

Coming to Your Arm Soon!



You will likely be aware from national headlines of the much slower than average rollout of Covid vaccinations in South West Shropshire. However, after pressure from our local surgeries, local residents and Ludlow MP Philip Dunne, it seems there is good news at last.

Here is what we know as of 24 January:

All of the six SW Shropshire surgeries are working on the rollout, together and flat-out. From Monday 25 January, residents in priority group 2 (those aged 80+) and registered with GPs in Bishop's Castle, Church Stretton, Craven Arms, Clun and Ludlow will begin receiving letters or calls inviting them to attend the Mayfair Centre on Easthope Road in Church Stretton. Your letter will refer to this hub as the '*Health and Wellbeing Centre*'. Vaccinations will start on Thursday 28 January and will run 12 hours a day, including through the weekend.



Please do not contact your surgery, they will contact you.

Please also note that if there are difficulties with the supply of vaccine, your appointment might need to change at short notice.

Additional appointments are being made available at Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Hospital in Gobowen for some over-80s who are willing and able to travel there.

A second vaccination centre at Ludlow Racecourse is scheduled to open on Monday 1 February to help cover priority groups 3 (over 75s) and 4 (over 70s and the clinically extremely vulnerable). It is hoped that these stages of vaccination will be completed by mid-February.

Those that are housebound or cannot travel to Church Stretton will be offered vaccination in the coming weeks.

Shropshire residents without access to transport are now able to get FREE transport to their vaccination appointments. All vehicles will have appropriate ventilation and strict infection control measures in place. To book, call the council's COVID-19 Helpline on **0345 678 9028** (option 0) or via your local GP practice.

Meanwhile, **testing** is available 8am-8pm in Ludlow at the Smithfield Car Park, Lower Galdeford, SY8 1RN. To book a test, call 119 or visit www.nhs.uk/coronavirus.

We send our heartfelt thanks and good wishes to all healthcare staff involved in this massive undertaking

The first message came at Halloween, when a ghost appeared in the telephone box in Kempton. Since then, the box has never been seen empty, always shining bright at night. There was a Christmas display and now a floral display and several others in between; what next? And who is the mystery messenger? Answers - on a post card - to the operator please.





National Creative Arts Competition for Older People – Spring 2021

This arts competition is for the over 65s only, with separate categories for beginners and for more experienced amateurs. The deadline for entries is Friday 19 March 2021.

Gyles Brandreth, writer, broadcaster and Judge for the *King Lear Prizes* says: "What better way to make a fresh start in 2021 than to get stuck into a new creative project? Whether you are a keen amateur, picking up again after many years, or even if you are dabbling in a new hobby for the first time, the *King Lear Prizes* should be just the prod you need to get going this New Year. As we've known all along: when it comes to creativity, age doesn't matter a jot!"

There are four different creative arts categories to choose from: Art, Poetry, Real Stories and Solo Musical Performance. The site (see below) offers hints and tips to help you create your masterpieces, with extra help for beginners.

There is £2,000 in prizes, certificates if you are shortlisted, with hundreds of special commendations for high-quality work.

Free to sign up for more information with no commitment, and only £5 to enter. The King Lear Prizes is a not-for-profit organisation.

<https://www.kinglearprizes.org.uk/>

Shrove Tuesday (aka Jif lemon day, other yellow squeezey things are available) is on 16 February 2021. See Mary's super recipe for pancakes on page 8.

Did it Jump or Was it Pushed?



We have a little stream at the bottom of the garden which runs dry in the summer, but at this time of year the water rushes through and over a series of little weirs on its way to the Kemp which is a quarter of a mile away. We have never seen a fish in the stream, yet one morning we found a 12-inch-long dead Brown Trout about 2 feet from the water. How did it get there? No one fishes here and we've never seen a Heron by the water. It was unmarked, and weighing in at half a pound, it would have been quite a morsel to swallow. Did it misdirect its leap over the weir? Any other explanation? It lay there for several days and then disappeared. Another mystery: who had fish for tea?

Tom and Gisèle Wall

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Illegal Fox Hunting in our Parish!

Few things create more division in rural areas than the question of fox hunting, but I want to share a personal experience and perhaps open up some discussion on this divisive topic.

