



THE GUNNAS GAZETTE

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A Merry Christmas to all our Readers



Parish Elders' Christmas Dinner

Those of you among our more senior residents should by now have received your invitation to this year's Christmas Dinner on Sunday 12 December, hosted jointly by the Village Hall Trustees and the Parish Council. We are delighted to be able to hold this event after having to postpone it last year due to Covid.

I would be grateful if you could return your reply slips to me so that I can inform the caterers of final numbers.

Given the age range in the Parish we will be making some changes to the eligibility criteria in the future.

Please note that all of those previously invited will continue to be invited. The UK retirement age has gradually risen since this event first started and it is now

desirable to bring the qualifying age in line with the state pensionable age.

Therefore, anyone aged 66 plus who expresses an interest to attend will be invited in the future. If you fit the age criteria (maybe you are not on our age radar or perhaps you are new to the Parish) and would like to attend this year, then please contact me as soon as possible.

Elizabeth Lyster (Secretary)

Phone: 01588 660152

E mail: lystere@btopenworld.com

The Farming Notes

Christmas, the most exciting time of the year for children, and in our house that certainly applied.

There was a definite pattern that was strictly adhered to each year.

Decorating - nothing was allowed to be put up until Christmas Eve. Prior to this my brother and I would have been making paper chains by cutting strips of paper out of old wrapping paper and gluing the strips, using a glue mixture made from flour and water, to form loops strung together. These paper chains then hung precariously from one corner of the room to the other.

My grandfather used to complain, as the ceilings in the farmhouse were low, and he caught his head on our decorations.

The tree, always real, was erected in the dining room, homemade ornaments, such as paper lanterns and bundles of tinsel screwed up into little balls, small presents and candles in clip-on bases were adorning the tree, but I never saw the candles ever being lit.

Holly was not allowed into the house until Christmas Eve, as it was considered to be unlucky if put up beforehand. Springs of holly were put behind every picture hanging on the walls, across the tops of the dresser, bookcases and in fact anywhere we could lodge a sprig.

Of course, all these decorations had to be down by 12th night, or even more bad luck would befall us.

We lovingly rolled up our paper chains, expecting them to be in pristine condition the following year, unaware that the flour and water paste holding them together would often attract little "beasties" who devoured the flour, causing damage to our masterpieces!

On Christmas Eve we hung our stockings on the fender around the fireplace in our bedroom, always a fire in the

grate during the winter. We were quite sure that Father Christmas could cope with a bit of smoke and ash as the fire burnt down during the night. It was so comforting going to sleep watching the flames in the grate flickering in the darkness.

Christmas morning we woke with the magic of our bulging stockings to open. An orange in the toe, a few nuts, maybe some sweets, a comic, pencils or crayons and very little else, but still magical!

After breakfast we were ordered to keep out of the way and be quiet as the Christmas dinner was prepared. Our dinner was what most consider now to be at lunchtime, but in our house, midday was dinnertime!

There was either a capon (a chicken which was caponised, resulting in a much larger bird) or a goose and all the usual seasonal homegrown vegetables. Christmas pudding followed and a silver sixpence hidden within to be discovered by a lucky person. Somehow it was always in either my portion or that of my brother, more magic?

After the table was cleared and the washing up was done, it was time to open our presents piled under the tree. My grandfather snored gently in his armchair, seemingly oblivious of all the oohing and aahing, as we very carefully unwrapped each present (keeping the wrapping paper to be used again next year - as I still do!)

There were some predictable presents - for my birthday in November, my grandmother always gave me some leather fur lined boots with leather soles and a zip up the front. I was told, "These are for your birthday AND Christmas." I always felt cheated!

However, an aunt and uncle gave me a chemistry set every year, which I loved, and I really looked forward to finding this present. Having done every experiment in the box and used up all the materials, it was good to have a fresh set.

