

Flowering Ambition

Jean Seckington, of Twitchen, has long had an ambition to create a wild flower meadow. When the opportunity came up to buy the small field behind her bungalow in 2004,



she was able to begin to turn her dream into reality.

The first task was to try to find a way to rid the 0.9 acre field of bracken. Jean sought help from the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty experts whose advice to pull it out by hand proved to be very hard work but not very effective. The Shropshire Wildlife Trust advised her to use a selective weed killer, which has proved more effective but equally hard work, as she painstakingly divided the field into small sections to ensure that individual bracken plants were sprayed. Bracken continues to be a problem in some parts but the field has now reverted predominantly to grass and over time wild flowers are establishing themselves – at the moment cowslips, violets, celandines and dog's mercury are all in flower.

Apart from encouraging natural regeneration Jean also sows seed (including 2 kilos of yellow rattle seed!) and is trying to establish plants such as ox-eye daisy and poppy. With help from family and friends she has planted 14 individual trees (British native species) and 300 hedge trees (which were free from Shropshire Council as part of a scheme to encourage land owners to replace hedges). The grass has up to now been managed by cutting in late September, when the flowering season is over, but now that the field has been

securely fenced Jean is hoping to put a few sheep in over the winter. They will not only help to keep the grass under control but also provide free fertiliser!

A project of this sort is very hard work but for Jean it is obviously a labour of love and we hope to bring you news of how it progresses in the future.

Sue Hill

Debut Concert Aids Charities

A small but appreciative audience heard Lorna Griffiths perform a selection of unusual but beautifully crafted and melodic songs at St. Georges, Clun, on a sunny Sunday evening. Her entertaining and knowledgeable narration linked the songs and laid bare the development of this particular art form.

St George's Church and the Air Ambulance are both better off to the tune of £75, and Lorna and her accompanist, Lucy, would like to express their gratitude for the generosity of the retiring collection.

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

Hall 4 All at Clunbury

The new Village Hall Committee at Clunbury have three exciting events lined up. Firstly they decided that a General Election should be held so that local residents could get used to using the Hall again! As it's the first public event under the new regime entry will be FREE and it will run from 7.00am to 10.00pm on Thursday 6 May. Also...

Clunbury Village Hall Events

Friday 14 May at 7.30pm

Curry and Quiz Night

Everyone welcome for this excellent night of entertainment in aid of Clunbury School

£2.50 / head for the quiz
plus £3.50 if you want curry

Saturday 26 June

The Vintage

Come and dance the evening away to this popular London-based band
Proceeds in aid of the Village Hall
(further details next month)

The new Committee members are: Phil Wright (Chairman), Pippa Halliday (Vice-Chairman), Sue Horder-Mason (Secretary), Sally Newton (Treasurer), Helen Wright (Bookings), Steve Howard (Events), Andy Manley (Maintenance), Suzanne Hadwen (Licensing). To book the Hall phone Helen on 660446.

Raising the Roof!

As work started on repairing the roof of St Mary's, Clunton on 14 April, a coffee morning was being held at the Crown Inn to raise money in support of the project.



Pat Harding reports "We are grateful to Della and Andy for allowing us to use their premises, and to all those who helped in any way. The bring and buy stall sold cakes almost as soon as they came in, also plants and bric a brac. Mrs Ruth Buckley donated a watercolour of Clunbury which was bought for a birthday present for a Clunbury resident. Good raffle prizes and an auction of a couple of items brought in a few more pounds. This enjoyable social occasion – a regular event in Clunton – raised the very pleasing amount of £332.76 Thank you to all who supported us."

Please send your contributions by the 15th of each month

Clunbury Church's AGM

The meeting was held on 20 April with Barney Bell in the chair. Church Warden Christina Whitehead reported that the church building and contents were in good condition. The most significant



One of the Clunbury bells cast in 1887

event of the year was the restoration and re-hanging of the bells. Particular thanks go to Roger Webb, John Croxton and Barbara Freeman for their help. Fundraising events included an Auction of Promises, a talk by Roy Lancaster, a Gift Day and Harvest Supper. Monies from the Harvest Supper went to support Farm Africa and donations were also sent to the British Legion and Shropshire Historic Churches Trust.

The Treasurer reported that there had been a deficit of £5,588 for the year, largely due to the cost of restoring the bells (total cost approx. £23,000 spread over two years). The year-end financial assets were £42,549.

