



THE GUNNAS GAZETTE

*The Newsletter for
Clungunford
Volume 20 • Issue 5
May 2017*



Friday 16th June 2017.... Doors open 19.00..... Performance starts 20.00 prompt.....

Clungunford Village Hall

Come and enjoy an evening with **The Elliott Sansom Trio**. Elliott was in the BBC Young Musician 2016 Jazz Award Final and is bringing his exciting trio to host our inaugural jazz event.

Proudly promoted by Clungunford Sports and Social Club

Tickets £12.00 on the evening but please reserve your tickets first by calling 01588 630152 or go to eventsclunvalleyjazz@gmail.com leaving your name/no of tickets required. We have limited numbers so book early!

Clungunford.com

The website for the Parish of Clungunford has been completely overhauled.

If you look online at www.Clungunford.com today you will see a new, more useful website which aims to provide access to local news and information about the Parish Hall, Parish Council, Sports & Social Club, St Cuthbert's Church and various community groups.

There is also an interactive events calendar to find out what is happening in the community.

The site has only recently gone live and therefore I am seeking thoughts on how the community would like to use it. Please contact me via the contact page on the website or at Clungunford.ad1@gmail.com.

Can I also ask that you use this email address to notify me of any events that you would like to be considered for the events calendar?

Finally, I am grateful for information and contact-details for any community groups that wish to have a page on the site.

Thanks - Max Maxwell

Flicks in the Sticks at Clungunford Parish Hall

There is no showing in May this year, and our final presentation before our summer holiday is as follows. We'll be back towards the end of September with more exceptional films.

Friday 2 June 2017 at 8pm

A Street Cat Named Bob (cert 12A) Drama

Homeless and a recovering drug addict, James Bowen is running low on his luck. He's given a last chance to turn his life around by his support worker, Val, who helps him to finally be given his own flat to live in.

Whilst in the bath one day, he hears a break-in and finds a ginger cat in his kitchen eating the corn flakes. Thinking it belongs to a neighbour, he sets out to find the owner but with no luck, concluding that it must be a stray. James, in learning to care for something other than himself, starts becoming a responsible person and Bob helps him make money busking, in their touching symbiotic relationship.

Starring: Luke Treadaway, Ruta Gedmintas, Joanne Froggatt

Director: Roger Spottiswoode

Entrance £4.00 Adults £2.00 Children

Tel: 01588 660727 (Ann) or 01588 660781 (Maureen) (maureenrooney2012@gmail.com) for enquiries and reservations

And it goes without saying that you will be able to enjoy with each film Licensed Bar...Ice creams... Raffle (donations welcome)... Good car parking... and, above all, Excellent Company

We now show all our films with subtitles

We are in the process of compiling an email list for anyone who would like to receive an email reminder each month of information on our forthcoming films including links to trailers and reviews.

If you would like to go on the list, please email: mike@mikeandrewshomeopathy.co.uk with your details.

The Parish Council

There will be no Parish Council Election on 4 May, as we are one short on nominations and so consequently all seven candidates will be elected. All are current Parish Councillors. The absentee is Bert Bason MBE, who has decided to retire.

On behalf of the village I would like to thank Bert for his service over a number of years. He has been an invaluable source of advice and counsel on a wide range of subjects and his input will be missed. Doubtless, we will be able to call upon his advice on an extra-statutory basis as and when required, but in the meantime his desire to cut back a little on his voluntary commitments is quite understandable.

The vacancy means that one of the first jobs of the new Parish Council will be to consider likely names for co-option to the Council. If you would like to put your name forward for consideration or if you want to know what the job entails, do please feel free to contact me or any of the serving councillors. All enquiries will, of course, be treated in the strictest confidence.

Although there is no Parish Council Election on 4 May, there is the Unitary Council Election, and, as usual, voting for Clungunford Parish will take place in the village hall.

The Annual Parish Meeting takes place on 10 May at 8 pm, following the first meeting of the new Parish Council, when the year will be reviewed, and you will have the opportunity to raise any matters of concern.

There is still no news on the Hopton Heath poultry units planning application, although I suspect the decision is quite close. The Planning Inspector has asked for comments on the extension of the existing units, the extant planning permission for which no one knew about whilst the Shropshire application was being fought out. Your Parish Council has already commented on this in the strongest possible terms, and Shropshire Council has effectively admitted that it did not take this into account.