Another predictable present was indoor fireworks; great fun was had lighting these and watching the results unfold before us, often amid much smoke and crackling. Imagine health and safety! No worries back then.

The pattern of Christmas adhered to meant that every Christmas Eve my mother took us children to a neighbouring farming family for tea. They had a brightly lit tree and gave us chocolates!!

We also had parties, where the carpet in the dining room was rolled up, revealing a quarry tiled floor, and we played the usual games like Pass the Parcel, Pin the Tail on the Donkey, Blind Man's Buff, Hide & Seek, Sardines, (great games in a large house where we knew all the best hiding places!) The other favourite game was Spin the Platter, when you had to pay a forfeit if you missed to catch the platter before it fell. My mother, sat with her back to us, always thought up the forfeits we had to do. I think she peeked in the mirror over the mantelpiece and chose the forfeit to suit the child! Nobody went home without a prize of some sort. Aah, Happy Days!! MEB

Sister B can't resist adding another postscript. This remedy is what we all need to know!

How to treat a Sprain in 1885

"For sprains, strains, lame back & rheumatism.

Take good sized toads, four in number; put into boiling water and cook very soft; then take them out and boil the water down to 1/2 pint, and add fresh churned, unsalted butter, 1lb and simmer together, at the last add tincture of arnica 2oz..... Some persons may think it hard on toads, but you could not kill them quicker in any other way"

Unfortunately, this recipe doesn't tell us what to do with the resulting liquid - apply it or drink it?? I leave the choice to you!

In the Garden

A drizzly day in Clungunford and having had my flu jab this morning, I'm using the weather as an excuse to have a day off from the hedge cutting which I would have been doing otherwise.

It's been a varied year for autumn colour. Apart from the vine growing over the bower at the end of the garden, which changed colour a long time ago and has lost all its coloured leaves since, the leaves in the garden have remained resolutely green so far. Probably because of the mild, wet weather we've had.

Not that the weather is the main reason we have autumn colours to enjoy, only how long it lasts some years. The main cause of autumn colour happening is the increasing length of the night.

Colours in plants are the result of the pigments present. Chlorophyll, which is present throughout the growing season, gives us the basic green. Carotenoids, also there all year, produce yellows, oranges and browns. Anthocyanins, which increase their presence in autumn, give the colour to such things as red apples, cherries, strawberries and plums.

As night length increases in the autumn, chlorophyll production first slows down, then stops, and the chlorophyll is destroyed, leaving the other two pigments free to display their own colours.

When in early autumn, in response to shortening days and the declining intensity of the sunlight, the veins in the leaves gradually close off, a layer of cells forms at the base of each leaf. These clogged veins trap sugars in the leaves and promote production of more anthocyanins. Once this process is complete and the connecting tissues sealed off, the leaf is ready to fall.

In the garden, look out for a plant which doesn't change colour in autumn, because it is an evergreen. *Fatsia japonica*, the Japanese aralia, has large, palmate, glossy dark green leaves all year round, but bears dense clusters of globular milky white flowers in November, which are followed by round black fruits. It is frost hardy, but needs shelter from strong winds in cold areas. The leaves of the variety '*Variegata*' have marginal variegations.

Brian Taylor

SAVE THE DATES!



Friday 14th January 7.30pm

Saturday 15th January 7.30pm

Sunday 16th January 2.30pm

MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW.....

Very Warm September and Mild October - so far

From the 23rd August to the 8th September, it was dry in Hopton Heath, with temperatures rising to above 25C from 5-8 September and reaching 29C on the 8th. This was one of the warmest September days on record and although temperatures fell back to the low 20s and high teens until the 27th, the mean maximum temperature in September was equal to that in August and was the highest in my records for Hopton Heath. Warm weather with maximum temperatures from 14-19C continued to the 20th October. With cold air coming from the north today (the 21 October) the minimum went down to 6C and it is now a bright, sunny, cool day. The temperature minimum did get down to 5C on 3 and 11 October, so we have had some cool weather before.

