



*The Newsletter for
Clungunford
Volume 25 • Issue 1
September 2021*

THE GUNNAS GAZETTE

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Headline Breaking News Now: Not The Nursing Notes but... The Farming Notes

Hi, Gazetteers. I have been retired from nursing for quite a while now, so am running out of printable events related to my nursing experiences!
However, would my life based on the farm be of interest? Let's see.

To start at the very beginning -

I was born on 10th November 1944 in the farmhouse at Beckjay, with a log fire burning brightly in the grate in the bedroom.

The household already consisted of my mother's parents, her sister - my aunt, my brother, my father when he left the army, and, of course, my mother.

I don't think I ever got over the shock of arriving in the world during the winter, I am always cold!

I underwent a very strict upbringing, my grandfather ruled the house: whatever he said was the rule. He was very well respected both by the household & among the local farmers and traders.

The weekly routine in the house was regular and predictable - Sunday, church, Monday, washday, Tuesday ironing etc. The wives of the farm workers all seemed to get involved on the busy days like washing, cleaning, and when the pig was killed.

They also seemed to do most of the serious mending, like turning the sheets "sides to middle" to prolong the life of the bed linen. This involved cutting the sheet in half lengthwise where it would wear thin, then rejoining the outer edges of the sheet to form a seam down the middle with the less worn part. It meant that there was a bit of a ridge to lie on, but it didn't seem to worry anyone.

The other saving was taking off worn and frayed collars from the men's shirts, cutting a piece of material from the shirt tail, to construct a new collar to reattach to the

shirt neck. The end result looked good. Some shirts were sold with spare collars included for just this purpose.

As children we were always expected to sit at the table with the family for every meal and not allowed to leave the table until my grandfather gave us permission. Sometimes we sat for a long time if we struggled to eat something that we disliked. Also, there was no pudding given to us children if we didn't eat up the main course.

When I was older I had a cat called Jill who sat behind me on my chair. If I was quick, while my grandfather didn't notice, I could slip the "nasty" scraps back to my cat. She never told anyone and my grandfather didn't seem to catch me out!

As a small child I was not allowed into the "back kitchen" when it was washday. This was a big room, open to the rafters which housed a bread oven and 3 boilers, all heated from below each with fires. Two of the boilers were used during washday, being lit early in the morning to get the water hot enough to boil the clothes with soap in one and the other with clean water to rinse them.

Also, there was a big wooden mangle which fascinated me, this squeezed a lot of the water out of the washed clothes and sheets etc, but the entertaining part was watching the buttons fly off the shirts when they weren't put through the mangle carefully. Rubber buttons prevented some of this loss, but they didn't look so smart.

A dolly and tub was used to agitate the dirtier clothes in sudsy water before going into the boiler.

The ladies used to plunge the dolly up and down repeatedly in the tub with considerable force, no "bingo wings" on these ladies arms!!

I used to try & sneak into the room to join in pushing clothes through the mangle, but the risk of injury to anyone's fingers was great and I was quickly ushered out. The whole room was full of activity and steam, fascinating to a small child!

To be continued..... by M B

Sister B adds a postscript:-

In about 600 BC cataract surgery featured in some documents. The patient had to look at the tip of their nose while the surgeon, holding the eyelids apart with thumb and index finger, used a needle-like instrument to pierce the eyeball from the side. It was then sprinkled with breast milk and the outside of the eye bathed with a herbal medication. The surgeon used the instrument to scrape out the clouded lens until the eye 'assumed the glossiness of a resplendent cloudless sun. If the operation were a success, the patient would regain some useful vision, albeit unfocused.

Editor's note: As The Gazette starts its 25th year it should be recorded that Sister B has been one of our longest serving contributors and quite likely one of the most read and prized. Many, many thanks to Sister B for all her past efforts, but, more than that, we are all delighted that the Muse has not forsaken her, and so we look forward to the continuing tales as they unfold.

Gunnas Supper Club - A short history

On 10th October 2020 two small groups met at the Lion in Leintwardine to launch the Gunnas Supper Club. The aim was to share our love of food through social connection, albeit socially distanced on this occasion.

Restrictions soon followed, so we cooked to a theme at home for the next few months; Italian, Pies, Store Cupboard meal, Chinese New Year and Saints night. Photos were shared by email; some more appetising than others but our love of food offered sustenance during a very long winter.

