

## Sunshine at Last for Purslow Show

After what has seemed like years of indifferent (or worse) weather, the organisers of Purslow Show were finally rewarded with a fantastic hot and sunny day which brought in the crowds.



In the Show Tent there was a wonderful display of entries from children at Clunbury School, alongside the usual classes for cookery, garden produce, handicrafts and photography. Flower arranging was well supported after many had attended a workshop featuring this class last month and the Collection of vegetables entered by Paul Grimes was a work of art.

There were over 70 competitors in the Hill Run; Steve Levett of Tunbridge Wells Harriers (Senior Men's category) was first home in a time of

22mins 09 secs – a minute and 10 seconds faster than last year's winner. Second home was Andy Salt (Men's category) in 23.41. Scott Jones (Croft Ambrey) was first in the Boys under 16s in 28.28 and the first female runner home was Madeline Williams (Girl's under 16 category) in 30.06. Children's races and donkey races in



the Donkey Derby also attracted lots of attention.

Numbers were slightly lower than usual at the Dog Show but this was put down to the weather being too hot – you can't please everyone! The Gymkhana events were well supported and the competitors seemed to be having a great time.

Music and other entertainment kept people busy through the afternoon, including the Parish Post games - Splat the Rat and Roll a Coin (thanks to John Payne for donating



Mark Wadsworth coming in 4 seconds after his son Sam

wood to make the board).

Many thanks to all involved in the show – I'm sure everyone who attends appreciates the hard work and dedication which go into organising it. *Sue Hill*

### Unclaimed raffle prizes and photographs

Whiskey – white 29; sherry – white 126; wine – white 240; chocolates – white 430. To claim contact Annie Sutton, Old Wheelrights Tea Room, 660140.

Two photographs entered by Ed Loffill were not collected from the Show Tent. Eirlys Ellams (660625) would like contact details to arrange for them to be returned.

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

## Purslow Show Handicraft and Produce - Cup winners

Dr Hamar Handicraft Cup – Jane Cassford  
Dr Hamar Cookery Cup – Rebecca Huffer  
Monica Reynolds Cup for Cake Making – Carys Palmer  
WI Store Cupboard Cup – Richard Bott  
Dr Hamar Vegetable Cup – Paul Grimes  
Mrs J.F.C. Woosnam Flower Cup – jointly Mary Jones and Sarah Marie Bailey  
Ted Lewis Cup for Roses – Richard Bott  
Margery Price Rose Bowl for Flower Arranging – Lynne Thompson  
Ken Davies Perpetual Challenge Cup for Photography – Gordon Bailey  
Sheila Train Perpetual Children's Cup – Lucy Grafton



Some of the children's entries in the Show Tent



Some entries in Class16 'An arrangement in a cup and saucer'.

## Summer Barbeque for St Swithin's

A fundraising BBQ at The Barn, Clunbury took place on 13 August. A total of 125 people raised £1,200 for church funds. This included ticket sales, a licenced bar, a tombola stall and a guess the weight of the cake contest. The weather was kind, and some excellent live music was provided by Mike and Corrine. Grateful thanks to all who kindly donated some delicious salads and puddings to accompany the BBQ, and to those who assisted in so many ways.

*David Mansfield*

Right: Trevor and the Morgans enjoying their food watched over by the Rev Simon Mondon in trademark hat!



## Rural Broadband Update

The saga goes on and is much too complicated to cover fully in the space we have available. For the latest update from Shropshire & Marches Campaign for Better Broadband in Rural Areas follow this link (assuming you have some form of internet access!) <http://tinyurl.com/hutb6ex>



*Shropshire & Marches Campaign  
for Better Broadband in Rural Areas*



## South West Shropshire Gardening Club

### Annual Garden and Produce Show—Reminder

**Saturday 3 September**

Lydbury North Village Hall

Last day for entries: 1 September

The hall is open from 9.30 – 11am for delivery and staging of exhibits and the show itself takes place from 2pm – 4pm

