



*The Newsletter for
Clungunford
Volume 24 • Issue 2
November 2020*

THE GUNNAS GAZETTE

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A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS!



The new lockdown from 4 November has just been announced, and the optimism expressed in the last issue of The Gazette that things seemed to be improving on the Coronavirus front has evaporated. The clear message to all residents of the Parish is that, should they be required, the support mechanisms previously put in place by the Parish Council and The PCC of St Cuthbert's will be available to those in need. Broadly, the support entailed:

- getting groceries (e.g. by collection from the supermarkets)
- collecting prescriptions from the doctors' surgeries and chemists
- changing cheques for those who need cash

If the need should arise, 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 is not coming forward. DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK

The Parish Council

At our September meeting we discussed inter alia contingency arrangements for dealing with any resurgence of Coronavirus amid fears from councillors that there might be a second wave – in the event fully justified.

We also discussed how the Parish Council deals with commenting on planning applications in the Parish. As a statutory consultee, the Parish Council is asked by Shropshire Council to comment on all planning applications received that affect the Parish. The vast majority of these are fairly trivial (e.g. minor extensions, tree trimming etc) and require little if any comment, but it was recognized that some applications may be of more concern to residents, and residents may wish to make their views known to the Parish Council before it considers its collective response, acknowledging that the Parish Council cannot be a mere conduit of the views of individuals, who can, of course, make representations direct to Shropshire Council. Mechanisms have been put in place to reflect this. We would hasten to add that in all previous planning applications of note where there has been obvious concern (e.g. poultry units at Hopton Heath), the Parish Council has been careful to consult widely – usually through the medium of a public meeting, and so residents can be assured that nothing surreptitious has taken place!

We also discussed ways to brighten up Christmas for the community.

Our next meeting is on 11 November 2020 at 7pm. This meeting will be held via the Zoom platform. Nevertheless, interested members of the public, as ever, are welcome to attend (please contact me or look for instructions on the notice board and website) Parish matters before (or after) the meeting may be raised either with me or via our email address: clungunfordparishcouncil@gmail.com Jonathan Roberts, Chairman (01588 660673: jonathan.roberts@morgoedestates.com). Our Parish Clerk, Max Maxwell, is on temporary leave.

Clungunford Community Bike Ride and Walk 2020

Many thanks to all those walkers and cyclists who joined us in September. It was great fun and we raised nearly £1,400 for the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust.

Also, a very big thank you to all those generous people that sponsored us. Your support is greatly appreciated.

The Slow Ladies

Thursday 12 November: a leisurely walk in Mortimer's Forest. Meet in Clungunford CP at 10.00 am with picnic.

Thursday 3 December: the traditional walk to Leintwardine for a pub lunch. Return by bus. Meet by Tearooms at 9.30 am

Please let me know if you are coming on any of our walks. We are always pleased to welcome new faces and feet to our walking group. *Pauline Mattison* 01588 660596

Please check latest Coronavirus guidelines

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 used to print and distribute 155 paper copies and send out a similar number by email. *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, but after numerous pleas in *The Gazette* for people to switch to the digital edition we have now got the hard copy numbers down to 104. The Committee guess is still that probably all bar maybe 50 homes are capable of receiving *The Gazette* by email.

Our selfless distributors on whom we rely are all among the self-isolating community, and so during the lockdown and for the foreseeable future we will continue to issue *The Gazette* by post rather than through voluntary distributors. In the long run this is not a sustainable solution on current numbers.

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 gunnasmagazine@aol.com

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).

Services for St Cuthbert's Church Clungunford in the Middle Marches Benefice for November 2020 cannot take place due to the Covid restrictions announced 31 October. Services during December to be advised

General Notices

Though Churches are now able to open for public worship there are a number of restrictions which we need to adhere to. These include the now usual ones of the wearing of masks, social distancing measures and circulation routes. We are fortunate at St Cuthbert's Church as the pews were removed at the time of the Churches' major restoration and replaced by chairs. These allow us to put in place social distancing measures with relative ease. We also have three external doors and a few opening windows to provide good ventilation. Leaving these open during services may not be as welcome as the cold weather draws in!

