



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

A Curse and a Cure

Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) is a relative of the Busy Lizzie, the house plant, but it reaches well over head height, and is a major weed problem, especially on riverbanks and waste land, although it can also invade gardens. It grows rapidly and spreads quickly, smothering other vegetation as it goes. When it dies back in autumn it leaves denuded river banks vulnerable to erosion.

It was introduced to the UK in 1839 and is now a naturalised plant. Because it tolerates low light levels it shades out other vegetation, and gradually impoverishes habitats by killing off other plants.

It is a tall annual, 2-3m (6-10ft) in height. Between June and October it produces clusters of purplish pink (or rarely white) helmet-shaped flowers (hence its other name of Policeman's helmet). The flowers are followed by seed pods that open explosively when ripe. Each plant can produce up to 800 seeds. These are dispersed widely as the ripe seedpods shoot their seeds up to 7m (22ft) away. Once established in the catchment of a river the seeds, which can remain viable for two years, are transported further afield by water.

Control: The main method, and the most appropriate, is to pull or cut the plants before they flower and set seed. 'Balsam bashing' work parties to clear the weed from the riverbanks have been initiated in the parish. In some places, Himalayan Balsam has been eradicated from the river banks in 3 years.



Residents of Clunbury came out to enjoy a lovely cream tea on a beautiful summers day. It was a celebration to be able to get outside and socialise with friends after what seems like such a long time in lock down.



➔ **If you are interested in taking part, contact The Parish Post by email.**

Our New Climate Section

The editors of the 'Parish Post' have kindly agreed to a request from Clunbury Parish's Climate and Ecological Emergency Action Group to set aside at least a page a month to contributions relating to Climate and Wildlife. The Post has always accepted such contributions but as a Group, we wanted to commit to keeping you informed month by month. We are also committing to organise a series of activities (at least every other month) which we hope you will join. The first of these, hurriedly arranged before it was too late in the season, is 'Balsam Bashing' (see front page). Others may include litter picking, tree and shrub planting, visits to homes seeking to reduce their heating footprints, herbal foraging and a river walk. We are also asking the Parish Council to include reports on the Climate and Ecological Emergency at all of its meetings.

*Climate and Ecological
Emergency Action Group*

Swiftly, before it's too late

If you visit Clunbury Village School towards dusk any day very soon, you may still get the chance to witness a special wildlife spectacle. Thirty or more Swifts gather high in the sky before sweeping down low and racing, screeching madly round the Old School House where they nest. But come the end of July they will start heading off to Africa for the winter, so you too need to move swiftly. If you miss out, be sure to give it a try next year – the spectacle is at its best from mid-June onwards.

Tom Wall

Regenerate and Rejuvenate

Pool House Farm just outside Clunbury, grew bigger last month. With huge thanks to Trevor Owens, who lived here many decades ago, the farm is heading back

towards the size it was in his youth.

And just as it was in his youth, farming is a crucial part of where we all go next. In the last century, industrial agriculture evolved to meet the needs of an industrialising world. Now that we need a regenerative world, Regenerative Agriculture is stepping up to be a huge part of the solution.

So at Pool House, we want to be part of wherever this takes us: to a future where farms are not only part of the race to zero carbon, but also a key part in re-creating the biodiversity and ecosystems regeneration that we need if we're going to see the species flourishing again that were common in our youth. We don't want our grandchildren to grow up in a world where hedgehogs teeter on the edge of extinction, but to preserve them, we need a whole-systems approach where the entire ecosystem is given a chance to flourish.

At the same time, the world we're heading to needs more people to be able to eat good, nutritious food that's grown within easy reach of where they live. So we have three main aims: to build soil, to build flourishing ecosystems - and to feed local people.

We don't know yet how we'll do it, but we're open to ideas. Tim Selman, a core member of Marches Meadows Group and the Middle Marches Community Land Trust (who specialises in land restoration and management) is working on a number of regeneration projects with people a lot further down the line than we are, and one answer seems to be replacing hedgerows: dividing fields back up into smaller parcels and creating more edges-spaces where ecosystems thrive. We'll look into that, and any other ideas that people offer. And look forward to a world where we have hope for a future that lives in balance, and gives the children of tomorrow a world we can be proud to have left them.

Manda Scott



Himalayan Balsam

New Defra Funding Programme For Farmers And Land Managers in the Shropshire Hills AONB

A 3-year Defra funded programme for farmers and land managers in Protected Landscapes (Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks or AONB) in England has been launched. Here in the Shropshire Hills AONB, over £700,000 is available to distribute this financial year to projects linked to farming which demonstrates benefits to climate, nature, people and place.

The Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership is supporting farmers and land managers to apply for grants to carry out projects that support nature recovery, mitigate the impacts of climate change, provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and cultural heritage, or support nature-friendly, sustainable farm businesses.

The programme is open to farmers, land managers and landowners (including from the private, public and charity sector) with land within the Shropshire Hills AONB.

Farmers and land managers are encouraged to look at project opportunities on their holdings and to get in touch with the Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership to discuss them.

Farming in Protected Landscapes Adviser, Alison Jones, is able to offer advice, help project development, and guide individuals through the application process. Please email Alison with an outline of your project ideas – alison.m.jones@shropshire.gov.uk.

We are holding two webinars in August which will include a short presentation on the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme followed by a Questions & Answers session:

- Tuesday 10th August, evening webinar for farmers/land managers (time tbc)
 - Tuesday 24th August, webinar for land agents/advisors (time tbc)
- Please contact us to book onto the webinars by emailing shropshirehillsaonb@shropshire.gov.uk, or telephone 01743 254740.

Further information is available on our website at

<https://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/help-to-look-after/farming-in-protected-landscapes>

Lydbury North Community Shop

Last week the shop Committee discussed the current state of Covid 19. We agreed that, despite the Government's relaxation of restrictions, increasing incidences of Covid are still a matter of serious concern. So we have decided to continue with all Covid precautions - use of the screen, hand sanitising, regular wiping of services, social distancing, a maximum of one person/household in the shop, and facemasks for staff and customers. These measures will be regularly reviewed but will remain in place until it considered safe to remove them.

Thank you all for your continued help and support in this.



Clunbury 100 Club July Draw

Joy Windsor	£20
Isabella Holland	£15
Ruth Seabury	£10
Jane Cassford	£5
Peter Halliday	£5

Clunton 100 Club July

Tom Davies	First
Harry and Lillah	Second
Helen Minns	Third

Gardening Corner

Gardening can be frustrating, disappointing, hard work. Some of the words I would use to describe the past month. The dry weather has caused several of the onions to flower, something has eaten the tops of the carrots even though they were covered, and despite at least one hedgehog in the garden, the slugs are finding the hostas a tasty supper each evening! However, they are also rewarding, full of surprises and more often than not trial & error.

Having read that Hemerocallis (day lily) like it dry I duly transplanted several to a very dry spot this summer and without watering are currently in full bloom and beautiful. There are many varieties which flower at various times so could provide beautiful colour all summer should you have that suitable place and don't want to spend all summer watering.

I love oriental poppies and just let them seed from one year to the next. By pure chance a group of red shaggy petalled poppies flowered in front of the bright green stems of Miscanthus 'Malepartus'. The miscanthus was bought for its beautiful autumn seed heads but while still green is providing a perfect backdrop for red and white - firstly the poppies and now white nicotiana (tobacco plant)



In the vegetable garden we're harvesting summer cabbage, tender stem broccoli, new potatoes and trying to keep on top of the courgettes, but already thinking of next year with now being a good time to sow spring cabbage seed – this can be sown directly into the ground in a row and then transplanted in a couple of months once about 4" tall.

As for jobs to do in August, it's all about dead heading flowers to encourage new blooms, feeding baskets, tubs and tomatoes, and watering where necessary. Also keep checking tomatoes for side shoots (non flowering stems) and remove them so that the plant directs its energy into producing tomatoes not growth.

An Amateur Gardener

plant sale

Perennials; alpines;
shrubs; small trees
(inc Acers)

**Bank Holiday Monday
30 August
10am—4.00pm
Clun Methodist Church
Free entry**

Proceeds to Alzheimer's Research
Trust and Clun Methodist Church



Kitchen Cupboard

Now is the time for harvesting all the fruits of our labour with fresh fruit and berries a plenty. Jam making season is here and this recipe uses 3 summer fruits.

Summer 3 fruit Jam (makes about 3lbs)



Recipe

6 warm clean jars, 500g Blackcurrants, 250g Strawberries, 250g Raspberries, 2 tbslp water, juice of 1 lemon, 1kg caster/granulated sugar

Method

Clean fruit, put currants, water lemon juice into pan. Cook for 5-6 mins (till fruit is soft). Stir in raspberries & strawberries. Add sugar, stir to dissolve, return to heat, bring to boil stirring gently. Then boil rapidly until setting point is reached (15mins) TIP: put a knob of butter in to stop foam forming.

You can test with thermometer ; reading 110° c/225°f . Stir well put into warm sterile jars.