By April 2021, we tentatively started to share food in our homes. Even when minor illness threw down a challenge, we were not defeated as our theme of 'eggs' was easily adapted into a take-away. As confidence grew, we enjoyed 'food by Jamie Oliver' and 'curry' in the following months, meeting in small groups in our homes. We even ran a collection and delivery service for the curries, so every participant could taste each dish.

We are currently 20 members, but anyone is welcome to join. We eat on the second Saturday of the month at 7pm. The aim is to mix and match participants, with hosts cooking the main course and guests bringing a starter or a pudding. Just drop me an email if you'd like to join. *Debbie* email queenapis5@gmail.com

In the Garden

A cloudy day in Clungunford and I've been out in the garden cutting down the grass I allow to grow unchecked until this time of year, when I cut it down and then allow it to grow to the maximum height the mower will allow until the grass cutting season ends, to promote wild flower growth in the sward.

The ivy growing on the holly tree in the corner of the wild grass area, which I cut back to just above ground level about this time last year, is certainly taking a long time to die completely. The holly tree it is growing on, which was flowering at the wrong time of year last year,

has reverted to flowering in the correct season now, however.

Last year we had very few apples or plums to harvest from our trees in the garden, because of inclement weather early in the year, this year, however, the apple trees seem to have a proper sized crop developing on them, and we have already picked and eaten plums.

This year its summer crops like tomatoes, marrows, courgettes, pumpkins and runner beans there's a dearth of in my garden, despite my best efforts to get them to grow. Being a gardener is a thankless task sometimes.

In the garden look out for the daisy like heads of *Zinnia 'Persian Carpet'*, a half hardy annual grown as a bedding plant, with bi-coloured blooms it bears from July through to October if the weather allows. *Brian Taylor*

Another Editor's note: Whilst on the subject of The Gazette starting its 25th year, it should also be recorded that Brian has also been one of our longest serving contributors, if not indeed the longest, and again one of the most read. However, not for Brian a change of narrative – he continues to guide the needy through the realms of horticulture.

Summer 2021- hot June and July - mostly cool, cloudy August

After a wet May, June was very warm and rather dry, with a mean maximum temperature at Hopton Heath of 23C and with only 37mm rain. The highest temperature of 28C was on the 13th but maximum temperatures exceeded 23C on eight days from 8-16 June. At Hopton Heath, this was the warmest June in my records, from 2007.

The mean maximum temperature in July was 25C and was the equal hottest July, with 2013 and 2018 of my records. Maximum temperatures exceeded 30C on five consecutive days from 18-22 July, including 32C on the 19th, which is the highest temperature I have recorded in Shropshire.

July was dry from 13-27th but rain from 2-5th and 28-31st, including heavy rain on the 5th and 29th, made the monthly total 71mm, which was fairly average.

August by contrast has been rather cool, with mean maximum temperatures, up to the 19th of 21C. There was some heavy rain from 6-9th August and light rain from 11-15th, with a total of 37mm by the 19th. It has been mostly cloudy for the whole period from 5-19 August.

Looking back over my records, July has generally been the warmest summer month, except for 2007-2009, when it was cooler and extremely wet. The idea of hot summer holidays in August, that I think I remember from school, seem rarely to be the case now but we can be very thankful that we have not been getting the extreme heatwaves that the Mediterranean has been experiencing this month and also that June and July were nowhere near as hot as in western Canada and USA. *Mike Tucker* (as at 19/8/21)

The Bar at the Village Hall



The bar, if you hadn't already heard, is back in action on Friday evenings, from 7.00 to 10 ish! Socialising and silly games are the order of the day!

Table Tennis at the Village Hall



On Tuesday afternoons, 2.00 until 4.00.
Come and keep fit, improve coordination, drink tea and eat biscuits!!
Coaching available Call David on 01588 660847

Bike Night at the Village Hall



Come and join us on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month if;

- You've got a bike
- You wish you had a bike
- You like bikes
- You like bacon butties!!

We even welcome cars!!

Parish Church News

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).

