



THE GUNNAS GAZETTE

*The Newsletter for
Clungunford
Volume 21 • Issue 2
November 2017*

A Merry Christmas to All Our Readers



Flicks in the Sticks at Clungunford Parish Hall

Friday 24 November 2017 at 8pm

The Graduate (cert 15)

Benjamin Braddock (Dustin Hoffman) has just finished college and, back at his parents' house. He's trying to avoid the one question everyone keeps asking: what does he want to do with his life? An unexpected diversion crops up when he is seduced by Mrs. Robinson (Anne Bancroft), a bored housewife and friend of his parents. But what begins as a fun tryst turns complicated when Benjamin falls for the one woman Mrs. Robinson demanded he stay away from, her daughter, Elaine (Katharine Ross).

**Starring: Dustin Hoffman, Anne Bancroft,
Katharine Ross**

Director: Mike Nichols. Drama/Romance

Friday 15 December 2017 at 8pm

Hampstead (cert 12a)

Emily is an American widow drifting through life without a purpose. And then she meets Donald, who's lived in a shack on 'Hampstead' Heath for 17 years.

Initially gruff and reclusive, Donald gradually opens up to her and a tentative romance begins to blossom. And when a property developer tries to evict him so they can build luxury apartments on his land, he and Emily team up to try and save his home.

You can find love anywhere – even on 'Hampstead' Heath – with this charming comedy drama starring screen legends Diane Keaton and Brendan Gleeson.

Starring: Diane Keaton, Brendan Gleeson, James Norton

Director: Joel Hopkins Comedy Drama

Entrance £4.00 Adults £2.00 Children

Licensed Bar, Ice creams, raffle (Donations welcomed), good car parking

Tel: 01588 660727 (Ann) or 01588 660781

(Maureen) (maureenrooney2012@gmail.com) for enquiries and reservations

We now show all our films with subtitles

We have 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.

Club and Parish Hall News

The invitations for the Club Christmas Dinner on Sunday 10 December will shortly be going out. This is a much loved occasion by those qualifying parishioners who attend. If you have not previously had an invitation – gentlemen over 65 and ladies over 60 with spouses in either case are eligible – do please let us know and you will gladly be added to the list. Likewise, if you know of one of your friends who qualifies, please feel free to mention it to us. It is genuinely difficult to guess at how old people are, and we are desperately keen to avoid offence by missing anyone out. Please forward names to me, **Jonathan Roberts** (01588 660673: jonathan.roberts@morgoedestates.com)

The Parish Council

Most of you will know by now that the application for four industrial sized poultry units at Hopton Heath has been resubmitted by the Mann family of Heath Farm. The application has previously been to the High Court and subsequently turned down both by Shropshire Council and on appeal. It is, therefore, particularly distressing for the residents of Hopton Heath to have to face this threat yet again. Last time round, the Planning Inspector was obviously impressed by the show of public opinion, and if anything the Parish Council would like an even bigger show of solidarity this time.

The deadline day for objections by members of the public to be lodged with Shropshire Council is officially 31 October, but doubtless they will be accepted long after due to the complexity of the application. I had hoped to have the Parish Council response rather more advanced than it is by now, but it is going to be lengthy and detailed and is likely to be assisted by an

independent noise report, which is not yet prepared. The Parish Council has until 10 November to respond, and although ideally the Parish Council response would be available to members of the public before they submitted their own objections, this seems now unlikely.

Against the above backcloth I think it sensible if members of the public who wish to object should send in their objections now. This decision is likely to be close, and I think it is important that as many people as possible object. **Please, therefore, do what you can to encourage friends and neighbours to object, so that as strong a community front as possible is presented.** Many of you on the objectors' mailing list will have seen a circular I sent round a few days ago, which set a few of the themes you may like to deal with in your objections. If you have not received it, it will by the publication of *The Gazette* be available on the Parish Council pages at www.clungunford.com. Alternatively, if you do not have access to the internet, please let me know and I will get a copy over to you.

THIS IS IMPORTANT - PLEASE MAKE YOUR VOICE FELT!

The next Parish Council meeting is due to take place at 8 pm on Wednesday 8 November 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.....

I came across this poem about getting old and the problems we aged folk feel and thought I would share this with you. I always say "I'm fine" when asked about my health!

I'm Fine, Thank You.

There is nothing the matter with me,
I'm as healthy as I can be.
I have arthritis in both of my knees
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.

My pulse is weak, and my blood is thin
But I'm awfully well for the shape that I'm in.
Arch supports I have for my feet
Or I wouldn't be able to walk down the street.