Rain fell mostly in three periods, from 8-13 September, 26 September to 5 October and 17-20 October. In the first and third periods the rainfall totals were only 19-20mm but in the second period the total was 85mm. The total rainfall for September was 83mm, with falls of about 20mm on the 26th and 28th. Thus September was a very warm but quite wet month, in spite of long dry periods.

After the early wet spell, October was dry up to the 16th, although there were a number of misty, autumnal mornings. As atmospheric pressure fell over the next few days, there was some, mostly light rain, which became more continuous on the 19th. Some thundery showers on the 20th preceded the current cool, sunny weather.

An interesting feature of the recent weather has been the variety of cloud types. On 23rd September, during the dry spell, I photographed unusual altocumulus clouds in an otherwise blue sky over Hopton Heath and in early October large cumulus clouds built up over the hills, both towards Shelderton and towards Hopton Hill, without giving any rain, at least in the Clun valley.

The dry weather in late August, for much of September and for 6-16 October has been associated with persistent high pressure systems and the rain with occasional low pressure systems. The remainder of October may be more typical of changeable autumn weather.

Mike Tucker

Croquet meeting

Following the consultation that we held on the future of the Clungunford Bowls Club, we have identified that there seems to be some serious interest in establishing a Croquet Club on the site of the Bowls Club.

We are therefore holding a public meeting in the hall on 9th November at 19.00.

If you are interested in playing croquet, then please attend.

If you can't attend or wish to discuss this, then please contact Simon Lyster on 01588 660152.

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!!

A Christmas Message from Rev Martin Quayle

Christmas is traditionally a time of giving and receiving. The nativity story itself is about an act of generosity of someone to a refugee couple, as the woman was on the point of childbirth. I have read that the stable was the best place to be, because the heat generated by the animals was essentially the families' central heating. I'm not completely convinced, but it is a good story.

All of us recognise that new-born babies are vulnerable, and that the couple themselves were probably tired and lonely. The kindness of strangers may well have been life-saving. Babies need warmth, shelter and somewhere safe to sleep and enough quiet to allow them to feed. Mothers who have just given birth need somewhere to rest and recover. Someone, looked out for this particular baby, and dare we say it, the rest is history.

Today, we might think that in our prosperous and developed country, every new-born is safe, protected and able to sleep and feed, whilst their mothers have the chance to recover and rebuild their physical strength. And yet we all know that this is not the case. Marcus Rashford's campaign about child hunger shines a light on an issue which should embarrass and shame all of us. It may well be that as individuals, we can't do much about the things that dispossess and prevent all children from being safe and fed. However, all of us have the capacity to be generous and compassionate. Christmas is the time when this generosity should be foremost in our thinking and actions.

I wish all in our Benefice a joyous and happy festive season and look forward to getting to know some of you in the coming year.

With my very best wishes, *Martin*

Parish Church News

The Revd Martin Quayle, Vicar for the Parishes of the Middle Marches Benefice, can be contacted by email at office.middlemarches@gmail.com. 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).

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

Sunday 14th November	10.50 am	<i>Service of Remembrance</i>
Sunday 21 st November	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 28th November	11.00 am	<i>Holy Communion with the Rev Martin Quayle</i>
Sunday 12 th December	10.00 am	Family Service
Sunday 19 th December	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Friday 24th December	6.30 pm	<i>Carols around the Crib</i>
Saturday 25th December	11.00 am	<i>Christmas Holy Communion with the Revd Robert Payne</i>

Forthcoming Services

The next two months are a busy time for the Church Calendar but we would like to draw your attention to three services in particular;

