



*The Newsletter for
Clungunford
Volume 23 • Issue 6
July 2020*

THE GUNNAS GAZETTE

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As reported in the last issue of The Gazette, 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. 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)
- collecting prescriptions from the doctors' surgeries and chemists
- changing cheques for those who need cash

The impact of the disease has fortunately been minimal in our parish, most likely because villagers have followed the guide-lines and been careful. It is to be hoped that no problems will occur as lockdown restrictions ease, but until an effective vaccine is developed no one can be completely safe, and we must all in particular look out for the vulnerable.

Just remember that if help is needed, it is still available: 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 Parish Council

At our meeting on 13 May, which was held virtually over the Zoom platform, we discussed the support arrangements for those quarantined by the Coronavirus lockdown, and we concluded that people have got by, one way or another. We are thankful for and grateful to those volunteers and family members who have helped.

We were pleased to co-opt Rob Rees of Little Common on to the Parish Council to succeed to the vacancy created by John Elliot's retirement. We look forward to Rob's contribution, and we will doubtless take advantage of his experience of the wider world (strange to say, Africa is bigger than Clungunford)!

Having filled one vacancy, we were then saddened to accept the resignation of Maureen Rooney. Maureen has been a great supporter of the Parish Council and an irrepressible contributor to its debates over many years. We will miss her. She will be a hard act to follow, although we all know that her opinions will be freely offered in the years to come.

If you think you would like to join the Parish Council, please contact me or any Parish Councillor or Max Maxwell, our clerk, as it looks as though we will have to co-opt a replacement in the likely absence of any contested election.

Our next meeting is on 8 July 2020 at 7pm. This meeting will be held outside the Hall, respecting social distancing, and interested members of the public, as ever, 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)

Masks for UNICEF from Leintwardine with love

When Angela Trewinnard saw UNICEF's Make one Give 50 Campaign which offered a free face mask pattern in return for a donation she immediately got to work. Angela, an experienced crafter, had already made about 60 masks for friends and family and the UNICEF project was an opportunity to make a significant contribution to help with their work of getting aid to the most vulnerable children around the world.

Using beautiful fabrics in a variety of colours she has made the high standard masks both for local Leintwardine and Clungunford people as well as those further afield. A huge contribution of £262.50 [incl giftaid] has been raised for UNICEF's campaign. Angela is now working on other projects whilst her sewing machine takes a well-earned break. *Judith Trustman*



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 gunnasingazette@aol.com

Dear friends and neighbours,

Clungunford Village Hall has been closed by the coronavirus emergency since the middle of March and it is sad that so many community activities have had to be cancelled. We have been unable to use the hall internally, but we are pleased that some work has continued on areas outside the hall:

- The village green/ playing field has been mown regularly by a team of volunteers and has been well used during the recent sunshine.
- The 'garden' area beside the hall has been improved with all the rubbish removed from this site, a new rain soakaway installed, a gravel surface laid, and the shipping container painted.
- Tables and benches will arrive for this area shortly and new planting will begin to cover the shipping container. A new fence will hide the service area at the back that houses the oil tank and gas canisters.
- The sloping path up to the field has been cleared of overgrown vegetation and the barrier on this path has been re-painted.
- The picnic tables on the green have been refurbished and the broken swing will be repaired soon and painted.

We hope you will agree that the area outside the hall has been improved visually, but it will now also become a more useful amenity space for outside activities.

The hall trustees would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has given their time and skills to maintain and enhance the hall's outside areas recently. The mowing volunteers have ensured that the field has never looked so good. 'Team Gravel' moved 30 tons of stones in a couple of mornings. And special mentions go to Rob Rees for spraying weeds, Mike Jones for renovating the old picnic tables, Jonathan Roberts for removing the old oil tank and fencing, and Andrew Benton for installing the rainwater soakaway. We are very fortunate to have so many able volunteers.

As the lockdown begins to ease, I am aware that many residents are keen to know when the hall will reopen. We would like to get back to some level of activity soon but our priority must remain the health and safety of those who use the hall and the many wonderful volunteers that help it function.