Sleep is denied me night after night,
But every morning I find I'm alright.
My memory's failing, my head's in a spin
But I'm awfully well for the shape that I'm in.

The moral is this, as my tale I unfold,
That for you and for me who are growing old,
It's better to say "I'm fine" with a grin
Than to let folks know of the shape we are in.

How do I know that my youth is all spent?

Well, my "get up and go" just got up and went.
But I really don't mind when I think with a grin
Of all the grand places my "get up" has been.

Old age is golden, I've heard it said;
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed
With my ears in the drawer, my teeth in a cup,
My eyes on the table until I wake up.

Ere sleep overtakes me, I say to myself,
"Is there anything else I could lay on the shelf?"
When I was young my shoes they were red,
I could kick up my heels right over my head.

When I was older my shoes were then blue,
But still I could dance the whole night through.
Now I am old my shoes are plain black,
I walk to the shops and puff my way back.

I get up each morning and dust off my wits
And pick up the paper and read the obits.
If my name is still missing, I know I'm not dead
So I fix me some breakfast and go back to bed.

Anyone relate to this? *Sister B*

The 100 Club

Winners for September:

1. (£60) Robin Bywater
2. (£30) Elizabeth Hughes
3. (£15) iris Groves

Winners for October:

1. (£60) Sally Price
2. (£30) John Elliot
3. (£15) Alan Williamson

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 21st year of publication, why not get your Gazette by email – join the digital age and enjoy the benefits of The Gazette in colour! The pictures in this edition are particularly well worth going digital!

Send your email address to us
gunnasmagazette@aol.com

The Slow Ladies

I will contact all Slow Ladies on my return from holiday on 2 November to discuss and arrange walks for the next few weeks.

We are always pleased to welcome new faces and feet to our walking group. *Pauline Mattison* 01588 660596

CLUNGUNFORD WINTER CEILIDH

Clungunford Parish Hall

Friday 10th November
7PM – Late

Local 3 piece ceilidh band
'HiJinx'

- CEILIDH DANCING
- DANCE CALLER
- CASH BAR OPEN
- FOOD INCLUDED*

ONLY £15 – including food

Tickets must be reserved in advance:

max01324@gmail.com

or contact Max on 01588-661044

All profits to the Parish Hall

* Traditional Scottish stovies
or veggie alternative

In The Garden

A damp and dark day in Clungunford and though the threatened worst excesses of the unfortunately named, 'Storm Brian', have yet to strike us, it's still raining heavily enough to prevent me working outside.

I had been working in my pond, pulling out the Australian Swamp Stonecrop (*Crassula helmsii*) which came from who knows where to set up home with us a couple of years ago, and liked the situation so much it now needs two sessions a year of me pulling it out to keep it under control.

The only weed the pond is supposed to be home to is Curly Waterweed (*Lagarosiphon major*), which we put in as an oxygenator when we first made the pond twenty or so years ago and which, being less thuggish by nature than its neighbour, continues to float about on the surface of the water in clumps about the same size as those we introduced.

Australian Swamp Stonecrop was introduced to Britain from Tasmania in 1911, was first sold as an oxygenating plant in 1927, by Perry's Hardy Plant Farm in Enfield, and was first recorded as growing in the wild in a pond at Greenstead Farm in Essex in 1956.

The plant first appeared in our pond as a small light green tussock which had attached itself to the surface of a pot with a plant in it growing just above the waterline and then grew out rapidly to form a dense mass of vegetation. Bits of that vegetation then broke away from the parent plant when I tried to remove it and rooted into other plants in the pond. That is how it has continued to spread around the pond.

Australian Swamp Stonecrop eliminates native flora by out-competing with it. It is shade tolerant, frost tolerant, desiccation tolerant and has no dormant season. The only ways of controlling it at all seem to be to cover small patches of it with black plastic or carpet, or spraying it with formulations of Glyphosate specific to aquatic environments.

In the garden, on a bank above the pond, perhaps, look out for the deep rose pink flowers, spreading habit and vigorous growth of *Erica carnea* 'December Red', the Winter Heath, adding brightness to our lives in the depths of winter. *Brian Taylor*

Postcard from Africa

My last contribution to the *Gunnas Gazette* was of two unfinished stories: the disputed general elections in Kenya and the fate of Jacob Zuma, the President of South Africa who was facing another parliamentary vote of no -confidence. Events in both countries have moved on in rather unexpected ways.

