



*The Newsletter for  
Clungunford  
Volume 25 • Issue 4  
March 2022*

# THE GUNNAS GAZETTE

*Keep up to date with local news and events....visit [www.clungunford.com](http://www.clungunford.com)*

## *The Queen's Jubilee*



Along with the rest of the country, the Village would like to plan some events to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. We are proposing a Big Jubilee Picnic on the Village Green on Sunday 5th June. But we would like to hear if any villagers would like to organise any additional activities or events on this once in a lifetime occasion.

To start this discussion, we are inviting all interested villagers to meet at the Village Hall on Thursday 10th March at 19.30. If you can't attend but would like to contribute, then please call Rob Rees on 07497 427376. Bring your ideas and, importantly, names of whoever will be willing to turn them into reality.

## ***Post Office Services at Village Hall***

Please note that as from Thursday 3 March the mobile Post Office service will operate new hours from 11.45 am to 12.45 pm

## *Litter pick*

*Saturday 26 March at 10 am*

*The time has come to spruce up the village once more... just in time for Spring.*

*If you would like to help in this very public spirited task, please come to the Village Hall car-park at 10.00 am on Saturday 26 March, and we will divide out lengths between volunteers.*

*All are welcome – young or old – but children should please be supervised.*

*Sticks and bags for rubbish will be provided but helpers should please wear bright clothing – we now have our own high visibility jackets and litter pickers.*

*As in previous years, safety is paramount in this exercise, as volunteers participate entirely at their own risk.*

*If you cannot make it on the day, but wish to clear up your own frontages/hedgerows, you are welcome to bring all rubbish collected to Clungunford House for ultimate disposal.*

*All enquiries to Jonathan Roberts on 01588 660673.*

## ***A message from Rev Martin Quayle***

We are now in the season of Lent. For many, they give up either chocolate or alcohol, and feel that it is sufficient to accomplish all that is required in the spiritual sense. There is a place in spiritual engagement and activity for fasting. We know from recent work in physiology that fasting can have significant benefits in relation to our psychological and physical health. We all know that eating well is part of self-care and having a good diet not only makes us feel better, but we live longer and with a higher quality of life.

For most of us, we are not going to reduce our calorific intake, or if we do, it is about the health benefits rather than aiming to improve ourselves spiritually. If we want to use the Lenten period to work on our spirituality, then there are simple things we can do to effect growth and development. The point of this, is that when we develop spiritually, our resilience deepens. Our ability to withstand the vicissitudes of life develops, and although we may not be 'happier', we will find a sense of well-being which can often be difficult to describe fully or accurately.

For those of faith, spiritual development is about reflecting on the Bible, setting aside time for prayer, and looking to see how we can help those around us. It does involve a sense of setting aside our own needs and desires from time to time, and putting others first. Those who are not of faith can also do things to develop themselves in this way. Spending time in nature is a positive step, and many do in this special part of the country. Equally, setting aside time to meditate or reflect deeply can bring about significant changes to our sense of well-being. But above all, nurturing kindness by both planned and spontaneous generosity brings about all kinds of benefits. Again, our community is somewhere where many do these things, and do so quietly and effectively. These acts of kindness are often repaid, but not in ways that we may anticipate.

I wish all of you a contented and nurturing time through Lent, in what is proving to be a worrying and troubling year.

*Martin*

## ***The Farming Notes***

This month I am just going down memory lane as a result of an article I read. In case you haven't seen it I will share it with you:-

Back in the days of tanners and bobs,  
When Mothers had patience and Fathers had jobs.  
When football team families wore hand me down shoes,  
And TV gave only two channels to choose.

Back in the days of three-penny bits,  
When schools employed nurses to search for your nits.  
When snowballs were harmless, ice slides were permitted.

And all of your jumpers were warm and hand knitted.

Back in the days of hot ginger beers,  
When children remained so for more than six years.  
When children respected what other folk said,  
And pot was a thing kept under your bed.

Back in the days of listen with Mother,  
When neighbours were friendly and talked to each other.  
When cars were so rare you could play in the street.  
When Doctors made house calls, Police walked the beat.

Back in the days of Milligan's Goons,  
When butter was butter and songs all had tunes.  
It was dumplings for dinner and trifle for tea,  
And your annual break was a day at the sea.

Back in the days of Dixon's Dock Green,  
Crackerjack pens and Lyons ice cream.  
When children could freely wear National Health glasses,  
And teachers all stood at the FRONT of their classes.