Before we can open therefore, we are currently undertaking a comprehensive risk assessment to identify what measures we shall put in place to make the venue as safe as possible. We will also be writing to all our volunteers to tell them what we are doing, and to ask if they wish to continue to act as volunteers when we re-open. Some may choose to wait before returning and this is entirely understandable.

We therefore expect to be able to open for limited hall-run events and to open the bar occasionally sometime in August – especially if activities can largely be held outdoors. The hall will also be able to be hired again for low-risk activities and hirers will have a contractual duty to implement and observe measures that reduce the risk of coronavirus infection.

Further details of our plans to re-open will be posted on www.clungunford.com as soon as they are agreed by the trustees.

We hope to see you in August.

Max Maxwell

On behalf of the Trustees, Clungunford Village Hall & Green

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@aepledhill.co.uk).

As of the 4th July, Churches will be allowed to open for public worship although with certain restrictions. For the last three months St Cuthbert's Church has been running online services which has been a rewarding but different experience. We are looking forward to being able to worship together once more in our lovely Church.

The full details on the restrictions have not yet been made available to us though we know that they will include requirements such as social distancing measures, circulation routes and deep cleaning activity where appropriate. One of the much-publicised restrictions is on singing i.e. no singing allowed! It is also unclear as to how and when we will be able to hold Communion Services. The Church is currently open for private prayer. We are hoping to open the doors for our first post lock-down service on Sunday 12th July.

Services for St Cuthbert's Church Clungunford in the Middle Marches Benefice for July and August 2020 are as follows;

Sunday 12 th July	10.00 am	Family Service
Sunday 19 th July	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 26 th July	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 9 th August	10.00 am	Family Service
Sunday 16 th August	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 23 rd August	10.00 am	Morning Prayer

Forthcoming events

Update on church organ

In the last edition of *The Gunnas Gazette* we wrote that we had submitted an application to the Historic Organ Listing Scheme (HOLS) to have the grading of the Binn's organ at St Cuthbert's Church re-assessed. The instrument was originally awarded a listing by the British Institute of Organ Studies (BIOS), the organisation

which awards the gradings, at a time before a grading was associated with a listing.

I am very pleased to be able to tell you that the organ has now been given a Grade II listing. A Grade II listing is given 'for organs of special interest, warranting every effort to preserve them'. This is a good anniversary present for an instrument which will 125 years old this year!

Many thanks to all those who have supported and continue to support this fine instrument.

St Cuthbert's Church Bank Account details

Last month we caused some confusion by incorrectly giving the name of the Churches' Bank Account as 'Clungunford PCC' when it should have been 'Parochial Church Council of Clungunford'. Our apology for any inconvenience this may have caused.

All donations to St Cuthbert's Church in Clungunford are gratefully received and help to both maintain the building and continue worship in the village. If you would like 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 *correct* bank details are as follows:

- Bank: HSBC
- Sort code: 40-17-23
- Account number: 81090488
- Account name: Parochial Church Council of Clungunford

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 or 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.

Tuesday 11th August – God's Acre

We welcome the God's Acre Team of volunteers back to the Church yard on Tuesday 11th August to

undertake a Summer Tidy Up session. Due to the current restrictions there will only be 6 volunteers and we won't be able to offer our usual hospitality of coffee and cake. We are very grateful to the team from God's Acre who continue to help with the management of our Church yard.

Holiday Club 2020

Due to the Coronavirus implications, and the difficulties these would cause for the running of the Club, there will be no Holiday Club this August. We look forward to holding it again in 2021.

Ruth Cunningham - a tribute from Mary Bason

This is my tribute to Ruth who sadly passed away after a short illness on Sunday 21st June 2020.

I first met Ruth while I was working at Bedstone College as the Relief Sister, Ruth was the Librarian at the College. She and her husband Philip with their 3 children, Alys, Louise and Simon lived in Bedstone at the time.

Later the family moved to Paigles at Beckjay. Sadly Philip died, unfortunately at the wedding of their daughter Alys in the USA. The children grew up and "flew the nest", Alys to the USA, Louise to Scotland near Edinburgh, and Simon to York.

Ruth remained at Paigles with the company of her two cats - Amber & Spice, whom she doted on.

