

Clunbury Climate and Environment Group

Report to the Parish Council Meeting on 4 September 2025

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

See separate document and specific Agenda item

Felling of large Ash Tree at The Twitchen

For discussion at the meeting please

Notification of a road closure on 1/2 September for 'tree removal' alerted Nick Morgan to the probability that the large Ash tree at Three Ashes will be felled. As he says, this is 'a great shame as this old tree is a distinguishing feature of the junction', adding that 'I believe as a Parish we should be looking to replace the tree with a different species for future generations', and that Shropshire Council should give the Parish Council prior warning of similar cases. This would enable options such as pollarding to be considered, a point also raised by John Croxton (Nick wondered too about the possibility of the trunk being sculpted).

Whinberry Hill

Bracken management: Our volunteers have now cut Bracken by hand on four occasions over an area of about 2 acres at the north end of the hill – in mid-May, mid-June, mid-July and mid-August. We don't anticipate cutting again this year and come the Spring will look with interest to see what impact we have had on re-growth.

The best tool for this work is a scythe and we are grateful to the National Trust and Natural England for the loan both of scythes and of a smaller version termed 'scythette'. We feel however, that we need our own equipment and have in mind applying to the Conservation Fund of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape for a grant towards tool purchase.

We are encouraged to see heather regenerating and flowering, and although there have been very few berries, the Whinberry is growing strongly in many places too. Unfortunately, the annual Whinberry Pick-nic, on 20 July, had to be abandoned due to the only serious downpour of the summer.

The fourth in our series of annual drone photos of the site will be taken later this month.

Parish Walks

A further walk was held on 16 August and another is planned for October.

Purslow Show

We had a stand at the Purslow Show for the first time this year and hope to do so again in the future.

Continued

Next Meeting

Our next Group meeting is on Friday 5 September, 9.45 for 10.00 at Clunbury Village Hall. As always, it is open to all (and the coffee and cake is free).

River Clun

A number of Group members will be in a party that is visiting the River Kent in Cumbria in October to see a project aimed at restoring and reinforcing a population of Freshwater Pearl Mussels. We will also be visiting the Species Recovery Centre beside Windermere where Mussels from the Clun are breeding in captivity. Here a cohort of young Mussels is being nurtured in the hope that one day conditions in our river will be good enough to give them a chance of survival if brought back home.

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