The other major and well published restriction is 'no singing allowed'. We are allowed to have a small choir of less than six, socially distanced to sing but I think it is fair to say that most of us miss singing hymns on a Sunday morning. We recently celebrated **Harvest Festival** with a service lead by Christine and Robert Flitney, who also adorned the church with a wheelbarrow, mini tractor and trailer and plenty of their wonderful homegrown vegetables. The music was provided by Phil Trewinnard on accordion with Janet Collier singing Harvest hymns. It was lovely to hear and appreciated by everyone. A collection was made for the Craven Arms Food Bank.

Christmas Carols are a major feature of our **Christmas Celebrations**. The restrictions for Covid-19 are changing on an increasingly frequent basis and so, with this in mind, we have still to firm up on our plans for Christmas Services. We hope that we will be able to sing Christmas Carols but the services will be different to previous years. Please watch this space!

The Church is currently closed during the week and opened only for services. This is something that we regret having to do but alleviates the need to do a 'deep clean' after each service and every day incase someone has visited. As soon as we are able we will open the Church once more.

AGM and APCM

We are required to hold an Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) every year to report back on the activities and the health of the Church. Typically this is

held in April. However, due to the Covid-19 restrictions at the time, the time given by the Church of England to hold and report back on the APCM was pushed back six months. The meeting took place during the Service on Sunday 11th October. It was a very shortened APCM and essentially voted on the outcomes of the AGM which was held 'online' on the previous Thursday evening. This was done in order to follow Covid-19 guidance on the number of people allowed to attend face to face meetings and the requirements of the Church of England with respect to voting.

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held as a Teams meeting and attended by ten people. One of items upon was that of the position of Treasurer. I am very pleased to be able to inform you that Rob Rees has agreed to take up the role. Janet Thain has been our Treasurer for many years and we owe a tremendous thanks to her in this role and that of secretary. It is not an easy role and involves a lot of communication with Benefice as well as the Diocese. A sense of humour is essential!

Wednesday 11th November – God's Acre

We welcome, subject applicable Coronavirus restrictions, the God's Acre Team of volunteers back to the Church yard to do a Winter tidy up. One of the major jobs will be cleaning the weeds from the French drain which is around the footings of the Church. We are very grateful to the team from God's Acre for the help and guidance in protecting our Church yard.

125 Years Ago!

St Cuthbert's Church was re-opened after extensive works 125 years ago. Below is an article from the 'Wellington Journal and Shrewsbury News' from the 26th October which records the event. The 'Wellington Journal and Shrewsbury News' was later to become the Shropshire Journal.

Wellington Journal and Shrewsbury News- Saturday 26 October 1895 p.3

REOPENING OF CLUNGUNFORD PARISH CHURCH.

The old Parish Church of Clungunford was reopened on Saturday, the 12th inst, after complete restoration, the Lord Bishop of Hereford, his Grace the Archbishop York being present, and taking part in the function. The church itself is of great antiquity, for we hear of its existence in 1291, when it was taxed to the amount of £6 by Pope Nicholas, and in Doomsday Book mention is made of an early incumbent, one Stephen de Clon, 1277. Until its restoration, the fabric consisted of very large chancel, an aisle, and a chantry, with a beautiful oak roof; on north side, a small bell-cot, containing three bells, date about the reign of Edward 1, each having a Latin inscription, and severally dedicated to St John, St Gabriel, and St Cuthbert. The inscriptions are as follow: — "Cuthberti prece dulce sonat amene;" "Missi de caelis habeo nomen Gabrielis;" "Eternis annis resonet campana Johannis." Since the restoration, a beautiful stone tower has been built on the north side, containing a heating apparatus, a choir vestry,

and a chamber for ringing the bells in. A handsome porch has been added on the south side, with a richly-carved figure of St Cuthbert the Patron Saint, standing in a niche over the entrance, the gift of Miss Ather Rocke, Clungunford Rectory. The chantry is now converted into an organ chamber and a priests' vestry. The restoration of church was commenced in September, 1894, the architect being Mr. Edward Turner, of Leicester. The contractors are Messrs. Smith and Sons, Wolverley, near Kidderminster. Most admirably have they carried out their work. The principal portion of the funds, £2,000, was given by the patron, Mr. John C. L. Rocke, to whom also the parish is further indebted for a most beautifully toned two-manual organ, built by Mr. James Binns, of Leeds, at cost of £758. In recognition of his munificent gifts, the parish have placed a mural tablet on the north wall recording the fact, with this inscription: - "A.M.D.G. This church of St Cuthbert was fully restored in 1895, mainly through the liberality of J. C. L. Rocke, Esq., who also presented the organ. The parishioners erect this tablet to express their appreciation of his generosity."

