Twelve Years a Slave	Clungrunford Parish Hall
Sun 22	11.15 am	Joint Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 22	2 - 5pm	Open Garden at Caudibrook House	Hopesay
Tue 24	Mobile library:-Clunbury Bridge 10.10-10.30am, Clunton 10.40-11.00am, Obley 12.45-12.55pm		
Wed 25		SWS Gardening Club trip to Westonbury Mill Water Gardens	Phone Carol on 660753
Fri 27	evening	Barbeque, Hog Roast and live music	Hundred House Inn
Sun 29	10.00 am	Benefice United Service of Holy Communion	St George's, Clun
Thur 3	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall

The Big Lunch

Sunday 1 June, 12.30-4.00,
The Old Vicarage Orchard,
Clunbury. Bring a plate of
food to share and your own
drinks. Games, raffle & fun
things to do.

Hundred House BBQ

Friday 27th June Bar,B,Q
and Hog roast, music by The
Sultana Brothers.
Good R&B music - the
ultimate hip swinging, foot
tapping party band.
Come and enjoy a summer
evening, with Rhys and his
team.

The Craft Room

at Pool House Farm, Clunbury
Handmade gemstone jewellery,
cards, locally made goats milk
soap, fabric items
Open Monday & Thursday 2-5pm
or by appointment. Phone Lin on
660578

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