The planned Services for St Cuthbert's Church Clungunford in the Middle Marches Benefice for September and October 2021 are as follows:

Sunday 12 th September	10.00 am	Family Service
Sunday 19 th September	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 19th September	6.00 pm	Rev Martin Quayle to be licensed by the Bishop of Hereford
Sunday 26 th September	11.00 am	Holy Communion
Thursday 30th September	6.30 pm	Harvest Festival followed by Harvest Supper
Sunday 10 th October	10.00 am	Family Service
Sunday 17 th October	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 24 th October	11.00 am	Holy Communion

The Rev. Martin Quayle comes to join the Middle Marches Benefice

It is with great pleasure that we can announce that Rev. Martin Quayle will be licensed by the Bishop of Hereford on the 19th September. The Rev. Martin and his wife Fiona are looking to move into the Vicarage in Bucknell as he takes on the responsibility of caring for the Middle Marches Benefice. The Rev. Martin will fulfil his duties on a part time basis and will continue to work as a dentist in his Knighton practice. I am sure that you will join with us in wishing him every success in this challenging role.

Do you have the dates for St Cuthbert's Café in your diary?

Much tea and coffee has been drunk, much cake has been consumed and much good conversation has been had as the St Cuthbert's Café has met every second and fourth Thursday morning of the months of July and August. As a reminder the café starts at 10.00 am and runs through until 12.00. The dates for September and October are;

- Thursday 9th September
- Thursday 23rd September
- Thursday 14th October
- Thursday 28th October

The intent of the café is to provide a meeting opportunity. Everyone is welcome in the comfortable surroundings of the Clungunford Village Hall.

Rob Rees and Sara Giffen have taken on the responsibility of organising the café but all help is appreciated by providing a hand on the day or by baking cakes! If you would like to help, please contact Rob or Sara.

Please come long and enjoy the company!

Welcome to Clun Valley Music 2021

Just a reminder that Clun Valley Music will be using St Cuthbert's Church for a concert on Friday 3rd September starting at 7.30pm. This is their second Chamber Music Festival.

The concert features the Ruisi Quartet, who will be playing pieces by Purcell, Stravinski. Haydn and Beethoven. The Ruisi Quartet was founded in 2013 and since then they have been the winners of the prestigious Royal Philharmonic Society award for Young String Players and are recognised as an emerging leading light in a new generation of British string quartets. More information on the quartet can be found on their website; <http://www.ruisiquartet.com/>

Tickets are available online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/clun-valley-music or by phone on 01588 640162. More information can be found at www.clunvalleymusic.co.uk.

We look forward to welcoming the Ruisi Quartet!

The Big Breakfast is back!!!

The **Big Breakfast** this year after a rest during 2020. The 'not to be missed event' will be on **Sunday 5th September in the Churchyard from 9.30 until 11.00** or in the Church if the weather dictates. This will be the best breakfast that you will have this year! With sausages, bacon, eggs, black pudding, mushrooms, toast, marmalade, and wonderful array of baked bean recipes washed down with copious amounts of tea and coffee. This is a must. There is no charge for the breakfast but contributions are very welcome. It would be very helpful, for catering purposes, if you could let either of the Church Wardens know if you intend to come. This is one of the most popular events on the Clungunford

calendar so please just turn up and enjoy great company and wonderful food!

Ride and Stride – Saturday 11th September

Ride and Stride this year will happen on Saturday 11th September. If you are interested in joining us there is just time to get your bicycles out, oil the chain and pump up the tyres. For anyone new to Ride and Stride, it is an annual event organised by The Historic Churches Trust. St Cuthbert's has a long tradition of taking part in this event. Thanks to generous sponsorship and contributions, we have raised many thousands of pounds over the years which benefits the Trust and St Cuthbert's Church as the money raised is split between the two. To make a donation the easiest way is through Just Giving. The link is

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/robert-rees4>

St Cuthbert's Church Open Day – Saturday 11th September

The St Cuthbert's Church Open Day will be on Saturday 11th September, running concurrently with the Ride and Stride. We are pleased to welcome anyone from the parish and beyond who would like to call in and have a look around our lovely church. Everyone is very welcome and **substantial refreshments will be available.**

Time to get your bike checked over free of charge! – Saturday 11th September

Some of you may well have noticed on your visit to Tuffin's that there is a new bike repair shop in Craven; 'Gnar Mech Cycles'.

Gnar Mech Cycles will be offering FREE cycle safety checks outside St Cuthberts from 11am-2pm on the day of Ride and Stride. If parts are required then an estimate will be given.

