



The Parish Post

Number 120
November 20



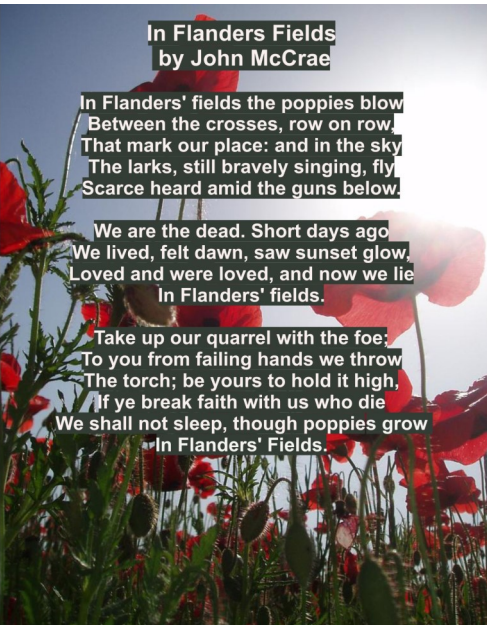
for Beambridge Clunbury Clunton Coston Cwm Kempton Little Brampton Obley Purslow The Llan & Twitche

In Flanders Fields by John McCrae

In Flanders' fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders' fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high,
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders' Fields.



Apple Juicing in Clunton



Great day! All done within Covid-19 rules. Many thanks for the use of Harry's yard; the village hall was mud-flooded!



Remembrance Services

8 November 2020

10am Hopesay

10.45am St George's Clun

12.30pm Purslow Memorial



Clunbury Café

Dates for November

Thurs 12 and 26

Subject to Covid restrictions

10.00 - 11.30 am

See you there!



Clunbury Church Harvest Festival

A big thank you to Paul Grimes who kindly donated some of his excellent blooms of dahlias and gladioli to decorate the church for Harvest, making a lovely display.



Also, thanks go to all the ladies for the flower and fruit foliage arrangements to make it all look so festive. Thank you too to the children from Clunbury school for their display of writings and paintings telling the story of growing crops through the seasons to harvest.

Thank you all

Mary Jones and Madeline Matveieff

Please send your contributions by the 20th of each month



Gardening Corner

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness – well it certainly is this year. The lack of frost is prolonging the wonderful display of autumn colour. The oaks in Clunton Coppice are clothed in wonderful golds, reds and browns. Closer to home *Euonymus alatus* is providing the most wonderful display of colour. A very easy shrub to grow (up to 7 or 8 ft) with a dwarf version available for smaller gardens (3 ft).

The mild weather is also permitting plants to flower much later than normal or have a second flush of colour – nasturtiums are still doing wonderfully in our garden. Brambles are having a second flush of blackberries, and sloes are perfect for making that sloe gin. A tip to get even more flavour in the final product is to allow the fruit to stand in the gin for two or three weeks before adding the sugar.

Outside, November is all about tidying up the garden ready for winter – clearing up leaves, cleaning the greenhouse, staking plants to prevent wind damage and mulching tender plants eg dahlias, if you're going to leave them in the ground. Before you hack all your perennials off, think about flower displays inside over winter – there are some beautiful seed heads to be had, vines make good bases for Christmas wreaths, dried hydrangea flowers look beautiful and should retain their colour if cut while still in colour. Also think about what you can leave for bird food – the great tits have really enjoyed our sunflower seeds and have been a joy to watch as they land on the leaves and stems of the plant before attacking the flower head.

You can also think about next season and save your own seeds – we've grown squash from saved seeds, and runner beans plants grow well from home grown seeds. You can also sow sweet peas for planting out next April – once germinated they won't grow much over the winter but will be a stronger plant that should flower much earlier than spring-sown seed. If you haven't got proper root trainers, toilet rolls do the job just as well and much cheaper!

In the vegetable garden, we've just dug the most delicious carrots – Nazareth – full of flavour and thoroughly recommended. Rather than covering the row with mesh to prevent carrot fly, we planted marigolds alongside them – the scent of the marigolds is supposed to disguise the scent of the carrots so the carrot flies go elsewhere. From the selection we've dug so far, it certainly reduced the amount of carrot fly damage, although not eliminated it completely. Having said that, we'll certainly do it again as marigolds are far nicer to look at than a row of white mesh!

