

## Amazing Maisy



At 11, Maisy has more farming experience than most of us. A keen shepherdess from a tender age, you could see her in her overalls and with a shepherd's crook rounding up the sheep and feeding them. She is also looking after a whole menagerie: cats, dogs, ducks, guinea pigs, etc. Recently she took it upon herself to deliver lambs to the world.



While her father, Martin, was having a bit of a rest, she trotted off to a ewe. A few minutes later, she came back saying: "I've delivered her first lamb, but there is another one coming; I'll go back in five minutes, it will be ready". *Gisèle Wall*

## Your Parish Footpaths Need You!



The photo shows one of the gates fitted to replace two rickety stiles along the footpath from Beambridge to Coston. This work was done by volunteers from Hopesay P3 (Parish Paths Partnership) Group, along with myself and David Hardwick, from Shropshire Council. Anyone who knows this path will know what a huge improvement they have made.

While out walking you will have noticed that many footpaths in our very large parish are in need of a little tlc. That can change now volunteers are able to work in a group of up to six. Pre-March 2020 there were just three of us from the parish who would help David from the council. But I know there are others out there who would like to help. If we had our own P3 Group, thus increasing the pool of people we draw on to form a group of six, we would soon see improvements. All those stiles and gates could be installed or repaired and vegetation cut back ready for the summer!

There are jobs which have been on hold for a year which David is planning to tackle, with our help, this month.

Please contact me, Catherine, on 01588 660 231 or [catherinelishman@hotmail.com](mailto:catherinelishman@hotmail.com) if you would like to help or just want more information.

Let's have a P3 Group to rival that of Hopesay, there are at least 15 of them!

*Catherine Lishman*

## Clunbury Village Hall Café

Is planning to re-OPEN  
on Thursday 20 May

10.00 to 11.30am

Coffee/Tea & Cake.

**Everyone welcome.**

Table service only.

Opening subject to Government  
restrictions

Covid-19 safe protocols in place.



Contact: Barbara 660629

Alister 661180

Duncan 660578

## The Vestry Project

Alterations in the vestry are very close to completion!

The wonderful spiral stairs to the ringing chamber are in place, and let's hope the bells will be rung again soon. The new boiler has kept the church really warm for the few services we have been able to hold. The WC is connected up and has a lock on the door! And water is running in the sink.

Now we need to finish off the final electrical stuff, the decorating, and the top trap door to reach the bells, and of course do some fundraising. It has been a difficult year but grants have been applied for and we are very grateful to Julia and David Mansfield for their successful efforts; but your kind generosity will help to move us on to the end of the project, and I am sure David as treasurer and Churchwarden will be happy to receive your donations.

*Christian Whitehead*

**PLANT  
SALE**



## Tansy Cottage Clunbury

Saturday 22 May  
10.30am - 1.00pm

Proceeds to Breast Cancer Care and  
West Midland Air Ambulance.

Coffee/tea and cake available so even  
if you don't want any plants come and  
have a cuppa and a socially distanced  
catch up with friends and neighbours.

*PS If you have any surplus seedlings or  
plants to donate that would be greatly  
appreciated.*

For more information  
contact:  
Lynne Thompson 661180



## Clunbury 100 club

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Sue Berry         | £20 |
| Caroline Holmes   | £15 |
| Jessica Grimes    | £10 |
| Philippa Halliday | £5  |
| Jean Christian    | £5  |



## Clunton 100 club

|     |                  |
|-----|------------------|
| 1st | Stephen Reynolds |
| 2nd | Ian Davies       |
| 3rd | Harriet Evans    |

## Oaks Homed

All of the 200 oak transplants acquired  
by the Parish Council have now gone  
to good homes in the Parish. Fourteen  
individuals/households came forward  
and adopted from 2 to 41 of them.

Let us hope they flourish.

*Tom Wall*

**Please send your contributions by the 20th of each month**

## Parish Litter Pick

Nine high-viz parish litter pickers assembled on 17 April at the 100 House (thanks Jackie for use of your car park and for the coffees), and in dazzling sunshine radiated out, collecting 15 bags of litter along 2½ miles of adjacent roads. Already bemused by the mentality of those who toss their empties out of car windows, we were puzzled further by the discovery of three single shoes – a lady's high heel, a big walking boot and a trainer.



