

Events Diary for December 2021		
Every Monday	Parent & Toddler Group in term time	Clunbury Village Hall
Every Tuesday	Table Tennis 2.00-4.00pm 01588 660847	Clungunford
Every Thursday	Mobile Post Office: 1.15-2.00pm	Clunton Village Hall
Every Thursday	Mobile Post Office: 2.15-3.00pm	Clunbury Village Hall
Until 11th Dec	Castle Artists Exhibition 10am-4pm	Bishop's Castle Town Hall
Thurs 2nd	6.30pm- 8.30pm The Platinum Jubilee Sip & Say Evening	Aston On Clun Village Hall
Thurs 2nd	10.00-11.30am Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Tues 7th	7.30pm Talk: Four Medieval Towns in the Welsh Borders SWSHAS	Church Barn Bishop's Castle
Sat 11th	10.00am-1.00pm Craft & Collectables Last Minute Christmas Market	Aston on Clun Village Hall
Sat 11th	7.00pm Christmas Variety Show CADS	Memorial Hall Clunw
Thurs 16th	10.00-11.30am Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Sun 12th	11.00am Parish Ramble	Hope Farm, Twitche
Sun 12th	11.15am Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Fri 17th	7.30pm Carol Service	St Mary's, Clunton
Sun 19th	6.00pm Carols under the Yew Tree	St Swithin's Clunbury
Tues 21st	11.00am Christmas Crafts	Discovery Centre, Craven Arms
Sat 25th	9.00am Christmas Day Holy Communion	St Swithin's Clunbury
Sun 26th	10.00am Joint Service	Clun Methodist Church

Events Diary for January 2022		
Mon 10th	7.30pm Clunbury Village Hall AGM	Clunbury Village Hall
Thurs 6th	10.00-11.30am Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Sun 9th	11.15am Holy Communion	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Sun 16th	6.00pm Evening Prayer	St Swithin's, Clunbury
Thurs 20th	10.00-11.30am Clunbury Café	Clunbury Village Hall
Sun 23rd	11.15am Holy Communion	St Mary's Clunton
Sun 30th	10.00am Benefice Holy Communion	Clun

Thank you to all the contributors of the Llanbrook, Cwm and Obley areas for their generosity in this year's Poppy Appeal. The sum of **£76.49p** was collected.

Pat Hancock

Don't Miss the Christmas Post

Last Posting Dates in December:

Inland:

2nd class: Saturday 18th

1st class: Tuesday 20th

Airmail

Australia: Monday 6th

Canada, USA: Friday 14th

Europe: Saturday 18th



Platinum Jubilee Sip & Say Evening

A meeting to discuss plans for a community orchard at the back of Aston on Clun Village Hall is planned for 2 December
Aston on Clun Village Hall
6.30-8.30pm
Come and share ideas have your say!

Remembrance Sunday

On Remembrance Day, 11 November, Clunbury School held a service in St Swithin's Church, Clunbury. The children laid a cross at the altar for each of the fallen from our area, who died in the World Wars and the Gulf War.

On Sunday 14 November, there was a well attended Remembrance service in church, followed by a short service at the Purslow War Memorial, where wreaths were laid.



Remembrance display in Kempton

Clunbury Christmas Carols and other festive songs.

Sunday 19 December 6pm

Around the yew tree at St Swithin's church

Come and join us to brighten things up with a happy singalong. Everyone welcome to cheer in Christmas with Rev Robert Payne leading us. There will be mulled wine and mince pies. Please wear warm clothes, bring a torch, your own drink for lubrication, and a chair if you wish.

Let us know your favourite carol or song, and the reasons, by 10 December so that we can include it. Contact Julia Mansfield 01588 660356 or email jul1a@btinternet.com.

Afghan Appeal

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the appeal for clothing and personal items for Afghan families. The response has been overwhelming. Iman Sohayb Peebhai, of the Craven Arms Islamic Centre, was delighted with the generosity of you all and the quality of items donated.

