



*The Newsletter for
Clungunford
Volume 23 • Issue 5
May 2020*

THE GUNNAS GAZETTE

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At the start of the Coronavirus lockdown, the Parish Council and The PCC of St Cuthbert's sent round a circular to those who were thought to be most in need of assistance. We targetted those whom the Government described as vulnerable to the disease, namely those thought by us to be over 70 or who were known to us to suffer from health problems. Volunteers have been able to help a number of parishioners in a variety of ways, for example:

- *getting groceries (e.g. by collection from the supermarkets or by helping to order on-line or by phone, although hitherto the on-line solutions have been poor for those who had not signed up before the outbreak)*
- *collecting prescriptions from the doctors' surgeries and chemists*
- *posting letters*
- *changing cheques for those who need cash*

Many parishioners in the so-called "vulnerable bracket" have, of course, proved more than capable of helping themselves or have the advantage of having family close by or other carers to help.

For those not so fortunate, we think the volunteers have successfully filled in the gaps, and, so far as we know, no one has gone hungry or unmedicated, notwithstanding being confined to their homes.

However, we cannot be 100% sure we have reached everyone, and the lockdown is likely to continue for a while. So, if you need a hand with any of the above tasks – or even if you need someone to talk to during the lock-down – please do not be too proud to ask. Help is at hand.

If you do need help, please call Jonathan Roberts on 01588 660673 in the first instance in the strictest confidence (email: jonathan.roberts@morgoedestates.com). Likewise, let us know if you can think of anyone in difficulties who has not come forward.

The lockdown has had a big impact on many local businesses. If your business has been affected, please be assured that the Parish Council is ready to give such assistance as it can in terms of dealing with Shropshire Council over the grants and other help available. Again, contact Jonathan Roberts in the first instance.

Litter pick

Saturday 7 March

Using for the first time our very own litter-picking equipment, the litter pickers sallied forth to clean up the roads, verges and public spaces around the village. Sad to relate, the volume of rubbish collected was greater than ever, but we can put our hands on our hearts and say that this is the deepest clean the village has yet received in any of these annual litter picks.

For 24 hours or so everything was spotless, and in truth thereafter it was only the odd shiny, subsequently discarded Coke can/plastic bottle that was obvious. Plague though the Coronavirus is, it has had the beneficial side effect of greatly diminishing the amount of rubbish thrown out of passing vehicles. Would that this situation could continue (the lack of rubbish, that is, not the virus!).

The community is hugely grateful to the following who participated on the day:

*Mike and Isabel Jones
Pauline and Mike Mattison
Jim and Mary Bason
Rob and Sara Rees
Tony and Yoshiko Wheeler
Ennis Brown
Eddie Gledhill
Hilary White
Sue Lambert*

Well done to you and thank you all.

Jonathan Roberts

The Gunnas Gazette by email

The Coronavirus lockdown has brought into sharp focus the logistics of delivery of *The Gunnas Gazette*.

For each edition we print and distribute 155 paper copies and send out a similar number by email – there is undoubtedly a small but unintentional overlap of those who have both digital and paper editions. *The Gazette* is also posted on the website at www.clungunford.com

The numbers receiving the paper edition have remained remarkably static over the years, despite numerous pleas in *The Gazette* for people to switch to the digital edition. The Committee guess is that probably all bar maybe 50 homes are capable of receiving *The Gazette* by email.

Now, of course, we have a problem. Our selfless distributors on whom we rely are all among the self isolating community! For the first time in its near 24 year history *The Gazette* will not be delivered by voluntary distributors.

It is, therefore, important that **in future** those who are able to do so, take their *Gazettes* by email only, in order to reduce the number of paper copies substantially. Not only can you store them on your devices, but you can see everything in colour – a benefit denied to paper copy recipients – and save a lot of trees into the bargain.

Please, please sign up for the digital edition, if you can, by emailing gunnaskazette@aol.com

Clungunford Village Hall and The Gunnas Bar

I thought you might like to know what is happening with The Village Hall and The Gunnas Bar during this lockdown period. The first thing is to reassure you that the property is checked regularly by the Trustees. We inspect the fabric of the building to check for leaks or damage, etc. All the services remain connected and working and no wildlife has sneaked in! The hall continues to be protected by CCTV and, so far, there are no problems. It is sad to see it unused, particularly after all the work on the refurbishment, but we know it will be in good condition and raring to go once we can open again.

