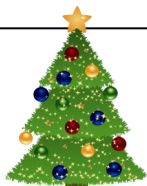


# The Parish Post



Number 121  
Dec 20/Jan21

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

## WHAT A YEAR!

### Report from the Parish Post Chair

It has certainly been quite a year, and a challenging one for the Parish Post team.

We have tried to be innovative in producing an interesting and informative publication during this testing time, which for the most part I think we have achieved and it has given the Parish Post a new lease of life. I would like to thank everyone who has made a contribution, however small, to the continuation of the publication.

Your lockdown stories were a great success and I am sure will eventually represent historical value of this difficult time. In addition, we have added some new features including the Kitchen Cupboard, with recipes from Mary Jones, and the Gardening Corner by our anonymous Amateur Gardener. We have also had some very nice stories relating to wildlife and nature sent in by our readers, which is fantastic.

I do hope you find these articles of interest and are tempted to have a go yourself. Please let us know if you have any interesting stories, observations, favourite recipes or any garden queries, because it is your input and interaction that makes the Parish Post thrive.

We were also very fortunate and excited to welcome **Simon Marlow** to the team. He has been busy developing a new website for the Parish Post which is now live, enabling us to use this facility to share community events, stories of interest and much more.

Simon has also set up a Parish Post Facebook page, a great way to share information quickly. Please take a look and let us know what you think:

<https://www.facebook.com/the parishpost>

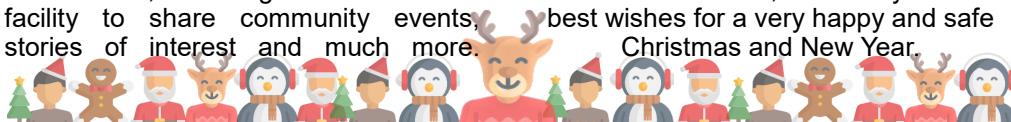
As you know the Parish Post is free and we rely heavily on fundraising and donations. The cancellation of the Purslow Show was a bit of a blow as the majority of our income is raised from this event. So, we would like to say a huge thank you to Clunbury Village Hall for their kind donation of £150 which has been gratefully received.

The team also had to find new ways of working as we were unable to meet up for our usual editorial meetings; that again was quite challenging. I have to say that it is testament to their commitment and dedication that the Parish Post Team has stepped up to the challenge; I hope you will agree that the Parish Post has made a huge contribution to the community over the last 10 months.

Let's hope that we now have some light at the end of the tunnel, albeit very faint, so we can at least begin to look forward to some near normality in 2021.

*Lynne Thompson*

In the meantime, from all of us on the Parish Post Team, we send you our best wishes for a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year.



Next issue February 2021. Please send contributions by 20 January

## Halloween Scarycrows!

As with many other events this year Halloween was cancelled. However, that did not dampen the spirits of Clunbury residents who adorned the village with some very scary crows. The children being on half term were particularly enthusiastic and even *The Gittins family, Freddie, Ava, Aliza & Albert*



dressed up to play their part. Eirlys Ellams and David Hill were invited to judge the scarycrows and were very impressed with the efforts people had gone to. First prize went to the Gittins family and runner up was the Fletcher family.

To see more fabulous photos check out the Parish Post Website.

*Lynne Thompson*

*Below, the Fletcher family, including Jack, Archie and George, who were buried in the lawn!*



And in Kempton there were several well authenticated sightings of a ghost in the telephone box. The apparition vanished, to be followed by poppies and seasonal lights.

## Clunbury School - Remembrance Garden

This year, even though we were unable to take part in the Act of Remembrance as we would normally do, it is no less important for the future generations to learn about the importance of Remembrance and to respectfully commemorate those who have served and continue to serve our country.

At Clunbury CE Primary School, each class produced work to display outside the school entrance to create our Remembrance Garden, whilst understanding the symbolism behind wearing



a poppy through class activities. Class 1 created hand-printed, apple-printed, and free-hand poppies to hang on our Remembrance Tree. Class 2 produced recycled poppies using plastic bottles, to form our poppy Garden. Class 3



created sunset silhouette pictures with Remembrance words and included the names from the Purslow Memorial. The children showed great respect throughout, holding a two-minute silence on Remembrance Day.