The next Parish Council meeting is due to take place at 7 pm on Wednesday 10 May in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Parish matters before (or after) the meeting may be raised either with me or

with our clerk, Brian Taylor (01588 660653: gunnasclerk@sky.com). Jonathan Roberts, Chairman (01588 660673: jonathan.roberts@morgoedestates.com)

Nursing Notes.....

A topic we hear so much about, and probably fear greatly, prompted me to send this poem I found.

Alzheimer's Poem

Do not ask me to remember,
Do not try to make me understand.
Let me rest and know you're with me,
Kiss my cheek and hold my hand.
I'm confused beyond your concept,
I am sad, and sick, and lost.
All I know is that I need you,
To be with me at all cost.
Do not lose your patience with me,
Do not scold or curse my cry.
I can't help the way I'm acting,
Can't be different though I try.
Just remember that I need you,
That the best of me is gone.
Please don't fail to stand beside me,
Love me till my life is done.

Sister B

PS. In a geriatric ward was an elderly lady who was very confused and kept insisting that she needed to get home to feed her youngest child. She was on a heparin drip and kept trying to get out of bed.
I decided to call her family who said the child had died many years ago and she often behaved like this.
The next time she tried to get out of bed, I gently reminded her that the child she was worried about had already passed away and she didn't need to worry about cooking for him anymore.
She quietly replied "Oh I know he's dead. It's no trouble cooking for him." She then whispered seriously, " You know dead people don't eat very much!"

News from the Sports and Social Club

Those who have not yet renewed their memberships should please contact me and I will arrange to collect the money (excellent value at £10 pa) and issue a 2017 membership card. I can be contacted by phone on 01588 600152 or at lysters@btopenworld.com.
If you are new to Clungunford or wish to become a member for the first time then contact me and I will be happy to explain more about the club to you.
Many thanks. *Simon Lyster.*

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE CLUB WILL BE HELD AT 19.30 ON 3 MAY 2017

In The Garden

A sunny day in Clungunford and I've just been watching bees working some of the flowers in my garden and hoping at least some of the insects working so industriously were mine. There are so many hives in the vicinity that I know of, I couldn't be sure.

A few weeks ago it was the red flowers of the Japanese Quince, *Chaenomeles speciosa* 'Falconnet Charlet', they were enjoying. This time it was the yellow blossoms of *Caltha palustris*, the Marsh Marigold, or Kingcup, which flourishes in the centre of my pond as well as the marshy edges of it, and is spreading with an abandon I might regret in time.

In a few weeks' time it will be the multitude of blue flowers covering the Californian Lilac, *Ceanothus thrysiflorus*, a shrub which prefers warmer conditions really, but clings to life in my garden despite a climate which doesn't really suit it much of the time, which will seem to be humming themselves with so many bees visiting them for their pollen. Proof that, in my garden at least, despite what some experts say, the bees have no preference where colour is concerned.

In the garden, keeping up the bee friendly flowers theme, any time between May and September, look out for the slightly cupped, sweetly scented, white and yellow carpet of flowers which, *Limnanthes douglasii*, the Poached Egg plant, an annual, will produce.

Sometimes called the "Bee Flower", because honey bees are said to be so attracted to it for both its nectar and pollen, when I grew it in my own garden a year or two ago, it was notable for its complete lack of attendant bees of any sort. Nor has it grown again as a result of self-seeding, as it's supposed to do. Perhaps because it didn't attract enough insects to pollinate its flowers. Though that could be a virtue rather than fault. It depends on your point of view. *Brian Taylor*

Postcard from Africa

Last month, the Disasters Emergency Committee, a consortium of the major British international development organisations, launched an appeal for donations to support relief assistance targeting around 10 million people living in countries affected by famine. They stretch from Nigeria in the west, through South Sudan and Somalia to the Yemen. By far the largest number – around 7million – are in South Sudan. What is different on this occasion is that there have been no major natural disasters, all of the food shortages are solely due to human activity.

