

Clunbury Afternoon Tea End of Summer

As community get together have been so limited this year, Clunbury Village Hall committee decided it would be nice to do something to mark the end of summer.

It was a lovely sunny day, ideal for a summer afternoon tea and an opportunity to admire Caroline Bason and Steven Cornes' beautiful garden.

It was very well organised, Covid protocols were put in place with 2 sittings to allow for adequate social distancing. A pleasant afternoon was had by all. Caroline and Steve wish to say "A big thank you to the Clunbury Village Hall committee and their helpers for putting on a delicious afternoon tea in our garden. It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces after lockdown



and to have our garden brought to life."

Lynne Thompson

Goodbye and Thank You to Eirlys Ellams

It was a sad farewell to Eirlys Ellams at Clunbury Café. Eirlys has been running the café every other Thursday



for eight years and in that time, it has been calculated that she has made over 2,000 cups of tea and coffee and served approximately 300 homemade cakes. The Village Hall committee presented Eirlys with a gift in appreciation of her time and dedication.

She will be very much missed and most welcome to come and enjoy a relaxing cup of coffee and a cake.



Clunbury School Gardeners

What a funny summer it has been in our garden. We had just started off our peas, pumpkins, onions and sweetcorn when lockdown was started and we could no longer go to school. Mrs Ellams planted them out for us in our vegetable garden and they thrived. Through the summer she has given away and sold produce for us and we are now able to replace our strawberries with new stock from the proceeds. Our pumpkins, unaware that they were supposed to be in lockdown, spread themselves over the whole bed visiting their neighbours with no regard for social distancing whatsoever. A couple even made a daring bid for escape through the railings and down the wall. We have a few monsters who benefitted from the hot spring and early summer and a number of smaller relatives all of which will be sold as usual for the Air Ambulance. Keep an eye out for a stall outside school at the beginning of October.

Please send your contributions by the 20th of each month



'You Say Goodbye, I Say Hello'



We will soon say Goodbye to David Hill when he and Sue move to Clun. David was crucial to the establishment of the Parish Post website and indeed absolutely key to the development of the Parish Post in multiple ways. We will miss him greatly.

In preparation for his departure, we asked in the last issue, for a volunteer to take over the website and we were very lucky to receive an offer of help from Simon Marlow from Twitchen. For the past 13 years, Simon has been working as a Digital Designer and Website Designer and we are delighted to welcome him on board.

He will be revamping the website and has already setup a community Facebook page for The Parish Post. Tell us what you think.

We are very grateful to David and Simon; many thanks to both.

Gisèle Wall

Gardening Corner

I am not a professional gardener, but I love gardening and know a man who is! I've been asked to write a regular feature with a view to it almost becoming a question and answer article where readers can send in their gardening conundrums and I/(we) will try and answer them.

The recent weather has been wonderful and the garden has certainly appreciated it after all the wind and rain in August. The dahlias are looking beautiful but do benefit from regular deadheading. You need to take the flower head off at the next shoot down. Autumn raspberries are fruiting well (I prefer these to summer fruiting ones as there is less soft fruit around at this time of year and its fantastic being able to go out and pick a bowl to go with my cereal/yogurt for breakfast.) They are also easier to look after as you just cut them all off at ground level in late winter and let them shoot up ready for next year.

The sun is also helping to ripen the squash which should be put on a piece of slate or stone to stop the wet from the ground getting to them.

Things to do at the moment:

- ◆ take cuttings from perennial plants especially those that are not that hardy such as salvias and penstemon – look for a healthy side shoot and pop them around the outside of a pot filled with a 50:50 mix of compost and vermiculite. Dipping the root in a rooting compound helps but isn't essential.
- ◆ lift and divide perennials – just dig the plant up and chop it into smaller clumps with a spade and re-plant or pot.
- ◆ think about planting for colour next spring – perfect for daffodils, tulips and wallflowers.
- ◆ depending on the weather it's also time to think about cutting back herbaceous plants but do consider leaving some as they look beautiful on a frosty morning and also provide good cover for hibernating hedgehogs.