There are about 100 Afghans living in accommodation in Telford. The nature of their departure from Afghanistan meant that they arrived in the UK with very few possessions. Your donations have been important in ensuring that for now they have what is necessary to begin a new life here.

David Booker

Please send your contributions by the 20th of each month

Report from the Parish Post Chair

I think everyone would agree that the last two years have proved to be very challenging. With little or no events happening, the editing team have had to be quite creative to keep the PP alive and interesting, as well as informative. Inevitably the situation with the pandemic has meant that the PP has had to evolve into something a little different from what we have all been used to. Change is difficult but sometimes change can be a good thing and if it helps things to move forward, develop and grow that must be seen as a positive result. However, the PP has reached a crossroads, Gisèle, one of the founder members of the PP, has decided to take some time for herself and have a well-earned rest. We owe her a huge thank you for the work, dedication, and time she has given to making the PP what it is today.

The addition of the Gardening Corner and the Kitchen Cupboard has been very successful, with really positive feedback. However, Caroline Bason our amateur gardener did agree to do the Gardening feature for 12 months and has decided that perhaps it's time for someone else to pick up the mantle. We are very grateful to her for the very interesting articles she has provided over the last 12 months. I know that people have found it useful and I, myself, have found the information very helpful. I noticed that Mary Cooper has sent an interesting article on the Allium Leaf Miner and it struck me that perhaps people could be encouraged to send in their own gardening tips rather than relying on one person only. Just a thought. The most recent addition to the PP is the Nature and the Environment page. As the momentum increases about changes in the climate, the Action for Climate group asked if it was possible to have a regular page in the PP. This was agreed, but it was felt that it was important to give a balanced view, as we live in a rural farming community and that the information should be relevant to the local community.

It seems that there are going to be quite a few changes ahead as I am also resigning this month, so the PP will be looking to recruit new members. I hope that people will support it, as the PP is quite an important part of the community.

Modern technology like Facebook and WhatsApp do have a place and they are instantaneous, but there are people in our community who do not have access to these resources and the paper copy is the only way to be sure that everyone receives information and feels included.

I have also spoken to Simon who does a very good job of looking after our PP website. Unfortunately, he couldn't make it to our AGM because he has recently started a new job. He informed me that he may not be able to continue looking after the website because of increased commitments. He hasn't made that decision yet but forewarned is forearmed. As I sign off, I wish the PP every success for the future.

Lynne Thompson (chair)

Huge thanks to Gisèle and Lynne

The Parish Post team thank Gisèle Wall and Lynne Thompson for their work on the Parish Post. They have decided to stand down now and they will be missed very much, both for their interest and for the editorial and printing work they have undertaken for many years.

We have some new people interested and will hold a meeting next year to discuss how we can move forward.

We are heartened that so many in the Parish have expressed their appreciation of the Parish Post and how much they enjoy it. Please contact us if you think you can help with the production.



Clunbury Village Hall Annual General Meeting

10 January 2022

At the Village Hall, 7.30pm

Everyone welcome

mulled wine and mince pies

For more info please contact:

Alister 661180 Duncan 660578
Barbara 660629

Covid-19 safe protocols in place.

Clunbury Village Hall committee
thank you for your support over
these difficult times and look
forward to a much more normal
2022

Seasonal greetings to all
'take care and stay safe'

A difficult rebirth!

We have been downsizing and are pleased that Noel's beloved Plan Chest has been homed with Mandy. It couldn't have gone to a more appropriate Artist/Gardener. Mandy and Dave had a somewhat difficult move: the chest was large and heavy, and it was a longish way from the house to the car. It came in various pieces and is now happy residing in Clun.

Anne & Noel
Shepherdson



Mandy and
Dave at work.



healthwatch

Shropshire

Healthwatch urges community to share their experiences on young person Mental Health Crisis Services

During the pandemic there has been a nationwide increase in the number of young people accessing mental health services to help deal with a range of conditions such as eating disorders, depression and anxiety.

'Your views are integral so that children and young people are at the centre of the future developments and improvement in our services.'