In Nigeria, thousands of people have been displaced from their home areas by the actions of Boko Haram, the fundamentalist Islamic group which was responsible for the abduction of more than 200 schoolgirls from the village of Kibok three years ago. Nothing has been heard of most of these girls since. Despite Nigeria having the second largest economy in Africa, it has been impossible for the army to protect all of the civilians and thousands of people have been forced off their

farms and out of their homes, thus losing their livelihoods and becoming dependent on relief aid. We have seen horrendous reports on the TV of child malnutrition and other suffering in the Yemen, where a bitter civil war has raged for more than two years. Powerful neighbours in the region, namely Iran and Saudi Arabia, are involved, backing opposing sides. An oft repeated saying in Africa is that when elephants fight it is only the grass that suffers. No adage could be more appropriate for the tragedy of the Yemen.

For me, the case of South Sudan is the most disappointing and in many ways the most easily avoidable of the various crises. In 2011 I wrote frequently about the emergence of the new nation of South Sudan from the yoke of domination by the North. The opportunity that the people had waited – and fought – for for more than 50 years had now arrived and they had the chance to determine their own destiny. Those of us who had worked in the region knew that there were underlying historical problems that would have to be resolved but it was only the most hardened pessimists who were predicting that the country would so soon slide into the state of ungovernable chaos that now prevails.

Since Sudan became independent from Britain in 1956, the South has only had ten years when there was no conflict somewhere within its boundaries. One, if not two, generations of people have grown up not knowing what peace, stability, good governance and development mean. Under the years of northern domination, the South was starved of resources and kept as a client state. Resentment festered and inter-ethnic disputes that stretch back many generations, over critical issues such as access to grazing and water for the livestock were allowed to continue unaddressed. It had been the hope of many that with the coming of independence these rivalries would be put to one side, for the benefit of the new nation as it took its place on the world stage. Sadly this was not the case and personal ambition of some individuals fuelled by traditional inter-ethnic suspicion and hostility has resulted in huge loss of life and millions of people now destitute.

While humanitarian assistance is essential in all of these cases, aid alone is not enough. The international community needs to find more effective ways of conflict resolution that it has at its disposal at the moment. The conflict in Yemen only involves the countries of the region, but it may be that British made weapons are being used. This should be stopped immediately. The arms being used for killing people in South Sudan are being supplied from the outside – by whom? Why are the UN and the African Union not able to exert greater controls on the regional arms trade? Who is profiting from the misery of millions?

While the various departments of the UN are well equipped to respond once a crisis has emerged, its track record of preventing crises from developing into emergencies doesn't appear to be so good. Until improved mechanisms are found to address the root causes of conflicts and prevent them from starting in

the first place, people are likely to continue to suffer we can only expect to receive more appeals for humanitarian aid. Unfortunately, it is most unlikely that these new mechanisms will emerge any time soon. *Rob Rees*



Christine Flitney's splendid photograph of Easter lilies at St Cuthbert's

The 100 Club

Winners for March:

1. (£60) Rob Rees
2. (£30) Jonathan Roberts
3. (£15) Caro Skyrme

Winners for April

1. (£60) Martin Knowles
2. (£30) Jonathan Roberts
3. (£15) Elizabeth Hughes

If you would like to join (£5 per month by cheque (minimum 6 months) or even better by standing order), phone Maureen Rooney (01588 660781) or Mike Jones (01588 661145) or Jim Bason (01547 540782).

Now in our 20th year of publication, why not get your Gazette by email – join the digital age and enjoy the benefits of The Gazette in colour!

Send your email address to us
gunnasingazette@aol.com

The Slow Ladies

Thursday 4 May: Walk/ walks around Croft Castle -- up to 5 miles. Meet 9.45 am in Clungunford Parish Hall car park or 10.30 am in car park at Croft Castle. Bring NT cards if you are a member and a picnic.

June: Walks in SWANAGE!

Please inform me if you intend coming on these walks
Thank you!

It is always a pleasure to welcome new faces and feet on our walks. If you would like to join us on any walk, please let me know. *Pauline Mattison* 01588 660596

Holiday Club 2017

'Cuthbert to the Rescue' is the theme for Holiday Club 2017.