An amateur gardener



Send your questions to theparishpost@gmail.com by 15 Oct

Tettenhall Dicks

On visiting Ludlow Farmers' market recently, I noticed the fresh produce stall selling some very small miniature pears called



Tettenhall Dicks. A couple of days later whilst out on our usual walk up Clunbury Hill we happened upon a tree with what we first thought were just crab apples. However, on closer inspection they looked like the same miniature pears we had seen in Ludlow. This prompted us to investigate further.

Tettenhall Dicks are a very old and historic pear originally found in the hamlet of Perton and dating to earlier than the 18th century. Tettenhall Dick was nearly lost to cultivation but has now reclaimed its historic popularity. For hundreds of years it was a very popular pear being not only self-fertile and an exceptionally heavy cropper but the small pears were used for eating (if rather hard), cooking, making jams and chutneys as well as cider. It was so well known that "Tettenhall Dicks, 'ard as bricks" was a common saying in the area.

Has anyone else come across these pears? Let us know.

Lynne Thompson

100 Club Clunbury

Penny Grimes £20; Sally Goodwin £15;
Julie Saunders £10; Josie Jones £5;
Philippa Halliday £5

100 Club Clunton

1st Andy Peers; 2nd Mona Pearson;
3rd Tim Wood

Remember to book your Flu jab

Kitchen Cupboard

With harvest in full swing Mary has provided 2 more recipes for preserves.

Mild Piccalilli

- 225g Cauliflower broken into pieces
- 225g Onions or shallots chopped
- 225g Runner or French beans chopped
- 225g Celery chopped
- 225g Marrow/Courgettes diced with peel on.
- 225g Cucumber diced
- 225g Salt for layering
- 2 tsp Dried mustard
- 2 tsp Ground ginger
- 2 tsp Turmeric
- 100g Sugar
- 400ml White vinegar
- 25g Cornflower.



Mix all vegetables in a large bowl. Then place in layers with salt. Cover with a plate to press veg and leave for 24 hrs.

Rinse vegetables in fresh water, drain well.

Put 3 tbsps of vinegar on one side, put the rest into a pan with vegetables. Bring to the boil, simmer for 15 mins. Lift out vegetables with slotted spoon. Pack into sterilized jars. Saving the liquid. Mix the reserved vinegar with the spices, add the cornflour and mix well. Stir in the remaining liquid and bring to the boil for 3 mins. Pour into potted jars, pressing lightly to allow the sauce to run in between the vegetables. Cover with wax discs and metal lid.

Apple chutney — from the WI recipe book

- 6 lb peeled, cored and chopped apples
- 3 lb shallots chopped
- 3 lb sultanas
- 4 1/2 lbs demerara sugar
- 3oz mustard seeds
- 1 tsp cooking salt
- 3/4 oz cayenne pepper
- 4 1/2 pints vinegar



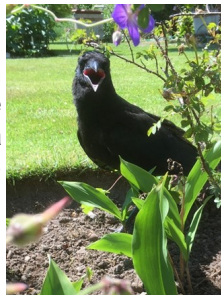
Large heavy based saucepan

Put all ingredients into the pan, bring to the boil. Simmer until thick, about 2 hrs. Pour into sterilized jars and cover. Label when cold.

NB: If you like ploughman's pickle you will love this! It does make rather a lot so you can halve the recipe and still have quite a few jars.
Mary Jones

Crow in Distress

I was weeding in my garden and an injured crow came right up to me with wing dropped to one side. I fed him and gave him water to bathe in, as it was a very hot day. He loved the little cheese and the couple of snails I found for him. Then he had a bath and disappeared. Next day he was back but this time he came and sat right in front of me with beak open wide, begging. He already had food and water but I think he was asking me to feed him. I gave him a worm and he just played with it tossing it in the air; next thing he did was fly onto the garage roof. He came up several times again with beak wide open, then went and did the same thing in the middle of the lawn. Was he hoping to catch the eye of his family? He was bombarded by a couple of ring-necked doves and flew off. Was he a scared youngster or a "faking-it" adult?



