

The Parish Post

Number 15
May 2011

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



On the top of Clunbury Hill

Good Friday Walk

In glorious sunshine, a crowd of over 60 adults and children, climbed Clunbury Hill bearing crosses, for the traditional Good Friday walk. Several stops were made on the way up for prayers and readings led by Barney Bell and Philip Wright, and to change the cross bearers. Once at the top the crosses were erected and are now visible from all around.

After enjoying the wonderful views the party went back down the hill to a well-deserved tea in the village hall.

Coffee Morning

at The Crown Inn, Clunton
Wednesday 1 June
10.30 - 12.00
Bring & Buy, Draw etc.
In aid of Clunton Church

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

The April Bingo event in Craven Arms raised over £600 for the school. Thanks to all who took part.



Arbor Day Aston on Clun



Sunday 29 May 2011
celebrating 1786 Wedding

Entrance Free

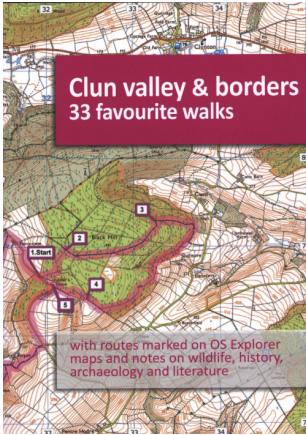
All offers of help gratefully received
Contact rosiedevans@aol.com

- £ 1.15 Morris Dancing by the Tree;
- £ 1.50 WEDDING PAGEANT Procession to the ARBOR TREE for the Arbor Tree Celebrations.
- £ Then back to the Village Hall for Refreshments and Children's Entertainment (on the Green if fine). Live Folk Music and A CEILIDH in the Evening.

Please send your contributions by the 15th of each month

Book Launch – Clun valley & borders 33 favourite walks

Early in 2010 the three walking groups in Clun began a project to produce and publish a book of local walks. Members of the groups were asked to suggest favourite walks and I put forward ideas for two walks in the Clunbury area that were subsequently accepted.



I have often made use of walk books, but until my involvement with this project never appreciated just how much work goes into producing them. First, I had to walk my chosen routes, making careful notes along the way, describing exactly which direction to take across fields and through woods (not as easy as you might think – *you* know what you mean by ‘veer slightly left’ or ‘bear right’ but will the user of the book understand!) In the interests of those that (you hope) will follow, it’s necessary to stick exactly to the right of way and on one of my routes this involved crossing a field of shoulder-high oilseed rape in full flower. Unfortunately it had rained hard the night before and by the time I reached the other side my clothes were bright yellow and so wet that I had to take off my T-shirt and wring it out – luckily I was still in the middle of fields so only sheep were there to witness my outdoor striptease!

Once walked and written up, the routes were then re-walked by someone unfamiliar with them to make sure that the instructions could be understood and followed. The final stage, the actual

production of the book involved the time and talents of many of the group in raising funding (thanks are due to Shropshire Hills AONB, People’s Postcode Lottery and Shropshire Council LJC), designing the book and getting it printed.

Now, just over a year since the project began the book is on sale. It can be found locally in Aston on Clun village shop, in Clun (Bridge Coffee Shop, Bright Flowers, Caractacus, Davies and The Old Surgery), in Bishop’s Castle (Old Time and Simpson’s), and in Craven Arms (Discovery Centre) at a cost of £4.95. Any profits will be distributed to local charities.

Sue Hill

The Census of Clunbury 1901

I thought the census might be an appropriate topic for a short piece for this month as we have all just submitted our census returns - willingly or unwillingly!



There has always been great controversy surrounding the recording of the census. In 1753 a private bill, with government backing, was introduced which provided for an annual count of the population and a record of those receiving relief from the parish. It ran into



fierce opposition and was condemned as an attack on "the last remains of English Liberty!" Some people regarded the whole thing with superstitious dread; others feared it would reveal too much to the nation's enemies. Though passed by the Commons, it was thrown out by the House of Lords.

During the next half a century, attitudes changed. They realised it was advisable to keep track of population increases relative to the resources available to support it. When the Census Bill of 1800 was introduced, it passed into law

unopposed, and the first census was taken the following year and every 10 years thereafter.

I was going to give you some details from the 1911 census; (there is a 100 year closure on these records) but although you can pay to view entries from it on certain websites, it won't become freely available until January 2012, so I looked at the previous one, taken on the 31st March, 1901 for the parish of Clunbury.