For anyone who has experience or would like to share their views :

www.healthwatchtelfordandwrekin.co.uk

telford.admin@telfordandwrekin.co.uk

Phone number: 01952 739540

ATTENTION ALL OWNERS OF CHICKENS, POULTRY AND ANY OTHER CAPTIVE BIRDS

The Chief Veterinary Officers of the UK have agreed to bring in new housing measures to protect all poultry and captive birds from Avian Influenza brought into the UK by wild birds migrating from mainland Europe during winter.

In an agreed statement the 4 Chief Veterinary Officers say:

Whether you keep just a few birds or thousands, from Monday 29th November onwards you will be legally required to keep birds indoors, or take appropriate steps to keep them separate from wild birds. We have not taken this decision lightly, taking this action now is the best way to protect your birds from this highly infectious disease.



Poultry keepers must now do the following:

- house or net all poultry and captive birds to keep them separate from wild birds
- cleanse and disinfect clothing, footwear, equipment before and after contact with poultry and captive birds
- reduce the movement of people, vehicles and equipment around poultry to reduce contamination, and use effective vermin control
- thoroughly cleanse and disinfect housing on a regular basis
- keep fresh disinfectant at the right concentration at all farm and poultry housing entrance and exit points
- minimise direct and indirect contact between poultry and captive birds and wild birds, including making sure all feed and water is not accessible to wild birds



Information on how to spot the disease and what to do next can be found on <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>

As so many of us keep a few chickens or ducks or geese in this area, it is important that we are all aware of the current requirements to keep them safe. In GB you do not need to register with DEFRA as a keeper of poultry if you have fewer than 50 – but they would 'strongly encourage' you to register, so you receive these sort of notifications.



100 Club November draw

Clunbury:

Michael Beedles £20; Josie Jones £15; Max and Sam Wadsworth £10; Toby Matveieff £5; Caroline Bason £5.

Clunton:

1st Malcolm Jones; 2nd Jonathan Price; 3rd Jean Jones.

Scary Crow!



Congratulations to the Gittins family from Twitchen Road for winning the Scary Crow competition (left)..



Great pumpkin!

First place in the Kempton comp goes to this beauty from Karen and Ian Aldred.

Other deserving competitors in the Scary Crow competition (right).



The Parish Post wish everyone a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

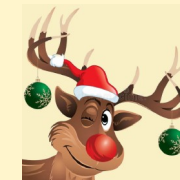
CONTACTS

Email: theparishpost@gmail.com

Website: theparishpost.org

If you (or family or friends living outside the parish) would like to receive The Parish Post by email please contact us at theparishpost@gmail.com

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



Nature and the Environment

Parish Rambles

You are invited to a **farm walk** on **Sunday 12 December at 11am**, courtesy of Christina Whitehead. The walk will be led by Gary Richards and last about 2 hours. This is the first of what we hope will be a series of walks at various locations in our Parish, exploring, enjoying and learning about our countryside and its management. **Meet at Hope Farm, 3 Ashes, Twicken.** Dogs on leads please.



Litter picking

Having met at the 100 House on 13 October, courtesy of Jackie (who later kindly provided coffees on the House), our little band of six spread out, collecting, in an hour or so, nine bags of litter. This was along the B4368 from the 100 House to, and beyond, the Little Brampton junction, and from that junction along the B4385 towards Kempton. We also made short excursions along the back road to Kempton and down to Brampton Bridge. Amongst the debris were one tea-shirt (dry), two wheel trims (free-range), two broom heads (no handles) and eight facemasks (noxious). Please watch out for details of our next litter pick, likely to be in February.