Back in the days of rocking and reeling,  
When mobiles were things that were hung from the ceiling.  
When woodwork and pottery got taught in the schools,  
And everyone dreamed of a win on the pools.

Back in the days when I was a kid,  
I can't help but smile at the things that we did,  
Hopscotch and roller skates, snowballs to lob.  
Back in the days of tanners and bobs.

Were those the Good Old Days? Those of us of a certain age think so, I wonder what today's generation would think? *M.E.B.*

*P.S.*

Sister B couldn't help sharing this small fact:

The human heart produces enough pressure to squirt blood thirty feet.... and it usually lands right on your clean uniform!

## ***In the Garden***

A cloudy sort of day in Clungunford, and I've just been debating whether or not the ground has dried out enough since our last storm to for me to try to work out on it.

We've been having enough storms in such quick succession lately, you'd they could have all managed to get by with just the one common shared name between them, not the plethora of them, too many to remember. Popping out in the garden with something for the compost bin last week, I noticed that the pond was full of frog spawn. Sometimes the frogs make themselves very obvious with their amorous activities, but this time

they seem to have carried on with it in rain too heavy for us humans to venture out in it.

Just what the wild life does in your garden regardless of any input from you is a matter of great interest sometimes.

A few year ago on August Bank Holiday a very large bat I identified later as a Noctule Bat, known for its large size and swift flight, misjudged that swift flight whilst hunting insects on our patio at twilight, ended up in our house, and had to be encouraged to go back outside without harm to any of us, bat or human. We have never seen the bat since.

Back in January, having put the Christmas decorations back in the attic until next Christmas, we were disturbed an hour or two later by a Noctule Bat we assume we had disturbed from its hibernation whilst in the attic, hibernation which should have carried on until March, zooming around us for a while before, we assume again, disappearing back to wherever it had been hibernating when we disturbed it.

In the garden, away from passing frogs and hibernating Noctule Bats, look out for the flattened cymes of white, pink budded flowers amongst the dense luxurious masses of glossy dark green oval leaves of *Viburnum Tinus*, the 'Laurustinus.' *Brian Taylor*

## ***Flicks in the Sticks at Clungunford Parish Hall***

**Friday 11th March 2022 at 7.30pm (PLEASE NOTE START TIME)**

**No Time To Die** (cert 12a)

James Bond is enjoying a tranquil life in Jamaica after leaving active service. However, his peace is short-lived as his old CIA friend, Felix Leiter, shows up and asks for help. The mission to rescue a kidnapped scientist turns out to be far more treacherous than expected.

**Starring: Daniel Craig, Ana de Armas, Rami Malek**

**Director: Cary Joji Fukunaga      Drama**

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**Friday 8th April 2022 at 8pm**

**The Courier** (cert 12a)

The true story of a British businessman unwittingly recruited into one of the greatest international conflicts in history. Forming an unlikely partnership with a Soviet officer hoping to prevent a nuclear confrontation, the two men work together to provide the crucial intelligence used to defuse the Cuban Missile Crisis.

**Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Merab Ninidze, Rachel Brosnahan.**

**Director: Dominic Cooke      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](mailto: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.**

## ***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](mailto: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](mailto:mpjt51@hotmail.com)) or Edward Gledhill (tel: 01588 660485, email: [edward@aegledhill.co.uk](mailto:edward@aegledhill.co.uk)).**

**The planned Services for St Cuthbert's Church, Clungunford in the Middle Marches Benefice for March and April 2022 are as follows:**

Sunday March	13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Family Service
Sunday March	20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
<b>Sunday March</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00 am	<b>Mothering Sunday</b> Holy Communion with the Revd Martin Quayle
Sunday April	10 <sup>th</sup>	10.00 am	<b>Palm Sunday</b> Family Service
Sunday April	17 <sup>th</sup>	11.15 am	<b>Easter Sunday</b> Holy Communion with the Revd Martin Quayle
Sunday April	24 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Holy Communion with the Revd Martin Quayle

*Though covid restrictions have now been lifted we continue to have hand sanitising points in the Church and masks are provided for those who may wish to use one but have forgotten to bring one. During services the windows are open, and doors left ajar to enable maximum ventilation. We are following every measure to make*

*visiting and worshipping in St Cuthbert's Church safe and accessible to all.*

### **Lent course across the Benefice**

This year the Revd Martin will be running a Lent Course in churches across the Benefice. It will be a series of four sessions, each of which will be a fifteen minute talk followed by an opportunity for 'questions and answers', and a short 'Compline' service.