In Clunbury Hall resided James Morris, 31, his brother Kenneth, 26 and 2 sisters, Martha, 29 and Fanny, 28, all unmarried and running the farm between them with a servant, Edith George. Along at Tansy Cottage was James Meredith, 54, a general labourer, his wife Ann and their 7 children and at the Mill House, Hubert Abbott, 66, a butler, born in Somerset, lived with his wife Sarah and children Sidney, 34, a groom, and daughter, Agnes, 30. They had a lodger, one Danby Brown, 49, a surgical medical practitioner from Ireland!

At Pool House were the Whitefoots - John, 34 and Mary Ann, 42 with their two daughters; Gladys, 8 (who went on to become Mrs Powell and who lived in this same house until she was nearly 100 years old), and Mildred, 6, who became Mrs Morgan (of the Llan).

Along at The Crown in Clunton, we find Charles Jones, 57, widower, timber feller and publican, whilst at The Oak was George Lunn, 30, a clog manufacturer and publican, with his wife, Georgina and a domestic servant - Gertrude Wadsworth, 17 from Yorkshire.

At Purslow Hall was George Archdale, 39 with wife Lucy and 3 young children, attended by 7 servants including a French governess, a cook from Scotland and a domestic nurse, a parlourmaid, a housemaid, a kitchenmaid and a nursemaid!



Up at the Pump House **[can anyone identify this?]** in Kempton lived Edward Jones, 37, a house joiner and carpenter, his wife Hannah and two sons.

The title of oldest inhabitant in the parish is shared by three people, all recorded as 80 years of age - Jane Anthony, a widow at the Post Office, Clunbury; John Williams, a rabbit catcher, of Clunbury, and Edward Price, a general labourer of Lawn Cottage, Beambridge.

The youngest inhabitant was the as yet unnamed daughter, and 6th child of James Morris, 34 and his wife Hannah 31 of The Green, Clunton, at just 21 hours old! Ahh! James was also a rabbit catcher.

In 1901, the Clunbury parish recorded 853 inhabitants. I went through it and noted all the occupations given, (sad, I know, but I'm a keen family historian!), and it was no surprise to see that domestic service was the most common job (61), followed closely by farmers (37), agricultural labourers (35), waggoners and general labourers, both (25), cattlemen (17), woodsmen (13), shepherds and grooms (10 each), seamstress, carpenter and stone mason (9 each), blacksmith (7), rabbit catcher (6), wheelwright and engine drivers (5 each), teachers, post women, gamekeepers, laundress and publican (3 of each) plus a few others. Those that

were "living on own means" numbered 11 and there 3 people receiving parish relief.

It certainly paints a picture of life at that time, doesn't it? It would be fascinating to compare it with the occupations given in 2011, but that will have to wait for our descendants and interested parties in, probably, 100 years from now, unless there's a change in the law that releases them sooner!

Lin Brown

Can you identify faces and places in the pictures?

Annual Parish Assembly

This will be held along with the next Parish Council meeting on Thursday 26 May in Kempton Village Hall starting at 8.00pm. All parishioners are encouraged to attend, to meet their representatives and to ask questions.

Clunton Coffee Morning

The coffee morning on 9 April in Clunton Village Hall was an enjoyable social occasion, and raised over £270 for the upkeep of the Hall.

There were stalls selling cakes, preserves, books, toys and plants as well as plenty of good bric-a-brac. There was a raffle and an excellent Tombola – with some local rivalry over winning the bottle of whisky. It eventually went to a good home at Fold Farm !!

The event was well attended and the weather was good enough for some folk to sit outside with their coffee, enjoy the view and a chat.

Volunteers needed

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

Spring Launch

Wildlife enthusiasts met on the first day of spring, over tea and cake, to celebrate the formal launch of the Kemp Valley Wildlife Group. As the breeding season starts again, monitoring bird activity becomes paramount in view of the rapid decline of some species.

Last year's Lapwing survey showed an increase in fledged young, but only from 1 to 3! Suitable nesting sites are few and far between; advice on how to maintain and improve them can be obtained from Leo Smith, 01588 638577.

Vince Downs talked of the successful work undertaken to provide secure nesting sites for Dippers, which are doing well at present, with nests under a number of local bridges.