Marilyn Spenceley

Boy Bason and The Cornets

It all started one Thursday evening. This Thursday followed its predicable pattern of a day spent sat at my desk working followed by a trip round to the farm in the evening to 'do' sheep. To 'do' sheep meant getting 180 lambs in so that they could be drenched the following day. Having got them into the yard, Steve spotted a ball of brown spikes not much bigger than a tennis ball where the lambs had just trampled through. Given that the sun was still shining it didn't look good seeing a baby hedgehog out at this time. Having found a feed bucket to carry him, and searched all round Clunbury looking for someone who might know where to take him to, we took him to the local hedgehog hospital where we were informed that he would be put on a diet of full fat goats milk and mashed up pedigree chum, and hopefully survive. This was going to be the end of the story with an update to follow...

However at 3pm the following day another ball of spikes was found wandering around the farmyard! A further trip to the hedgehog hospital followed, where we were delighted to hear that hedgehog number one had increased in weight from 119 grams to 141 grams overnight - they need to reach 600 grams before they can be released back into the wild. Thinking that this was the end of it and we could enjoy our Friday evening, we received another call to say that a third hedgehog had been spotted. A further trip followed and this time we learnt that hedgehog number 2 hadn't got off the hot water bottle he'd been given! We have since learnt that the three hedgehogs are two girls and a boy and have been christened 'Boy Bason and The Cornets' and as far as we know are all doing fine.

Caroline Bason



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Spiders Get Busy in the Autumn

Autumn is the time we notice gossamer glittering on the hedges and meadows; this is made by tiny 2.5mm **Linyphiidae spiders**, often known as money spiders. There are more than 250 species and an acre of meadow could contain one and a half million of them. The word gossamer probably comes from goose summer, when geese were killed in late summer and eaten.

The dome shaped webs are spun by the females who will be waiting upside down on the undersides for prey to fall onto the threads. The prey will be wrapped in silk and consumed or stored in a larder on the edge of the web. There may also be a male spider waiting near the web, cautiously as he is in danger of being confused with prey. Though smaller than the female, he has larger jaws. After being persuaded to mate, she will lay about 50 eggs in an egg sack, placed in the litter at the base of a hedge or in long grass.

Many of us are familiar with garden spiders, an **orb web spider**, easily identified by the white cross on its brown back and stripy legs. Often seen on a cold autumn morning, the hoar frosted web has been spun during the early dark evening. This web consists of a polygonal frame of guy strands, made by the spider squeezing the silken thread out of her spinnerets, which catch the breeze. There will be 25 to 35 spokes; with the frame complete a spiral is spun from the centre outwards.

She will lie head downwards. Her eight legs sense a struggling insect and she is stimulated to bite it, deftly rotate the victim and wind it up with silken threads strong enough to hold the prey while it is carried off to her retreat.

After mating the female will lay several hundred eggs which are bound together by a covering of yellow silk and positioned near the bottom of a hedge.

The spider we see trapped in the bath will be one of several species of house spider. It has not climbed up the drain pipe but has slipped in and is unable to clamber out. Her web is a sheet suspended in the corner of a room or shed and with a funnel where the female spider hides. She preys on insects, midges, mosquitoes, house flies and blue bottles ensnared in the threads. The spider we see dashing across the carpet in autumn, will be a male, searching for a female. Once she is found, he will remain with her for several weeks, until he dies of old age and gets devoured.

The **daddy long legs spider**, *Phidippus phalangioides*, can be found in houses and outbuildings. Its extremely long delicate legs allow it to entangle prey with silk. Trapped in its fine web, the prey is wrapped, bitten, paralysed and digested. This spider preys on other spiders, mosquitoes, midges and clothes moths.



Daddy Long Legs

Photo: Geoff Hall

Harvestman

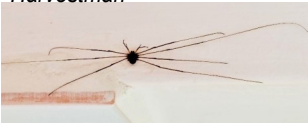


Photo: Tom Wood

Often confused with spiders are **harvestmen**, named after the time of year they are most often found. Though still arachnids and with eight legs they belong to a different order, Opiliones. They have a round body and are prone to drying out and cannot spin silk. However sometimes they enter our homes, as has this one.