- ***Remembrance Sunday*** this year falls on the 14th November. As is customary, we will mark the occasion by the reading of the names of those from our Parish who gave their lives during the wars and remembering them with a minute's silence at 11.00. If you would like someone who is not mentioned on the Church's memorial board to be remembered by having their name read out during the service, please let one of the Church Wardens know so that they can be included.
- There is a further opportunity to sing carols and to also enjoy the dressing of the crib at the Church on Christmas Eve at 6pm at the ***Carols around the Crib*** service. Take a break from the Christmas preparations, get out of the house and enjoy some good singing with friends and family.
- On ***Christmas Day*** we will celebrate Holy Communion with a service led by the Revd Robert Payne

Don't forget St Cuthbert's Café

Just a reminder of the dates for St Cuthbert's Café in the Village which starts at 10.00 am and runs through until 12.00. The dates for November and December are;

- ***Thursday 11th November – Remembrance Day***
- Thursday 25th November
- Thursday 9th December
- Thursday 23rd December

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

You may want especially to be there on the **11th November with friends to observe the two minutes silence as we remember those who have sacrificed their lives during times of conflict.** All money raised by the café on the 11th November will go to the Poppy Appeal.

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 along and enjoy the company!

Saturday 4th December: The Great Clungunford Christmas Tree Celebration!

It's two years ago that we held The Great Clungunford Christmas Tree Celebration and ten teams battled for the prestigious title of the best decorated Christmas tree of the competition. Over 150 people were in St Cuthbert's Church and roared as the Slow Ladies were presented with their prize by Santa Claus having battled off the Bell Ringers, Team Taylor, Tree Generations, the Beckjay Bumpkins, the Church Rowers, the Aston Community Shop, South Shropshire Engineers, Clungunford House and Rectory Court! Will the Slow Ladies succeed again or will some corner of our wonderful community astonish the crowd with their artistic talent to bag this coveted prize? At 4pm on the 4th December Santa will again reveal the winner, chosen by public vote!

At the core of the event will be a Christmas Tree decoration competition between teams from our local community. If you would like to participate or enter a team call the contact numbers below. Teams can be made up of 2 to a maximum of 6 people. **VERY IMPORTANT, you must register your team before 20th November to participate in the competition.**

We will provide the trees and their bases; all the trees will be around 4 feet tall. Each team must bring their own decorations which can be hand-made or shop-bought. Each tree must have a set of electric lights (no candles). You can be as imaginative as you like and choose a theme for your decoration that relates to your specific team.

The event will take place **on Saturday 4th December from 1.30pm to 4.30pm.** Refreshments, cakes and Christmas food will be available throughout the afternoon. It will be fun for all the family, with lots of activities and entertainment. Just come along and enjoy yourself, vote for your favourite tree, all are very welcome. What's more, **admission is free** – so what more could you ask for.

There will be special craft activities for children of all ages based on the theme of Christmas trees and Christmas decorations.

When dark descends we will turn off the main Church lights for a short while and experience the atmosphere of the church lit just by the Christmas Trees.

And finally, a very special visitor may come to present the prize to the winning team.

We hope that you will all come and join us, whether to participate in the competition or just enjoy the atmosphere and entertainment.

Don't forget – ***you have to be in it to win it!***

Points of Contact to register your team: Mike and Isa Jones: 01588661145 or mpjt51@hotmail.com
Eddie and Anne Gledhill: 01588660485 or edward@aegledhill.co.uk

Advent Bible Study

We will be holding a Bible Study course during Advent based on the Book of Jonah. The Book of Jonah raises some interesting parallels with present day issues even though it was written almost 2800 years ago. The course will run for four weeks starting on Monday 22nd November. The first meeting will be at Abcott Manor starting at 7pm. If you would like to join us, please contact one of the Church Wardens.

Ring the Church Bells

We have started to ring the six bells of St Cuthbert's Church once more to welcome people to services. The ringing started with 3 bells – Three Blind Mice – and has reached the dizzy heights of 5 bells. We have not yet managed to ring all 6 bells since the pandemic. Are you a bell ringer looking for a tower? Would you like to ring church bells? If so, we would love to hear from you. Please contact one of the Church Wardens if you are interested.