Dipper (*Cinclus cinclus*)

It is feared that Barn Owls will have suffered over the last 2 winters (snow cover makes hunting particularly difficult), but work continues on providing nest boxes in appropriate locations. If you see a Barn Owl (other than in the well known Little Brampton area) or know of a suitable location for a nest box, please tell Vince on 01588 660369.

Expansion of the Red Kite population in Shropshire continues apace and in 2010, 2 nests were found in the Kemp Valley project area with 4 young fledging. If you see 2 kites together, or one in the same place several times, or visiting a wood, please contact Leo.

Kempton Rooks occupy West End

How many rookeries are there in our parish? And how long have they existed? Although I have paid them little attention over the years I think that Rooks have nested at Kempton throughout the 25 years I have lived here. Am I right? And how far back can we take the story?



In 2008 I counted 60 nests at Kempton, mostly in the big oaks along 'the top road' (B4385). But since then they have started moving west, deserting the oaks and occupying, for the most part, quite young ash trees. And this year some birds have moved from the East End of the village across the Kemp to the West End, with the nests split fairly evenly (19:13) between the two parts of the village. Additionally a cluster of some five nests was built further west still, near New House Farm, although the nests here now seem to have been abandoned.

Elsewhere in the parish there is a long-standing colony in poplars between the Hundred House and Purslow Hall. I counted 55 nests there a day or two ago when I also came across a tiny group of 2 or 3 nests in an ivy-clad oak south of Clunbury Village, up-against Clunbury Hill, outliers presumably from the rookery in the village. But surely there must be colonies elsewhere. What about at Clunton or Beambridge? And how many nested in Clunbury itself this year? You may like to share your knowledge of this and any other sites with the Parish Post.

Parish Council notes

The Parish Council met on 31 March in Clunbury Village Hall.

Present: Harry Collins (Chairman), John Croxton (Vice Chairman), Nancy Adams (Clerk), Karl Bailey, Ian Davies, Penny Marsh, Sandra Morgan, Malcolm Jones, one member of the public.

Apologies: Stuart Seabury, John Hoskins.

Bridleway at Ashbeds: Shropshire Council are to produce a report following a recent site visit. It is unlikely that the track behind Ashbeds will be added to the Definitive OS Map. The alternative of upgrading the footpath between the road and the forest track to a bridleway is problematic because of the steep gradient. The next episode in this long running saga should be revealed at the May PC meeting.

Clunton Brook: The Environment Agency says that clearing the Brook is the responsibility of adjoining landowners. John Croxton considered that clearing the Brook would have little effect on flooding as the water backs up into the Brook from the Clun when that river is high.

Clunbury Mains Drainage: The Housing Association has not yet given a date for starting work on connecting their properties to the new drain. The Clerk was asked to write to the Housing Association pressing for a start date.

Schools reorganisation: Governors from Clunbury and other schools are working together to find a way forward acceptable to both local communities and Shropshire Council.

Litter picking: The Clerk reported that the PC's insurance covered litter picking provided that certain health and safety procedures were followed.

Planning: The retrospective application for a fence at 'The Bungalow' had been refused and as a

result the fence has been reduced in height.

Roads: A number of potholes need attention and will be brought to the attention of the Highways Dept. The warning signs for Beambridge bridge should be installed soon. The PC is waiting to hear from Shropshire Council about what actions they propose to improve visibility at Purslow cross roads.

Defibrillator Scheme: Councillor Bailey has been on the training course.

Eddie Jones in Newcastle on Clun is promoting buying groups for heating oil and LPG. Anyone interested should contact Eddie on 01588.640856

Rural Watch: Community Support Officer Julia St John-Martin will attend the next PC meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday 26 May, 8.00pm at Kempton Village Hall. This meeting will incorporate the Annual Parish Assembly. All parishioners are encouraged to attend, to meet their representatives and to ask questions.

David Hill

If you prefer to receive The Parish Post by email (which saves paper, shoe leather and the planet), please contact us at

theparishpost@gmail.com

If you have family or friends living outside the parish who, you think, would like to receive The Parish Post, let us know.