The work we planned to do on the outside seating area is on hold due to social distancing measures but it is very much the “next project”. Obviously, we have to follow Government advice and, although this is frustrating, the project is costed and materials have been sourced, so it will be ready to go as soon we are able. In the meantime, we hope to be able to keep the grass on the playing field/green under control.

Looking ahead we have provisionally booked some fabulous Arts Alive events for the Winter/Spring season. Live arts have been severely affected by coronavirus, so I hope you will give your terrific Clungunford support for these events once we have the go ahead.

As you are probably aware, celebrations for VE day have also been cancelled nationally with a plan to celebrate VJ day in August instead. We intend to move our planned VE event to the VJ date and by then we could do with a celebration!

Also, another big date for your diary, and something to look forward to, is the Burns Supper 2021! This event will be held on Saturday 23rd January and should not be missed. More information on tickets and details of the night will be made available nearer the time.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming back all our regular events such as The Saturday Dance, Flicks in the Sticks, The Bingo, The Shooting Club and all the classes and activities that use the Hall week in and week out. I hope too that we will see you all soon for a celebratory glass (or two) at regular Bar Nights in The Gunnas Bar in the not too distant future.

Max Maxwell, Chair, Clungunford Village Hall and Green.



The Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for 13 May has been cancelled due to the social distancing restrictions brought in following the coronavirus outbreak. We will hold it at the first available opportunity.

On the front page you will get an idea of the support system put in place by the Parish Council and St Cuthbert's PCC to deal with those who might be badly affected by the lockdown restrictions. These seem to have worked effectively, and we are probably in the happy position, as I expected to be the case in this community, of having more volunteers than the demand so far has required. However, things may change, and some parishioners may well be under some form of restriction for a long time to come yet, and so the bank of volunteers to call upon is comforting. A big thank you to all of you who have offered your services, and for those who have not yet been called upon. Please do not think you have been overlooked, if you have not yet been called into action: your time will doubtless come!

Due to the reduced traffic on the roads the pot-hole teams have been at work, and there have been some welcome improvements to our road surfaces.

We still await Shropshire Council putting up the posts for our speed signs.

Our next meeting is on 13 May 2020 at 7pm. This meeting will be held virtually, and publicity will be given to how interested members of the public can make their digital attendance – as ever, all are welcome to attend. Parish matters before (or after) the meeting may be raised either with me or with our clerk, Max Maxwell (01588 661044:

clungunfordparishcouncil@gmail.com).

Jonathan Roberts, Chairman (01588 660673:

jonathan.roberts@morgoedestates.com)

From the Vicarage

I'm really glad one of my villages is going ahead with their newsletter.

At the moment people are needing help to realise they are not alone. Social Media is good, and some have adapted quickly to having Zoom meetings and using Skype, but not everyone has the technology or the know how. And I have to say Vicars are being challenged on lots of levels.

The decision that Churches be closed was devastating, especially as we had gone to some lengths to set them up as places for peace, prayer, exchange of information and, for some at this time, a place of sanctuary.

For those who want help and encouragement to pray and reflect there is a wealth of material out there to help. Anyone wanting a bit of direction, please do contact me. The thing we are missing though is worshipping together and the fellowship that comes along with it. What a celebration there will be when we do eventually get back to “normal”. I hope.

Meanwhile the practice I suggested we follow in Lent can give us a sense of togetherness even if we are not

together physically. Taking a time to pause and reflect and lift our concerns to God at 8am and 8pm and leave the gathering together to God!

But a salutary reminder that much of Jesus' teaching, especially after the resurrection, was on a beach or mountainside or garden or a secret room. Temples from the earliest time were something that God resisted ... His / Her ideal was to be alongside his people and not restricted by a box. Well, he never actually was, although sometimes we treated him like that. So I hope we do discover him quietly walking with us in these odd times when all is rather surreal.