Christmas Concert – Thursday 16th December at 7.30pm

We are very pleased to announce that Robert Bunting will be leading a Christmas Concert at St Cuthbert's Church, Clungunford at 7.30pm on Thursday 16th December. Robert is a long-time friend of the Church and has conducted choral workshops at St Cuthbert's for several years. He will be bringing together singers from around the area along with some from the former Clungunford Choir in a programme that combines pieces from the great classical traditions of Christmas music with music that springs from the English rural tradition of village music.

Handel's Messiah is very much a Christmas piece and we are pleased to inform you that a small chamber orchestra will be performing the Christmas Symphony from the Messiah.

We are always conscious of our responsibility towards the Binn's organ at St Cuthbert's and with this in mind the programme will include two organ pieces both by

Bach. Many of you will know Alistair Auld from his work with the More Choir and the Marches Choir. As well as his work with these choirs he is also a very accomplished organist and we are looking forward to his performance.

Tickets are £5 each and are available from the Church Wardens or at the door to include refreshments and mince pies!

A Christmas Poetry Special – Sunday 19th December at 3 pm

Join us for our annual poetry reading event as we share our favourite seasonal poems – old and new, secular and sacred, wise and funny – to tell a story of Christmas. Enjoy festive nibbles and warming mulled wine in this beautiful candle-lit Church of St Cuthbert, while celebrating the magic of midwinter.

Tickets are £10 per adult, children free. To book, please email anndreda@icloud.com or phone 01588 660154.

Christmas Carols at the Village Hall Bar Night! – 8pm on Friday 17th December

Can you play an instrument of any description? Do you enjoy a sing-song? Do you drink? If you can do one or more of these why not come along to a Christmas Carol singing session in the village Hall as part of Bar Night. It doesn't matter if you bring along a recorder or a violin, you play it well or 'not so well', you sing with gusto or prefer to sing to your feet, as long as you want to enjoy yourself with a bit of Christmas spirit you will be very welcome!

Ride and Stride and the Harvest Festival and Supper

Many thanks to all those who supported the *Ride and Stride* this year. This has become a major occasion in the St Cuthbert's Church calendar and this year fielded twelve striders and eight riders. With not a blister suffered it was a good day for all and helped raise much needed funds both for St Cuthbert's and other historic churches in Shropshire. We take the opportunity of Ride and Stride Day to *open the Church at St Cuthbert's* and offer sandwiches and cakes along with copious amounts of tea and coffee to all who visit us. Thanks to all who made this a warm and welcoming day.

The *Harvest Celebration* this year involved poetry, singing, prayers, a quiz, beef casserole, baked potatoes, apple crumble, wine, beer, cider and, the most important ingredient, good company! Fifty people joined together from the oldest to the youngest in St Cuthbert's Church to enjoy the evening. The Celebration was led by Chris Tinker and she was joined with readings from Anna Dreda and prayers from Christine Flitney. Two highlights from the evening were a wonderful solo by Tim Hughes of the 'Harvest Hymn' by John Betjeman sung to the tune of 'We plough the fields and scatter', and the 'Rock and Roll Harvest' sung by the James children which brought tears to the eyes of many!

The quiz was a close competition and the eventual winning table took home a bag of vegetables each. The quiz went to an exciting tie break as two tables scored the same. The winner was decided by a game of 'Heads and Tales' between the two tables and we can report that Pat Morris' 'Head' beat Jim Bason's 'Tale' to firmly establish her table as the proud winners.

Many thanks to all that helped make this both an enjoyable and memorable evening.



The Striders 2021



The Diners at Harvest Festival

Clungunford Parish Hall Flicks in the Sticks

Friday 19th November 2021 at 8pm

The Father (cert 12A)

81-year-old Anthony lives ostensibly alone in his London flat, visited by his daughter Anne, and fighting off the carers she tries to impose on him. But all is not as it seems as we enter the fragmented consciousness of a man in the grip of dementia in which familiar people and places shape-shift and merge into one another. This is a moving but unflinching take on ageing.

