

Phone Box Hacker Strikes Again!

Valentine's Day didn't pass unnoticed in Kempton: two happy mice chose to celebrate in a cosy environment and, if you and your Valentine paused at the display by the T bridge, sweets were on offer (along with hand cleanser!). We hope that many parishioners enjoyed it. Thanks to all the masterminds who brought us cheer in the grey weather.



Keeping Tags on Kites

The sighting by Fiona Hoskins in Kempton of a Red Kite sporting wing tags led her to take photographs and investigate further. For many years now, as part of re-introduction schemes in various parts of the country, young Kites have been tagged. Birds fledged in the wild have been tagged too, including in Shropshire. Fiona's bird had a black tag on its left wing and a green one on its right; this was numbered 46. Enquiries reveal that Number 46 was in all probability one of a brood of three from a nest in 2015 near Knighton; at tagging, it was



judged to be a female. The photo does not show the number on its left wing which, for 2015, would be in yellow on black; white on black would indicate fledging in 2006. Once quite common in Shropshire, Red Kites were exterminated here by 1880, and it was not until 2006 that they bred successfully again. They are now doing well and there are more than 40 nesting pairs in the county; in excess of 330 young have fledged, of which 205 have been tagged. Kempton is a bit of a hot-spot at this time of year, and a roost first observed here in 2009 has been used by up to 28 birds this winter.

To learn more go to http://www.shropshirebirds.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/CONS_Red-Kites-in-

Please send your contributions by the 20th of each month



Parish Council Elections 6 May 2021

Parish Council elections are scheduled to take place on 6 May this year, with a notice of election predicted for the 15 March; However this may be postponed and we will let you know of any development.



Clunbury Parish Council has not had an election since 1993, as the number of nominations has not exceeded the number of seats. The Council consists of 9 councillors who meet every other month (in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere!). They would welcome an election in the interest of democratic legitimacy. This is the first tier of Local Government and the place where you can try and influence the policies that govern you at a local level.

Become a
Councillor



Nomination process

To stand as a candidate, a nomination paper must be submitted. They will be available from Shropshire Council or the Parish Clerk.

nancy@adamsanchor.co.uk

All nomination papers require a signature from two (one proposer, and one seconder) registered electors within the parish. The proposer and seconder must be on the electoral register that is in force on the 25th working day before the poll.

For more details, visit:

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/media/10190/guide-to-elections-procedures-for-town-and-parish-elections-july-2018.pdf>

under **ELECTION AND NOMINATION PROCEDURES**

Church News

The Vestry Project Update

As I write this in mid February, work in the vestry at St Swithin's is creeping forward. This week, contractors have connected the water and soil pipes and tarmacked the trench from the church to the 'main road'. So there should be no more hold ups in the village. However the pipes are not yet connected at the other end, inside the church!

It has been a slow process as workers from one group could not mix with another, while some had to self isolate, but such are the complications of the virus and we have had to learn to live with them. At least no church services have been affected. Let's hope we will soon be able to gather with renewed enthusiasm for weekly services, and even hear our church bells again ringing out over the valley.

Church Services (to be confirmed) St Swithin's

Sunday 14 March 11.15am - Holy Communion Rev Robert Payne

Sunday 28 March 11.15am - Holy Communion Rev John Daniels

Advanced notice:

Sunday 4 April - Easter service Rev Robert Payne

Also plans to take the Cross up Clunbury Hill on Good Friday. Meeting at Crossroad 2.00pm followed by hot cross buns at Church afterwards.

All of the above is subject to regulations permitting. Please check your notice boards for confirmation and final details.





Fed-up with doing the same old walks?

Then walking in Shropshire is the website for you!

www.walkinginshropshire.co.uk

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Shropshire (part of the Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk



Update on Oak trees



We have received our donated Oak trees, thanks to the Parish Council. Toby and I had great fun planting them among existing Ash, where we originally started our small woodland. If the Ash die maybe Oaks will flourish and replace them.

Toby & Anne Sheperdson

Still More Free Oaks

The Parish Council's 200 free Oak transplants have proved popular, with more than 130 now planted in nine farms and gardens in the Parish. It is not too late to plant the remainder, so, whether you have room for just one, or as many as 60, please contact Tom Wall on 660561 or

walltom@hotmail.co.uk.

First come, first served.



Take Away Success!

We are sure that our sentiment is shared by many in and around our villages. A big thank you to Blaine and Michelle at The Crown for their wonderful takeaway meals, whatever the elements, contending as they have done with several floods. Looking forward to our meals has helped us stay positive and we are already awaiting sitting in our pub garden, filled with colourful pot plants and contented villagers.