I do hope that things won't return to the same "normal", but that all we have been learning along the way might stick ... especially new levels of mutual care that our small communities have been able to deliver. There have been many thought-provoking pieces shared recently on social media. The following reflection underlines that we are not in a totally new situation. Odd that we are going back to an ancient way of keeping the spread of disease under control "Quarantine" ~ coined in Venice: the forty days of lock down to prevent the spread of Bubonic plague. But the conditions for us are so much better today. For us, surrounded by stunning countryside and space to walk plus technology to communicate with access to food, for some albeit being delivered by volunteers. And what an extra bonus to have the current lovely weather to help keep our spirits up. I hope and pray that we all manage to find that possible and even more, discover new things about the world, one another and ourselves. With Love and Prayers *Annie and Meriadoc*

So a timeless reflection written in 1869 by Kathleen O'Meara:

And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened
More deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed
Someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently
And people healed.
And in the absence of people who
Lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living

And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed.

Reprinted during Spanish flu Pandemic, 1919

Parish Church News

The Rev Annie Ballard, Vicar for the Parishes of the Middle Marches Benefice, can be contacted at The Vicarage in Bucknell (tel: 01547 530030). Should you need more information about services, events etc, please contact our Church Wardens, Michael Jones (tel: 01588 661145, email: mpjt51@hotmail.com) or Edward Gledhill (tel: 01588 660485, email: edward@aegledhill.co.uk).

As I am sure you are aware, all Church of England buildings are locked due to the corona virus and our Church is no exception. We are running online services using Skype for Business and the intent is to run two services a month. These will be the Family Service and Morning Prayer. If you would like to join in one of the services, please can you inform one of the Church Wardens and we will issue an online invite to you.

Online services for St Cuthbert's Church Clungunford in the Middle Marches Benefice for May and June 2020 are as follows;

Sunday 10 May	10.00am	Family Service
Sunday 24 May	10am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 7 June	10.00am	Family Service
Sunday 21 June	10.00am	Morning Prayer

Tuesday 5th May at 7pm – Bible Course

The next Bible Study meeting will take place online on Tuesday 10th May starting at 7pm. This will be the last in the session in the York Bible Course entitled 'Faith, Hope and Love'. Mike Jones will be leading the discussion. All are welcome. If you would like to join the meeting please let one of the Church Wardens know and we will send you an online invitation.

St Cuthbert's Annual General Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Both the AGM and the APCM have been postponed until later in the year. The Church of England has allowed a six-month delay in holding these meetings and finalising the business addressed in their respective agendas, such as agreeing accounts, PCC positions, etc. We will organise these meetings when we are in position to do so.

The Church of England has also issued guidance on paper copies of **Benefice and Parish Magazines**. There is seen to be a risk in both delivering and receiving any paper, and so we are being encouraged not to distribute the Benefice Magazine at this time.

Other events such as the **LAMB Coffee Morning** (LAMB is one of the charities that St Cuthbert's supports), the **church Spring clean** and **grave yard clear up** have been cancelled.

Update on the Church Organ

This year is a very special year for the organ at St Cuthbert's Church as it was 125 years ago on the 19th October 1895 that it was dedicated by the Archbishop of York at a Service attended by the Bishop of Hereford. The church, which had recently been restored, was also re-dedicated. The instrument which was built by James J Binns of Leeds cost £758 5s, or the equivalent of over £100,000 at today's rates. At the time it was seen as a fine quality instrument finished to the highest standards with its oak case and spotted metal pipes. Nothing has been done to the instrument that would affect the quality of the sound which is very unusual and is a major reason for its importance.

The instrument was awarded a listing by the British Institute of Organ Studies (BIOS) at a time before a grading was associated with listing. We have recently submitted an application to have the organ re-assessed so that it can be awarded a grading. The system is similar to that applied to listed buildings. There is a scheduled meeting to assess the organ in June though it is understood that this may be delayed.

A listing will help us when applying for grants towards a well-deserved restoration.

Some of you may already have received the following as an email from Mike and Eddie concerning the **Craven Arms Food Bank**, and **contributions to St Cuthbert's Church**;

Craven Arms Food Bank

Although being house constrained may be difficult, for most of us in this idyllic part of the country, it is not a desperate hardship. However, we are very aware that there are those in and around South Shropshire who are unable to work because of the lock down, unable to earn money and struggling to make ends meet. One of the resources they have to call on is the Food Bank in Craven Arms which is run by St Andrews Community Church. In normal circumstances St Cuthbert's Church has a Food Bank collection box for people to leave food donations which are then sent on. However, these are not normal circumstances and the Church is locked. The Food Bank has been facing increased demand for their limited and dwindling resources.