*Clunbury Primary School*

*“At the going down of the sun and in the morning,  
We will remember them”.*

## Gardening Corner

The season of mist and mellow fruitfulness didn't last long! One wet and windy weekend and the countryside turned to winter. The lawn turned from green to brown, silhouettes of trees and bushes appeared, and the countryside opened up its far-reaching views to fields and valleys beyond. If you haven't gathered up all your fallen leaves, do leave some lying around your garden as they are a great source of food for wildlife. However, do clear up any leaves under rose bushes to minimise the risk of disease passing from one season to another.

Having been too wet to do all my autumn cutting back, I'm hoping for dry days and cool nights, and for frost to highlight the wonderful shapes and forms that I've left. If we do get frosts, don't forget to lift any clay pots off the ground to prevent water-logging and possible frost damage. Try adding cut stems of colourful *Cornus* or willow to pots to add height and interest over winter. Although most plants and shrubs are dormant in winter, there are some wonderfully scented shrubs to be found: *Sarcococcas*, eg, flower from December to March. Our *Viburnum bodnantense* 'Dawn' is already in full bloom, while the *Mahonia* 'Charity' is still waiting to shine. *Hamamelis* (Witch Hazels) have fabulous colour post-Christmas and come in yellows, oranges and reds.



In the vegetable garden I shall look forward to harvesting the first sprouts and parsnips hoping that the one frost so far will have enhanced their flavour. Don't forget to check on harvested fruit and veg for signs that any are going rotten – potatoes, apples and onions to name but a few.

I'm looking forward to putting my feet up, but if over Christmas there's a dry spell that isn't too cold at night, I'll be pruning the apple tree. The aim of pruning is to open up the centre to allow air to circulate; winter is also the time to prune pear trees.

And finally, if you have over-indulged during the festive period, the vegetable garden will appreciate a good digging over.

*An Amateur Gardener*

### Boy Bason and the Cornets: Update

I am delighted to tell you that all three put on sufficient weight to be allowed to return to the wild. Boy Bason and Vanilla have a new home in



Clungunford, whilst Strawberry now resides at Purslow Hall and by home, I mean a palace, the left-over roofing from our new

woodshed now forming the roof of their hedgehog boxes.

*Caroline Bason*

### CAROLS ON THE DOORSTEP

**WHEN?** Wednesday 16 Dec 6pm

**WHERE?** Your Doorsteps!

**HOW?** Sing Along With the Radio!

Join us on your doorsteps across the nation this Christmas to sing carols together and spread some much-needed cheer! Carols on the Doorstep started in Shropshire but is spreading far and wide as more local radio stations come on board. To find out how to join in, see here:



[www.doorstepcarols.co.uk](http://www.doorstepcarols.co.uk)



## What do Butterflies do in the Winter?

People love to see butterflies in their gardens, but this has not always been the case. Three hundred years ago many superstitious country people believed that they were the souls of the dead, sinister creatures that appeared from nowhere.

Their life cycle was not understood. Nowadays we understand much more about metamorphosis, but what happens to them in the winter months?

The Painted Lady is a migratory butterfly, a regular summer visitor to Britain and occasionally many millions arrive and feast on our garden plants. They originate in North Africa and Southern Europe, but cannot survive our winters.

*Painted Lady*



Other butterflies, like Purple Hairstreaks, which can be seen fluttering around the canopy of trees, remain as an egg through the colder months, secure at the base of an oak leaf until spring.

The Speckled Wood, a common butterfly of more shady places, survives the winter season as a chrysalis, hidden deep in vegetation.

Small Skipper caterpillars spin little cocoons and hibernate together in sheaths of grass. In June these lively, orange insects are seen darting amongst wild flowers and grasses.

*Small Tortoiseshell*



On sunny days during late winter and early spring, we may see the male Brimstone, a sulphur yellow, conspicuous butterfly, looking very fresh, though it has spent the winter in hibernation hidden in the undergrowth.