Welsh cakes

Welsh cakes are a traditional culinary treat original to Wales. To natives of southern Wales, they are also known as bakestones since they were once cooked on a bakestone over an open fire.

Recipe

Can be cooked on a griddle or thick heavy bottom frying pan.

200g SR Flour, 1/2 tsp salt, 1/2tsp mixed spice, 50g lard, 50g marg, 50g currants or sultanas, 1 egg lightly beaten, a little milk.

Method

Sieve the flour, spice, salt into a bowl. Rub in the fat until it resembles fine bread crumbs. Add sugar & fruit, stir in the egg & milk to form a stiff dough. Turn out onto a floured surface. Roll 6mm thick, cut out with 6cm cutter, heat pan with coating of fat till hot. Fry slowly turning & moving the cakes around till brown on each side. Serve with butter or sugar or for a real treat fresh fruit such as strawberries or raspberries and cream.

Freezes well.



Mary Jones

Wheelie Bins for Recycling

Following requests from residents, and to boost recycling, households will soon be able to request a wheelie bin for cans, glass and plastic.

The bin (optional and free) will replace current black recycling boxes, reduce waste blown out of the boxes, make the storage of recycling more convenient, and reduce bending and lifting for everyone.

The bins are likely to be with interested households in spring 2022. More info about how to request a bin will follow shortly.

CONTACTS

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

Parish Council Meeting 15/7

Present: 9 Councillors, Parish Clerk,
County Councillor Nigel Hartin, 10
members of the public

Report from Cllr Hartin

Highways: Communication issues regarding maintenance need to be looked into. These should be addressed in September. An additional £120 million has been allocated to Highways, to be used over the next 4 years. Some of this amount may unfortunately be rerouted from other areas of the Highways budget (such as Drains and Ditches).

Enterprise South West Shropshire (ESWS, at Enterprise House, Bishop's Castle) have been awarded £23,916 from the Shropshire Council Economic Recovery Programme to develop Business Administration Support Services in the area. ESWS will be engaging local freelancers with expertise in marketing, IT, finance, PR, HR and general administration.

Upskilling Shropshire: Shropshire Council Chief Executive reported that nearly 200 apprentices were currently developing their skills on the job within the Council and in maintained schools.

Local Plan: Apparently SC officers have ignored many requests from Parish Councils asking why they had been designated as a 'Hub' area within the Local Plan. Cllr Hartin's group is asking for the Local Plan to be subject to further scrutiny before it is sent to the Planning Inspectorate. The forthcoming Government White Paper is expected to include proposals meaning that land in the Local Plan designated as being in 'Growth Areas' will automatically be deemed to have outline planning permission.

Covid cases are on the up, although there has not been a commensurate increase in the number of hospitalisations. Shropshire Council is keeping to the usual precautions to protect the most vulnerable people. Bishop's Castle

Community College is bringing to a close its 'Lateral Flow Testing' mid-September. In the future any such testing will be home-based only.

Finance:

Bank balance total: £8,121.74

Expenses agreed: £642.66

The Chair pointed out that a large bill would be due to Shropshire Council at some stage to cover expenses for the elections.

Report from the Climate and

Ecological Emergency Action Group:

On behalf of the Group, Tom Wall reported on a Zoom meeting with two leading participants in formulating the South Shropshire Climate Action Plan, following which it was decided to run a series of activities within the Parish rather, at present, than holding public meetings. One such activity is 'Himalayan Balsam bashing' (see this issue of the Parish Post). These activities will be advertised in the PP. The group would also like the Parish Council to:

1. Invite Allan Wilson, Vice Chair of the Shropshire Association of Local Councils to come and give his presentation to the PC. This provides an overview of the situation we are in and looks at the legal responsibilities of PCs and the appropriate local action and support they should be providing.

2. Investigate the possibility of installing charging points for electric vehicles (at the village halls for example?)

3. Include the Climate and Ecological Emergency as an agenda item for all future meetings of the PC.

The Chair agreed to 1 and did not see any problem with 3, but thought that the financial aspects of 2 needed to be investigated.

Planning Applications:

Proposed erection of dwelling west of Hawthorn Cottage, 4 Beambridge.

Proposal to approve reserved matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) in pursuance of outline planning permission no. 18/01569/OUT. Cllr Bailey had taken a look and saw no problem.

Roads

Interactive road signs for Clunton and Twitchen: these remained in store at Clungunford until such time as Shropshire Council has erected the poles. Their positions need to be reviewed.

Flooding at the bridge in Clunton: although Shropshire Council had promised to look at the drainage, nothing has happened yet.

The Chair remarked that it was becoming increasingly difficult to get any action from Shropshire Council on local issues and asked Cllr Hartin why this was. He accepted that this was an issue and efforts were being made to remedy the situation.