The sessions will be run on the following dates and locations;

- Wednesday 9th March, 6pm, Llanfair Waterdine
- Thursday 17th March, 7pm, Clungunford,
- Thursday 24th March, 7pm, Chapel Lawn
- Thursday 31st March, 7pm, Bucknell

### **Don't forget St Cuthbert's Café**

The bakers of Clungunford Parish have found yet more delicious home-made cakes recipes and their efforts can be sampled only at 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 March and April are:

- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April
- Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April

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 baking cakes! If you would like to help please contact Rob or Sara.

Please come along and enjoy the company.

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

The AGM this year will be on the 21st March at 7.45 in the Church. This is occasion to hear and ask questions about the state of St Cuthbert's Church from a financial, fabric and worshipping perspective. It is also an opportunity to say 'thank you' to those who contribute to the running of the Church. This includes those involved with the running of services, those who decorate the Church with flowers throughout the year, the bell ringers who welcome people to services and those who help with the everyday practicalities that the Church requires. The AGM is typically a short meeting and followed by 'cheese and wine' and a social gathering. All are very welcome.

The APCM is a legal requirement and is a meeting chaired by the Vicar. At this meeting the various positions in the church, such as the Church Wardens, Treasurer, PCC members etc, are agreed and voted upon. The Annual Report and the Financial Report are among those presented and signed off. As with the AGM, all are welcome to attend. The date of the APCM is 27<sup>th</sup> march and will follow the Sunday Communion Service..

### **The More Singers' Spring Concert at St Cuthbert's (Dvořák Mass in D)**

It is with great pleasure that we can announce that the More Choir will be bringing their Spring Concert to St Cuthbert's Church on *Saturday the 26th March at 7.30pm*. The More Singers is a chamber choir, founded in 1973 and based in Church Stretton. *Alistair Auld is the choir's Musical Director and the organist for the occasion will be Richard Walker.*

Richard is one of the best known organists in Shropshire; formerly Assistant Organist at St Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh and then Organist at St John's Church, Princes St in Edinburgh; he is now Assistant Director of Music at St Chad's Church, Shrewsbury, where he plays for most of the larger-scale events. He has given recitals in many English and Scottish cathedrals and churches and also in Germany and the USA.

The major work of the evening is Dvořák's Mass in D and this will be complemented by work by Mendelssohn, Brahms and Bruckner. Alistair Auld says "This is the first time I have conducted the Dvořák's Mass in D and it is, without doubt, a work of tremendous ingenuity and depth of expression, having a universal appeal amongst music lovers. With more great choral music from neighbouring German composers Brahms, Bruckner and Mendelssohn, the concert presents a really exciting programme. The wonderful Binns organ at Clungunford will be played in all its glory and the programme was chosen with this in mind. We hope many music lovers in the area will join us for what promises to be a wonderful evening of music!"

The duration of the concert will be approximately an hour and, as a Covid awareness measure, there will be no interval. Entry to the concert is £10 at the door.

### **Robert Bunting's Singing Workshop**

Robert Bunting's Singing Workshop during Holy Week has become a regular event on the St Cuthbert's calendar. We are very pleased that Robert will be running this very popular event on Wednesday 13th April. This is a full day event with the workshop taking the majority of the day followed by a concert in the evening. We are still very aware of the need for Covid measures and so the attendance will be limited to fifty singers. If you would like to participate in this thoroughly enjoyable day, please

contact Robert ([burnside79@virginmedia.com](mailto:burnside79@virginmedia.com)) for more details.

### **St Cuthbert's Walking Group - 2022 Pilgrimage: Glastonbury to Wells Cathedral (and St Cuthbert's Church in Wells)**

For all walkers, if you are interested in joining this group please get in contact with Hilary White for further information. Email: [hrw1@live.co.uk](mailto:hrw1@live.co.uk) or phone 01588 660154.

The dates are 19th-21st October, 2022. All welcome!

### **Spring Clean**

We are planning a Spring Clean of St Cuthbert's on the 18th March from 10 am through until 3pm. If you have time to give to help, it would be most appreciated. Please can you let either Mike or Eddie know if you can help.

### ***The Slow Ladies***

#### **Friday 11 March**

This will be a 5 mile circular walk from Yarpole. Please meet at Yarpole Church at 9.30am, this to ensure we are back at the Church in time for lunch at their cafe.

Let us know if you wish to join us so that we can let the cafe ladies know how many to expect.