Are you interested in helping at this year's holiday club for school age children? If so, you are invited to our planning meeting, the first of two, on Thursday 15 June at 7.30pm in the church. Our theme is 'Cuthbert to the Rescue!' and the club will take place each afternoon from Monday 7 until Friday 11 August. We offer children a range of art/craft activities, sport, refreshments, stories, games and an opportunity to play together. Please contact Catherine on 01588 660 231 or catherinelishman@hotmail.com if you are able to help or would like more information. New volunteers are warmly welcome!

Winter-Spring 2016-17

Mostly Dry and Mild but with several Storms

It was on 'Countryfile' that I first heard that this winter was one of the driest on record, although the farmer speaking was from Gloucestershire not Shropshire. Looking at my records I found a total of 183mm at Hopton Heath for December to February, which was the second driest since my records began in 2007, after 2010-11. However, December 2016 was the driest December of my records with 35mm rainfall.

Winter 2010-2011 was very different to 2016-17 in that it was exceptionally cold while our last winter has been mild. It is unusual to have a mild and dry winter. February of this year was very mild but not particularly dry (80mm total rainfall) and we had two notable storms on 23rd and 26th (although rainfall totals were not very high).

Spring began with a fairly wet March (88mm rainfall) but up to 24th of the month April has been exceptionally dry and I have recorded only 9mm rainfall. From my records, three of the five driest months I have recorded from 2007 to 2016 have been Aprils and the next driest months have been Februarys. April 2017 may well be the driest of the whole series.

No doubt farmers will be hoping for wet weather soon but the possibility of snow this week (on 25th or 26th April) will not be what they are wanting. *Mike Tucker*

Greetings from the Vicarage



Hello again all you Gunnas!

No doubt you are all getting out there now the new life is burgeoning around us. I love this time of year! I'm writing this on Easter Sunday. Whatever you believe about the timing of Easter to coincide with Spring, it certainly "works"! What I know as a Vicar is that Easter Sunday is a mixture of exhilaration and exhaustion .. and on the Monday many vicars are ready to drop .. it's not just the spiritual side but also the end of the season of annual meetings, decision and vision making.

But at the moment all that pales into insignificance when we turn on the news and reflect on what is going on around us. We live in troubled, dark times, full of foreboding and news items that whip up fear. We are somewhat shielded from it in our small rural communities where happily we do find signs of mutual care and hope, even, or perhaps especially in the midst of our own darknesses. Out of the ashes and brokenness, the darkness of winter, spring the signs of new light and life and hope! Let's determine to grab hold of these and run with them together. And let us pray and hope for those signs of hope and new life on the stage of the world too.

Meanwhile as we move into the summer season, we are hoping to put on some lovely events across our Benefice. On the first weekend of June, the Pilgrimage of Song, which was what first brought me here, will be happening again in our area, exploring some of the lovely Churches on our borders and singing along the way. This year it is Pentecost

weekend and we are using the Prayer of the Gifts by St Frances along the way .. it includes the Brother Sun, Sister Moon, Wind, Water, Fire etc, all of which are echoed in the Pentecost material and experience as we explore the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Sunday Service on 4th June will be at St Cuthbert's, led by the singers, celebrating Pentecost, at 11am. Everyone is welcome to join us. And anyone who would like to join with the walking and singing from the Friday to the Sunday, please get in touch with me for details.

I know there are several fundraising events coming up, look out for the adverts. We do rely on your support for helping to keep the building and the work in the Church going.

During August we will again be holding a series of Summer Sundays across the group with some creative worship and fun activities. Watch this space. A good opportunity for trying us out in a relaxed way. And we have at least one Christening coming up and a Wedding in Clungunford this summer too. Meanwhile, with the signs of new life and hope around us, I have had the tones of Satchmo ringing in my ears as I have been going about my work recently:

*I see trees of green, red roses too,
I see them bloom for me and you
And I think to myself what a wonderful world*

*I see skies of blue and clouds of white,
the bright blessed day, the dark sacred night
And I think to myself what a wonderful world*

*The colours of the rainbow, so pretty in the sky,
are also on the faces of people going by
I see friends shaking hands saying how do you do ~
they're really saying I love you*

*I hear babies crying, I watch them grow ~
they'll learn much more than I'll never know
And I think to myself what a wonderful world
Yes I think to myself what a wonderful world!*