Several of our popular garden butterflies, such as Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell, also hibernate. We may find them in groups, sheltering in sheds, lofts or spare rooms.

Some moths also hibernate, particularly the Herald which is occasionally found in church towers in quite large numbers.

*Herald Moth*



Leaving rough patches of vegetation in our gardens gives these butterflies somewhere safe to spend the colder months.

*Carol Wood*

### Clunbury Village Hall News

Unfortunately we have decided to postpone our AGM until  
March/April 2021

We are, however, planning to run a  
Café on 3 & 17 December.  
10 - 11.30am

Coffee/Tea & Cake. Everyone welcome.  
Covid-19 safe protocols in place.

**Openings subject to Government  
restrictions**

Contact: Barbara 660629, Alister 661180  
or Duncan 660578 for any queries

### Healthwatch Shropshire - Home Care

A report on the findings of a pre-Covid  
survey on domiciliary care (home care)  
can be found here:

<https://www.healthwatchshropshire.co.uk/report/2020-09-03/home-care-shropshire>

### Connecting Shropshire Programme - Update

For details of up to £25,000 in special  
funding for small businesses to improve  
their broadband connection see here:

<http://connectingshropshire.co.uk/business-broadband-grant/>

## Letters to the Editor

As you may have realised, I read your newsletter avidly!

With regard to the Locke family (see *“Esmeralda, the All Singing, All Dancing Caravan”* in our November issue): Dr Hamer, when she lived at Lower Down Farmhouse, was doctor to the Locke family, and would treat them from the farmhouse.

When our son Ted was born (in the farmhouse) in 1968, there was a knock on the back door. I went to the door, and there was a gypsy woman, yes, with the pegs, coming to wish the new born luck, as he was the first one to be born in the farmhouse since the Locke family lived in the wood opposite the house yard; their children were born there in the care of Dr Hamer. Since that visit, Ray and I used to call Ted “Gypsy’s child” – and who knows, perhaps her prophesy has now come true.

“Dummy” Locke used to visit the farmhouse frequently, would walk in through the back door, go into the boot room, help himself to any worn out boots and old pipes, and, with a grunt of satisfaction, trundle off with his acquisitions. We had no problem with this, it was part of life’s rich pattern. He also used to visit my shop in Bishop’s Castle, but when I pointed him away down the street, he would grin and go away, knowing that if I said no, I meant no!!

*Jackie Williams*

Dear Clunbury - Rich and I are now unpacked and happy in our new home. In the end it happened very quickly, 5 days between exchange and completion.

Thank you to the village hall and community for all the goodwill messages, cards, flowers and plants. We have framed the lovely picture of Clunbury on the card the café gave us.

We had a happy 24 years in Clunbury and we would like you to know how we cherish the love and friendship we experienced in our lovely village. I’m afraid the speed at which it all came together meant we didn’t quite get round everyone to say goodbye personally, if we missed you out we are sorry. We haven’t gone far and would love to see you if you are in Craven Arms. With love.

*Eirlys and Rich Ellams*

### Kempton Village - ‘Not The Races’ Re-visited

No sooner had Kempton’s application to the Road Safety Trust been submitted (see our November issue) than the urgent need for additional safety measures was underlined by not just one but **two** separate and serious accidents on the road in question in less than two weeks.

Both were single vehicle incidents in which the cars overturned in alarming fashion and were ‘write-offs’. Thankfully there were no serious injuries but they must have been very scary experiences for the drivers.

Our local bobby on the scene, PC Matt Howell, gave the same diagnosis for both incidents



- going too fast on a slippery road with an adverse camber.

*Janet Kregel*

Up-date: Following an on-site visit by Dave Gradwell from Shropshire Council’s Traffic Engineering Department, it appears there is now a chance the road past Kempton could be eligible for a mandatory 40mph limit. We’ll see!

## The Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund Open for Applications.

The Conservation Fund is a small grant pot, administered by the Shropshire Hills AONB Trust, which can award up to £2,000 towards local projects that help to conserve, enhance and raise awareness of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Over the years, the Fund has supported many local conservation, community and educational projects, and has helped lots of school children and young people to engage with their local landscape through various outdoor activities including using digital media.