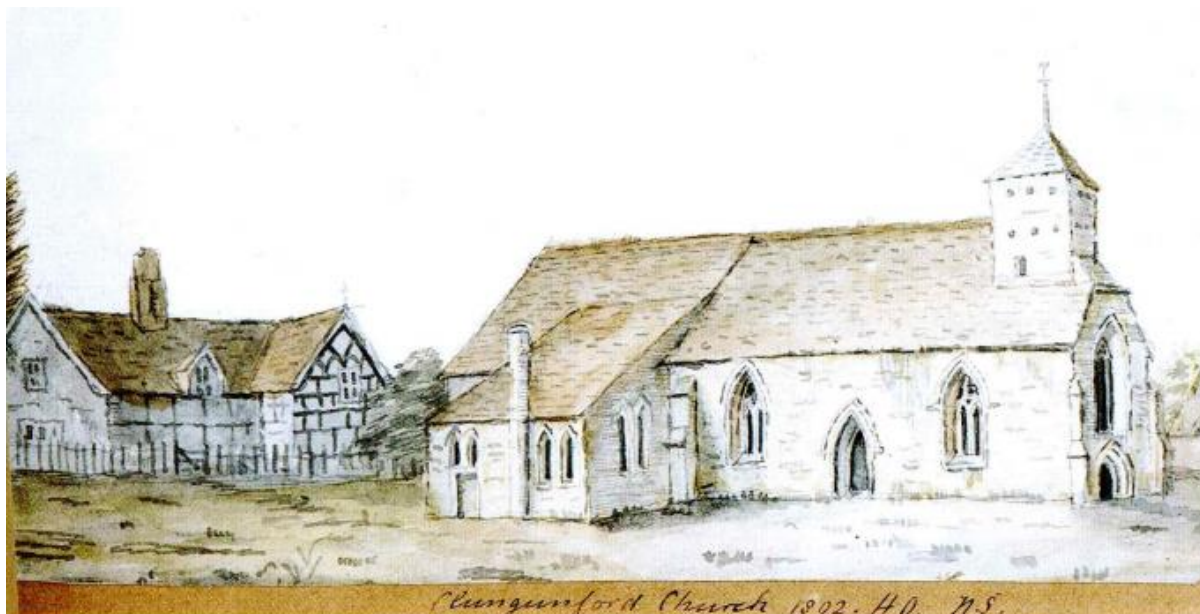
The opening was fixed for 3-30, but as the arrival of his Grace the Archbishop of York was dependent on the punctuality of the train from London, it was arranged that Mr. Douglas Smith, the organist of St Gabriel's Church, Pimlico, should give an organ recital, commencing at three o'clock. Long before that hour the church and churchyard were filled with people, all eager to obtain admittance, and many more than the building could contain. At a quarter before four o'clock, his Grace the Archbishop rove up, attended by his apparitor, Mr. Gibbs, and his chaplain, the Rev. E. E. Barber, vicar of Downton Castle, and accompanied the Lord Bishop of Hereford and his chaplain, the Rev. S. Scarlett Smith, vicar of Delbury. They were met at the gate by the Rev. W. Charles Rocke, rector of Clungunford, and were conducted by him to the temporary church, where Divine service had been held during the restoration. On their arrival the choir, headed by the Rev. J. B. Eccleston (warden of Holy Trinity Hospital, Clun), bearing the processional cross, and followed all the clergy in their robes, moved towards the church, followed the Archbishop, the Bishop, the Chaplains, and the Rector. Arrived in the church, the choir slowly passed on to their seats, remaining standing, the organist meanwhile playing "If with all your hearts" (Elijah). An impressive ceremony then took place. The Bishop paused immediately inside the church door, asking there God's blessing upon the newly-restored building. Meanwhile the procession of clergy stood still, entirely filling the aisle. The prayers being ended, the processional hymn 397 ("Ancient and Modern") was sung, the clergy taking their places in the chancel. The Bishop then proceeded to the altar, and there dedicated by special prayers the new fabric of the church and the various gifts bestowed upon it. The Rev. Charles Rocke said shortened evensong, the Ven. Archdeacon Bather reading the special lesson appointed. The Archbishop of York preached a very impressive sermon from the words "Oh come, let us worship"—a sermon full of earnest invitation to the hearers to fulfil the purpose of this beautiful restoration by making it in truth "a place of