Ruth became a very dear & close friend of mine, she was always there for me; ready for a shopping outing, trip to a local tearoom, a walking companion, maker of cups of tea and a chat, dog walker, greenhouse waterer, and a shoulder to cry on. I like to think I was there for her too. She was involved in many things; the WI, Learning Welsh (Paigles is welsh for cowslip!), bellringing, a member of a quiz team, a book group, and three walking groups.

At the end of July 2019 Ruth plucked up the courage to move to Scotland to be nearer her growing family. She found a lovely new home, a bungalow of a more manageable size with a smaller garden, and looked forward to a new chapter in her life. Here she was beginning to adjust to her new life, finding a walking group & then helping with riding for the disabled as she was always interested in riding and loved horses. There was a bus route on her doorstep which could whisk her into Dunfermline.

Louise was nearby, living with her husband Russell and their new baby Bailey. Ruth was very happy there. Simon and his wife Katy with their two girls were not too far away near York. Everything was going well.

However, fate intervened. In the Spring 2020 Ruth became very dizzy and fell breaking her right shoulder. A further fall led to Investigations which revealed the cause of the falls was a brain tumour. Undeterred Ruth underwent surgery to have this removed, the next day

after surgery, she was sat up in bed enjoying a cup of tea, determined to make a speedy recovery.

Once more, fate decreed otherwise, and the tumour proved cancerous. Further investigations revealed the cancer originated in her abdomen. Unfortunately the consultant said she was too weak by this point, to undergo further treatment and she was discharged from hospital. Sadly, she died at home, with Louise caring for her.

Alys had come from the USA to be with her mother during these last days. Simon had also been visiting, but had just returned to Katy & the girls for Fathers Day.

I missed Ruth very much when she left Beckjay for Scotland, but we always planned on visiting. Little did we realise that we would not be meeting again to share more lovely times together. I do however have many special memories of those days.

You will all have your own memories of Ruth, always ready to have a go at most things, always enjoying a joke & a laugh, never being unkind about anyone. always ready to help at village events, and well known for contributing her special chocolate pudding, at social gatherings. Ruth was a great supporter of Bedstone Church and our own St. Cuthbert's.

Rest in Peace Ruth, you are very sadly missed, but, we will meet again.....

Postcard from Africa

Covid-19, Coronavirus, continues to rage around the world. In Europe, we are now past the peak at least of the first wave and some of the restrictions placed on our behaviour are being relaxed. The focus of the global pandemic now seems to have shifted to the Americas with the US and Brazil competing with each other for the highest number of casualties. We wait to see if the dreaded second wave arises and also what will happen when colder weather returns. We are all hoping for success in the search for a vaccine but we have to get used to the reality that like flu and the common cold, the Covid-19 virus is here to stay.

We are beginning to count the cost of the long-term effects of the pandemic, which, to a limited extent, we have been shielded from due to the financial support provided by the government to allow workers to be furloughed rather than dismissed. The furlough package will come to an end shortly and that is when the crunch will come. Businesses that were perfectly viable before the virus arrived may not be able to run profitably in the new environment and jobs will inevitably disappear.

Across much of Africa they are still dealing with the first wave. Nowhere has escaped but according to available statistics, numbers of people affected are lower than might have been expected. According to the BBC's data, on 24 June there were 325,130 confirmed cases and 8,626 deaths across the whole of the continent. Taking Kenya specifically, there were 4952 cases but only 128 deaths directly attributable to Coronavirus. While there may be some gaps because of poor

reporting, amongst African countries Kenya has a fairly well-developed public health service and these figures can be taken as a reasonably accurate representation of the situation. Time will tell if this is the lull before the storm.

Even if the Kenyan authorities are able to restrict the number of lives lost, there is going to be a huge and long-lasting impact on Kenya's economy. For decades, Kenya has been a very popular tourist destination for us Europeans testified to by the wall-to-wall hotels along the Indian Ocean coast. The climate in Kenya is at its best when here in Europe it is at its worst. Tens of thousands of people are employed in the tourist industry: hotel staff, tour guides, drivers not to mention all the individual traders selling souvenirs. All these livelihoods are at risk. There are also the people working for wildlife conservation whose salaries come from taxes paid by the tourists. Because their income has dropped, they are not able to carry out wildlife protection to the same extent and consequently reports of poaching incidents have increased.