You don't have to be taking part in the Ride and Stride to take advantage of this kind offer. Just bring your bike down and meet Jordon and Connor.

Harvest Festival and the Harvest Supper – Thursday 30th September

It seems difficult to travel too far around the villages without coming upon the presence of a combine harvester reminding us, if we needed to be reminded, that it's harvest time. St Cuthbert's **Harvest Festival and the Harvest Supper will be on Thursday 30th September starting at 6.30pm.** The short service will be immediately followed by a Harvest Supper in the Church. With the covid restrictions of last year we were unable to hold our Harvest Supper and so this year will be a special celebration.

Tickets for the Supper are available from the Church Wardens (Mike Jones 1588 661145 or Eddie Gledhill 01588 660485) at £8 to include a glass of wine, beer or soft drink. Please support us and welcome in the Harvest. All are very welcome!

Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without 'the competition'!

It may seem that Christmas is a long way away. However, it is never too early to think about the competitive aspects of the season. Building 'the dream team'. Considering 'the tactics'. Assessing 'the competition'. What will you say in that winning speech? Yes – the St Cuthbert's Church Christmas Tree Competition is on it's way!!

Watch this space for more details.

The 100 Club

Winners for July:

1. (£60) Joe Rooney
2. (£30) Christine Tinker
3. (£15) Liz Roberts

Special prize: (£100) Caro Skyrme

Winners for August:

1. (£60) Paula Williamson
2. (£30) Caroline Pieroti
3. (£15) Owen Bywater

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

The Parish Council

At our last meeting we were pleased to co-opt Patricia McHaffie as a councillor to fill the vacancy arising from the recent election. Following on from Neville Rollason's sterling service on their behalf for a number of years, Trish will doubtless take particular interest in the well being of Shelderton residents as well as sharing her wisdom with us on matters generally.

Discussion was had as to whether the Parish Council should promote the revival of an alleged ancient footpath connecting Clungunford and Aston on Clun. After consulting the land-owners likely to be affected and given their strong opposition, it was unanimously decided that the Parish Council would take no action.

Sadly, our Parish Clerk, Max Maxwell, has decided to leave his role, which he has acquitted well. This means that we are on the look-out for a Parish Clerk.

If you would like to apply for the post (a modest salary of around £1,500 per annum is on offer for light administrative but nevertheless interesting duties), do please contact me. Training can be given if need be. Computer literacy is essential.

Our next meeting is on 8 September 2021 at 7pm. This meeting will be held live in the Hall. Interested members of the public, as ever, are welcome to attend. Parish matters before (or after) the meeting may be raised via clungunfordparishcouncil@gmail.com or directly with me. Jonathan Roberts, Chairman (01588 660673: jonathan.roberts@morgoedestates.com).

Flicks are back in Clungunford!! Clungunford Parish Hall Flicks in the Sticks

Friday 24th September 2021 at 8pm

Official Secrets (cert 15)

A morality tale for the 21st century, Official Secrets tells the true story of British Intelligence whistle-blower Katharine Gun who, during the immediate run-up to the 2003 Iraq invasion, leaked a top secret NSA memo exposing a joint US-UK illegal spying operation against members of the UN Security Council.

Starring: Keira Knightley, Matt Smith, and Matthew Goode. Director: Gavin Hood. Docu-Dram

Friday 29th October 2021 at 8pm

Nomadland (cert 12A)

A woman in her sixties who, after losing everything in the Great Recession, embarks on a journey through the American West, living as a van-dwelling modern-day nomad.

Starring: Frances McDormand, David Strathairn, and Charlene Swankie. Director: Chloe Zhao. Drama

Entrance £5.00 Adults £3.00 Children

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

Tel: 01588 660781 (Maureen)

(maureenrooney2012@gmail.com) or 01588 660159 (Keith) for bookings and enquires

We now show all our films with subtitles. We advise booking, and request cash only at the Box Office. Card payments accepted at the bar. Please wear a mask on arrival, but personal choice when seated for the film.

The Slow Ladies

As most of you are walking on September 11th, we will count that as our September walk!

October 5th: a local walk of approx 6-7 miles. Meet in Clungunford car park at 10.00am with picnic.

Please let me know if you can make it. If not I will contact you to see what are your best walking days so we can get some kind of a programme together.