worship", urging on them reverence, devotion, and reality, that "the Lord might be worshipped in spirit and in truth" in the beautiful church, now dedicated again to His service. During the offertory, hymn 602 was sung, and its conclusion his Grace read from the altar a prayer for the dedication of the organ, followed by prayer for the departed, and then gave the blessing in his usual impressive manner. Never has the church presented a more striking appearance as when the sun streamed upon the altar, lighting up the beautiful frontal and hangings, the work of Miss Bromley, Clungunford Hall, and the handsome brass ornaments with which it was adorned, illuminating the richly stained glass memorial east window, overshadowing the altar, and bringing out in strong relief the choice flowers on the re-table and in the sanctuary. In shadow were the soft shades of the marbles, the carefully-selected tiles in the chancel, whilst above the carved oak pulpit (the work the late rector) waved the beautiful banner worked expressly for the church by Grossé of Bruges, representing St John the Divine; the opposite corner, on the south, being filled with another, equally lovely, figuring St Cuthbert, Patron Saint. The whole function was admirably carried through without pause or hitch of any kind, and a spirit of profound reverence and devotion pervaded the congregation. Especially noticeable was the quiet and orderly behaviour of the newly-formed choir. After the service was over, "At Homes" were held at Clungunford Hall and the Rectory.

On Sunday, there was celebration of the Holy Communion office at 8-30, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese officiating, and the Archbishop being present. After matins the Bishop preached an earnest and practical sermon, which was attentively listened to by its hearers. At 3-30 Mr. Douglas Smith gave a recital upon the new organ, which much appreciated a large audience. His Grace the Archbishop preached in the evening to a massed congregation. the church being crowded.

On Monday, the function concluded by a special celebration of the Holy Eucharist at eight o'clock, the Archbishop of York acting as celebrant.

Appended is a list of special gifts to the church:- By Mr. John C. Rocke, a beautiful two-manual organ, 22 stops, four couplers, by Mr. J. Binns, Bramley Works, Leeds; by the Rector, Rev. W. Charles Rocke, silk chalice veil, church chairs, prayer and hymn books Mr. W. Hurt Sitwell, Ferney Hall, £100, to include church clock. Miss Bromley, Clungunford House, set of white, of green, and of purple brocade altar frontals, beautifully embroidered; a very richly ornamented super frontal of crimson plush, crimson plush cover for re-tables; white, green, and purple frontals of rich brocade, to match altar frontals. Mr. Rocke, Clungunford Hall, six tall massive altar lights and shields (jewelled), two eucharistic altar lights, two benediction lights (three branches), one massive centre cross (jewelled), one pair altar vases, two processional banners (worked expressly for the church by Messrs. Grossé, of Bruges), representing St. John the Divine, and St. Cuthbert, to whom the church is dedicated. Lieut.- Colonel Evan



St Cuthbert's in 1802 – as it was pre restoration

Thomas, handsome brass lectern (jewelled); Mr. Owen Roche, Clungunford Rectory, four hanging lamps for the chancel : Miss Alice Roche, beautifully-carved figure of St. Cuthbert, standing in a niche over the south porch ; Miss Thomas (Welfield), crimson cushion for sanctuary steps; Rev. J. B. Eccleston, warden of Clun Hospital, handsome processional cross (jewelled); Mr. Edward Turner, font cover; servants the Rectory, brass altar desk.

Postcard from Africa

Ethiopia part 2 – end of Empire.

When I left Ethiopia in 1972, word was just reaching the outside world of a catastrophic famine that was affecting the northern regions of the country. Due to crop failure, tens of thousands of people were migrating to other areas in search of food; people were dying of starvation but no one was there to record exactly how many. The Emperor, living in his gilded cage, denied that there was any hardship at all and refused access to humanitarian agencies who wanted to assist. The military, previously fiercely loyal to Haile Selassie, turned into the saviours of the people and in a revolt that became known as “the creeping coup” put increasing pressure on HS and his family to recognise reality. The emperor was eventually arrested, other members of the royal family were able to flee into exile. Haile Selassie eventually died in detention, allegedly through being suffocated with a pillow.