If you would like to help by contributing money to the Food Bank you can do so by making a donation by

Bank Transfer to St Andrews Community Church, making sure to include the reference of 'Food Bank'. The bank details are as follows;

- Bank: HSBC
- Account name: St Andrews Community Church (Please note: There is no apostrophe)
- Sort Code: 40-30-30
- Account: 71303333

A Gift Aid form is available from Mike, Eddie or Susan Wheeler. If you complete this and return it to Susan Wheeler (email: ridgewood3@btinternet.com) this will allow the Food Bank to claim back Gift Aid from HMRC and thereby increasing the value of your contribution.

St Cuthbert's Church funds

As you may well be aware St Cuthbert's Church along with all Church of England places of worship is closed until further notice. The funding for St Cuthbert's Church comes from a number of different sources not least of which is regular Sunday Service giving. If you would like to support the Church in Clungunford in this difficult time, you can do so by paying money regularly into Churches bank account. Every £ helps to maintain and keep the Church in our village.

To make a donation to the St Cuthbert's Church, please set up a bank transfer or, for regular giving, a standing order, with your bank using the bank details below and reference any transfer as 'Church donation'. The bank details are as follows;

- Bank: HSBC
- Sort code: 40-17-23
- Account number: 81090488
- Account name: Clungunford PCC

If you are happy to allow us to claim the Gift Aid back on your donation, please can you send a Gift Aid email declaration to this effect and send it to either Mike and Eddie. For example;

"I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ or make in the future or have made in the made in the last 4 years to St Cuthbert's Church, Clungunford. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

My Details; name and address"

Many thanks for reading this and for your consideration.

Postcard from Africa

When I wrote about the devastation being wreaked by the invasion of locusts in East Africa, for the last edition of the *Gunnas Gazette*, little did I know that within a very short space of time an even bigger threat would be challenging the very survival of communities across Africa: Covid19. We have all probably reached saturation point in terms of news and information about coronavirus so I will try not to add too much to the gloom and doom, but at least a brief overview is justified if for no other reason than to help us appreciate how fortunate we are in this country. This is a pandemic of unprecedented magnitude.

Health services across much of the continent are rudimentary at best – few countries have any state supported treatment other than the very basic, anything other than first aid or dispensing a few paracetamols has to be paid for. Millions of people across the continent are excluded from any sophisticated medical treatment simply because they cannot afford it. In rural areas in particular, health services are often still provided by Church missions and charities, responsible for their own fund raising and consequently they can have more up to date facilities than their government counterparts. While we talk in this country about the thousands of ventilators that are needed to meet the needs here, countries with a similar population to ours may just have a few tens of ventilators for them to fall back on. Somalia doesn't even have one.

Staffing is another problem area. For years, our own NHS has recruited nurses and doctors from across the English-speaking countries of Africa – from Nigeria, to Kenya and down to South Africa. The dependency of the NHS on such staff is well known. Many years ago, I was told that there are more Sudanese doctors practicing in London than there were in Sudan, which is fine for London but disastrous for Sudan at a time like this. As the pandemic takes hold in Africa – at the moment it is some weeks behind Europe – it is inevitable that there will be far too few staff for the huge numbers of patients that they are likely to be dealing with.

The requirement for social isolation is one that is going to be very difficult to apply in Africa. African communities are very open and convivial, everyone talks to their neighbours on a daily basis. Markets are a very important part of African life – the hustle and bustle of trading, bartering and negotiating, meeting up with old friends is an important part of daily life. Children run in and out of the friends' homes as if they were part of the family. To impose social separation on such communities is going to be very difficult for people to accept and understand and even more difficult to police. There is no better news to share on the locust situation. There have been heavy rains again in northern Kenya and Somalia in March, creating ideal breeding conditions for those locusts already there. It is expected that over the coming months the size of the swarms which have already been devastating vast areas will increase in size and spread even further. There is a fear

that the maximum numbers will coincide with the next expected grain harvest in June and July which suggests a possible nightmare scenario: communities in lockdown due to Covid19 but which have no locally available sources of food.