### **Please get in touch with us if you have a project in mind.**

Public, private, voluntary sector and community groups can apply, along with individuals and businesses, but in all cases **the project must show a clear public benefit.**

For starters, please email [shropshirehillsaonb@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:shropshirehillsaonb@shropshire.gov.uk) or request a **Project Ideas Form**. Deadline for receiving your project idea form is **22 February 2021**.

For more information about the Fund, the AONB Trust and the Shropshire Hills see: <https://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/a-special-place/shropshire-hills-aonb-trust/aonb-conservation-fund>.

*Stephanie Hayes*



## Church News



**New Faces on the PCC:** We thank Stephanie Fountain for coming to chair St Swithin's Annual Meeting of Parishioners and Annual Parochial Church meeting on Wednesday 28 October.

At the APCM, Caroline Bason, John Jones, Mike Longmore and Alister Thompson were elected on to the PCC and we are pleased that they will be joining existing members, Karl Bailey, Julia Dumbell, Mary Jones, David Mansfield, Julia Mansfield, Madeline Matveieff, Tim Record and Val Redgrave. David Mansfield and Karl Bailey were elected as the new Churchwardens.

**Church Open daily:** St Swithin's Church will be open for individual private prayer daily from 3 December 10am to 4pm.

Thanks to all those who kindly take their turn on our weekly rota, this will be

done according to the guidelines of the Government and Church of England on opening during Covid 19. Anyone else who would like to take a turn on the key rota, please contact David Mansfield: Tel 01588 660356

### **Christmas in St Swithin's**

The Church will be decorated and there will be a display of cribs in St Swithin's Church from Friday 18 December. Strict Covid 19 rules apply but all are welcome.

### **Services for December**

Sunday 6 Dec: Morning Prayer 11.15, Christina Whitehead and Pat Harding

Sunday 13 Dec: Holy Communion 11.15, Rev Dr John Daniels

Christmas Day: Holy Communion, 11.15 Rev Dr John Daniels

### **Clun Methodist Church**

Sunday 27 Dec: United Morning Worship, 10 am.

## Notice from Clunbury Parish Council

The meeting scheduled for 12 November had to be cancelled, for obvious reasons. A new date has been tentatively set for Thursday 10 December, subject to prevailing rules and restrictions.

# WINTER FESTIVAL of Stories & Songs

At Bishop's Castle Sparc Theatre

★ Tickets £12 unless otherwise stated

22-23 January 2021

**Friday 22 January 7.30 pm** ★

English Folk duo Whalebone are joined by poet Jean Atkin to perform Understories, a brush with the new folklore of Shropshire. ★

**Saturday 23 January 1 pm**

Join local storytellers Sal Tonge, Amy Douglas, Helen East and Rick Wilson telling their tales over lunch. £12 ticket includes a light lunch.

**Saturday 23 January 4 pm**

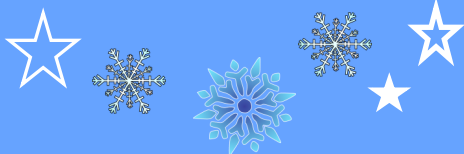
Pedlars Tales – The Fetch theatre with Silver Joan featuring ★ a host of beautiful puppets and music. Concessions £6, Family ticket £30. ★

**Saturday 23 January 7.30 pm**

Join internationally acclaimed artists Michelle Burke, Wendy Weatherby and Sandy Breichin playing a mixture of traditional and original material, together with Irish pianist and composer James Ross, for a smattering of Parlour songs, new songs, tunes and shenanigans.

For more information & to book tickets, please visit

[www.artsalive.co.uk](http://www.artsalive.co.uk)



## Last Recommended Posting Dates for Christmas

### UK

1st Class	21 Dec
2nd Class	18 Dec

### International

Most Western Europe	16 Dec
Eastern Europe, Greece, Turkey	11 Dec
USA, Czech Rep, Finland, Italy, Poland, Sweden	12 Dec
Belgium, France, Ireland, Lux'bourg	18 Dec
Canada, Cyprus, Malta	10 Dec
Australia, New Zealand	4 Dec
Elsewhere	9 Dec



**Clunbury 100 Club** - November draw:  
Peter Halliday £20; Wilfred Morris £15;  
Florence Wymark £10; Catherine Lishman £5; Laura Richards £5.