There then followed a short period of military rule, led by officers who probably had a genuine wish to transform the country from the feudal backwater that it had been into a more modern 20th Century economy. They were starting out from a very low base: there was no history of any kind of democracy that could be built on, the vast majority of the population were subsistence farmers with very little education, the national

infrastructure of health and education were non-existent outside the major towns. Another complication was that the population of the country was not homogeneous and rivalry between different ethnic groups was going to make unifying the country a difficult task.

I returned to Ethiopia in 1975 to work with an agricultural rehabilitation programme with people who were still recovering from the effects of the 1972-3 drought. They were nomadic pastoralists, ethnic Somalis who, because of decisions made by the European colonial powers, found themselves living within Ethiopia instead of Somalia. And they weren't happy about it. It took three days to drive to my new work location, a small dusty town in the middle of a huge dusty plain, vegetated by stunted thorny scrub. Our intention was to distribute seeds and hand tools to about 20,000 families who had moved into famine relief camps, in advance of the hoped-for rainy season due 4-5 months later, to promote a return to self-reliance. Luck was on our side – the 1976 rainy season turned out to be the best for many years. The sorghum seed that had been distributed had been planted and significant crops produced. The relief camps disappeared almost overnight, after the harvest, the people resuming their nomadic way of life with their camels and goats, moving from one watering hole to another across the vastness of the Ogaden.

My work there was complete and I transferred to another agricultural scheme within the same area that aimed to improve food security for a group of people who traditionally were farmers and cultivators. At this new location, however, we had a permanent river which could be drawn on for irrigation. Not long after I moved there, however, we received news from Addis Ababa that there had been changes in the military leadership in Addis. In what was reported to have been a very bloody palace coup, some junior officers seized

power from the military high command and installed themselves in a new governing regime, the Derg. Their leader was Mengistu Haile-Mariam, a brutal, Marxist dictator who ran the country for more than a decade. As in other countries run by ideologues – Cambodia under Pol Pot for instance – any individual or organisation seen as a potential threat to the regime were quickly terminated. Mengistu was the law.

My time in Ethiopia was terminated rather abruptly in early 1977 when neighbouring Somalia decided to claim back all those territories in neighbouring countries populated by ethnic Somalis, starting with Ethiopia. Fortunately, we had heard some rumours that trouble might be in the offing and we had been withdrawn from our base camp in the bush. Within a few days, the whole of the Ogaden region had been overrun by the Somali army – a major war had been fought that hardly got a mention here in the west. Mengistu eventually got help from his new-found friends in Cuba to drive the Somalis out, but the underlying issue of who the Ogaden region belongs to, morally, remains unresolved up until today.

My direct involvement with Ethiopia ended then but there have been many changes in the country since. In the early 1990's a movement that had been fighting for independence of the northern province of Eritrea gained strength and found allies in the neighbouring region of Tigre. Together their forces moved south through Ethiopia and in 1991 took control in Addis. Mengistu fled and found sanctuary in Zimbabwe. A new quasi-democratic government was formed and over the following decade certainly made inroads in tackling the most fundamental problems such as child immunisation, adult literacy and food security. Independence was granted to Eritrea in 1993, but a serious war was fought between the two states over exactly where the border should lie. Ethiopia opened up to the west and it became a recognised tourist destination, visitors attracted by such sites as the churches of Lalibela, hewn out of solid rock.

Ethiopia still has a lot of problems to resolve. It has the second highest population in all of Africa but its rugged terrain makes producing enough food for the more than one hundred million Ethiopians a huge challenge. Inter-ethnic rivalry has not yet been resolved and peripheral parts of the country still call for self-governance. A major dispute with Egypt over the construction of a large dam on the river Nile is as yet unresolved. Egypt says that it will deprive it of the water it needs to support its farming, Ethiopia says that it needs the power the dam will generate to boost its economy. We must hope that this can be resolved through negotiation rather than conflict.

My memories of Ethiopia will remain with me always. Whenever I get a chance to eat injera and wot I do so – there are many Ethiopian restaurants in this country – if only to transport me back to those days of my arrogant youth and my first experiences of the huge continent of Africa. Little did I know then where it would lead me.