While we wonder here how and when we will emerge from the Covid-19 crisis here and what our country will look like afterwards, exactly the same questions will apply to Africa. While Britain has been able to dig deeply into its resources and borrow money to keep its basic infrastructure in place, few African countries have that option. In a worst-case scenario, jobs will be lost, businesses will collapse and there is potential for massive loss of life. When this is all over, what will the new "global order" look like? Will Britain be willing to continue to provide international aid when it is so indebted itself? Will China use this crisis to increase its influence in (or stranglehold over?) Africa and create even more dependency? Even the outcome of the US Presidential election in November will have a big bearing on the fortunes of Africa.

We are all living through history, the future is very opaque – the only thing that we can be certain of is that the world post-Covid-19 will be very different from what it was just a few short months ago. *Rob Rees*

In the Garden

A cloudy day in Clungunford, with rain promised to be moving in from the east later in the day. It's hard to believe, bearing in mind how much rain we had back in February, that we've had virtually no rain at all this month, so far, and though the ground itself is still wet enough to need no more rain at present, new plantings do need to be watered if they are to survive.

Pondering, as we gardeners do from time to time, about the success or failures of things I've planted in my garden since I moved here, I've been pondering in particular about the mulberry tree, which is just getting its first leaves of the spring and thinking that if I'd planted it when I first moved here, I would have been picking mulberries for several years now, but I didn't, because of the large cider apple tree I inherited, which used to dominate that end of the garden.

The apple tree eventually died and I left it standing for a while to see if it had died as a result of being killed by anything growing in the garden, something like honey fungus, which might well also kill anything I replaced it with. Nothing happened, however, and it seemed likely that the apple tree had simply had its allotted span.

On reflection, I decided to plant a mulberry tree to replace it, because there had been one growing in the nursery garden at Chiswick House Grounds when I worked there, which was loaded with fruit every year, which I turned into jam.

The trouble with mulberry trees is that they take several years to get to an age when they are mature enough to bear fruit. The one at Chiswick was several hundred years old when I worked there. The one in my garden is only about five years or so old at present, so probably

has a few more summers to get through before it might be bearing fruit.

We gardeners must be amongst the supreme optimists in this world, more so even than farmers. We tell ourselves we're planting for the future and so we are to a certain extent, even though very few gardens are retained by their new owners. Even Chiswick House Grounds had altered beyond recognition during the years they had been in existence before I worked there. The mulberry tree was still there though. Is it too optimistic to hope my mulberry tree will last as long?

In the garden, just coming out into flower as I write, look out for *Ceanothus Dark Star*, my retirement present from the parish council. An evergreen with honey scented dark purplish blue flowers carried on arching branches. It does best in a sheltered position.

Brian Taylor

Nursing Notes

There's enough depressing news around during lockdown and Coronavirus, so I thought I would take a more light-hearted approach to this *Gunnas Gazette*.

HOW TO KNOW WHEN YOU ARE GETTING OLD

A Senior Citizen is one who was here before the pill, frozen foods, credit cards and ball-point pens.

For us, timesharing meant togetherness, not a villa in Spain.

A chip was a piece of wood, hardware came from the ironmongers, and software wasn't even a word.

Our heyday was before panty-hose, drip-dry clothes, dishwashers, tumble driers and electric blankets. We thought cleavage was something the butcher had. We were before Batman, disposable nappies, instant coffee and pizzas. Kentucky fried chicken wasn't even thought of.

In our day, smoking was fashionable – but grass was for mowing, and pot was something you cooked in. A gay person was the life and soul of the party, Ayds were slimming biscuits.

We are today's Senior Citizens – a hardy bunch when you think how the world has changed and of the adjustments we have had to make.

If you are not sure that you qualify as a true Senior Citizen, this checklist may help you decide:-

Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.

The gleam in your eye is the sun shining in your bifocals.

You feel like "the morning after"..... but haven't been anywhere.

You get out of breath playing cards.

Your "little black book" contains only emergency numbers for doctors.

Your children begin to look middle – aged.

A dripping tap causes an uncontrollable urge.....

You join a health club – and don't go.

You have all the answers, but nobody asks the questions.

You look forward to a dull evening.

You need glasses to find your glasses.

You turn the lights off to economise instead of for romance.

You sit in a rocking chair but can't make it rock.

Your knees buckle, but your belt won't.

Your back goes out more than you do.

You put your bra on back to front, and it fits better.

Your house is too big, and your medicine cabinet is too small.

You sink your teeth into a steak, and they stay there.