Happy Easter Everybody! And let us enjoy our Wonderful World! *Annie and Red*

Rev Annie Ballard: The Vicarage, Bucknell, SY7 0BA
email: revannie.middlemarches@gmail.com

Telephone: 01547 530030 (Please do leave a message and I will get back to you asap)

Parish Church News

The pattern for Sunday Services for 2017 was outlined in the January/February edition of the "Gunnas Gazette". For St. Cuthbert's, on the first Sunday of the month, there will not be a regular service; on the second Sunday of the month there will be the Family/All Age Service; and on the third Sunday of the month will be Morning Prayer. Both will be at 10.00 a.m. and will be lay led. On the fourth Sunday, Rev. Annie Ballard will be leading an 11.00 a.m. Communion Service.

You will notice that the pattern applies for the month of May, but there will be changes to the pattern in June,

when there will be a Benefice Service, at Clungunford, on the first Sunday, for PENTECOST, led by Rev. Annie Ballard.

Details of services across the Benefices can be seen in the Deanery magazine and on church notice boards.

Should you need more information about services, events etc or about receiving the Deanery magazine, please contact Gordon Schofield: 01588 660158 or Michael Jones 01588 661145

Rev. Annie Ballard, Vicar for St. Cuthbert's and for the six other parishes of the Middle Marches Benefice, can be contacted on 01547 530030. Any messages left will get a response. Her email address is:

revannie.middlemarches@gmail.com

SERVICES at CLUNGUNFORD in the Middle Marches Benefice in June and July 2017. Please note that the services below will be at St Cuthbert's unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 7 May	No service at St Cuthbert's	Holy Communion, at 9.30 a.m. at Chapel Lawn; and at 11.15 a.m. at Hopton Castle.
Sunday 14 May	10.00 am	Family Service. Lay led service for all. Refreshments will be served after the service
Start of CHRISTIAN AID WEEK		
Sunday 21 May	10.00 am	Morning Worship. Lay led Service of Praise. Refreshments will be served after the service
ROGATION SUNDAY		
Sunday 28 May	11.00 am	Family Communion. Led by Rev Annie Ballard. With coffee etc. after the service, followed by a 'BRING AND SHARE' LUNCH – details from Christine and Robert Flitney, on 01588 661056
ASCENSION		
Sunday 4 June	11.00 am	Benefice Celebration at St. Cuthbert's. Holy Communion, led by Rev. Annie Ballard. This is the final day of the weekend, for the Knighton Pilgrimage of Song. The Group will participate in this special service, with music and readings. Drinks will be served as people gather, before
PENTECOST		

		the service (from around 10.15 a.m.)
ALSO Sunday 4 June PENTECOST	Afternoon and early evening	Diocesan Celebration at the Cathedral in Hereford – a prayer, picnic and praise event for all! Details in the Deanery Magazine and on Posters
Sunday 11 June TRINITY SUNDAY	10.00 am	Family Service, with Christening. Rev. Annie Ballard will devise and lead this special family service. Refreshments will be served afterwards.
Sunday 18 June	10.00 am	Morning Worship. . Lay led service of Praise with refreshments after the service
Sunday 25 June	No service at St Cuthbert's	Please refer to the Deanery magazine and to Notice Boards for details of services of Holy Communion, in the Benefice

If you have questions or need any more information or assistance, please contact Gordon Schofield on 01588 660158 or Mike Jones on 01588 661145

Fikelela

A well supported Coffee morning and Coin Count was held at the beginning of April, as a conclusion to the project's raising of funds for Fikelela. This raised a total of £231.00. Many wonderful people were remembered, who had been involved from the earliest days and thanks were expressed to the many who had contributed much time, effort and money over the years.

It seems that there is now more local support within the Western Cape area of South Africa, and there are local sponsors coming forward to help with projects. There is still money 'in hand', which will be distributed for regular purchases at the home, but there is additional money, which needs to be considered too.

The 'rounding off' of the project seems to be sad, but these words were sent from South Africa:

"You mustn't feel sad. You stepped in at a time when things were needed. Without the generosity of the people of Clungunford and surrounding areas many children would have suffered, as the government of the day denied there was a crisis".