The existing PCC members and officers agreed to continue in post with the exception of Karl Bailey, Secretary, who stood down. Tim Record agreed to take Karl's place. Carol Griffiths was elected as a new PCC member.

Financial support in the form of a loan and / or donation to St Mary's, Clunton to assist with the cost of roof repairs was agreed in principle.

PCC members were greatly saddened by the death of Joyce Brough who had been a great supporter of the church.

A plaque commemorating Ron Mold's contribution to the church will be put up.

A book listing headstone inscriptions from Clunbury graveyard has been found in the Church safe. This could be a useful aid to family history researchers.

David Hill

Have Your Say on Local Plans

Shropshire Council is inviting all residents to give their views on an important Development Plan Document. This is about the future of the places where you live, shop, play, go to school, work, travel, and walk. There will be a consultation meeting at Bishop's Castle Community College on Thursday 13 May from 4.30pm to 8.00pm. To find out more go to the Planning page on the Parish Website.

£49,000 of Grants Available

Our Local Joint Committee has £49,000 to support local projects this year. Of this £20,000 has been allocated to a Community Chest Scheme which can provide grants of up to £1,500 with no requirement for match funding. Community Groups and Registered Charities can apply. To find out more contact Frances Hall on 07837 718593 or go to theparishpost.org/index/ljcgrants

Sacred Spaces Through the Ages Project

Twelve communities are to participate in an exciting new project to identify and celebrate the things and places that people feel to be important in the landscape of the Shropshire Hills. Clunbury has the chance to be one of those communities – what's important to you in the landscape around Clunbury? For more details, please telephone Michael Whithouse on 01588 630057

Parish Council Meeting

Clunbury Parish Council met on 25 March. The full minutes of the meeting will appear on the parish website and notice boards when they are available.

A letter will be written to Shropshire Council with specific details regarding flooding to roads etc in the Parish. There was also some discussion regarding responsibility for clearing Clunton Brook to avoid flooding. The Highways department at Shropshire Council will be re-contacted regarding traffic calming in Clunbury and roads used inappropriately in the Parish by HGVs etc. A vehicle weight limit will be trialled at the bridge in Beambridge.

Some progress was made on tackling issues raised in the Parish Plan, and the Council agreed to take forward discussions to increase the number of notice boards around the Parish. Discussions will also take place with neighbouring Parish Councils regarding joint litter picking and NHS Dentist provision in the area. Surplus funds from the Parish Plan group were returned to the PC on the proviso that the monies be used to progress items from the Parish Plan.

Vice-Chairman John Croxton had attended the latest Local Joint Committee meeting where provision of Broadband in the area was discussed. John advised that the next round of LJC grant funding starts later in the year and suggested everyone think about suitable grants to apply for.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 26 May at Kempton Village Hall, 8.00pm.

Cllr. John Hoskins

Volunteers needed

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

A Good Friday Despite Rain

Good Friday in Clunbury was not dampened by the rain as Amaryllis Bell ran a workshop in our Village Hall. Twenty five children enjoyed a series of creative activities. Easter biscuits were made for later in the afternoon, Easter gardens were created to take home and stained glass pictures were drawn. A number of large posters were designed to be placed in the churches around the parish. In a collaborative activity each child painted a large letter which later in the day they held up to be photographed displaying the message JESUS IS RISEN TODAY.

The weather prevented the usual procession up Clunbury Hill at 3.00 o'clock so Rev. Barney Bell held a short service in our Village Hall. Later however, a few intrepid souls took advantage of a break in the weather to take the cross and erect it at the top of Clunbury Hill.

Phil Wright

Easy Pea-sy

If you like peas but you're not so keen on bending to pick them and then podding them, try mangetout pea Reuzensuiker. According to the packet they will grow to 3 feet but with fertile soil and tall supports they can top 6 feet. The pods are carried high up so are easy to pick and are delicious cooked whole and served with butter.

Clunbury School Expands

A substantial extension to Clunbury School is providing improved facilities for Early Years Foundation Stage pupils. To find out what the school can offer phone 660207.

Lapwing Survey

The next meeting of the Kemp Valley Lapwing Project Group will be on Monday 7 June at 7.30pm in Lydbury North Village Hall. All welcome.