Gisèle Wall, Richard Hopkins, Tom Wall, Pat Harding, Stephen Molyneux.
Photo Alister Thompson

Jays

As mentioned last month, there are lots of Jays about. Our Jays are residents and highly sedentary, rarely moving more than a mile or so during their lifetimes, but if there is a failure of their staple autumn food – acorns – those living in northern Scandinavia and Russia may move long distances. Such a failure could explain why numbers here exceeded normal from mid-September onwards, peaking in mid-October. The Latin name for the Jay is *Garrulus glandarius*, meaning ‘the chattering acorn-gatherer’, but Jays are more than gatherers, they are great tree-planters. It is said that a single Jay can plant over 7,500 acorns during peak acorn time. It buries them for retrieval over the winter, but hides more than it can retrieve and eat, so, come the spring, a good many will germinate. The remarkable relationship between the Jay and acorns (and a great deal more besides) is explored further by Isabella Tree in her fascinating book, *Wilding. The return of nature to a British farm.* Tom Wall



Egret - A little one

Dave Simpson, Kempton's principal wildlife observer, reported his first Little Egret for three years on 26 November. It is now five weeks since he last saw the Great White. Littles have black bills and yellow feet, the Heron-sized Great Whites have the opposite.



Phone boxes

BT are looking to remove or decommission phone boxes nationwide. Clunbury Parish Council have argued against this in the parish on the grounds of patchy mobile coverage in the area. They would like to know if you have strong views on this topic.

Options include:

- Keep the box going as a proper telephone box with a connection. In this case, the box could not have a display inside, as in Kempton at the moment.
 - The parish could buy one or more boxes but would require assurances from the village that it would be cared for. The box would be decommissioned in this case and displays inside allowed.
 - The box is removed
- Please let your parish councillor know your views, or the clerk of the parish council, Nancy Adams on clerk.clunbury@gmail.com



Gardening Corner

As Lynne said in her Chair report, Caroline Bason has been our amateur gardener for the last 12 months. Many thanks to her. Now we are looking for individuals to share their extensive knowledge to help others in the gardening sphere. Send your contributions to the Parish Post in the usual way. theparishpost@gmail.com
Kicking us off is a tale of woe. 😞

I have been growing members of the allium family for many years, so picture my horror when I discovered that my precious leek crop had been attacked by Allium Leaf Miner. I knew that it was on the increase in this area and unfortunately I had not taken any precautions against it.



The adult is a very small fly that lays its eggs in spring from March to the end of May, and a second generation at the end of August through September. The eggs are inserted into the leaves and hatch into maggots that eat tunnels inside the plant heading down to the roots. Once these are fully grown, they pupate,



the brown pupae will be found at the base of the hole they have created. The flies hatch out between the end of May to September and mating occurs within 48 hours.

Fortunately, the pest only attacks members of the onion family, and leeks and chives are their favourite. If there are track marks on the leaves this indicates that eggs have been laid. The leaves will curl and collapse. The maggots can be found inside vertical tunnels near the surface but the small brown pupae are to be found at the base of the tunnel.

For the amateur gardener, the only practical control is to cover the crop, especially from March to June and again in September to November, using insect protective mesh or fleece. If infection is found, the affected plants should be uprooted and burned, it very important not to compost the plants as the pupae will be able to hatch and spread the infection.

Mary Cooper

Kitchen Cupboard

The big day will soon be upon us and Christmas wouldn't be Christmas in our house without this much loved family favourite. Although it can be made with Chicken it is a great way to use up left over Turkey. The pudding is a n old recipe given to me by my mother-in-law. Very rich but easy to make and looks impressive!

Turkey and Broccoli Bake

Ingredients: Cooked turkey chopped into bitesize chunks; one head of broccoli; 2 tins of condensed chicken soup; 1 cup of mayonnaise; a little milk; 250g breadcrumbs; 250g grated cheese; 1 tbsp mild curry powder.

Method

Layer the turkey on the bottom of a large ovenproof dish; cook the broccoli until tender and drain; place the soup and mayonnaise into a bowl and mix together add enough milk to make a creamy consistency not too runny. Add the curry powder and stir into the sauce. Layer the broccoli on top of the turkey, cover with the sauce. Mix the breadcrumbs with the grated cheese and spread over the top of the sauce. Bake in moderate oven 160°C fan 350° F Gas 4 for 45mins-1 hour, making sure it is piping hot all the way through.