### “A Land Army Life”

**Wednesday 28 September**

Lydbury North Village Hall

**M**emories of service in the Women's Land Army during the Second World War – a talk by Robin Hill.

Following the scare of food shortages in the First World War, when we came within three weeks of being starved out by a blockade of merchant shipping, the British government were quicker to respond to the challenges of feeding the nation in the 1939-45 conflict. Some three months before war was declared the Women's Land Army was re-born, and by the end of 1939 had over 4,000 members. All were volunteers, willing to leave their lives in city and town for life on the farm. Before them lay the challenges of long shifts in the milking parlour and cold winter mornings in wet muddy farmyards, caring for stock. They had to quickly master the primitive tractors of the day, ploughing and planting the crops that were vital to the nation's existence, laying hedges, cutting thistles and threshing the valuable corn. In doing this they were joined in the field by those too old to fight, by prisoners of war and by schoolchildren, eager to escape classroom study to assist the war effort. But it is to the girls of the Land Army - all 87,000 of them - that we owe the greatest debt, and who we will remember through the memories of three local ladies who served their country, in 'A Land Army Life'.

*Angie Salmon*

## Health Matters

### NHS Future Fit

**T**he future of the Shrewsbury and Telford hospitals is under review. NHS Future Fit will be consulting with people in the local area who are likely to be affected by the proposed changes, before the final decision is made on where services will be sited in the future. They want as many people to have their say as possible. If you wish to participate in the survey, go to

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PRR86ND](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PRR86ND)

### Clun & Knighton Practices

**A** decision on the future of the Clun and Knighton practices was deferred to 21 Sept by the CCG Primary Care Strategy Committee when it met last week. Members are worried that the proposal to close the Knighton site and redraw practice boundaries could lead to a (very expensive) Judicial Review and called for more reports on the proposal. So the uncertainty for nearly 4,000 patients continues despite the imminent retirement of one of the three doctors and the continuing lack of applicants to replace him.

### Flu Clinics

Clun: Thur 15 and 29 Sept afternoon.  
Phone 640573 for appointment.

Craven Arms: Sat 1 Oct, from 9am.  
Phone 672309 for appointment.

Bishop's Castle: Oct & Nov; Mon & Thur, from 5pm. No appointment necessary.

## CONTACTS

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

**Website:** [www.theparishpost.org](http://www.theparishpost.org)

**Phone:** Sue Hill 660355

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](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.

## Memories of 14 Years Riding and Striding

A team of cyclists from Clunton have now taken part in the Ride and Stride event now for 14 years. Originally just a cycle ride, it includes walkers and even horse riders. The annual event raises money for the Trust and the local church.

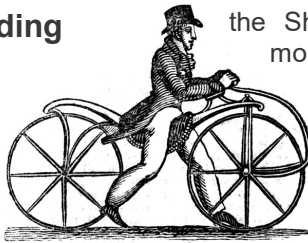
Ian Davies has cycled every year to date and shares some of his memories.

"One of my favourite routes was what we called the 'Three Parishes Challenge', visiting all the churches in the Clungunford, Clun and Bucknell parishes. Starting from Clunton, we head up the Clun Valley to St George's in Clun and then steadily climbing on to Newcastle and a serious climb up to Bettws y Crwyn. In my case - a walk - with the younger members of the crew pedalling past me up the hill. They seem to have an endless supply of gears in their legs as well as on their bikes!

On one occasion, reaching the Bettws church, my temperature gauge well into the red, I was unable to manage the gaseous lemonade provided and the ladies there kindly gave me the water they had brought for the flower arranging.

Refreshed, we set out along the top of Spring Hill heading for Llanfair Waterdine with wonderful views along the top - England on our left and Wales to our right. Soon we hurtle downhill into the Teme Valley with heads down and mouths shut (flying insects in the back of your throat at 25 mph can be difficult to eject!). Hoping our brakes hold out, we go down into Cwm Collo, quietly past the farm where the dogs can be quite aggressive in escorting you off their patch.

Then it's down to the River Teme and St Mary's at Llanfair Waterdine, proudly displaying Lord Hunt's Himalayan Bear emblem. Through Knighton - keeping to



the Shropshire side (we get no money for going into Wales), turn left and up to Stowe with another steep climb and welcome refreshments.