Fox hunting is illegal: we all know this. It also continues unabated on our hills – we know this, too! My first contact with hunting came in late 2017 when I was mobbed by a pack of baying hounds chasing a fox up the track in my woodland near Clunton. Given that I purchased the woodland to be managed for the preservation and encouragement of wildlife you can imagine how I felt. I reported the matter to the Police who informed me that they receive regular complaints about trespass and disregard for people and property. When I contacted the relevant hunt directly, they apologised and promised it wouldn't happen again – a promise they kept for little under a year. In 2018, the hounds were back, flooding through my woods in hot pursuit of a fox. They say things come in threes, and in November 2019, I once again saw a group of hounds chasing a fox across the sheep fields and over the fencing in to my woodland.

On the penultimate day of 2020, a neighbour and I had our route home blocked by a group of vehicles associated with the terrier-men and their dogs as they watched the hunt in Purslow woods. A particularly rude individual clearly believed the lane belonged to him and was not remotely inclined to move his 4WD to let us pass: the foul mood only increased when I tried to talk to him and his fellows about the terriers in boxes on the front of their quad bikes and their intent. A young lady who came later to apologise for the terrier men's behaviour told me that if the hunt 'just happened to come across a fox in the ground' they were allowed to send the terriers in to drive it out so it could be shot, she also confirmed that they did have permission to be in Purslow Woods. I have since received confirmation from Forestry England that all trail hunting has been suspended on their land and that no permissions were given for anyone to be carrying out such activity in Purslow Woods.

Leave legalities aside – the old notion of 'destroying vermin' surely has to be laid to rest? We're losing species at the rate of one a day. By the time we're all old, there may well no longer be dormice, or even hedgehogs in the undergrowth of Britain and it won't be an excess of foxes that have rendered them extinct. Foxes are an integral part of a food web that we disrupt at our peril. Surely it's time we found other ways to amuse ourselves on horseback - and other ways to relate to the beautiful, vibrant, life-filled land around us?

Being a relatively new face on our Parish Council I am probably not known by many of our residents, but I am doing my best to try and promote environmental and wildlife conservation in our beautiful area. It was very pleasing to see the amount of people that turned up at a Parish Council meeting to insist that a Climate Emergency be declared and I hope that similar feelings can be stirred to bring a stop to fox hunting and other wildlife crimes in our Parish. If anyone wants to pass on information regarding illegal wildlife activities or discuss anything relating to wildlife and conservation in our Parish please feel free to contact me via the Clunbury Parish website.

Fox in Nick's garden.



Nick Morgan

Church News

All church services are cancelled until further notice. Clun Valley churches are open for private prayer. There is a service by Zoom at 9.30am every Sunday, led by our reader Sonia Phippard. Contact your churchwarden or email Sonia for details of how to join in the service.

phippard.hartley@btinternet.com.



Clunbury was well illuminated over the Christmas period thanks to Alister Thompson and Tim Croxton who arranged the floodlighting of the church. There were many favourable comments regarding how nice it looked, particularly from the B4368 as people travelled by. 2000 lights lit up the Yew which everyone gathered around to sing carols and festive songs on Sunday 20 December. We were delighted to see so many people and are grateful to Rev Robert Payne for leading the occasion and giving an interesting background to the carols. Mike Longmore was in good voice to lead the singing and there were some good choirs taking part too. It was a fun evening that we hope to replicate next year.

Mary Jones organised the decorating of the church and thanks to everyone who did arrangements and made St Swithin's look so festive on Christmas morning.

When will we get a new Vicar?

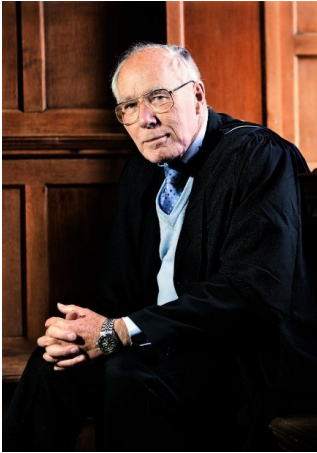
The procedure of appointing a new Rector is under way, it has been decided to have a Rector other than a Vicar. An advert is currently displayed in appropriate places. It is planned to shortlist applicants on 10 March, invite them for visits on 24 March and interview on 25 March. Once appointed, the new rector will probably have to give 3 months' notice until he or she starts. At least we might be free from covid restrictions by then!