Snowball Pudding

Ingredients: 8 trifle sponges (not fingers); tin of mandarin oranges; 2oz sultanas; 2oz raisins; 3oz glacé cherries; 2 tbsp sherry; 4oz butter; 4oz icing sugar; 2oz ground almonds; 4 oz double cream

Method

Lightly butter a pudding basin; drain oranges; place sultanas and raisins in a bowl with the sherry and put to one side; cut the cherries and chop the oranges; cream the butter and icing sugar together; fold in the ground almonds and cherries; crumble in the trifle sponges; fold in the oranges, sultanas, raisins and sherry, mix well. Press into the buttered pudding basin, firmly; cover with foil and leave in the fridge overnight. Whip the cream until firm; turn out the pudding onto a serving plate (you may have to put the bowl in warm water to loosen the pudding) and cover with cream.



Lynne Thompson

Thank You On Saturday 13 November, 49 eager quizzers sat down in the village hall to a fantastic Curry and Quiz evening, hosted by the **Friends of Clunbury School**. A bottle of bubbly went to the winning team and a wooden spoon to those bringing up the rear! Everyone did really well.

Huge thank-yous go out to all those who made the delicious curries, all those who helped out on the night, and especially to Faye Apthorpe who organised the evening and produced and read the quiz questions.

The Friends of Clunbury School very much appreciate your support: almost £600 was raised which will help to subsidise a theatre trip for the children.

Please do come along and support our next event -

**Christmas Bingo on Tuesday 14 December in the village hall.
Eyes down 6pm**

Clun Amateur Dramatic Society (CADS) Christmas Variety Show Saturday 11 December, Clun Memorial Hall, doors open 7pm



A gallimaufry of entertainment and terpsichorean revelry ending with a melodrama never before seen.

Hosted by our very own Mr Steven Harris with libation from Mr Jack Limond's Clun bars.
Tickets: in advance Adults £5, Child £2.50

On the door Adults £6, Child £3
Contact Steve Harris 01588 640715

Correspondence

Tree Meadows and Sustainable Food

I listened recently to a podcast discussion about 'Agro-Forestry' – a technical term but a simple concept best expressed as 'Tree-Meadows'. These are some of the most biodiverse landscapes in the world, indeed there's a meadow/tree area in Lithuania that apparently holds the European record for biodiversity with over 20 plant species in a 10cm x 10cm square. Trees are the answer to so much, but they need to be the right trees in the right place and if we're to find ways to feed the local community and provide fulfilling, inspiring work that lets young people reconnect to the land, then we need to work out what to plant and where – and what to do with the spaces in between. The trees may provide fruit or timber while in between there can be hay, grazing or crops to harvest.

And I tuned in to an edition of the 'Sustainable Food Stories' podcast in which Patrick Holden of the Soil Association interviewed Lord Benyon, a member of the government who is also a regenerative farmer, one who seeks to build soil health and fertility, increase water percolation and retention, enhance biodiversity, reduce carbon emissions (notably by avoiding repeated soil disturbance) and improve carbon capture. They also discussed the need for small family farms as an integral part of rural life and the need for good food labelling so we don't have to buy things reared half way round the world in intensive, carbon-heavy conditions if we don't want to.

Manda Scott

Here are the links to the podcasts:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-sustainable-food-trust-podcast/id1511133906?i=1000535645795> and

<https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/agricology-podcast/id1520672858?i=1000535061931>

Water Mills in Clunbury Parish

Noting David Keogh's request for information about water mills in last month's PP, I remembered that I had a copy of 'Some Watermills of South-West Shropshire' by Gordon Tucker, published by the Midland Wind and Water Mill Group in 1991. I mentioned this to David and he has now acquired a copy, and back home in Cheshire he is able to read descriptions of Clunton Mill and the Farm Mill at Purslow, as well as of nearby watermills, notably at the Hurst and Oaker. There is no mention of a mill in Clunbury, but surely there must have been one or more. Can anyone fill this gap in the record?