You may recall that the elections had been held in Kenya and the results gave 54% of the vote to Mr Uhuru Kenyatta, the incumbent President. Mr Raila Odinga, the principal opposition candidate objected, claiming that the elections had not been free and fair and there was clear evidence that supported this claim. After some hesitation, Mr Odinga made a formal appeal and much to the surprise of many observers and I

would venture to suggest, to Mr Odinga's surprise as well, the High Court in Kenya agreed with him and declared the outcome null and void. This is a precedent for anywhere in Africa and gives huge reassurance that in Kenya at least, the judiciary is independent of the executive. The court ordered that the elections should be rerun within two months and that a number of faults that Mr Odinga had identified should be resolved. You might think that after such a momentous decision, with the eyes of the rest of the world more on them, the re-run would proceed smoothly, but not so. It seems that the Chairman of the electoral commission has declared that the elections will not be free and fair while another member of the same commission has fled the country, fearing for her safety. Mr Odinga has withdrawn from the contest claiming that the ballot will be rigged. Today, just one day before the elections are due to be held, the High Court was going to meet to decide if fair elections can be held and if voting can go ahead tomorrow. It seems that "not enough judges were available", the case could not be discussed and so, by default, voting will take place. We have to hope that Mr Odinga and his supporters will rely on a post-election appeal process to resolve their issues rather than resorting to the kind of violence that beset Kenya 10 years ago.

Meanwhile, in South Africa, President Zuma survived the vote of confidence but has become embroiled in another controversy that has had ramifications here in the UK. It seems that President Zuma – or people very close to him – engaged the services of a British public relations company, Bell Pottinger to try to boost support for his flagging government and the ruling political party, the Africa National Congress (ANC). However, it seems that the tactics that they used have backfired on them: instead of promoting the legacy of Nelson Mandela of a "rainbow nation" where all South Africans can live together harmoniously regardless of their ethnic origins, they accentuated the differences that exist and claimed that black South Africans are particularly hard done by. No one can deny that there is very great variation in terms of wealth and opportunity in South Africa but it is an oversimplification to claim that these differences fall neatly along ethnic lines. There are very rich and very poor amongst all sections of the community and it is the duty of any responsible government to address these discrepancies. After so many years of segregation and suffering under apartheid, the last thing that the country needs is a government that encourages divisiveness and mistrust. The reaction against Bell Pottinger's approach has been so strong that its future viability as a company is now in doubt.

Meanwhile, in South Africa's neighbouring country Zimbabwe, President Mugabe has recently made global headlines as being, probably, the shortest-lived goodwill Ambassador for the World Health Organisation ever: 4 days! There was such an outcry over his appointment – including threats to further funding of the WHO by its major donors – that the head of that organisation who

had made the appointment had no option but to reverse his decision. Most Zimbabweans must have been horrified when they heard of the initial appointment as public health services in the country have all but collapsed. Mr Mugabe probably doesn't know this – whenever he is feeling off-colour he hops on his private plane and goes off to see his GP - in Singapore. It is something of a mystery what, at the age of 93, Mr Mugabe could have done as a goodwill ambassador – rumour has it that these days he has difficulty staying awake even through his own speeches! *Rob Rees*

Parish Church News

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

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

Sunday 5 November	No service at St Cuthbert's	Holy Communion, at 9.30 am at Chapel Lawn
Sunday 12 November	10.45 am	Remembrance Service. Refreshments will be served after the service
Sunday 19 November	10.00 am	Morning Worship. Lay led Service of Praise. Refreshments will be served after the service
Sunday 26 November	11.00 am	Holy Communion. Led by Rev Annie Ballard. With coffee etc. after the service.
Sunday 3 December	No service at St Cuthbert's	Please check for details of other services in the Benefice
Sunday 10 December	10.00 am	All Age/Family Service. Lay led service for all. Refreshments will be served after the service
Thursday 14 December	7.00 pm	Carol Service with the Village Choir. Refreshments afterwards

Sunday 17 December	10.00 am	Morning Worship. Lay led Service of Praise. Refreshments will be served after the service
Sunday 24 December	6.00 pm	Crib Service for all ages. Carols and candlelight
Monday 25 December	10.00 am	Holy Communion. Celebration for Christmas Day
Sunday 31 December		Information not available at time of printing. Please refer to Deanery Magazine

From the Parish Register

On Saturday the 25th November! Paul Whitefoot and Joanne Owen will be married at St. Cuthbert's at 12.30. We wish for them a wonderful day and many blessing, in the years ahead.