Arachnophobes rest assured (or at least try to!) - no British spider will do us any harm.

Carol Wood

Parish Council Meeting 17 September

5 councillors present + Nigel Hartin + the clerk + 7 members of the public

Apologies from Cllrs Croxton, Harding and Morgan

Appointment of new Parish Councillor: 2 candidates have come forward to fill one post. Interviews have been conducted and the councillors will make their decision soon.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting:

Clunton Brook: the site meeting with Andrew Keyland has not taken place. Shropshire Council intend to clear under the bridges, but the top end of Gunridge will still need clearing. Cllr Hartin suggested that the clerk should contact John Bennett who is the 'flood manager' at Shropshire Council and/or the Environment Agency.

Smartwater initiative: Parishioners need to express their interest; so far, this has been done by councillors visiting parishioners to explain the project. Cllr Hill expressed doubts as to the wisdom of knocking on doors at the moment. The response (before the Coronavirus crisis) had been quite good but insufficient to enable the project to go ahead, as the number of takers so far is well below the 80% needed to benefit from the discount offered by the Smartwater Group. It was agreed that the situation should be reviewed in due course whilst bearing in mind that applications for the discounted rate close at the end of March.

Report from the Climate Emergency Group: The councillors have approved the letter which is attached to this edition of the Parish Post.

Clunton Burial Ground

Legal access: There are 2 possible means of accessing the burial ground; one through a property ('Wimberry House' formally known as 'The Villa') and one along a path by Clunton Farm. There is 'consensual' access for the former, but only to visit a grave or for maintenance. This was the agreement reached in 1994 when the Parish Council purchased the land. The occupiers of Wimberry House do not seek to stop this usage, but object to people using it as a general right of way. The access by Clunton Farm has, historically, been used as a footpath, and a former resident of this part of Clunton, representing her family, recalled decades of use as a byway and as a means to access the burial ground. However, it seems that people are now stopped when using it. The matter is in the hands of Shropshire Council.

Hay meadow trial: Cllr Davies, who maintains the burial ground at the moment, has expressed the wish to increase the biodiversity of the ground by establishing an area with wild flowers managed as if it were a hay meadow. Some people have objected, as they want to maintain a 'tidy' look. Cllr Davies has drawn plans showing that 25% could be managed as hay meadow and the rest cut as usual.

Planning: Clunton Farmhouse; formation of agricultural vehicular access and bridge is pending consideration. The PC had commented, advising that access be restricted to agricultural vehicles and pedestrians and that a hedge be planted.

Report from County Councillor Nigel Hartin: Shropshire Council employees and representatives are not meeting in person, only remotely. Councillors and staff continue working from home and can be contacted by email; things are still happening. It is likely that ways of working will change. Financial problems persisted but the Council remained solvent – just.

Roads: Speed limit in Twitchen will now be supported by the police.

Interactive signs: still waiting for the posts.

The Road Safety Trust is open for grant applications from 15 September for five weeks, for projects aiming at improving road safety at a local level. Each project can be awarded between £20,000 and £50,000. After deliberations, the Council agreed in principle to support an application if one could be drawn up by residents from Kempton, where none of the three exits from the village is safe. Projects must show innovative ways of improving safety; anybody with innovative ideas is welcome to come forward.

The application must be made through the Parish Council.

Finances: Bank accounts: £4,920.34; cheques to be signed: £429.34.

Parish Council management

Website: The Council approved the proposal to upgrade the website. This will cost £165 for the first three year period.

Review of Clerk's salary: the Clerk will circulate the rates agreed nationally to the councillors.

AOB: A resident stated that, due to heavy farm vehicles, a pipe at the bottom of the lane leading towards the burial ground is collapsing and properties may be flooded as a consequence. When the Shropshire Council employee comes to look at Clunton Brook he will be asked to have a look at it and determine who is responsible.

5-year safety survey of the burial ground monuments: Cllr Davies had carried out a survey and was able to report that all was in order.