Starring: Anthony Hopkins and Olivia Colman

Director: Florian Zeller: Drama

Friday 10th December 2021 at 8pm

Love Sarah (cert 12)

A young woman wishes to fulfill her mother's dream of opening her own bakery in Notting Hill, London. To do this, she enlists the help of an old friend and her grandma.

Starring: Celia Imrie, Shelley Conn, and Rupert Penry-Jones

Director: Eliza Schroeder : Romance-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

Friday 12 November. All being well Hilary will lead a walk from Lingen to Brampton Bryan where we will have lunch at Aardvark Books. Please let me know if you can come and I will give you more details then.

Friday 3 December. A low level walk to The Lion at Leintwardine where we will have lunch. We either return by the bus at 1pm or you may wish to walk home. Meet by the 'Tea Rooms' at 10am.

All are welcome to join us. *Pauline Mattison* (01588 660596)

Postcard from Africa

Sir David Attenborough warns us that the forthcoming conference on climate change is the last chance that the global community has to prevent irreversible damage to the environment and to reverse the trend in ever increasing global temperatures. Unless concrete steps are taken to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, forest fires of the kind that so badly devastated parts of Australia and California recently will become more widespread, low-lying island nations will completely disappear under the rising sea levels and other parts of the world currently populated will become uninhabitable due to drought and intolerable temperatures. Potentially millions of people will be forced to migrate to other areas simply to survive.

We have to hope that the discussions in Glasgow will be productive and will not descend into finger-pointing, nation accusing industrialised nation of who carries the greatest share of the blame. Climate change is an issue, probably like no other before, that needs international agreement and collaboration between nations, regardless of political and ideological differences that they may have. A tall order. But for Africa, the outcome will be crucial. It is estimated that the continent has only contributed about 2% of the emissions that are the cause of global warming, but it is likely to be one of the most badly affected areas of the world, if it continues unchecked.

Comparatively speaking, there has been little industrialisation across Africa, the vast majority of the population being involved in food production in one way or another. Climate change is already having a big impact: seasons used to be quite predictable but now rain falls when it should be dry and vice versa. Generations of knowledge about planting and harvesting of crops is now irrelevant. Weather "events" are already much more extreme: parts of eastern and central Africa have been devastated by flooding in recent years, crops have been washed away and houses destroyed. Other parts seem to be in perpetual drought – grasslands used by pastoralists have dried up and livestock have died. Some of the crops that are of great economic importance to Africa – tea, coffee and cocoa for instance – may no longer be viable if the temperatures continue to rise.

Africa is doing what it can, with its limited resources, to address some of these problems. More forests are being protected and there is increased interest in some of the traditional crops of Africa. Crops such as sorghum and millet had fallen out of favour, following the introduction of higher-yielding, but less well adapted crops, such as maize. One very ambitious project – the Great Green Wall project – aims to plant a 5,000-mile wall of trees, stretching from Senegal on the west coast of Africa, to Djibouti in the east. It will help to reduce desertification of the Sahel region of Africa as well as take carbon out of the atmosphere. By the time that it is completed, 100 million hectares of degraded land will have been brought back into production and, most importantly, 10 million "green" jobs will have been

created in rural areas of the 20 countries that are involved. When it is completed, it will be a new wonder of the world. Many more projects, on a much smaller scale are being implemented by communities across the continent: harvesting of rainwater, tree planting to prevent soil erosion, promoting improved cooking stoves to reduce the demand for firewood. However, time is not on their side. Delegates from across Africa will be coming to Glasgow, but it remains to be seen if the messages they bring will be heard. We must all hope so as we are all in this together. *Rob Rees*

The 100 Club

Winners for September:

1. (£60) Jonathan Starkey
2. (£30) May Bywater
3. (£15) David Roberts

Winners for October:

1. (£60) Iris Groves
2. (£30) Mike Jones
3. (£15) John Morris

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).