Ride and Stride and Open Day On the 9 September, 9 'Riders' and 7 'Striders' took part in the annual event, which raises funds for "Shropshire Historic Churches Trust" and local Parish Churches. There were many experiences shared and enjoyed. The nine cyclists visited five churches, riding eighteen miles, and the seven walkers visited five churches, doing ten miles. They were most fortunate in getting back to St. Cuthbert's before the rain descended. Unfortunately, some other participants were not so fortunate, but everyone appreciated the welcome they received on arrival and enjoyed the food and drink provided - especially, hot soup! The helpers found the expressions of thanks most gratifying. Despite the 'free' refreshments made available, there were, as usual, generous donations left in 'the pot'. Thanks must go to all who participated and contributed in so many ways on the day, and the 'Riders and Striders' who participated, wish to express thanks to those who sponsored them. There is still some sponsorship money to come in, but at the moment the amount raised stands at £1,065 - not a bad effort, thus far!

Macmillan Coffee Morning This year we did not take part with a coffee morning at St.Cuthbert's at the end of September, but were urged to support the one in Clunbury, at the home of Barbara and Jeremy Freeman. It was blessed with sufficiently good weather that it could take place outside!

A letter came from Barbara, expressing thanks to those who went along to support their event, which raised over £700. It was a wonderful effort and most enjoyable.

Harvest Service and Supper More people than were expected came to the Harvest Celebrations in St Cuthbert's, which was decorated with an abundance of flowers and a wonderful sheaf of corn, reminding us of harvests past. Rev. Annie Ballard presided and Reader Jonathan Kemp participated, and, as always, the Village Choir, with their conductor Iain Wright enhanced the service.

The supper seemed to be enjoyed by all. The planning, preparation and execution was much appreciated. Donations at the supper mean that a contribution of at least £100 can be sent to the "Lamb Health Care Foundation", in N.W. Bangladesh. Thanks to the many who were involved, who helped make this a significant occasion in the church's year!

Important events for the diary

PCC meeting: Monday 13th November

Benefice Council Meeting: Wednesday 15th November

Carol Service: Thursday 14th December 7.00 pm. St. Cuthbert's

Crib Service: Christmas Eve 24th December 6.00 pm St. Cuthbert's

Christmas Day service: Communion 25th December at 10.00 am at St Cuthbert's

Material for the next edition

Material for the next *Gazette* should please be with us by **27 December**. Email to gunnasingazette@aol.com or deliver to Clungunford House (black box in porch)

Clungunford Village Choir



After taking part in the Harvest Festival at St Cuthbert's Church - Thank you so much to St. Cuthbert's Congregation for your amazing and delicious hospitality! – the choir is now working very hard on the Christmas repertoire. We shall be singing at Clungunford House on Thursday 7th December for the Christmas House Party and at the Christmas Carol Service on Thursday 14th December at 7.00 p.m. in St. Cuthbert's Church. We meet weekly at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall – do come and join us if you like to sing.

Clun Valley Jazz



Following another successful event in October, our next performance is on **Friday 15th December** featuring the "Elliott Sansom Trio with guest saxophonist Chris Young". This collective is an exciting new venture that promises some inspirational Jazz. Elliott, Nathan and Ben gave us a stunning musical evening in June so this December's performance will be one to relish. The evening will take place at the **Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre in Craven Arms**. The auditorium provides a very special atmosphere to enjoy an intimate evening of live Jazz with the extra opportunity to dine with us before the performance starts. The restaurant will serve a hot meal {Shropshire Lad beef hotpot, red cabbage and crusty bread or a Vegetarian version, all ingredients locally sourced.} Tickets for the Jazz are £12.00 with the additional £8.00 to include dinner, eating is limited so book your tickets early by calling 01588 676060. Doors open at 6.45 with a full bar service, dinner between 7.15/8.00. The performance starts at 8.30.

For any further enquiries outside booking email clunvalleyjazz@gmail.com

Round Britain Relay Celebrating 70 Years of the MG Y Type 1947 – 1953

Peter and Suzie Arnell took part with "Yvette", their MG Y-Type, in a round-Britain-relay to celebrate the 70 anniversary of the marque. This is their report:

The relay started on 3 June at Lakeside Shopping Centre near Dartmouth where the bespoke baton crafted from English Pear Wood and designed to be split into two with one half travelling the northern leg and the other half the southern leg were handed to the waiting participants. The events 37 stages took drivers to locations throughout the length and breadth of England, Wales and Scotland including the Severn Valley Railway, British Ironworks

Centre in Oswestry, the famous Hill Climb at Shelsley Walsh, Gateshead's The Angel of the North and Bamburgh Castle.