Rob Rees

In the Garden

A sunny day in Clungunford. A pause in the weather after several days when it's rained heavens hard.

When the weather allows, I'm getting on with cutting the hedges around my garden. Not my favourite occupation I have to say, because there are a lot of them to do. Better now I have battery operated hedge cutters to do the job with than when I used to use electric ones and always had to be keeping a wary eye open for rain clouds. It's a lot of years now since I did my hedge cutting with heavy petrol driven cutters.

One of the jobs I'd been meaning to do, but never got round to, after the hedge cutting for several years, was to sort out the holly tree in the corner of the garden, which had hazel trunks growing up through its branches from a hedge in front of it and ivy wrapping itself around its trunk.

This year I started my hedge cutting by sorting out the holly tree. Removing the hazel trunks and making a start on cutting back the ivy. Not easy to it in its entirety when there's so much of it.

Looking online for the best time to be doing the job, so as not to lose any berries it might have, I discovered something of an anomaly.

I hadn't realized holly trees come in separate male and female forms with flowers different enough for you to tell by looking at them what sex your tree is. Mine is a male one, so won't have any berries anyway.

I still needed to know when best to cut it back though, so as not to lose the flowers female holly trees will need bees to visit before they visit theirs, in order to fertilize their flowers and produce berries.

All the information available online told me that male and female holly trees flower between May and July every year. The only trouble with that is that the tree and all the holly bushes in my garden are male, and are in flower now, in early October. Are my hollies out of sync with holly bushes everywhere else in the country? Or is the information on line inaccurate? I'll have to wait until next May to find out.

In the mean time, in the garden look out for *Hibiscus sinosyrriacus* 'Autumn Surprise'. A vigorous, medium-sized shrub, with sage green leaves throughout the growing season and white flowers from September until the frosts come.

Brian Taylor

Nursing Notes

The History of Medicine:-

2000 BC :- Here, eat this root

1000 AD :- This root is heathen. Here, say this prayer.

1850 AD :- That prayer is superstition, Here, drink this potion.

1940 AD :- That potion is snake oil. Here, swallow this pill.

1985 AD :- That pill is ineffective. Here take this antibiotic.

2017 AD :- That antibiotic doesn't work. Here, eat this root.

Now, to cheer you up.....

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Medical chart bloopers :-

- 1) Patient has left white blood cells at another hospital
 - 2) On the second day, the knee was better, and on the third day it disappeared.
 - 3) Patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.
 - 4) While in A&E, she was examined, X - rated and sent home.
 - 5) Patient was present when the suppository was inserted.
 - 6) Patient vomited a large amount of emesis.
 - 7) Alert with episodes of forgetfulness.
 - 8) Patient has a history of Pickle Cell anaemia.
 - 9) Vaginal packing out, Dr. Lee in.
 - 10) Bleeding began in the rectal area and continued all the way to London.
 - 11) Surgery will be performed under General Anastasia.
 - 12) The pelvic examination will be done on the floor.
 - 13) Skin: somewhat pale, but present.
 - 14) Large brown stool ambulating in the hall.
 - 15) Patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormalities.
 - 16) The patient refused an autopsy.
 - 17) She is numb from the toes down.
 - 18) Both breasts are equal and reactive to light and accommodation.
 - 19) Suppositories given, sat on toilet with no result, will try again after Christmas.
 - 20) Social history reveals this 1 year old patient does not smoke, or drink, and is presently unemployed.
 - 21) Patient's foot was amputated above the knee.
 - 22) Following the examination of her breasts, we discussed the impending nasal surgery.
 - 23) His prognosis was poor, having had a massive cerebral haemorrhoid.
 - 24) Rectal examination reveals a normal sized thyroid..
 - 25) Both her old and new noses were placed in our album.
- Sister B.
P.S.

Science has made rapid strides. In the old days, with old fashioned methods, a cold would last fourteen days. Now with new wonder drugs and treatment, the common cold can be cured in two weeks.

Three storms and a dry spell – late summer to autumn 2020

Storms Ellen and Francis near the end of August, together with the storm earlier in the month resulted in a monthly total rainfall of 204mm at Hopton Heath, the wettest August I have recorded. We were in Anglesey for storm Francis, where it was very spectacular, especially for a campsite near the cottage, where we were staying.