An Amateur Gardener

South West Shropshire Garden Club

All meetings are suspended until further notice due to Covid restrictions. Seed orders are being collected, and are starting to come through and it looks as if we will qualify for the 30% discount, but if we get a few more orders, we will hopefully reach the 50% discount figure, as we did last year. No payment needs to be made until Sandy receives the seeds and she will notify members when she has them. Orders need to be back with her by 14 November. There are still some catalogues available if anyone else would like one, and if you need more information please email Sandy at sandy_burton@btinternet.com



Inspiration from Pembrokeshire

Living in Pembrokeshire, Jackie Morris is inspired by the coastal scenery and the local wildlife to produce exquisitely illustrated books for children (and adults). Her books reflect her concerns that children might grow up without a knowledge of the countryside and unaware of the rich canon of folk tales that feed the imagination. She produced, with Robert Macfarlane, a marvellous book called *The Lost Words: A Spell Book* written as a homage to nature with charming verses and pictures which span double pages. An enchanting collection of folk tales, *The Quiet Music of Gently Falling Snow*, is illustrated with a series of pictures she produced for Help Musicians UK and like much of her work creates a fairy tale world to explore again and again. Bears make frequent appearances in her books. *Can you see the little bear?* is an engaging book for small children to encourage curiosity and observational skills whilst delighting them with the detail on the pages, it is fun for adults too! Polar bears feature in the tale of *The Ice Bear*, a story to remind us that we are caretakers of the wild creatures of this planet and need to hold them dear to ensure their survival. Another book to read with a child *Something about a Bear* includes conservation information about wild bears shown in their natural habitats before finishing with the delightful conclusion about which bear is the best of all! Jackie's books have the potential to be heirloom books which make perfect presents to be treasured for ever. She has a well presented website at www.jackiemorris.co.uk If you order her books from the Solva Woollen Mill, you can request that they be dedicated to the recipient and signed by the author usually with a little original drawing relating to the theme of the book to gift to your favoured child..

Judith Payling



Bishop's Castle Winter Festival

On Friday 27 and Saturday 28 November at SPARC, Bishop's Castle, Arts Alive presents a Winter Festival of stories and songs featuring artists from England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Aston Craft & Collectables Market

17 November 2020

10am—1pm

Covid protocols apply

For info contact Andra 660492



Autumn Art Exhibition 2020

Aston on Clun Art Group

Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre
Craven Arms

15 October to 23 November

Picture and Card Sales

Free Entry and Parking

Esmeralda, the All Singing, All Dancing Caravan

Rachel Downs (from Kempton) and her father recently visited Hartlebury Castle, Worcs, which was home to the Bishops of Worcester for 100 years. There were many things of interest to be seen, and during their visit, they made an amazing discovery in the little motor museum; it may be of interest to local people.



Esmeralda is the most recent addition to their collection of Gypsy caravans. She may have been named after Esmeralda Locke, the free-spirited daughter of a well-known Welsh Gypsy family. Esmeralda Lock (or Locke), the Dancing Gypsy Girl was born in 1854 and lived with her family in Shropshire. The family regularly pitched their tents on the banks of the Severn at Bridgnorth on property owned by local solicitor Hubert Smith, who was the Town Clerk of Bridgnorth between 1873 and 1887. Smith was in his fifties at the time and became infatuated by Esmeralda. She didn't feel the same, but gave in to pressure and married him in 1874. Esmeralda didn't

give up her footloose life easily. She tried running away from her husband but was returned by her father; another time she made her escape by knocking Smith out with a silver candlestick. <https://www.aboutbridgnorth.com/esmeralda-the-gypsy/> The Ledge Waggon was originally owned by the Welsh Locke family and found in a ditch near the Shropshire town of Clun. As a Ledge Waggon weighs about the same as a family car, a good strong horse would have been required to pull this waggon. The Lockes were still around in 1935, when



Magdalene M Weale wrote in *Through the Highlands of Shropshire*: 'Pontesbury is the headquarters of many of the gypsy tribes that roam this country. At the approach of a stranger, several dark-skinned children crawled out of these huts, like rabbits from a burrow, and hailed the adults of the tribe, who were whinberry-picking up on the hill "This is the Locke family", said the oldest of the women, "a famous family...". Gipsy Locke the fiddler and his retinue of younger brothers of all ages and sizes, with their improvised fiddles made out of biscuit tins were well

known in the area. Were they the same Lockes who were still in the area (somewhere in Twitchen?) in the late 1980s? Do you have any memories you would like to share with us? Please let us know.

Rachel Downs and Gisèle Wall

Clunbury Sunday Paper Delivery Rota

Sunday papers have been delivered in Clunbury for many years by a rota of people who themselves take a Sunday paper but collect everyone else's from Aston village shop and deliver them to their doorstep. This system means that each person only does this about once a month, or longer if more people join the rota which is organised on a three monthly basis: holidays and other absences can easily be accommodated. So if you would like to join in please contact Judith Payling 660292 I should be very pleased to hear from you as numbers are dwindling and I may have to consider whether these arrangements can continue.