Another cornerstone of modern Kenya's economy is the production of fresh flowers, fruit and vegetables for the European market. A very sophisticated industry has grown up, producing to European standards that again creates employment for tens of thousands of people. That is an industry that cannot be put into suspension – the crops are grown on a continuous cycle to ensure there is no gap in the supply line. If they cannot be delivered to the market on time then the crop is lost. Businesses have had to go into suspension and workers laid off as there is no indication at the moment when access to the markets in Europe will become possible again.

And on top of all this, the locusts which have ravaged most of northern Kenya are now into their second and third generation and devouring everything green that their path crosses. The food crops that thousands of families were relying on to support them through the coming year have been wiped out in a matter of hours. The pesticides used to spray the locusts are now in short supply due to their being fewer international flights and so even the locust problem is being exacerbated by Covid-19.

A few years ago, global interdependence seemed a beautiful concept. Bring economic development to poorer countries through trade, not aid. A new paradigm will have to emerge now as there will be no going back to the way things were prior to Covid-19.

Rob Rees

In the Garden

A hot and sunny day in Clungunford and I should have been off enjoying the fleshpots of Wales, or somewhere equally exotic, and missing this balmy heat, but for the Lockdown keeping me at home instead.

I've been netting my gooseberry bushes against the chance of there being a repeat of last year, when the ripening berries were snaffled at the very last moment,

by what I never discovered, but they cleared the crop in its entirety.

I moved the nets from the patio cherry tree, which had no need of them this year, because it didn't have a single cherry on it.

In that respect it was showing solidarity with the plum tree and the damson tree at the top of the garden which, probably because of the incredibly excessive amount of rain we had during February, coupled with some very low temperatures through February and March, left the trees devoid of any sort of crop this year.

There have been years when the trees crop so prolifically we have trouble picking all the fruit on them but, though we still have apples and bush fruit at the moment, the excesses of temperature and rain this year, happening when they did, were strategic enough to prevent any fruit forming on either plum tree or damson.

In the garden look out for the bright yellow flowers, freely borne on slender stems, of *Coreopsis*, the Tickseed. The most popular variety, *grandiflora*, makes a compact bushy plant, growing up two feet tall in height. Another variety, 'Badengold', grows a foot taller than that. *Brian Taylor*

Nursing Notes

I seem to come across more and more articles about being old. Maybe it's something to with my own advancing years!!

What are Senior Citizens Worth?

We are worth a fortune with silver in our hair and gold in our teeth, stones in our kidneys, lead in our feet.

Since we last met, a few changes have come into my life. I now have two gentleman friends to see me every morning! Will Power helps me get out of bed, then Arthur Ritis shows up. He stays with me for the rest of the day. He doesn't like staying in one place, so he moves from joint to joint.

The vicar called the other day and said, "You know, at your age you should be thinking of the 'here-after.'" I told him: "I do, all the time, no matter where I go - in the kitchen, living room, and upstairs, I stand there and ask myself - what am I here after?"

When I am gone and no longer around
When you've buried my body deep in the ground.
I hope you listened to what I have said.
My organs are really no use when I'm dead.
Take them all out, share them around,
Shout from the rooftops "a donor we've found!"
My liver, my kidneys, my lungs, and my heart,
Just a few things to give someone a start.
Sister B
P.S.

There is a knock on the Pearly gates. St Peter looks out and a man is standing there. St Peter is about to begin his interview when the man disappears. A moment later there's another knock. St Peter answers the door, sees the man, opens his mouth to speak, but the man disappears once again. "Hey, are you playing games with me," St Peter calls after him, getting annoyed. "No", the man's distant voice replies anxiously. "They are trying to resuscitate me".