From two of them

*Noel & Anne
Shepherdson*

Kitchen Cupboard - Simnel Cake

Did you know?

Simnel cake is now often associated and eaten as an Easter cake, but it was originally made for the fourth Sunday in Lent, known as Mothering Sunday. This was one of the few days that servant girls were allowed to visit their mothers and take them a gift of cake. The almond balls on the top represent the disciples without Judas.

Recipe

225g butter or margarine; 225g sugar; 350g plain flour; 1 tsp cinnamon; 2 tsp baking power; 4 eggs; 675g mixed fruit; 450g almond paste (marzipan); 2 tbsp apricot jam; beaten egg white to glaze; caster sugar to sprinkle; 50g icing sugar to roll out the almond paste.

8" pound/ baking tin; Eggs, Chickens, flowers and ribbon to decorate.

Method

Cream butter & sugar together until fluffy, add beaten eggs one at a time. Fold flour a little at a time together with baking powder, spice and dried fruit.. Roll out 1/3 of the almond paste into an 8" circle.

Grease and line the cake tin, put half the cake mixture into the bottom of the cake tin. Place the 8" round of almond paste in the centre and add the rest of the cake mixture on top. Bake in the oven on

160°C/325°F for approximately 2 1/2 hours. When cake has cooled brush the top with jam; roll out another 1/3 of the almond paste to 8" round and place on the top of the cake. Crimp the edge, make 11 balls from the remaining 1/3 of almond paste and place in a circle on the top. Brush with egg white glaze; sprinkle with sugar. Place under the grill until a little brown; decorate as you wish.



Mary Jones

Oddfellows Anniversay

Whilst researching old census records for The Hundred House, Purslow, in particular regarding Edward Smith whose life there spanned more than 65 years until his death in 1908, I came across the attached news article from The Ludlow Advertiser, dated 15 June 1901. I was reminded of the articles about the Oddfellows Banner featured in the May, June and July 2018 issues of 'The PP' and this article may give a clue as to the age of the banner. It seems the Oddfellows branch formed in 1890.

Ed Cooper

ODDFELLOWS ANNIVERSARY AT PURSLOW

The members of the loyal "Vale of Clun" Lodge, of the Independent Order of Oddfellows (Manchester Unity), celebrated their eleventh anniversary on Wednesday. The weather was, on the whole, fine, but showers fell at intervals. Still these did not interfere with the excellent arrangements made by the secretary (Mr. E. Smith). About 100 members and friends attended at the lodge-room in the morning, and marched in procession, headed by the Ludlow Volunteer Band and a handsome new banner of the lodge to Clunbury Church, where the Rev. W. G. Clarke-Maxwell, vicar, preached an excellent sermon. The procession returned by way of Little Brampton. The president (Mr. J. Brereton, of Kempton), took the chair at the dinner, a capital spread being provided by Host and Hostess Smith, of the "Hundred House." During the dinner, the Ludlow band played a capital selection of music on the lawn, and also played for dancing in the evening. Races for members and outsiders were also held.

121 miles on an exercise bike - something to do in lock down!

Midlands Air Ambulance Charity started in 1991, making 2021 the 30th year of operation. As the service was first called 'Air5' their anniversary year is aptly called 'Air30'. To celebrate, they have launched a challenge to raise vital funds. Choose one of three distances which represent the distances between their air bases at Tatenhill, Cosford and Strensham or complete the full circuit of 121 miles. Either walk, run, swim, cycle (or a combination of) to achieve your chosen mileage within 30 days. Judith is completing 121 miles on her exercise bike in her sitting room! She is already half-way there and delighted that lots of people are sponsoring her. If you would like to contribute you can do so at

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Judith+Payling>





Gardening Corner

Well, so much for gardening in February – if the ground wasn't frozen, it was underwater! All I managed to do was water my basil on the kitchen windowsill; top tip, don't bother with sowing basil, buy a basil herb plant from a supermarket, split into three, re-pot and bingo instant basil that keeps on growing!