Next meeting: 12 November at 7.30pm, in Clunbury Village Hall

Gisèle Wall

Church News: Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll is currently being updated. Being on the electoral roll means you can vote at our annual meeting, serve on the PCC and is the formal way the Church of England represent membership of a church. If you want to join the Church Electoral Roll you can find application forms in the church porch and give them to Pat Harding, Mary Jones.

Church AMP and APCM

Normally the church Annual Meeting of Parishioners (AMP) and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) are held in April but due to Covid-19 the Church gave permission to hold them by the end of October 2020. For the past few years there has been a joint benefice meeting but this year the PCC has agreed to hold our own meeting and hope that more local people will attend. The meeting will be held on Wednesday 28 October at 7.30pm in the church. The AMP is the meeting where the Churchwardens are elected and everyone on the parish is welcome to attend and vote. We are looking for new Churchwardens this year. The APCM includes the election of the PCC and adoption of the Accounts and Annual Reports. Only those on the Electoral Roll can vote at the APCM. We need younger and new people on the PCC, and ideas to make our church more vibrant, and secure for future generations. If you are interested in nominating a Churchwarden or coming on to the PCC, further information, application and nomination forms are in the church.

KEMPTON ALERT

We are gathering evidence to support our application for traffic calming measures along the top road. Please send any information of incidents or near misses and any innovative ideas to our Kempton councillor Lucy Lewis.

Tel: 660584

email: L.Lewis161@btinternet.com

Harvest Festival: Sunday 11 Oct

We will be unable to have our usual harvest supper this year, but there will be a service of thanksgiving for the fruits of the season, and you are invited to bring donations for local foodbanks (non-perishable) either before the service or on the day.

October Church Services at St Swithin's Clunbury

Joint for Clunbury and Clunton:

4th October: 09:45 Holy Communion,

Rev Robert Payne.

11th October: 11:15 Harvest Festival,
John Daniels.

Beautiful Churchyard

St Swithin's churchyard looks better than ever this year with a lovely carpet of cyclamen at the moment. Robert Angell organised two evenings of strimming the southern side when many local men brought their machines to cut the grass. Julia Dumbell kindly sent them some well earned refreshment that they enjoyed after all their hard work.

One morning Jeremy Freeman came on his own to strim the northern side that he felt looked a mess, so many thanks to him. Caring for God's Acre volunteers have also been sympathetically scything the northern part too and it has been wonderful to see so many wild flowers emerging. They have left some brambles for wildlife including hedgehogs that live in the churchyard. Maddy Matveieff and Robert Morris often mow the grass together and others do it whilst tending their family graves.

Thanks to everyone who makes our churchyard so pleasant for all.



Toilet, Kitchenette and Stairs to Belfry

For some years there have been plans to install a toilet and kitchenette in the church and to replace the ladder leading to the ringing chamber with stairs.

This large project was spearheaded by Christina Whitehead with the help of Duncan Brown.

Owing to church regulations and COVID, it has taken some time and the cost has inevitably risen. However, the contract has now been signed with local builder L and M Grimes and the work will commence on 19th October and finish by the end of the year.

Many thanks to Duncan Brown for his hard work and Malcolm Redgrave for his assistance.

Churchwardens

Christina Whitehead and Pat Harding have resigned as Churchwardens of St Swithin's and will finish on 10 October 2020. They have both worked very hard in keeping our services going, particularly during Rev Simon Mondon's illness and during interregnum. They have also put in a lot of valuable time with the church building improvements. We thank them for all their commitment and conscientiousness for the church over the past years.

Know Your Fungi

Join the **Beautiful Burial Ground Project** on Thursday 15th October for a friendly and informal session with local expert Rob Rowe, in St Swithin's churchyard from 10.30am till 1pm

This session is suitable for beginners as well as those wishing to improve their identification skills. Places are FREE thanks to the National Lottery Heritage fund, but limited and must be booked. The sessions are entirely outdoors and will be socially distanced. A full risk assessment and Covid protocol will be in place. Contact: george@cqfa.org.uk