Rains follow warm, dry Spring

In the period 21 March to 31 May 2020 there were only 12 days with more than 0.1mm of rain at Hopton Heath, making it the driest spring in my records (since 2007). The total rainfall for May was 6mm, the lowest monthly total I have recorded. May was also among the warmest in my records with only May 2018 being significantly warmer. Fortunately this followed a very wet winter, so it was only towards the end of the period that vegetation seemed to be drying out. However, the spring sowings in my vegetable patch have been very disappointing, having hardly grown, in spite of occasional watering.

Then, however, June began with rain on the 2nd, 3rd and all but one day since, up to 21 June. The total rainfall, so far in June, is 68mm, above average for the month as a whole. Everything is now growing rapidly, especially the weeds! The temperatures in June have been similar to May but below average for the month, so far. The forecast, however, is for much higher temperatures later this week as we enter astronomical summer, following the solstice.

As our planned holiday in Wales at Easter was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic, we are still hoping to have day trips there, when this is allowed! As many people have said, this is a very strange year but at least we are keeping healthy and we hope all in Clungunford are also keeping free from the terrible virus! *Mike Tucker*

Ride and Stride

I am sorry to inform you that the Annual Ride and Stride on behalf of the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust has been cancelled this year.

We hope to return next year and I will keep you informed as information comes through. I suggest that you do try and keep up your practice of Riding and Striding and where appropriate visit the wonderful selection of historic churches that we have locally. On the back page is the certificate that we have been sent for our fantastic efforts last year. Though our total was down on the previous year I am informed that our Parish collected more than any other in 2019, so well done to us all. *Simon Lyster* +44 (0)7836634920

Let's Save Jack

I like Jack. I enjoy his company and have visited him several times in the last few weeks. He lives alone and is particularly bright in the morning. It is always a real pleasure to see him. However, it is very sad to

announce that his life is now in imminent danger. The rural vandals are at large and Jack could soon be cut down in his prime. Jack-Go-To-Bed-At-Noon (TRAGOPONON PRANTENSIS) is the full name of this striking wild flower. The flower itself is similar to a dandelion but has long, narrow sepal-like bracts which spread out around it like the rays of the sun. It sits atop a long, slender, hairless stem with few leaves. The flower opens early in the morning and closes around mid-day--hence its name.

Our once vibrant countryside was blessed with an abundance of wild flowers, colouring our world and lifting the spirits. Then along came man with his toxic chemicals and his murderous machines wiping out most of them in a few short years--wanton rural destruction in the extreme.

Jack is currently residing on a nearby trackside embankment --but for how much longer?..... *Mike Mattison*

Aunt Agatha

Here, *The Gazette's* own social affairs correspondent, gives her individual advice to concerned readers.

Mrs P of Hopton Heath writes: My pen friend in Wuhan has sent me an email, asking whether anyone has got a recipe for stuffed bats and pangolin soup. Can any of your readers help?

Aunt Ag advises: Hells Bells! Do please tell me you disinfected that email before opening it! Otherwise, we are all doomeddoomed

Mr T of Beckjay writes: At the very hour the lockdown was announced, my wife had gone to visit Mr S in Shelderton to see how he was recovering from his recent hernia operation. Naturally, she has not been able to return to me for three months, and I have not heard from her, as there is no mobile signal up there and a poor broadband connection. What is best done, please?

Aunt Ag advises: It is difficult to advise what is for the best, but I do know that poor Mr S has been back in hospital several times, having burst his stitches.

Mr M of Gunnas writes: At the last store lamb sale in Ludlow, I suggested my wife (as you know, a comely sort), got into the pen to usher the lambs to the front. I have noticed a lot of farmers do this to great effect, so distracted are the buyers by a shapely form. However, due to a mix-up, the auctioneer failed to make it plain that my wife was not included in the sale. The buyer took both the lambs and my wife, and my wife is now telling me it would be quite wrong to insist on her return. What shall I do? Although, I must admit it was a good price

Aunt Ag advises: Well, obviously, the bargain must stand. You must sue the auctioneer for whatever it costs to get a new wife (e.g. advertising costs, candle-lit dinners etc etc).



This is to certify that

St. Cuthbert, Clungunford

raised the total sum of

£1819.13

For Shropshire Ride+Stride
On Saturday 14th September 2019

For and on behalf of
SHCT



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