From left to right:  
Alistair Thompson, Pat Harding, Tom Wall,  
Açina Genç, Linda Johnson, Peter Monk, Nick Morgan,  
Janie Mitchell  
Photo: Gisèle Wall



Half of the litter collected by the group in 1 hour.

We'll aim to build on the experience gained in this good first session, but will probably wait now until the back-end of the year when the vegetation has died back before we have another go. Then, perhaps over two or three sessions, we'll see whether we can cover all the principal roads of the parish. Our thanks go to the Clun Climate and Environment Group for inspiring this venture and for the loan of their litter-picking tools and bag hoops which made the job so much easier.

*Tom Wall*

## Church Services in May:

9 May 11.15am, Holy Communion at Clunbury

23 May 11.15am, Holy Communion at Clunbury

30 May 10.00am at St George's, Clun - Benefice United Holy Communion

## Cleaner Required Clunbury Village Hall.

For more information contact:  
Barbara on 660629

## Mobile Post Office starting weekly service from 6 May in the car park of:

Clunton Village Hall from  
1.15pm to 2pm.

Clunbury Village Hall from  
2.15pm to 3pm.



## Bishop's Castle Town Hall Saturday 22 May

Stalls include:

Felt craft, woodturning, textiles,  
jewellery and much more will be on  
sale on the main ground floor and  
the upper floor of the Town Hall.

*For further information*

*phone: 01588 630023*

*or email:*

*info@bishopscastletownhall.co.uk*



## Kitchen Cupboard Rhubarb

Strictly speaking rhubarb is a not a fruit but a vegetable. It originated in northern Asia and Siberia. It has been cultivated

for centuries, but was originally used as a medicinal and ornamental plant and is a relative of sorrel and dock.

### Rhubarb and Orange flan

The use of orange juice in this flan offsets the natural tartness of the rhubarb, while the ginger adds a touch of spice.

75g butter, 150g Digestive biscuits crushed, 450g fresh rhubarb trimmed and cut into 2.5cm lengths.

Finely grated rind and juice of 1 large orange, 2 eggs separated. 50g caster sugar, 2tbsp cornflour, 1/2 tsp ground ginger, orange slices to decorate.

### Method

Melt the butter in a pan, mix in the biscuit crumbs. Press the mixture over the base of an 8" flan dish. Chill in the fridge while preparing the filling. Put the rhubarb in a pan with 3 tbsps of water. Cover & simmer gently until fruit is soft and pulpy. Puree the rhubarb with a blender. Put the orange rind & juice into a pan add the egg yolks, caster sugar, cornflour and ginger. Heat gently, stirring constantly until thick. Stir in the rhubarb puree. Whisk the egg whites until stiff. Fold into the rhubarb custard, then spoon mixture over the biscuit crust. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours or overnight. Decorate with orange slices just before serving.

### Rhubarb, Pear and Ginger Jam.

A combination of flavours and textures makes this jam a little bit more special than most.

Makes approx. 3 medium jars, keeps for 9 months.

675g fresh rhubarb, rinsed & chopped into 2.5cm pieces. 2 pears, peeled, cored & chopped. 800g granulated sugar. Juice of 1 lemon, Juice of 1/2 an orange. 2 small balls of stem ginger finely chopped.



Put rhubarb & pears in heavy based saucepan. Add the sugar & stir together. Add the lemon & orange juice & stem ginger. Cook on low heat, stirring continuously, until all the sugar has dissolved. Then bring to the boil & cook at a rolling boil for 15-20 mins or until mixture reaches

setting point. Ladle into warm sterilized jars, cover with wax paper discs, seal & label. Store in cool dark place.

Mary Jones

## Lost and Found

18 months ago a metal bench went missing from the banks of the River Kemp. We searched along the river's edge, and even waded in, but to no avail.

Swept away by the floods but not forgotten.



Last week some very nice chaps decided to clear the river of fallen trees and general clutter and

lo and behold, up pops the bench.

Battered, bruised and seriously blackened but very salvageable.

A big thank you to the saviours!

Here it is back in service.

Peter Monk



## Road Closure

DIVERSION



B4385 from Red House Bridge junction to junction with A488 Bishop's Castle

Start Date 5 May 2021

End Date 26 May 2021

## CONTACTS

**Email:** [theparishpost@gmail.com](mailto:theparishpost@gmail.com)

**Website:** <https://theparishpost.org>

**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.

## Gardening Corner

Yet again April has been a month of sunny days but unlike last year, with cold nights which has meant a daily chore of covering the Victoria plum tree to try and protect the blossom from the night-time frosts. May can also catch gardeners out weatherwise so don't be fooled by good weather in early May. Runner beans shouldn't really be planted out (if started off inside) until towards the end of the month. Likewise bedding plants.