**Clunton 100 Club** - November draw:  
1st Kate Davies; 2nd Gill Deakins; 3rd Sophia Shuker.

### CONTACTS

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**Phone:** Lynne Thompson 661180  
Pat Harding 660169

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/theparishpost>

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



## Kitchen Cupboard

After the year we've all had everyone is ready for a bit of Christmas cheer and Mary hasn't disappointed us. Famous for her mince pies she has shared her recipe with a few more festive treats and how to use up that left over turkey.

### Traditional mince pies: oven temp 200°/180°C Fan

500g S R flour, 100g soft margarine, 100g lard, 150g caster sugar, pinch salt 1/4 tsp baking powder, cold water, 1 kg mincemeat.

Rub in margarine & flour until looks like breadcrumbs.

Add dry ingredients, mix well, add enough cold water to bind together. Roll out pastry on lightly floured surface. Cut into circles for small pies or line long



baking tray for squares. Fill with mincemeat, seal the edges with water; make a hole in the centre or prick with a fork if using a baking tray. Bake for 15-20 minutes until slightly brown. Cut tray bake into squares. Serve dusted with caster/icing sugar. Hot or cold with cream or custard. Will store for 2-3 weeks or can be frozen.

### Honey Fudge

225g honey, 900g granulated sugar, 100g hard butter, 225g sweetened condensed milk, 150ml milk.

Put all the ingredients into a large heavy saucepan. Bring to the boil slowly, stirring well. Heat up to 114°C (drop a little mixture into a cup of cold water - it will form a

soft ball when ready). Take off the heat and beat hard with a wooden spoon until mixture is thick and creamy. Pour into buttered tin or tray cut into squares when cold. For something a little different, you can use other ingredients such as raisins, cherries or rum, have fun. Makes lovely presents.



## Scottish Shortbread: 170°C

Makes 8 - double recipe if more required.

100g block butter, softened, 50g caster sugar, 150g pl flour, 50g ground almonds, 50g ground rice.

Cream butter & sugar together until fluffy. Stir in flour, ground rice & almonds. Mix to a firm ball, press into 18cm sandwich tin, prick all over with a fork, pinch the edges with thumb. Mark 8 triangles with sharp knife. Bake for 40 mins until pale straw colour. Leave to stand for 5 mins, dredge with caster sugar, cut into 8 triangles.



### Turkey and Ham Pie: 200°/180°C Fan

350g frozen puff pastry (thawed), 350g cooked, chopped turkey, 225g cooked, chopped ham or bacon, 2 hard boiled eggs quartered. Any left over vegetables ie carrots, swede, parsnips and leeks (cooked). 25g



hard butter, 25g pl flour, 1tbsp chopped parsley, 1 onion 150ml milk, 150ml stock (from a stock cube). Season to taste. 1-2 litre pie dish.

Place cooked meat and vegetables in the dish, place eggs on top. Melt butter, stir in flour slowly, add milk and stock over low heat, continue stirring until sauce thickens. Remove from heat, add herbs, season to taste. Pour into the pie dish, roll out the pastry and cover pie. Brush top with beaten egg, make a cut in the centre to let out steam. Bake for 30 - 40 minutes until golden brown.

Mary Jones

Don't forget you can find these recipes on the PP website.

## Food Bank Update

Whilst we're on the subject of Christmas goodies, Bishop's Castle Foodbank says it would very much welcome donations of mince pies, Christmas puddings and cakes, crackers, biscuit boxes and festive chocolates. If you would like to donate but can't manage to get up to the foodbank in Bishop's Castle (the Methodist Hall, Station Street), Lynne Thompson will collect for Clunbury & Twitchen, Gisèle Wall for Kempton and Pat Harding for Clunton.