Aunt Ag

The Gazette's own special adviser on social affairs replies to problems posed by readers, particularly with regard to the Festive Season.

Mr P Z of Gunnas writes: Last Christmas my wife and I held an open house party on Christmas Eve. Unfortunately, my wife got caught up in a lengthy embrace with the young man from next door underneath the mistletoe. Apparently, the mistletoe was very sticky last year, and having got caught up in it, they found it very difficult to separate. How do I stop a recurrence of this, especially as the other guests were gawping and *sotto voce* seemingly criticizing the quality of my mistletoe?

Aunt Ag advises: This sort of thing can happen when mistletoe is newly harvested and used by the inexperienced. Under no circumstances should tongues be allowed to come into contact either with the mistletoe or with each other. Mistletoe should be raised well above head height. Other measures you might like to consider are as follows:

- (a) not inviting the young man from next door or
- (b) not inviting your wife or
- (c) occupying the mistletoe yourself with the young man's young lady or
- (d) dispensing with mistletoe altogether and installing floodlights to illuminate all trysting spots in the room

Mr & Mrs Brock from the Shelderton Badger Sett write: Due to the current widespread incidence of disease among humans we have applied for a licence to cull everybody.

Do you have a copy of the Electoral Roll to assist, please? This is necessary to preserve wild-life. We are really sorry to have to do this, as we regard humans as lovely fur-less creatures.

Aunt Ag advises: We all love humans, don't we, but we well understand the problem you badgers and other members of the wild-life community have. Is culling the population of Gunnas really the answer, particularly before Christmas? The scientists are still out on this one. The Parish Council was going to do this generally as a way of halting the spread of Covid-19. However, after much discussion some councillors merely favoured selective culling (e.g. one in every ten). Moreover, one councillor pointed out that if all villagers were culled, there then would then be no one left to pay any taxes (i.e. no more expenses, no more first class trips to climate conferences in Bucknell, no more jollies down the Village Hall etc etc). It was also thought that a general cull would likely result in people from other villages moving in to fill up the space. So could I suggest a trial cull first, say, in Powys? Alternatively, what about trapping the population and removing us elsewhere? Norfolk seems a nice place.

Mr D B Y of Abcott writes: How do I sneak into the annual Christmas Dinner? I am only 59.

Aunt Ag writes: Really, we thought you were much older than that – you certainly look it. In fact, we only saying the other day at the Village Hall Bar Night how rough you looked and were wondering whether you would last till the New Year. The invitation you were going to get has been rescinded. Thank you for confirming.

The Parish Council

At our last meeting we were pleased to welcome Patricia McHaffie as a councillor, filling by co-option the vacancy arising from the recent election.

Commendably leaping straight into Council business, Tris undertook to superintend the planting of a tree on the playing field to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee next year.

Various pot-hole problems were brought up by councillors, and these were duly reported to Shropshire Council, as was the continuing lack of poles on which to affix our speed signs.

We also discussed the search for a replacement Parish Clerk and concluded the roles of Clerk and website administrator will probably have to be split. An advert for a replacement clerk is being circulated (including in this edition of *The Gazette*).

Our next meeting is on 10 November 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).



The Great Clungunford Christmas Tree Celebration

ST CUTHBERT'S
Saturday 4th December 2021
From 1.30pm to 4.30pm

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATION CONTEST

 **Craft Activities for children**
 **Live Music**  **Raffle**
 **Tea, coffee and cakes**
 **Featuring a Very Special Visitor**

Free admission

**Enter the competition or just come along and be
part of this special celebration**

For more details refer to "The Gunnas Gazzete" or www.clungunford.com

Contact: Mike Jones mpjt51@hotmail.com 01588661145 or

Edward Gledhill edward@aepledhill.co.uk 01588660485



Christmas Poetry Special

Clungunford Church

Sunday December 19th at 3pm

Join us for our annual poetry reading event as we share our favourite seasonal poems ~ old and new, secular and sacred, wise and funny ~ to tell a story of Christmas.