It is hoped that an adequate record of the project will be made, to tell its story. This has been a significant 'Outreach Project', for St. Cuthbert's and ideas for

another such project would be welcomed, and should be passed to the PCC.

An Appeal

Some time ago, someone borrowed from the church the copy of "Clungunford 950 Years of a Rural Community" by Alick and Fiona Barratt. It had been given to St. Cuthbert's by Fiona and Alick. Up until then, the copy had remained in the church. It was a most useful resource for visitors seeking information and for those without their own copy.

Despite assurance that it would be returned, that did not happen. If anyone can locate the missing book and return it, that would be much appreciated.

However, if anyone has a copy, that could replace the missing one that would be gratefully received.



Coffee & Cake Morning, with Raffle, Bring and Buy, Produce & Cake Stalls

Donations to Christian Aid

Saturday 13 May

from 10 – 12 noon,

St. Cuthberts Church, Clungunford

**Offers of help, raffle prizes, items for stalls
appreciated!**

**Please note - Money collected goes to
those in need, regardless of religion or
creed**

Big Cats of Africa

Clungunford Village Hall was packed on Saturday 18 March to see Geoffrey Rollason's spectacular new film "Big Cats of Africa". The audience was treated to unique glimpses of the lives of these wonderful creatures although many people may have gone home and looked at their domestic feline in a new light! Elephants, giraffes, zebra and other animals were not forgotten either but perhaps the surprise star had to be the water buffalo enjoying a mud bath. The proceeds of the evening amounted to £350 – which was split between the Village Hall and St Cuthbert's Church. The Village Hall Committee and Clungunford PCC are extremely grateful to Geoffrey for providing a most entertaining evening and also to all those who assisted with the screening and supplying the plentiful refreshments for the interval.

Christian Aid Collectors Needed for Clungunford Parish.

If you feel you can help to give out and collect Christian Aid envelopes, it would be very much appreciated. All proceedings are used by Christian Aid in any country of the world in need, regardless of creed or religion.

You would be required to post an envelope through a letter box in an allotted area and then collect the filled envelope a few days later. Christian Aid week is 14 – 21 May and we need people particularly for Aston on Clun and Hopesay. Aston on Clun is a big village and could easily be split between 3 or 4 willing volunteers. It is also the village that the most money is collected from each year in the Parish.

Julia collects in Clungunford, but is willing to do Aston on Clun if someone would prefer to collect here.

More hands definitely make lighter work, so if you feel able to participate in this very worthwhile activity, please contact Julia and Jim Gell 01588 660676 or knock on our door at Gardeners Cottage! Your help will be very much appreciated.

There are 2 coffee mornings which contribute to the Clungunford Parish collection, St. Cuthberts and St. Andrews (Craven Arms) *Julia Gell*

Clungunford Village Choir

After our Choral Workshop in Holy Week, led by Robert Bunting and accompanied by Iain Wright, the choir has settled down to enjoy learning and practising music for our Summer Concert. The Choral Workshop which involved us working on pieces from Bach's St John Passion was very well attended by members of the choir and many visiting singers. It was a great success and much enjoyed by all who attended. Thank you to Robert and Iain and to all those who came and took part, making it such a memorable occasion. Thanks also to all those who provided food to keep us going and to Janet Collier for organising the catering.

We will present our Summer Concert on the evening of Thursday June 8th in St. Cuthbert's Church. There will be a very varied programme of choral music and readings. We look forward to seeing you there.



Material for the next edition

Material for the next *Gazette* should please be with us by **25 June**. Email to gunnasingazette@aol.com or deliver to Clungunford House (black box in porch)

Arbor Day

Arbor Day in Aston on Clun will be on Sunday 28th May starting at 1pm at the tree with this year the unveiling of flags and banners designed by local children. There will activities, stalls and refreshments at the village hall after.

Sandra Spence, Secretary Arbor Tree committee.

*Attention all
readers*

*Why not put forward
your favourite photos of
local people or places for
possible inclusion on the
Clungunford.com
website? We can copy
them while you wait!*

Please contact either Max Maxwell on

clungunford.ad1@gmail.com

or Jonathan Roberts on

jonathan.roberts@morgoedestates.com

*We'd love to hear from
you!*