The Relay featured one of the biggest collections of the Y model to take part in any single event, and saw vehicles cover an undulating 1,834 mile route around the UK. On Sunday 30 July the event finished at Kimber House, Abingdon, the spiritual home of the MG. 52 MG Y types participated to raise awareness of this rare model in its 70th birthday year.

We did two legs of the route, Tesco Llandrindod Wells to Sainsbury Oswestry to Clungunford and then Clungunford to Sainsbury Kidderminster. Super Stores are great meeting places due to their amenities but certainly not photo shoots.

On Thursday 22 June we headed to Llandrindod Wells to meet up with MG Dave and Brian in their YAs at Tesco's car park. A cloudy start to the day, fortunately the temperature has dropped significantly, over-heating problems should not be an issue. Having duly met up at 12.00 noon, still in the car park at 12.45pm this is due to "boys and their toys" and they have the nerve to moan about us females having a natter!!!

Having got everyone motivated we headed for Abbey Cwm Hir for the baton handover which is situated just north of the town. A beautiful Victorian Hall and gardens, the owners were very happy for us to use their abode as a back drop. Baton mission completed and photo shoot done, we ventured forth to our next destination Sainsbury's in Oswestry to rendez vous with Keith in his YB who was waiting to accompany us to the British Ironworks Centre. We are now running a good hour behind schedule, mobile phones are a wonderful invention but not when you are driving up and down the beautiful Welsh countryside, getting a signal was not easy but we did manage to make contact and arranged to meet at The British Ironworks. We also made up some time which in a Y type is no mean feat.

We parked the cars in front of the "Knife Angel" sculpted by Alfie Bradley and stands 26 foot high. There are lots of other wonderful sculptures dotted around the grounds, Spoon Gorrilla, gazelles jumping fences to name but a few. You instinctively know when a bonnet is opened that this is another "boys and their toys" moment perhaps the Alien overseeing this engine inspection could hurry things along with a few Zaps!!

Straight forward drive home did a round trip of 135 miles. Saturday 1 July destination Kidderminster via Cleve Hill unfortunately the views were not great but the sun was starting to shine through which always lifts ones spirits. Alas on entering Kidderminster, not a place we know, we got into the wrong lane, an unexpected tour of the area ensued - not to be repeated, Yvette is now starting to cough and splutter not a good sign, driver not that happy either. Having completed several laps of the large car park we met up with Terry and his son Ian in their YT. We proceeded to the Great Western Railway Severn Valley Line which was holding 1940's themed weekend, a light hearted journey back to wartime Britain which we politely gate crashed. There was an array of cars, military jeeps and everybody participating wore fantastic period attire, the atmosphere was terrific.

The handover of the baton duly completed, Terry and Ian headed for Warwick and we headed for home. Yvette threw her toys well and truly out of her pram and expired on a roundabout in Ombersley, no knights in shining armour to be found here. The drivers stacked up behind us were very patient whilst we pushed her to the side of the road. With a bit of encouragement she started and we headed for the Farm Shop just up the road so that we all could have a cooling off period. Fingers crossed, she burst into life and we hit the road again, got home safely having covered 98 miles. You will be pleased to know that Yvette has fully recovered from her adventures.



Suzie and Yvette at The British Ironworks Centre before the statue made out of confiscated and surrendered knives from Police Forces across the UK

THE CLUNGUNFORD VILLAGE CHOIR
INVITES YOU TO

COUNTRY HOUSE
CAROL
PARTY

THURSDAY 7TH DECEMBER

CLUNGUNFORD HOUSE
7.30PM

WARMING REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED
RAFFLE

ADMISSION - £6/ SCHOOL AGE FREE

THE PERFECT START TO CHRISTMAS



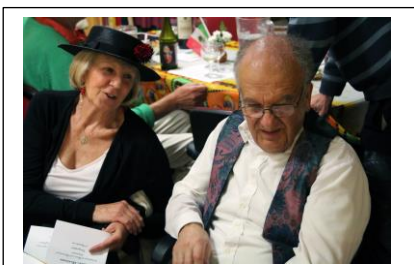
Riders and Striders meet up at Bucknell Church



Cleaning up the churchyard – Anne, Christine, Simon and Elizabeth among many others



Clungunford celebrates the Independence of Mexico



*What a night it
was....*