Enjoy festive nibbles and warming mulled wine in this beautiful candle-lit church, while celebrating the magic of midwinter.

Tickets are £10 per adult, children free. To book, please email arndreda@icloud.com or phone 01588 660154.

All Covid regulations will be adhered to.

St. Cuthbert's Church, Clungunford
presents

A Concert of Christmas Music

7.30 pm on Thursday 16th December

Robert Bunting conducts the Clungunford Singers in this evening of choral pieces from the great classical musical traditions of Christmas and with music that springs from English rural village life. The evening will feature organ music by Bach played by Alistair Auld, and players performing the Christmas Symphony from Handel's Messiah. The concert will be followed by light refreshments.

Tickets are £5 and available from Mike Jones mpjt51@hotmail.com 01588661145 or Edward Gledhill edward@aegledhill.co.uk 01588660485

On Saturday 13th November, The Marches Choir, conducted by Alistair Auld, will present Haydn's Creation. The singers in the 70-strong chorus will be joined by 15 others from Cardigan in West Wales, a full Orchestra and three professional soloists - Caroline Clarke (Soprano), Andrew Morris (Tenor) and Alistair Ollerenshaw (Bass).

The choir is delighted to be presenting a joyful evening of music, which will be a fitting way to celebrate their return to performance after the Covid-enforced break - it is hard to imagine a choral work more life-affirming than Haydn's Creation, a vision of the universe that embraces both earthworms and angels, with music that is uplifting throughout. Undoubtedly the most famous chorus from the work is The Heavens Are Telling, a much loved setting of Psalm 19, but the whole work is full of wonderful choruses, duets, trios and solos, presented in a seamless outpouring of musical inspiration. The concert will also feature Mozart's Andante in C Major for Flute and Orchestra, with Chris Lacey as soloist. Chris lives locally and also sings with the Marches Choir, having previously played flute and piccolo professionally for West End shows, television and symphony orchestras.

The venue is St John's Church, Bishops Castle, SY7 8AZ at 7.30pm. Tickets (£12, children and students free) are available by calling 01588 650315 or online via www.ticketsource.co.uk, and can also be purchased from choir members or on the night.



Please come and Join us for an evening of

Wine and Wisdom

1st Annual Christmas Quiz!

26th November 2021

Bar open 7 p.m., Quiz starts 7.30 p.m.

Please ring Madelene

On 01588 660847

or 07841 903159

to secure a table of 6 to 8, all welcome

£6.00 per head, Includes wine, cheese and bread.

Please feel free to bring your own snacks if you wish.

Proceeds to go to upkeep of your village hall



CLUNGUNFORD Parish Council

Appointment of Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer

A vacancy has occurred for a Parish Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer to commence as soon as possible.

For this varied and interesting position, candidates must be computer literate and have internet access. Candidates need not have previous experience working as a Parish Clerk and/or have knowledge of local government, as training can be provided.

The Clerk is responsible for preparing agendas, taking minutes, dealing with correspondence and local government officials, managing of accounts, helping to prepare budgets, dealing with the minimal VAT and PAYE returns and organising audits. Administration of the Parish Council website would be helpful, but is not essential. The ability to communicate well at all levels is important. For applicants unfamiliar with these procedures plenty of help is available, as councillors take an active role in doing the work that needs to be done in this vibrant village. The Parish Council boasts a full complement of parish councillors.

The salary is negotiable based on hours worked (usually around three hours per week).

Attendance is required at the Parish Council Meetings held in the village hall on the second Wednesday of every second month at 7pm (6 per year) other extraordinary meetings may be arranged as necessary throughout the year.

For further details, please contact:

Jonathan Roberts (Chair) on 01588 660673 or by email at
jonathan.roberts@morgoedestates.com