Christmas Festivities in Kempton

The Christmas spirit took hold of Kemptonians when a Christmas tree was erected at the T-bridge, decorated and lit. A baby Jesus appeared in a manger, beneath a Star of Bethlehem hung from our Black Poplar, and two sheep were put on guard. Mulled wine and mince pies were postponed to a dry night when we tried not to be too convivial. Father Christmas was in attendance but thereafter moved mysteriously from one side of the village to the other. It was a memorable initiative and a special occasion magicked up at the end of a year we may otherwise chose to forget. Thanks to all involved.



Arthur Charles Dyball (1935-2020)



It is with great sadness that, just before Christmas we all heard that Arthur Dyball passed away in his sleep. Arthur had recovered so well after a recent operation, and shortly before his death had helped out with Bedstone College's virtual carol service, which will now be a poignant memory of him doing what he did best.

Arthur was born in 1935 in south London and despite a modest background, attended Christ's Hospital, Cambridge and Oxford - all of which he had been able to attend as a result of winning various scholarships and grants.

He secured his first and only position at Bedstone College in 1958 where he taught History, RE, Latin and Modern Languages. He was the first member of the academic staff who had not served in the forces during WWII and this, together with his youth, meant that he could engage

the children in his care in a slightly more informal way than the rest.

Over the years, engaging and mentoring the minds of younger children was what he loved and what he did; the fond memories, warm tributes and expressions of gratitude of so many of his former students of earlier years, following his death, testify to his effectiveness. Arthur had no family, Bedstone College was his family.

Not a natural sportsman, he quickly learned to referee, organise, manage and score games and sports events; in his latter life he hardly missed a rugby or cricket match on TV, that was after he had finished the Times Crossword which he did every day until the end. He played the piano and organ, mainly playing the latter at Bedstone Church but he often helped out at St Swithin's Clunbury. He had a fine baritone singing, speaking and reading voice and regularly sang in choirs.

Less apparent perhaps was his status in Shropshire and the West Midlands as a philatelist. He frequently exhibited at local societies, as well as running the South Shropshire group where he was in effect Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer! By the middle 1990s he had long given up regular class teaching, but continued at Bedstone undertaking support, and coaching and organising. He had also become a licensed C of E lay-preacher and was acting as school chaplain.

Arthur was a regular visitor to the Clunbury Café and he appreciated all the help and support from the so many of the local community during the latter stages of his life.

This quiet and unassuming gentleman who had such an abundance of knowledge will be sadly missed by all who had the privilege to know him. Arthur was cremated on 28 January at a strictly private funeral.

There is a webcast to view available for 28 days.

Website for Service: <https://www.obitus.com/>

Username for login: Lana8627

Password for login: 493120

Donations in memory of Arthur will be most gratefully received for Diabetes UK and can be made via <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/arthurdyball2020>

or one can donate in different ways to the same organisation by accessing

https://www.diabetes.org.uk/get_involved/ways-to-donate



Bishop's Castle Tennis Club

Want a Healthy Body and Mind post-Lockdown?

Play Tennis!

Free tennis lessons, school holiday camps and attractive Taster memberships will be on offer at Bishop's Castle Tennis Club once the current lockdown is eased. This has been made possible by an award of a £1,970 grant from the Postcode Community Trust charity.

New grant-aided training equipment will see an expansion of courses for youths and adults, at both beginner and intermediate level along with school holiday camps.

We are introducing exciting new ideas: 'Cardio-Tennis', aimed at those who want to improve their fitness at its Covid secure venue, and 'Foot Tennis', another innovation.

The Club also wants to hear from community groups throughout SW Shropshire to see how it can best serve its members and introduce them to tennis.

In the meantime, as soon as the lockdown is eased, the Tennis Club will continue its Taster memberships costing from £8.50 - £17, which allow unlimited play for 3 months. Or if you just want to play the odd game with family or friends, you can book a court for £10 on a 'Pay and Play' session. For tennis options contact info@bishopscstletennis.org

Details of the our tennis coaching programme will be available soon. In the meantime, we encourage people to register their interest at: <mailto:coaching@bishopscastletennis.org>

Grenville Jackson

2021 Census

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) will carry out the 2021 Census on 21 March 2021.

The Census will provide a picture of England and Wales, revealing the size and characteristics of the population and providing valuable information that will be used to inform policy development, funding allocations and future service planning.

The 2021 census will be predominantly an online Census with paper forms made available to people that are unable to take part online.