By the time you read this, the weather should have improved (if you can believe the weather forecast) and the first daffodils should be shining bright – a welcome sign that spring is here. This means that winter flowering shrubs can be pruned – mahonia benefits from a good hard prune every few years, some of the old stems can be taken out of your Viburnum bodnantense, and Cornus (dogwood) and Salix (willow) need to be taken back to 5cm from the ground or just above previous years cuts to encourage new growth for good stem colour. Viburnum bodnantense is a



beautifully scented winter flowering shrub with pink flowers (left). Cornus midwinter fire is a particularly attractive variety (right). If you have some gaps to fill, now is a good time to plant bare rooted shrubs before they spring into life. Snowdrops can be lifted, divided and replanted once the foliage starts yellowing. Herbaceous plants can also be lifted and divided if they have become too congested and consider weeding and staking



around them too before the growth becomes too vigorous. in the vegetable garden, salad leaves can be planted in a cold frame or under cloches, seed potatoes should be put somewhere light and frost free (ie not too warm) to 'chit' or sprout before being planted out in April onwards. Woody garden herbs such as lavender and sage can be pruned to within 2cm of the previous year's growth. Blueberries can also be pruned by taking out up to a quarter of the oldest stems to promote new growth.

Amateur Gardener



Clunbury 100 club:

January

Heather Jones £20 : Alexander Holland £15:
Gareth & Victoria Seabury £10: Ann Wadsworth
£5: Jeremy Freeman £5.

February

Henry Matveieff £20: Sarah Watkins £15: Barbara
Richards £10: Sandra Morgan £5:
Gill Deakin £5.

Clunton 100 Club February

1st. Pauline Terry, 2nd. Mike Minns, 3rd. Valerie
Redgrave.

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<p>EDUCATION</p> <p>Schools and colleges open for all students</p> <p>Practical Higher Education courses</p>	<p>BUSINESS / ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Wraparound care, including after school sports, to enable parents to work</p>	<p>SOCIAL CONTACT</p> <p>Exercise and recreation with your household or one other person in a public outdoor place e.g. picnic or coffee</p> <p>Household only indoors</p> <p>Care home residents in England can nominate a single named visitor for regular visits</p>	<p>LARGER EVENTS</p> <p>Funerals (30 people)</p> <p>Weddings and wakes (6 people)</p>	<p>TRAVEL</p> <p>Stay at home</p> <p>No domestic or international holidays</p>
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8 March

Step 1

<p>BUSINESS / ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Organised outdoor sport (children and adults)</p> <p>Outdoor sport and leisure facilities</p> <p>All outdoor children's activities</p> <p>Outdoor parent & child groups (up to 15 people, excluding under 5s)</p>	<p>SOCIAL CONTACT</p> <p>Rule of 6 or two households outdoors</p> <p>Household only indoors</p>	<p>TRAVEL</p> <p>Minimise travel</p> <p>No domestic or international holidays</p>
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29 March

Step 1

<p>BUSINESS / ACTIVITIES</p> <p>All retail</p> <p>Personal care</p> <p>Libraries and community centres</p> <p>Most outdoor attractions</p> <p>Indoor leisure inc. gyms (individual or household use only)</p>	<p>SOCIAL CONTACT</p> <p>Self-contained accommodation</p> <p>All children's activities</p> <p>Outdoor hospitality</p> <p>Indoor parent and child groups (up to 15 people, excluding under 5s)</p>	<p>LARGER EVENTS</p> <p>Funerals (30 people)</p> <p>Weddings, wakes, receptions (15 people)</p> <p>Event pilots</p>	<p>TRAVEL</p> <p>Domestic overnight stays (household only)</p> <p>No international holidays</p>
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**At least 5 weeks after Step 1
No earlier than 12 April**

Step 2

<p>BUSINESS / ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Indoor hospitality</p> <p>Indoor entertainment and attractions</p> <p>Organised indoor sport (adult)</p> <p>Remaining accommodation</p> <p>Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances)</p>	<p>SOCIAL CONTACT</p> <p>Maximum 30 people outdoors</p> <p>Indoors: Up to 6 people or a larger group from 2 households only (subject to review)</p>	<p>LARGER EVENTS</p> <p>Most significant life events (30 people)</p> <p>Indoor events 1,000 people or 50% capacity (whichever is lower)</p> <p>Outdoor events 4,000 people or 50% capacity (whichever is lower)</p> <p>Large seated outdoor venues 10,000 people or 25% capacity (whichever is lower)</p>	<p>TRAVEL</p> <p>Domestic overnight stays</p> <p>International travel (subject to review)</p>
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**At least 5 weeks after Step 2
No earlier than 17 May**

Step 3

<p>BUSINESS / ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Remaining businesses, including nightclubs (subject to review)</p>	<p>SOCIAL CONTACT</p> <p>No legal limit (subject to review)</p>	<p>LARGER EVENTS</p> <p>No legal limit on life events (subject to review)</p> <p>Larger events (subject to review)</p>	<p>TRAVEL</p> <p>Domestic overnight stays (subject to review)</p> <p>International travel (subject to review)</p>
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**At least 5 weeks after Step 3
No earlier than 21 June**

Step 4