Down the valley to Bucknell, my Mum and Dad's church - lots of memories there. The pews we sat on for Sunday School are now gone. Then we head up alongside the River Redlake to Chapel Lawn where it is good to take on plenty of liquid as next is yet another steep climb to Obley. At this point we could head for home, but oxygen deficiency will dull our senses and we will convince ourselves that the hard half has been done. Downhill to St Edward's at Hopton Castle, then Bedstone where there is always a warm welcome from Arthur Dyball with all the news of who has visited them.

During latter years it has been most important to arrive at St Cuthbert's in Clungunford around lunch time as they put on a wonderful spread for all visiting cyclists and walkers. Well fed and rested we continue to Hopesay and back via Beambridge to Clunbury. Occasionally the bellringers are there sounding out a real welcome. Concentration required through the village as one of our team parted company with their bike one year on one of the drain covers, and ended up with a broken arm!

Finally the last leg back to Clunton and we have done it again for another year - all 48 miles. Once more the immortal words - 'never again' - but we will of course. We have tried various routes over the years, visiting different churches and bypassing many a pub!! Come and join in - either cycle, walk or even visit some churches by car. Nearly all churches are open and provide some welcome refreshments. All you need is a cycle and a helmet or some walking boots

and it is good fun meeting up with others en route, and you soon forget the aches and pains and the obvious sore places.

Finally I want to say thank you to all those who provide the much needed refreshments at each church. Special thanks to all the generous people who have sponsored our adventures over the years. It has been a real source of motivation to keep going. This year's event is on Saturday 10 September. I hope to see you there." *Ian Davies*

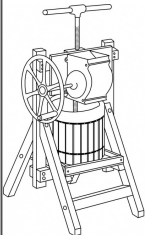


### Ride and Stride 2016

Please support this effort by either riding a cycle or walking to visit as many churches as you can on Saturday 10 September. You may also drive in your car, or even more important - SPONSOR those taking part. All proceeds are shared between your local church and Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. Contact Pat Harding for details: 660169.

### 105 Goes Live

On 6 September a new national phone number "105" will be launched by electricity network operators for customers to call should they need to report or get information about a power cut in their area.



**Clunton Scrumper's**  
**Apple Juicing Day**  
 15 October - 10am-4pm  
**Clunton Village Hall**

Light Refreshments  
 Please book a time  
 All details 660309

### Games and Social Night

**Saturday 17 September from 7pm**  
**Clunbury Village Hall**



*Fun for all  
 young and old*



Enjoy a night out with family and friends

Table Tennis, Pool, Darts, Table Football  
 Dominoes and Table Games (Scrabble etc.)  
 Or just CHAT!!



Tea/Coffee and biscuits available or BYO

### SUMMER BBQ



**CLUNTON VILLAGE HALL**  
**Sunday 11 September, from 3pm**  
 Food served at 4pm  
*Cooked on the BBQ by the Chairman*  
*Salads and vegetarian option + puddings*  
 Raffle, Licensed bar  
 Tickets £10.00 (includes glass of Pimm's)  
 Under 16: £5 Under 5: free  
 Tickets from Committee Members or phone 660169



Clunbury Village Hall  
 30 September, 10am-12noon  
*to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support*

## Flower Success

Eileen Morris (below), won the raffle (a flower arrangement made at the workshop by Daisy Davis) at the Flower



Arranging Workshop held on 30 July at Clunbury Village Hall. Thanks to Daisy Davis and Audrey McCartney for their time and expertise guiding us through the necessary steps to make a table decoration, a posy and an arrangement in a cup and saucer. Those who attended enjoyed the morning very much and feel well prepared to submit entries to the Purslow Show! We raised £135 for the Midlands Air Ambulance, thanks to everyone's generosity.

*Judith Payling*

## Pets at Church

The weather held out and folk from all over the Clun Valley Benefice gathered in St Swithin's churchyard for a Pet Service. The pets were very well behaved in the care of their owners. Quite a few dogs, but also a chicken, a guinea fowl, 2 ponies and even a few insects in boxes, nestling in some leaves. This celebration of the companionship and joy of our pets was enjoyed by all, and was followed by splendid refreshments, and even more tail wagging.