Pauline Mattison (01588 660596)



THE BOWLING GREEN

We are very fortunate to have a lovely bowling green and club house in Clungunford. However, as in many towns and villages bowling clubs are suffering from a lack of membership and the upkeep of facilities is not cheap. We need to look at ways to either make the existing bowling club viable through attracting new members or come up with alternative, financially sustainable uses.

The Village Hall and Green is a registered charity for the benefit of the residents of the Parish of Clungunford so The Trustees are proposing a village consultation to listen to your views and ideas.

If enough people would like to join the bowling club to retain it then that would be the first option. If that cannot be done then we are seeking your thoughts on alternative uses.

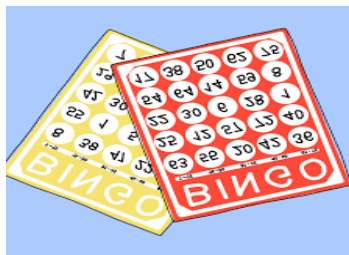
The consultation will run throughout September and close on **September 30th 2021.**

You can submit your views in several ways.

1. E mail the Secretary at: lystere@btopenworld.com
2. Pop a note into the Hall when we are open on Friday evening's between 7pm-10pm.
3. Speak with any of the Trustees who will record your suggestions.
4. Come along to the Trustees meeting on October 6th at 6pm, in The Village Hall, where we will be discussing the results of the consultation.

Elizabeth Lyster

(On behalf of the Village Hall and Green Trustees)



BRING BACK BINGO!

For many, many years Bingo has been played in the Village Hall on a Tuesday evenings. This had to be suspended during Covid but it would be great to start it up again. The good news is that John Laurence and Keith Arbery are willing and able to come back but they need two other people to help with taking the money on the door and sharing out the cash prizes. If you would like to do your bit and help to Bring Back Bingo, please call Keith on 01588 660159.

They can't do it without you!



LIGHTS! MUSIC! AUDITIONS!

The Panto is back!

Following the success of DICK TITTERSTONES AND THE MAYOR OF CLUNFUNFORD we are delighted that we have another new and original script penned by our very own Judith Trustman.

To cheer us post festivities, the Panto will be performed in early January 2022 and we are looking for all manner of people to perform, help with stage sets, costumes, prompt, lighting and everything that is involved in putting on a show.

If you would like to be part of this Clungunford spectacular then please come along to The Village Hall on Sunday 26th September at 2pm.

Everyone is welcome so don't be shy. If you are interested, but cannot attend on the day, then please call Elizabeth Lyster on: 01588 660152

Village Hall & Green Volunteers



We are all rightly proud of our Village Hall and Gunnas Bar but it would not be the success it is without the small army of volunteers who give their time, skills and enthusiasm to make it successful. The Trustees will be hosting the annual volunteers "Thank you" barbeque on Sunday 19th September at the hall, which is our small way of showing appreciation for all that they do and to give us an opportunity to celebrate together.

The volunteers contribute in so many ways but here are some examples:

- Serving in the bar
- Gardening
- Grass mowing
- General maintenance
- Helping with events

If anyone is interested in finding out more about joining our happy band of helpers or would just like to know if you can help in anyway, then please pop along between 2pm-3pm on Sunday 19th September and there might even be a burger in it for you!

Elizabeth Lyster (On behalf of the Trustees)



jacaranda

BY LORNA FRENCH

PENTABUS

www.pentabus.co.uk

Jacaranda by Lorna French

'Sometimes it feels so exposing just walking in the village. I told Jimmy to ignore it at first, he tried to, but it's isolating he said, eyes on you, not a word spoken. Even when you meet their eyes they don't look away. Like they have a right to, like you're a spectacle, an object.'

Olivia has recently moved into her great uncle's farmhouse. She's not local, but she knows her way around. Matty is a gamekeeper, but he doesn't often tell anyone. He's wary of newcomers. These unlikely strangers find themselves beside a stream on the longest night of the year.

Pentabus and Theatre by the Lake present a brilliant new drama from award-winning playwright Lorna French which explores loss, love, prejudice, race and belonging. Writer: Lorna French, Director: Elle While

Fri 15 October, 7.30pm

Clungunford Parish Hall

SY7 OPP

Tickets: 01588 660152

**£12 / U16 £6 / £30 (2adults
+ 3 U16)**

Ages 12+