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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 May 2011 - go to theparishpost.org for more details

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun 1st	12.00 start	Green Man Festival	Clun
Sun 1st	6.30pm	Evensong	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 1st	evening	Live music - Rhythm Thieves	Sun Inn, Clun
Sun 1st	9.00pm	Live music -: Eddy Gartry & Bluestate UK	White Horse, Clun
Mon 2nd	11.00 start	Green Man Festival	Clun
Tue 3rd	7.30pm	Flicks - My Afternoon's with Marguerite	Lydbury North Village Hall
Wed 4th	2.30pm	Craven Arms WI - Resolutions & Quiz	Methodist Hall, Craven Arms
Fri 6th	6.00pm	Freehand Theatre - Who's Been Sitting In My Chair?	Bedstone & Hopton Castle Village Hall
Fri 6th	7.30pm	Flicks - The King's Speech	Clungunford Parish Hall
Fri 6th	9.00pm	Live music - The HMV Band	White Horse, Clun
Sun 8th	11.00am	Joint family service	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 8th	6.30pm	Evensong	St Mary's, Clunton
Mon 9th	7.00pm - 9.00pm	Free help with using computers at Aston on Clun Broadplace	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Tue 10th	8.00pm	Hopesay WI - Jane Pugh, the singing flower arranger	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Fri 13th	9.00pm	Live music - Kent Duchaine	White Horse, Clun
Sat 14th	7.30pm	Ludlow Choral Society Monteverdi Vespers (1610)	St Laurence's Church, Ludlow
Sun 15th	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Mary's, Clunton
Sun 15th	6.30pm	Evensong	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 15th	6.30pm - 8.00pm	Tower Group for 8 to 14 year olds. Stories, activities and games	Clungunford Church
Wed 16th	9.15pm	Folk music	Crown Inn, Clunton
Tue 17th	6.30pm - 8.00pm	Christian Aid Week coffee evening. Bring & Buy, Raffle	The Rectory, Clungunford
Fri 20th	9.00pm	Live Music - Wayne Martins Blues Deluxe Band	White Horse, Clun
Sat 21st	7.30pm	Flicks - The King's Speech	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sat 21st	7.30pm	Flicks - The King's Speech	Memorial Hall, Clun
Sun 22nd	11.00am	Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 22nd	2.00pm - 6.00pm	Clungunford open garden - Azalea Sunday	Shelderton House. For details phone 01547 540214
Thur 26th	8.00pm	Clunbury Annual Parish Assembly and Parish Council meeting. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.	Kempton Village Hall
Thur 26th	9.00pm	Folk music	Sun Inn, Clun
Fri 27th	9.00pm	Booze 'N' Blues - Ted Crook & The Blues Highway	White Horse, Clun
Sat 28th	3.00pm 6.00pm 9.00pm	Booze 'N' Blues - Will Killeen - Barrelhouse Blues - Whisky River	White Horse, Clun
Sun 29th	10.30am	Group Service of Holy Communion	Hopton Castle
Sun 29th	starts 1.30pm	Arbor Day	Aston on Clun
Sun 29th	3.00pm 6.00pm 9.00pm	Booze 'N' Blues - Paul Wallis & Sam Newth - Bridgewater Blues Band - The Hexmen	White Horse, Clun
Mon 30th	3.00pm 6.00pm 9.00pm	Booze 'N' Blues - Jam Session - Dave Rea & Friends - The Charlie White Project	White Horse, Clun

Events Diary for early June 2011 - go to 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

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	

Hopesay WI

Tuesday 10 May
An Open Meeting to entertain you

In Aston on Clun Village Hall

Jane Pugh
The singing flower arranger

All visitors welcome at 8.00pm
Admission £3 non-members

AZALEA SUNDAY

SUNDAY 22nd MAY



CLUNGUNFORD OPEN GARDEN

at

SHELDERTON HOUSE

MAGNIFICENT AZALEAS and RHODODENDRONS

WOODWORKING EXHIBITION

CREAM TEAS

PLANT STALL

PRIZE DRAW

ENTRANCE £5

OPEN 2-6PM

PROCEEDS in aid of CLUNGUNFORD CHURCH

Enquiries: 01547 540214 or alskyme@yahoo.co.uk

ADVANCE NOTICE!

For all 5 – 14 years

Date for the diary or calendar

This year's

HOLIDAY CLUB

Monday 8 to Friday 12 of August

Every afternoon at St. Cuthbert's, Clungunford. **Theme: "Cuthbert's on the Move"**. (where and how to travel)

If you have not been involved before and would like to offer help, or have any queries, please contact Sandra Schofield 01588 660158

Could you help us keep theparishpost.org website up to date and interesting? If you have basic computer skills and can spare a little time we can show you what to do and if you have a computer with an Internet connection you can do it from home. To find out more contact David Hill on 01588 660355 or email tpp.org@gmail.com