*Pat Harding*

## Cream Tea at Jasmine Cottage

Clunbury Village Hall decided to risk celebrating a break between the showers with tea in the garden at Jasmine Cottage, Clunbury on Sunday 21 August. Visitors were prepared to "pick up your plate and run" in the event of rain but were able to enjoy a warm afternoon as weather forecasters proved as good as their word. The promised good weather arrived just in time and, miraculously, stayed throughout. The event was well attended and all savoured mouth watering cream teas. Thanks to all who helped make the event a success and thanks to all of you who came.

*Eirlys Ellams*



Join us for a fun evening of

**Music, Pies & Puds**

**24 September, from 7pm**

Bedstone Village Hall

*Delicious home-made food*

Tickets from Gill 01547 530101/Veronica

01547 530590/Ann 01588 660268 or

gh@allen-haynes.com

Advance Tickets: £7.50 or £8 at the door

Bring your own tippie

Featuring award winning

Folk Group: RAPSQUILLION

Singer/songwriter: MOON

Local vocalist: GEORGE BYATT

Benefiting

St Edward's church, Hopton Castle &

Midlands Air Ambulance 25th Anniversary Appeal

## Local Band Night

**23 September**

**Lydbury North Village Hall**

Sean Gaffney Band plus BC Allskas

Bar opens: 7pm - Concert: 7.30pm

Adults: £8; under 16 years: £5

To Book tickets

Lydbury North: Ian on 680511

Bishop's Castle: Sean on 638712

## Clunbury 100 Club

Joey Matveieff £20; Maggie Vaughan-Morgan £15; Rosemary Jones £10; Judith Payling £5; Jane Cassford £3

## Policemen Proliferate in the Parish!

**O**r at least their helmets do; let us explain. Back in 1839 a tall, showy plant from the Himalayas was introduced to English gardens; it was called Himalayan (or Indian) balsam. It soon found its way into the countryside and spread (with help, notably from bee-keepers, but above all by its own means), becoming naturalised along river banks and on adjacent ungrazed damp ground, across much of the country. First recorded in Shropshire in 1910, it remained infrequent in our part of the county until the 1980s, but now it is widespread, notably along the River Clun. You really can't miss it: big and bold, it grows in extensive stands to seven or more feet tall, its thick, reddish, fleshy stems and luxuriant foliage decorated with masses of large flowers in shades of pink, which, turned upside-down, resemble in shape a policeman's helmet.



It is a controversial plant. Bulky, colonial and invasive, it bosses the river banks, elbowing out lower growing, less confident species. Having done so it dies at year-end, leaving bank-sides exposed to erosion, leading to a build-up of silt, detrimental to both brown trout and freshwater pearl mussels. But, flowering in late summer and into autumn, it provides a good source of nectar and pollen for insects, notably bumble and honey bees, when relatively few other plants are in flower (though in attracting these insects it may possibly divert them from native plants that need fertilising too). It would certainly be worth keeping those rivers that have yet to be colonised free of the plant (such as the Kemp upstream from Brampton Bridge) but elsewhere it is firmly and permanently established, so we might as well try to enjoy it, wondering at its capacity to proliferate. When ripe the seed-pods explode, projecting the seeds up to, it is said, 20 feet, and each plant may produce as many as 800 seeds. Finally, should you fancy a tickle, try squeezing a ripe pod in a clenched hand and feel it squirm as the seeds are released.

*Tom Wall and Dave Simpson*

**Helleborine Help Required** - Further to your article in the parish magazine – I have a helleborine growing in my garden and would like to know if anyone knows how to propagate it. It has been there for five years and is not spreading very quickly. It will shortly have seed. Any info? Boni Craig (bonicraig@gmail.com)

## Of Fish and Fowl

**R**emember the pale (leucistic) house sparrows that featured in last month's 'Post'? First seen and photographed on the eastern fringe of Kempton, one or more have now been reported by Marjorie Davies and Mary Cooper in the western part of the village.

The story triggered submission of this photo. The fish that didn't get away (though it was later returned safely to the water) is a wels catfish, seen here in the hands of Gary Hickinbottom of Kempton, who caught it recently in Spain. But this is no ordinary catfish - normally they are black or green-brown with a pale underside. Gary says that this fish had blue (not pink) eyes, so, like the sparrows, it was not an albino but an unusual colour-variation of the catfish referred to as a 'mandarin'. Gary's fish weighed in at 48lbs - no mean weight, but well short of his personal best of 149lbs.