Each household in Shropshire will receive a postcard during the week of 22-27 February 2021 raising awareness of the 2021 Census, followed by an initial contact pack (during 3-12 March 2021) requesting each household to complete the Census questionnaire online or by requesting a paper questionnaire.

A reminder phase begins after 22 March 2021 for non-respondents involving reminder letters and finally visits from field staff.

Completing the Census is a legal requirement and as a last resort ONS have the option of taking court action against non-respondents.

Help will be available to Shropshire households via support centres located in the libraries in Shropshire's largest six market towns (Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Bridgnorth, Market Drayton, Ludlow and Whitchurch), via online guidance, a national helpline and trained field staff.

The questionnaire can be completed using a mobile phone and during rehearsals ONS have found younger family members have frequently helped complete the questionnaire.

Please send your contributions by the 20th of each month

Gardening Corner



Happy New Year folks. By the time you read this I hope the weather will have improved. Listening to the rain hammering on the windows as I write isn't providing much, if any, inspiration to get out into the garden. However the first



signs of spring have sprung, with snow drops bowing their delicate heads and the bright yellow aconites brightening up otherwise dull flowerbeds. The hellebore flower stems are growing and cutting away the leaves of the plants will allow a greater display. The most common variety of this plant being the Christmas rose - which I've never known actually be in flower at Christmas. If you do feel brave enough to face the weather, now is a good time to wash the glass on the inside of the

greenhouse and remove the algae that has accumulated over the winter. It's also not too early to put cloches over the vegetable beds to start the process of warming the ground for spring planting. Celeriac can be sown now in a propagator. Lettuce will germinate in a cold greenhouse and should be ready to plant outside at the end of March – weather permitting!

Anonymous Gardener

Oak Trees - for free

Whether you want one for the back garden, a few along a hedgerow, a dozen for the corner of a field, or a hundred for a mini-woodland, small but strong Oak transplants are available free of charge for planting in the Parish; they have been paid for by our Parish Council. Stocks are limited and it will be first come first served. Please contact Tom Wall on 660561 or waltom@hotmail.co.uk to arrange for delivery or collection, respecting Covid restrictions.

healthwatch
Shropshire

Visiting Family & Friends in a Care Setting During Covid-19

See the Parish Post website.



Clunton 100 Club : January

1st	Clare Simmons
2nd	Ann Wadsworth
3rd	Richard Webb

Watch out for scammers !

Online and phone scammers are about. See the article on the Parish Post website.
www.theparishpost.org



Kitchen Cupboard

Pancake day is on 16 February. Mary has provided two great recipes for using batter; traditional pancakes, and an old favourite, toad in the hole. Home schooling provides a great opportunity to get the kids involved and learn some life skills.

Pancakes - Serves 4

100g Plain Flour, pinch of salt, 1 whole egg, 1 egg yolk, 300ml milk, 1 tbsp melted butter, a little oil, 1 or 2 lemons, sugar, honey or warm jam.

Stir flour, salt and beaten eggs and half the milk. Beat well and add melted butter. Heat frying pan until very hot, add enough oil to coat a shine on the pan. Pour in a little batter tilting the pan in a circular movement until the batter has spread evenly all over the pan. Cook for a couple of minutes until set. Turn or flip the pancake and cook until light golden brown. Turn onto a warm plate squeeze lemon juice and sprinkle with sugar roll up or alternatively use honey or jam.

Toad in the hole

Quick and easy supper serves 4-6

Pre heat oven to 220°C or 425°F

8 large sausages

Fat for frying

Flat roasting tin with sides

Bake in hot oven 5-10 mins until brown.

Batter

100g Flour

Pinch of salt

2 beaten eggs

300ml milk

Mixed herbs, dried or fresh black pepper

Next month : hot x buns, Simnel cake and fish—Mothering Sunday 14 March

Mary Jones



Add flour, salt, eggs and half the milk beat until smooth. Stir in the rest of the milk beat to incorporate air making batter nice and light. Add the herbs and pepper. Pour the batter over the sausages and bake in oven for 40-45 mins until golden brown.

Serve with baked beans, peas, fresh veg and gravy or tomatoes cut in half with grated cheese baked in the oven for 5-10 mins

Frost or flood? Kempton's got the lot. Thanks to Ed, Fiona and Lucy for these. Please do not order a pizza, he will not get through there, but we know he'll try !



Lucy Lewis



Ed Cooper



Fiona Hoskins