For any further details contact Anne Gledhill 01588 660 485 / 07989 208863:

Mary Bason 01547 540 782 / 07800 530960

Full description of walk available

on [www.herefordshire.gov.uk/circularwalks](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/circularwalks)

#### **Thursday 24 March**

Some of you will be interested in a walk to soups and puddings at Clunbury Village Hall, repeating a walk often previously done pre Covid times. Please contact Anthea if you wish to take part, who will give the meeting time at her house: tel 01588 660500

**April** To be decided in due course

### ***The 100 Club***

#### **Winners for January:**

1. (£60) Paula Williamson
2. (£30) Ann Hunt
3. (£15) Christine Tinker

#### **Winners for February:**

1. (£60) Ann Hunt
2. (£30) Ennis Brown
3. (£15) Robin 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).

### ***Clerk to the Clungunford Parish Charities***

The Clungunford Parish Charities exist to give residents financial help which may be applied for. These funds are administered by trustees in accordance with the rules laid down by the Charities' Commission.

Grants are made from two distinct funds - The Clungunford Fund existing to benefit Clungunford residents who have limited means, especially in times of special need and The Education Fund existing to promote the education of young people. This includes social, physical, and artistic education of people of 25 years and younger, who are normally resident in the parish.

Due to the current incumbent moving out of the Parish, a vacancy now exists for Clerk to the Clungunford Parish Charities.

The Clerk deals with the administration, correspondence, finances and accounts of the two charities. The Clerk works in close liaison with the Chair and Trustees. A small honorarium is paid annually.

If you wish to apply for this post, then please submit your application in letter form, stating why you wish to be Clerk to the Clungunford Charities and your experience enabling you to carry out the role. Send this to Christine Tinker, Chair of Trustees, by email [ctinker101@gmail.com](mailto:ctinker101@gmail.com) or by letter to Bower Cottage, Clungunford, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 0PN.

The closing date for applications is Mon 21 Mar 22.

If you would like to discuss anything about the post, then phone Christine (Chris) on 07970 577614.

### ***Late autumn and winter 2021-22 - storms and a long dry period***

Storms Dudley and Eunice from 15-19 February will probably be what we most remember about this year's winter weather but there were four earlier named storms from late November onwards and also a three week dry period in January.

Heavy rain fell at the end of October with a total rainfall of 70mm at Hopton Heath in the last four days of the month. November was mostly dry with some fog until the 26-27th when Storm Arwen gave 16mm rain and gales which felled many small trees, especially in hedgerows and in Hopton Wood. This was followed by two clear, frosty days and the total rainfall for November was only 32mm.

December began with slight snow on the 2nd but light rain for the next five days. Then Storm Barra gave a total of 48mm from the 7-9 December and more strong winds. Rain fell on most days during the rest of the month, generally light but heavier on the 12th, 25th and 27th with a total for the month of 130mm, well above average. There were some very mild temperatures, such as the 14C maxima on the 13th, 29th, 30th and 31st December. These were record high temperatures for December and more usual for April.



In January there was a total rainfall of only 34mm, falling mostly in the first week. It was dry with frosts at night from 12-30 January and Storm Malik, on the 29th produced some wind but no rain at Hopton Heath. It was, presumably located over Scotland, as was Storm Corrie at the end of the month, that produced only 2.3mm rain. We were then talking about how dry the winter was!

February began mild with mostly light rain, except the 6th when I recorded 17mm. Then all changed on the 12th, when it became very windy as the first of the intense low pressure systems crossed Britain. The first, from 13-14 February was not named but gave 18mm rain, very strong winds, especially in the north and west and an atmospheric pressure of 996mb at Hopton Heath. A proposed trip to see our daughter at Bangor University was cancelled. Then, on the 16th, Storm Dudley hit, being particularly damaging in the north of England and Scotland, again with a pressure of 996mb and 18mm rain at Hopton Heath. We are just beginning to emerge from the effects of Storm Eunice which hit southern Britain on 18 February, with winds up to 100mph on the Isle of Wight and much structural damage. It was forecast, with many warnings, and locally it does not seem to have been as damaging as Storms Arwen and Barra, early in the winter but nationally it was recorded as the strongest storm for decades. It did, however, produce 30mm rain at Hopton Heath and some flooding of the Rivers Clun and Teme.

This Saturday afternoon is still windy, with some rain and more heavy rain is forecast for tomorrow, the 20th February. The winter is not over yet. *Mike Tucker*  
19.02.22

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## *The Gunnas Gazette by email*

We are making genuine progress in reducing the number of printed copies of *The Gazette* delivered.