Your birthday cake collapses under the weight of the candles.

You decide to live long enough to be a problem to your children and get your own back.

Sister B

P.S.

A woman stood at the Heavenly Gate

Her face was lined and old

She stood before the man of fate

For admission to the fold

"What have you done," St. Peter asked,

"To gain admission here?"

"I've worked for the National Health Service, Sir

For many and many a year."

The pearly gate swung open wide

As St. Peter touched the bell

"Come in and choose your harp, my dear,

You've had your share of hell....."

Weather fine among the general gloom

Following the wettest February on record (and the wettest of any month I have recorded at Hopton Heath), we might have looked forward to a fine spring with many outdoor activities. Coronavirus (Covid 19 if you prefer) put paid to that with many confined to house or garden (if lucky enough to have one).

Lockdown in UK fully began on 20th March with closure of schools, pubs, restaurants and much else. At the same time the rain, which had been average for early March, stopped. There was no more rain in March and I have recorded only 10mm up to 20th April. If it were not for the already saturated ground, we would now, with four dry weeks, be in a drought situation!

For those working outdoors and for the rest of us on our allowed daily, outdoor exercise, the spring has been beautiful, with cherry blossom, primroses, celandines and fields full of sheep, with all the ewes seeming to have at least two lambs. The Swallows have now arrived, Sand Martins have been nesting on the banks of the River Teme in Leintwardine. Today I saw a Whitethroat, also just back from Africa and yesterday a resident Lapwing was displaying over a nearby field.

The news remains extremely gloomy with deaths from the virus remaining high in spite of lockdown but perhaps we can get some comfort from living in such a beautiful area of the countryside in this glorious spring weather.

Mike Tucker

Spitfires over Gunnas

Clungunford Players latest production, *Spitfires over Gunnas* was rather overtaken by events. We were able to fit in our two performances just before the population as a whole was restricted in their movements and activities and who we were allowed to meet up with, and so haven't been able to get together as a group since.

There were no tickets for the event, by means of the sales of which we are usually able to record how many people came to see us, so we don't know how many there were, or how much money we took as a result. What money *was* taken for seats over the course of the two nights went directly into the Village Hall coffers.

Events that have happened since also meant that no one has received any repayment for expenses they had as a result of putting on the production, but if anyone who had expenses they would like repaid, if they let me know what they are, I will do my best to see they get paid as soon as events allow. *Brian Taylor* Treasurer

The Slow Ladies

There will be no walking dates fixed at the moment, but I hope you are enjoying your *solo walks*.

One good thing has come out of this, I find I am meeting people I've never met or even seen before - 2 meters apart, of course. I now know who my full-time working neighbours are. *Keep walking. Pauline Mattison* 01588 660596

The Plagues

Such is the preoccupation with the Coronavirus, it has at least taken our minds off the devastating floods of a few weeks ago – the first occurring plague. Some who ought to know say the river levels were as high as ever they have seen in their long lifetimes.

The Tea-Rooms suffered in the flood, and it is wonderful to see John and Liz keeping their spirits up, despite the disaster that befell them (top picture).

Then, below we have Sarah, Anne and Pauline assisting in the clearing up operation.

We all hope that the Tea Rooms open again soon and that normality is restored.

The Gunnas Gazette – Alan Williamson's archive

Kate Gilford, Paula and Alan's daughter, has been going through her father's things and has very kindly lent us copies of the Gunnas Gazette from the very first edition: Volume 1, Issue 1, September 1997. As we arrived here in Clungunford in June 2001 we are delighted to catch up on the three or four years we didn't know about.

What is immediately striking (apart from Alan's confidence in naming it, Vol 1, Issue 1!) is how little it has changed in all these years - he really did get the concept right, from the very beginning. Everyone's contribution was welcomed, and the quickly growing



(from 2, to 4, to 6 sides in the space of three issues) shows not only what a busy and community-minded village this was (and is), but also how much it mattered to people that we were all connected.

I have particularly enjoyed Anthea's Diary of a Farmer's Wife, which is beautifully written, sometimes funny, sometimes poignant. I could have taken an extract from any one of her pieces but this was from Vol 2, issue 1:

The best bit of working on the sides of the valley is being able to see what everyone else is doing. As we go round the hill, Fred says, "... so & so hasn't turned his hay yet, so & so has finished one field and started another, so & so must have broken down ..." When he goes in at lunch, I get an update on everyone's doings. I wonder if all the other farmers do the same."