### Events Diary for September 2016

Thu 1	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Thu 1	7pm	NT Live - The Deep Blue Sea 660493/660893	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sat 3	10am-1pm	Table Top Sale / Flea Market in aid of Air Ambulance - 660492	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sat 3	2 - 4.30pm	SWSGC Show	Lydbury North Village Hall
Sun 4	11.15am	BCP Holy Communion ** Change from usual pattern	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 4	12 - 2pm	Sunday Lunch - 01547-530282	Bedstone Village Hall
Sun 4	7pm	Songs of Praise in four-part harmony. Tel 661171 for info.	Kempton Village Hall
Tue 6	7.30pm	Flicks - Florence Foster Jenkins - 680302	Lydbury North Village Hall
Wed 7		Start of Autumn Term - Clunbury School	
Wed 7		Quiz - proceeds to Midlands Air Ambulance	Kangaroo Inn, Aston on Clun
Thu 8	7pm	Flicks - Sing Street - 630321/630038	SpArC
Sat 10		Ride & Stride	
Sun 11	11.15am	Morning Prayer ** Change from usual pattern	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 11	From 3pm	Summer BBQ	Clunton Village Hall
Mon 12	9 - 11.30am	Parent & Toddler Group - every Monday in term time. Just turn up	Clunbury Village Hall
Tue 13	Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10 - 10.30am, Clunton 10.40 - 11.00am, Obley 12.45 - 12.55pm		
Wed 14	8pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society—Historias Minimas	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Thu 15	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Thu 15	pm	Flu clinic - phone for appointment 640573	Meadows Surgery, Clun
Thu 15	7pm	Turandot on Sydney Harbour - 630321/630038	SpArC
Thu 15		Tim's Travels - The Importance of Being Earnest - 640506	Birmingham Rep
Sat 17	10am - 1pm	Craft and Collectables Market	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sat 17	From 7pm	Games Night	Clunbury Village Hall
Sat 17	7.30pm	Flicks - Eddie the Eagle - 640254	Clun Memorial Hall
Sat 17	7.30pm	Music in Quiet Places: The Katona Twins	Lydbury North Village Hall
Sun 18	6.30pm	United Evening Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Thu 22	8pm	Clunbury Parish Council Meeting	Kempton Village Hall
Thu 22	7pm	NT Live The Threepenny Opera - 630321/630038	SpArC
Fri 23	7.30pm	Local Bands - Sean Gaffney Band + BC Allskas - 680511	Lydbury North Village Hall
Sat 24	From 7pm	Music, Pies & Puds	Bedstone Village Hall
Sun 25	11.15am	United CW Holy Communion	St Mary's, Clunton
Mon 26	7.30pm	Live Acoustic Folk Music	The Crown Inn, Clunton
Tue 27	Mobile Library: Clunbury Bridge 10.10 - 10.30am, Clunton 10.40 - 11.00am, Obley 12.45 - 12.55pm		
Wed 28	7.30pm	SWS Gardening Club - A Land Army Life	Lydbury North Village Hall
Wed 28	8pm	Bishop's Castle Film Society - Locke	Three Tuns, Bishop's Castle
Wed 28	7pm	RSC - Cymbeline - 630321/630038	SpArC
Thu 29	10-11.30am	Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Thu 29	pm	Flu clinic - phone for appointment 640573	Meadows Surgery, Clun
Fri 30	10 - 12noon	Macmillan Coffee Morning	Clunbury Village Hall
Fri 30	7pm	Harvest Festival	St Mary's, Clunton
Fri 30	7pm	Flicks Double Bill: Gremlins & The Twilight Zone: Nightmare at 20,000 feet - 630321/630038	SpArC
<b>October</b>			
Sat 1	From 9am	Flu Immunisation Day - 672309 for appointment	Craven Arms Surgery
Sat 1	7.30pm	Flicks - Florence Foster Jenkins	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sun 2	<b>NB - 6pm</b>	Songs of Praise in four-part harmony. Tel 661171 for info.	Kempton Village Hall