September was mostly dry with a total rainfall of 32mm but October began with storm Alex, which brought 43mm over the 2nd to 3rd of the month. This storm gave heavy rain over the whole of Britain, giving a record total rainfall for the country. From then October has been mostly quiet with light rain on most days. However, storm Barbara is arriving today (21st) and may give heavier rain.

In spite of being wet, August was one of the warmest in my records. Since then temperatures have been more usual but with no ground frosts yet.

Britain was not the only place with heavy rains in August. There were widespread, severe floods during the summer wet season in the Sahel of west Africa, south of the Sahara. Rivers flooded and some major towns were under water. This was very different to the Sahel in the 1970s and 1980s when there were severe droughts. At that time part of my work was to study the weather in Africa in relation to insect pest outbreaks. In the next *Gummas Gazette*, I am planning to write a short piece describing some of my travels in east Africa in the late 1980s and 1990s. *Mike Tucker* 21 August 2020

Table tennis

Table Tennis on Thursday afternoons has moved back to its usual time; from 2.00 to 4.00.

£3 per session - only six players, so text me to avoid disappointment on 07834 516129 David Wilkinson, who will be able to advise on any Coronavirus restrictions

FOOD BANK

**BISHOP'S CASTLE METHODIST HALL
STATION STREET, SY9 5DD**

**NEW TIMES
WEDNESDAYS 5pm - 6.30pm
FRIDAYS 1.30pm - 3.30pm**

**For further information contact
Andy Stelman on 07773 006413 or
andystelman.t21@btinternet.com**

If in need, this food bank does cover our area.

FUN CHRISTMAS PHOTO COMPETITION

We are inviting the residents of the Parish to take part in a Fun Christmas photo competition.

There will be 2 Groups: UNDER 16'S AND OVERS.
Your photo should be on one of the following themes:

- FUNNIEST CHRISTMAS,
- THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS,
- CLUNGUNFORD AT CHRISTMAS.

Please send to **gunnasphotos@gmail.com**, with your name, age (if under 16) the title of your photo and the category you are entering.

e.g. Mrs N.E Other. Christmas Kitty. The spirit of Christmas.



All photos should be submitted by **6th January 2021**. The winners will be contacted by the **15th January** and winning photos from each class will be available for viewing on Clungunford.com. There will be prizes for the winners of each category and age group.

(The winners will be chosen by the Parish Council and their decision is final)

So why not give it a go and get snapping!

Spooky night in?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR A GHOST STORY?

AS WE CAN'T PLAN A PERFORMANCE OVER THE WINTER HOLIDAY SEASON, THE TEAM BEHIND THE PANTOMIME WILL BE READING SOME SHORT GHOST STORIES THAT THEY WROTE THEMSELVES ON ZOOM ON SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2020 AT 18.00.

IF YOU WANT TO JOIN US TO SEE AND HEAR THE PERFORMANCES THEN PLEASE EMAIL LYSTERS@BTOPENWORLD.COM AND YOU WILL BE SENT AN INVITATION.

PROBABLY NOT SUITABLE FOR UNDER 15'S.

The Stars of Clungunford walking trail!



Stars are widely used as Christmas decorations. Why? They represent:

- Something good and positive
- Beauty
- Good luck
- Divine force and energy
- Protection
- and, of course, the star of Bethlehem.

2020 has seen many changes in our daily lives due to the coronavirus. Our opportunities for Christmas celebrations with family and friends and in the village seem on track to be affected. So let's be creative in our ways of bringing seasonal cheer and goodwill.

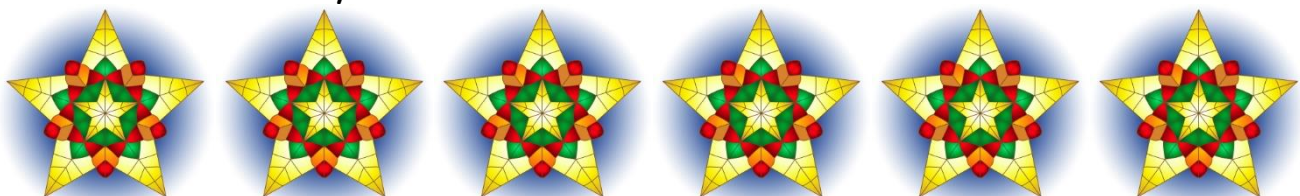
The plan is for as many of us as feel able, to decorate the fronts of our homes and even gardens with stars. Anywhere that can be seen and appreciated by passers by. So get creative in true Blue Peter style. Recycle those cereal boxes and get sticking and colouring or delve in your stash of decorations!