The Farm Mill at Purslow was designed to grind corn, up at the farm, rather than by the Clun. Gordon Tucker's information was supplied by Mr and Mrs John Croxton, later supplemented by a discussion with Mr Croxton senior, then aged 82. A small brick building beside a leat some 200 yards below the farm housed a turbine and the power from this was transmitted to the farm 'by wire ropes over pulleys' and drove a corn grinder in the barn by the yard entrance. Apparently, six small pylons were used to support the pulleys across the fields. It seems that the arrangement was set up well before 1900 and was taken out in 1938 when mains electricity was installed, supplying the power required. Gordon Tucker referred to it as 'a very unusual and interesting mill arrangement'. When he wrote his account remnants of the old machinery were still in place at the farm. I wonder whether any of it is still there.

The account from which I quote includes a few extra details and I would be pleased to copy the full text to anyone who may be interested.

Tom Wall

Grants available for local conservation projects

The Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund is open for applications for projects that will start on or after 1 April 2022. The Fund supports projects to deliver practical conservation work in the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) or involve young people in activities relating to the conservation of the area. It is administered by the Shropshire Hills AONB Trust and earlier this year, they awarded £11,000 to eight community projects.

Projects include restoring village roadside verges to encourage wildflowers and create valuable wildlife corridors, supporting volunteers to manage local woodland, and helping local Community Wildlife Groups to take action to conserve our local Curlew population.

Projects have also enabled secondary school pupils to take part in practical conservation tasks, supported free places for younger children to join Forest School sessions and funded a pollinator planting project at a local care farm.

If you, or your community group, has a project in mind, please get in touch.

Grants range from £500 to £2,000

Further information about the Fund and how to apply is on our website at

<https://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/help-to-look-after/shropshire-hills-aonb-trust/aonb-conservation-fund>

Any queries please contact Steph Hayes, Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership on 01743 254746 or email stephanie.hayes@shropshire.gov.uk

Going feral

Around Christmas two years ago, a small grey and white cat turned up here, at Clunton Coppice, whom I named "little cat". He started eating from the bowl of cat food that I'd put out for the fox cubs. I felt sorry for him out in the cold, so I converted an old chicken coop into his own little home, completely boarded out, with insulation donated from a kind neighbour, and I even added a small heater for the colder nights. He started using the house almost straight away and would come out in the morning for his breakfast before going back to bed and then appearing again at night for his dinner. This has gone on for the last two years during which time he has become more and more friendly, although he does tend to go missing every now and again, but he mostly comes back looking well, albeit a little hungry. He has become a loveable little rogue, following me around the garden and generally messing about, hence he has been renamed Monkey Boy!



Little Cat/Monkey Boy

Soon after, another bigger dark cat started turning up and eating from the same bowls of food, but this one was very timid, it would always scarpers as soon as it saw me. This has been named Big Cat and it spends a lot of time around my neighbours' barns, often sheltering under cars while the engines are still hot. It is very slowly becoming accustomed to me and now won't run away, but sits a safer distance away before coming to get some biscuits from the little feeding station I have set up.



Big Cat

According to Shropshire Wildlife Trust, there have been numerous sightings on camera traps of cats in the woods on the prowl for mice and birds and I have also captured images of several cats in my own woodland. They could be kittens that were born in the barns next door to me nearly four years ago, by another feral cat, which has since disappeared. I also recently managed to capture a couple of pictures with my phone of a cat near my woodland that looked very much like Monkey Boy, same colouring and now about the same size.



Feral Cat

Maybe following this write up it would be good to hear stories of cats (see photos) that other people have seen and maybe adopted? Possibly someone in the Parish knows of Big Cat and Monkey Boy and can complete their story. *Nick Morgan*

'Cats Protection' strongly advises the neutering of feral cats, stating that the best option is to neuter all of the feral cats in an area within as short a time frame as possible, reducing the size of the colony. Cats Protection offers 'trap, neuter and return schemes' for feral cats.

If you'd like more information on feral neutering, their phone helpline is 03000 12 12 12, choose option 2 (lines open from 9.30am-1pm).



Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund
2021-22 projects