Kempton Village: Not the Races

Getting out of Kempton to drive to Bishop's Castle, Craven Arms or Clun has become increasingly hazardous. Visibility is poor, exits steep, with adverse cambers and awkward orientations, and passing traffic gets busier, bigger and faster (as residents of Clunton and Twitchen will testify).

In a survey of all Kempton households all respondents agreed that they didn't feel safe getting out onto the road network, and ideas were exchanged as to possible remedies. These have now been worked up into an application for a grant from the Road Safety Trust to finance the following: improving visibility, erection of white palisade fencing on the Bishop's Castle road indicating to drivers that they are entering the village, interactive signage and new road markings.

This initiative has received the whole-hearted support of the Parish Council which has submitted the application on behalf of the village. If you would like to see details of the application, they are available from Lucy Lewis (660584) or Gisèle Wall (660561).



Earth Star Fungi

Autumn is a favourite time for going on Fungi forays. This usually means we are searching in fields and woods for toadstools and mushrooms. Mushroom is the name usually given to those that are edible. Fungi are neither animals nor plants and scientists are still discovering what an important life form they are. Most fungi are extremely small, but toadstools can be quite conspicuous and come in a range of shapes and colours. They are normally found on live or dead organic matter, from which they obtain nutrients. In Autumn we observe the familiar fruiting bodies, while the main part of the organism, the mycelia, threads into the decaying vegetation.

Puff balls, sometimes the size of footballs, are frequently found on country walks; when large and ripe they send their spores out in a plume if knocked or hit by raindrops. 'Earth Stars' are similar but quite rare. As they dry, they split into rays, resembling a star, resting on the damp ground under deciduous trees. Karen, who works at the Priory in Much Wenlock, was delighted to find this one by the entrance to the visitor centre.



Carol Wood

Here's a little video of earth stars opening up: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KY6mwnRPiRU>

Kitchen Cupboard

As the weather turns colder and nights are drawing in, our thoughts naturally turn to comfort food. This month, Mary has just the recipes for the ultimate comfort food and indulgence.

Toffee Apple Crumble

1lb cooking apples, peeled and sliced

4oz granulated sugar

A little water

Place these ingredients into a pan and cook until soft but not broken.

Place in a greased oven proof dish leave to cool
6oz hard toffee placed in a bag and smashed into small chunks with a rolling pin or hammer.

Leave to one side until later.

Crumble

8oz SR flour

2oz soft margarine

2oz hard butter

4 oz granulated sugar

Mix flour and fat together until it looks like fine breadcrumbs. Add sugar.

Scatter toffee on top of the apple then cover with crumble. Bake in oven for 30-40 mins in hot oven 200° C 180°C Fan gas 5

Serve with cream, ice cream and/or custard

Sticky Toffee Pudding

Sponge: 2 eggs

2oz Butter (or marg)

1 tbs Bicarb of soda

6oz Granulated sugar

6 oz S R flour

6oz Dates

8" greased tin

1/2 pt water

Chop dates, boil in water for 10 mins till soft.

Add bicarb (put to one side).

Cream butter & sugar add beaten eggs. Add flour, dates and water. Pour into the tin and bake for 40 mins on Gas 4, 180°C, 160°C fan oven.

Delia's Toffee Sauce

6oz Soft brown sugar, 4 oz hard butter, 10 fl oz cream

Melt butter & sugar in pan, add cream. Mix well bring to boil and stir until sauce thickens and becomes shiny. Pour over the sponge. Serve with double cream and ice cream or custard. Sponge can be stored for a few days.



Shropshire charity goes digital in a bid to help households keep warm

Shropshire Rural Communities Charity (RCC) is offering free virtual advice to help people keep warm and save money this winter. It is delivering sessions as part of the Big Energy Saving Network, a national programme to help people take action to reduce their energy bills.

To book your advice session please call 01743 342167 or visit <https://www.shropshire-rcc.org.uk/services/individuals/free-energy-saving-advice/>

Contact for more information
Katrina Harrison, Marketing and
Communications Manager

Tel: 01743 360641

Email:

Katrina.harrison@shropshire-rcc.org.uk

Hedgehogs

A lady called Rose in Newtown takes injured hedgehogs and is desperate to find homes willing to adopt them.



The criteria for re-homing are:

No dogs (cats are OK)

No main road

No chemicals/pesticides or netting

Preferably a shelter or hedgehog house available

Access to water (pond needs a "beach")

No badgers or polecats

Hedgehogs can roam up to a mile each night, so neighbours need to be considered.

Hedgehogs are becoming increasingly rare in both Shropshire and mid Wales due to badger populations, over-use of pesticides and loss of habitat. If anyone is interested in re-homing hedgehogs, given the above criteria, please contact Rose on 01686 625706.