Let's bring multitudes of stars in all sorts of colours, shapes and sizes to our village and visually and cooperatively share the joy of the season.

When?

Anytime between 1 December and 6 January.

Val and Keith Arbery



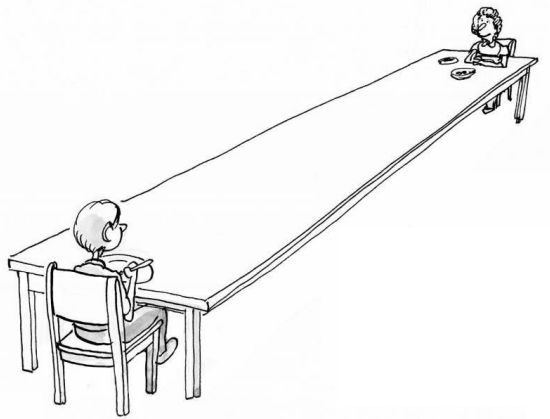
Chef Mario at Ashlea Pools

Mario Baciú was born in October of 1992 in Italy - The Country of Love. Like any young child learning and loving the art of drawing, the soul of football or the pure heart of singing, he began to grow his love for cooking. By the age of seven, Mario was already cooking his first meals. His father, working hard as a butcher and his mother, working long hours, day through to night helping abandoned children, gave him all the time, he could ever want to experiment and create beautiful dishes in the kitchen. After finishing school, he continued his passion for food and enrolled into Gualtiero Marchesi's cooking school to teach children the art of food. Mario spent 5 years pursuing his dream and soon finished at the school: Alma.

Mario learnt so much there that brought him to where he is today. His teacher said to him, "If you have to go, pack your bags and go." So he did. Mario then spent 5 more years in Germany, starting like any other: at zero. He grew from washing dishes and skinning potatoes in Germany to becoming head chef in Austria and travelling all over the globe with his love for food, before reaching the UK and continuing his journey at Ashlea Pools where he met Mr & Mrs Lee Burdon. Mario has come so far, exploring the art of flavour and digging deep into his soul to find what he loved. This was his ultimate dream, and he wants to thank Mr and Mrs Lee Burdon for giving him the opportunity to share his glorious cooking with the world.

Mario is open at Ashlea Pools (subject to Coronavirus rules) for all day breakfasts and for a variety of pizzas and pasta from 4pm till 9pm. All modestly priced, they are available as take-aways. The phone number is 01547 530430, and the menu is also available on Facebook. The Gazette wishes Mario the best of luck in this new and exciting venture.





Gunnas Supper Club

“Having dinner together brings us closer

In an attempt to brighten the winter months with friendship and a shared love of food, I have set up the **Gunnas Supper Club**. Once Coronavirus restrictions permit we aim to meet on the **second Saturday** of each the month.

On October 10th we met at the Lion in Leintwardine to share a delicious 3 course meal and exchange news. Although currently somewhat stymied by the new Covid restrictions (as of 31.10.2020) we would now like to extend the invitation to anyone who would like to join in. The proposed plan is as follows:

- Restaurant meal once a quarter, any number of tables (subject to then current guidelines).
- Home meal for up to 6 people (again subject to then current guidelines). You can host if you have sufficient space, guests will communicate food preferences and bring either starter or dessert. Everyone in the club uses the same recipes or themes and can share reactions afterwards via their chosen media.
- If you are shielding, you can still join in. Cook at home using the same recipes or themes and share reactions afterwards via your chosen media.

Interested? Do get in touch with me.

I will need your email address, mobile phone number and whether you are interested in being a host. I will then allocate venues and the chosen theme as soon as Coronavirus guidelines permit.

Debbie Vivers, queenapis5@gmail.com, 07976 365944 or 01584 856729

The Bar Night scheduled for 6 November at the Village is obviously now cancelled due to Government imposed restrictions. The 4 December Bar Night is likely to be in some jeopardy and may well be cancelled. Please check first with Elizabeth Lyster on 07843 488663 or em at lystere@btopenworld.com