April meant longer evenings when you could stop and admire the garden. A fabulous April shrub with the most amazing scent and beautiful flower heads of individual pink/white flowers is *Viburnum carlesii* 'Aurora'.

May is the time to think about planting your tubs and containers and if you want to be bold this year try following this advice from Sarah Raven – treat each pot as if it were a wedding reception with a bride (stand out flower) bridesmaids (plants to complement the bride) and an uninvited guest or two (plant or plants that contrast with the other two). Give this a go and send a photo



into the PP and see if we can work out the uninvited guest!

May can also be a rather dull month colour wise in the garden – the daffodils and tulips have finished and the summer perennials haven't yet taken their place. A good stop gap is the tree peony or the more common broom. The broom will benefit from a good prune

once it's finished flowering, but don't prune the tree peony.

*Amateur Gardener*

## Purslow Show

A decision has been made not to stage the Purslow Show this year. It is hoped that by next year all will be back to normal and a show can go ahead though it will probably be on an earlier date. We hope you will continue to support us when we can once again enjoy big gatherings.

*Eirlys Ellams*

## Notices/Letters

We would like to thank all the very kind people in the village of Clunton for their kindness, cakes, cards, phone calls and letters.

It has helped my recovery and healing very much. Many thanks to you all.

*Barbara and Trevor Jones, 4 Coppice View, Clunton.*

## Crown Clunton

The Sun shone on Clunton's Crown when we opened our beer garden last month, thank you to one and all for making the grand reopening such a success. The support we have received is humbling.

We continue with Thursday evening takeaways and Sunday lunch takeaway and now our alfresco menu is available on Friday and Saturday. As always we look forward to seeing everyone for a drink in the sunshine.

*Michelle and Blaine*

## Swifts at Clunbury School

Swifts are amongst the latest arrivals of the summer migrants. It is generally early May before they arrive here, and by the end of July they are on their way back to Central Africa for the winter. In just three months they need to get into breeding condition, mate, lay eggs, incubate and raise their young. Incubation takes 3 weeks and, depending in the food supply, the young may stay in the nest for as long as 8 weeks. This tight schedule may be why they waste no time on nest site selection but return faithfully, year after year, to exactly the same nesting hole, high up in a building. If that nest hole is blocked or otherwise lost, they are stumped and may well fail to nest. Building renovations and demolitions, leading to the loss of traditional nest sites, are one of the reasons why we have lost more than half of our swifts in just the last 25 years.



The School House in Clunbury is believed to provide a number of traditional nest sites, and conscious that it may in due course be demolished, Pat Harding, Christina Whitehead, Stephen Cornes, Vince Downs and Tom Wall decided that the provision of new nest sites in the form of swift nest boxes might help to retain a swift presence in Clunbury where no other nest sites are known. Christina kindly supplied three boxes left over from a number purchased and erected at the Lawn Farm by her late husband Jim, and they were re-sited recently by Vince Downs on a gable at the back of the School (see photo) not far from where swifts currently nest. There is a

chance that they may be explored this nesting season by immature birds (they don't generally breed until four years old) and may perhaps be chosen by them as nest sites to which they return and breed in future years.

It is a long shot, but worth a try. We will be watching closely this year to see where swifts are currently nesting and whether the boxes attract any prospective future residents.

*Tom Wall*

## Boy Bason and The Cornets

Just a quick update to advise that all three have made it through the winter although not without incident. The home housing two of them was found to have blown over with no sight of either of them. Fortunately one was spotted a few weeks later but the other was spotted in the day time. A prompt phone call resulted in a few weeks rest and recuperation at the hedgehog hospital where Boy Bason doubled in weight and was then able to be released back into the wilds of Clunbury. PS if you've wondered why there is a shortage of pet food at present, try looking after hedgehogs!

*Caroline Bason*

## Aston-on-Clun Craft & Collectables Market

Saturday 22 May 10am -1pm  
Lots of stalls selling  
beautiful items

Refreshments available  
Covid 19 protocols in place

For more information  
call Andra 01588 660492