SWSGC Newsletter

Mary Jones

The Covid crisis has seen countless residents going above and beyond to support their community. Among them is Andy Stelman, who in April instigated the new food bank at Bishop's Castle. It now has a permanent home and is well-used at its twice weekly sessions. Full Covid secure measures are in place, with appropriate distancing and sanitising. Face masks are mandatory unless officially exempt. It is open for use to anyone in the Bishop's Castle surgery and school catchment area, including Clunbury and Clun parishes. So if you're in need, don't be shy! Here, Andy gives an account of how the food bank operates.

Behind the Scenes at the Food Bank

We are all familiar with the image of the duck gliding effortlessly on a lake whilst frantically paddling underwater. Well the food bank may not operate quite as smoothly as that to the public eye but behind the scenes it is a buzzing hive of activity.

The generosity of residents from Bishop's Castle and the surrounding area has meant a healthy financial balance and plentiful supplies of food and other provisions, topped up by regular bulk purchases from Morrisons.

Our volunteers (we have 23) perform four main functions. Some are on the rota for staffing the food bank during opening hours; others do shopping collections when we put orders in to replenish our stock; yet others pick up the generous food donations collected in Harvest, SPAR the BC Co-op, the Churchstoke Co-op, and the Wentnor shop. Others do home food deliveries for people who cannot get out to the foodbank. Most volunteers perform all four roles at some time or other. They are unfailingly cheerful to customers and, more than anybody, they create the welcoming atmosphere which we hope encourages people to use us.

In late July we became a registered charity and have a board of 8 trustees.

We operate on three core principles. **First**, we never ask for proof of need. If somebody comes to the bank, or phones up, we provide them with supplies. **Second**, we do not require customers to be referred by third party agencies. A few of our customers are, but 85% are self-referred. **Third**, we treat customers as exactly that – as customers. In other words, customers do not pick up a prepacked bag, they choose what they want and need from the extensive array of products we have on offer. We are extremely fortunate in having Little Woodbatch organic market garden as providers of an endless supply of fresh vegetables, all for free.

I hope this brief account gives a flavour of the scurrying and bustling that is going on before, during and after every food bank session to ensure that we have food and other necessary supplies, and that there is always someone on hand, with a smile and a welcome, to ensure that customers get what they need during these very difficult and unpredictable times.

Andy Stelman

BISHOP'S CASTLE COMMUNITY

FOOD BANK

**BISHOP'S CASTLE METHODIST HALL
STATION STREET, SY9 5DD**

NEW TIMES

WEDNESDAYS 5pm - 6.30pm

FRIDAYS 1.30pm - 3.30pm

**For further information contact
Andy Stelman on 07773 006413 or
andystelman.t21@btinternet.com**

Notices and Updates



GRAND PLANT SALE

Sow a seed for St Mary's

Clunton Church will be holding a plant sale in the spring.

If you are sowing seeds, separating perennials, or taking cuttings, please save one for us.

Other details are covid-dependent – see your spring Parish Posts. To contact us with offers of help or more info contact j.c.simmonds@live.co.uk



A Halloween Myth: 'Carving pumpkins are inedible'

The seeds and pulp of carving pumpkins can be eaten, but more than half of the UK (59%) don't realise this, resulting in more than 12 million carving pumpkins being wasted every year. Veolia and Shropshire Council are asking residents to cook and eat the inside of their pumpkins and use their garden waste bin to recycle the skin and stalk, to prevent a scary amount of food waste.

Shropshire County Council

Pizza Anyone?

A new place for people to try especially if they like Italian food is the Pizzeria and Café at Ashlea Pools, open Mon – Sat 4pm to 9pm, providing takeaway or pre-booked table service Tel 01547 530430

Parish Post Printing

Please help neighbours who do not have access to printers or internet
Thank you!

November Services for St Mary's, Clunton and St Swithin's Clunbury

Sunday 1 November 9.45am

Benefice Memorial Service St George's
Clun

Sunday 8 November 12.30 Purslow

Remembrance day services
(See Front page)

Sunday 22 November 11.15am

Holy Communion St Swithin's Clunbury

Sunday 29 November 10.00am

Advent Sunday
Benefice United Holy Communion,



Clunbury 100 club

Eirlys Ellams £20; Judith Payling £15;
Freddie Matveieff £10; Ruth Seabury
£5; Brenda Smith £5.

Clunton 100 Club August

1st Pam Bay; 2nd Jean Jones;
3rd Alice Whitehead.

CONTACTS

The Parish Post website:

<https://theparishpost.org>

Email: theparishpost@gmail.com

Phone: Lynne Thompson 661180
or Pat Harding 660169

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

The editorial team does not accept responsibility for any opinions expressed by contributors and reserves the right to edit contributions if deemed appropriate.