It's lovely somehow, especially now, to think of the farmers keeping a knowing eye on all the goings on!

Hilary especially enjoyed the 'In Days of Old' section in which long-time residents of the village are interviewed about how it used to be, and we've both learnt lots of really interesting things.

We have deep respect for everyone who started groups in the village all those years ago - *and kept them going!* The village choir seems to have lived and died with our dear friend and neighbour, Alan Williamson; the Slow Ladies Walking Group are *still slowly* walking, and it would seem that the village wine-lovers are still bravely tasting! Well done, one and all!

What a wonderful record of village life this archive represents. Thank you to everyone who helps make it happen, and a HUGE especial thanks to dear Paula, now safely in Onny Cottage Care Home, who from Vol 1, issue 2 provided banner illustrations for each copy of *The Gazette*, without, as far as we can see, getting her name mentioned! *Anna Dreda*

A poem for Lockdown

I'm normally a social girl
I love to meet my mates
But lately with the virus here
We can't go out the gates.
You see, we are the 'oldies' now
We need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while
They'll think we've upped and died.

They'll never know the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't any Facebook
So not everything was told.

We may seem sweet old ladies
Who would never be uncouth
But we grew up in the 60s –
If you only knew the truth!

There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll
The pill and miniskirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts.

Then we settled down, got married
And turned into someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana,
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace
Because our lives were full
But to bury us before we're dead
Is like red rag to a bull!

So here you find me stuck inside
For 4 weeks, maybe more
I finally found myself again
Then I had to close the door!

It didn't really bother me
I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family
But I've got no bloody flour!

Now Netflix is just wonderful
I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris
Or some random sexy killer.

At least I've got a stash of booze
For when I'm being idle
There's wine and whiskey, even gin
If I'm feeling suicidal!

So let's all drink to lockdown
To recovery and health
And hope this bloody virus
Doesn't decimate our wealth.

We'll all get through the crisis
And be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not far too wide
To fit through the flaming gates!

Jan Beaumont – New Zealand

Did you know?

In the Disney film, "Frozen" the Northuldra are modelled on the Sami, an indigenous people scattered across northern Scandinavia and north-western Russia.

Kristoff is a Sámi iceman who lives together with his reindeer companion "Sven". He prefers to live on his own but he helps Princess Anna of Arendelle to find her older sister Elsa in the North Mountain.

The real Sami people are fascinating to study. It may be that you need a bit of a project to do whilst your school is closed or you have completed a lot of the tasks your teachers have set you and now fancy something different?

If so, you can access a project about the Sami on the Clungunford website in the "Community Groups" section under "Clungunford Children's Learning Activities".
www.clungunford.com

Parents and children may like to take a look at this new temporary section of the village website. We aim to offer some interesting Geography - related activities, a whole programme of "Zoom Poetry Club!" resources and more! As a retired Geography teacher and a retired Book Seller, Anna and I are busy helping our grandchildren with school work set by their schools and in addition we are developing other learning activities to help pass the time in a meaningful way and support their parents during this difficult time. We are happy to share these resources.



Zoom Poetry Club!

The Poetry Club for children aged from about 6 - 10yrs came about because Anna wanted to do something for her grand-children, but she has, from the beginning, shared it widely so that people can use it as a resource in their own families. Themes so far include school, Spring, the sea, the moon and Family. There are new posts three times a week and you can find them at
wenlockbooks.co.uk/blog



We hope these resources will help pass the time, be enjoyable and be positive learning experiences.

Did you also know?

There is a 'Clungunford Charities Educational Fund'. The Fund makes grants available for people aged 25 and under for all sorts of things including training courses, specialist equipment, laptops and more. For example, if you can't get on with your school or college work or any of the activities we are offering here because you don't have the necessary IT equipment, the village charities may well be able to help.

Full details and how to apply can also be found on this link:

<http://clungunford.com/clungunford-fund>

Finally, we are also aware that there are quite a few working and retired teachers out there....between us we must be able to cover a lot of subject areas! If you would like to add to the children's learning resources on the village website that would be great. Please send resources to Hilary at hrw1@live.co.uk . Thanks.

Hilary White and Anna Dreda