Clunton: one light not working; should be fixed within 25 days.

Purslow crossroads: the Chair felt strongly that the cutting of the verges shouldn't be left to individuals but should be the responsibility of Shropshire Highways.

Cllrs Lewis and Hern reported that the exits from Kempton onto 'the top road' were obscured by vegetation and dangerous. For example, in order to check for oncoming traffic at the exit above Richard Bright's, it is necessary to be half way out onto 'the toproad'; this is not acceptable. Cllr Lewis has chased up the undertaking given by the Highways Officer, David Bradwell, to install speed monitoring devices to gather evidence in relation to a possible mandatory 40mph speed limit. This has been delayed for various reasons. She has approached Richard Bright regarding creating a splay by removal of the hedge to the south of the junction and replacing it with a fence. He favours waiting first to see what happens as

regards the speed limit. Gisèle Wall reported that, on the other side, Julie Saunders appeared willing for the hedge to be replaced by a fence. In both cases compensatory planting was envisaged elsewhere on the holdings.

AOB

The Chair stated that pollution in rivers and brooks is often attributed to farmers, but sewage works are also a major factor whether in relation to the Clun (at Clun) or Kemp (at Bishop's Castle). Cllr Hartin pointed out that the Environment Agency's powers in such matters are down to government policy.

The Clerk reported that in relation to correspondence received, rather than wait for the next meeting (they are two months apart) she was consulting councillors in the interim. Cllr Bailey advised that the number for mental health issues is 0300 304 7000. He reported that Clinical Commissioning Groups were due to be replaced by the new Integrated Care System.

Clunton burial ground: members of the public raised the issues of access to the burial ground and a long debate ensued. The case is in the hands of Shropshire Council; Cllr Hartin pointed out that SC had some 170 cases to resolve and that this particular one was 95th on the list.

Date and venue for next meeting:

Thursday 16 September 7:45pm
Clunton Village Hall.

Gisèle Wall

STOP PRESS

In response to Cllr Hartin's enquiries following the meeting, Alan Meyrick, Highways Maintenance Technician responded as follows:

"I have spoken to the bridges section who are responsible for de-silting under the bridge deck. They have informed me that the works should commence on the 11th August. Works have been programmed for 5 days, and they will be taking away arisings

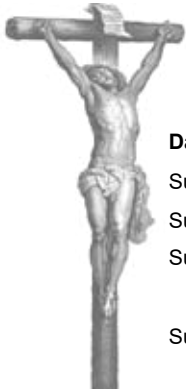
where applicable and governed by the Environment Agency. I have made them aware of the importance of the outfall pipes taking highway water from the drains to the front of the pub.

In terms of the road leading up to Bury Ditches / Brockton, we have submitted this section for resurfacing and this submission has gone to the capital team. For now, I will inspect and make safe the potholes along the lane.

Our in-house jetting team have also cleared off gullies to the North West of Gunridge, and we have also carried out some ditching works to hopefully prevent water running down the lane. That said in severe

downpours the systems will struggle to manage large quantities of water. I'm hopeful though that this maintenance will go a long way to relieve some of the residents long standing issues."

Following submission of a substantive report on the state of the highway, and persistent chasing by ex Councillor Nick Morgan, Shropshire Highways have completed repairs to the majority of identified potholes along Clunton Coppice Lane. Also, this week the Council have erected a new street sign for Clunton Coppice and continue to work on other signage in the vicinity...



Date	Time	Service	Church
Sunday 8 th	11:15 am	Holy Communion	Clunbury
Sunday 15 th	11:15 am	Holy Communion	Clunton
Sunday 22 nd	11:15 am	Holy Communion	Clunbury
	12:30 pm	Baptism	Clunton
Sunday 29 th	10:00 am	Benefice United Holy Communion	St George's, Clun

Events Diary for August 2021			
Every Thursday	1:15 pm - 2:00 pm	Mobile Post Office	Clunton Village Hall
Every Thursday	2:15 pm - 3:00 pm	Mobile Post Office	Clunbury Village Hall
Thursday 12	10:00 am - 11:30 am	Clunbury Cafe	Clunbury Village Hall
Saturday 21	10:00 am - 1:00 pm	Craft and Collectables Market	Aston-on-Clun Village Hall
Thursday 26	10:00 am - 11:30 am	Clunbury Cafe	Clunbury Village Hall
Monday 30	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	Plant Sale	Clun Methodist Church

Outside the Parish? To receive The Parish Post by email for yourself or friends and family, email us at theparishpost@gmail.com