However, there is still more that can be achieved, so if you can receive your Gazette by email, please sign up to do so by sending an email to [gunnasingazette@aol.com](mailto:gunnasingazette@aol.com).

Just remember, you will be able to read the *The Gazette* in colour by signing up for the digital edition.

## St Cuthbert's Holiday Club 2022

Plans are afoot to resurrect Cuthbert's Holiday Club! Newcomers to the village may not know that for one week every summer St Cuthbert's church is transformed by volunteers into an activity club for local children and grandchildren of local residents. It last took place in 2019 and ran from 2.00 'til 5.00pm each day at a cost per child of £10 for the week, including refreshments.

If there is sufficient interest, we hope to run it again each day from 2.00-5.00pm in the week beginning Monday 8 August. 2.00 - 5.00pm. It will be open for children aged 5 and upwards.

Please could you let Anne Gledhill or Catherine Lishman know asap if you have children in your family who may consider attending - children/grandchildren/nephews/nieces of school age.

Many people who have helped in previous years are willing to help again but we always welcome new faces, so please get in touch with either of us for more information or to volunteer either an additional pair of hands or a particular skill.

Catherine Lishman:  
[catherinelishman@hotmail.com](mailto:catherinelishman@hotmail.com)  
01588 660 231

Anne Gledhill: [annegledhill@outlook.com](mailto:annegledhill@outlook.com)  
01588 660 485

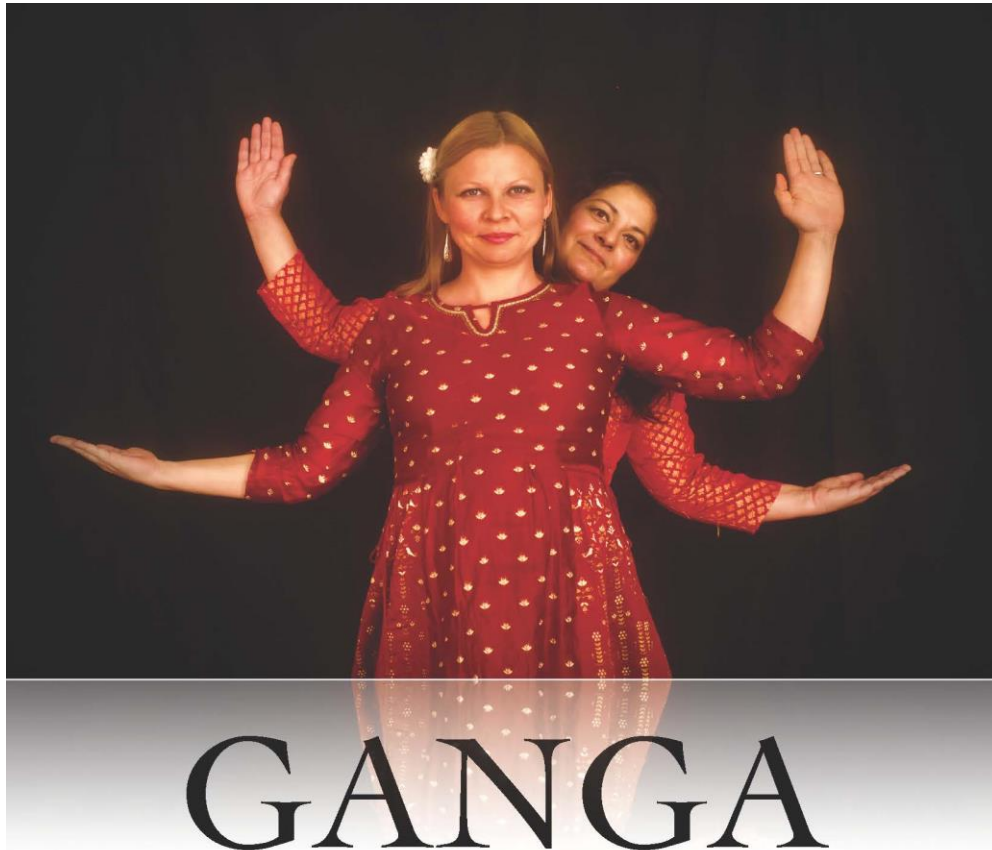


There are lots of upcoming events so here is a taster to whet your appetite. Further event specific information will follow closer to the time or can be found at [Clungunford.com](http://Clungunford.com) or on the Clungunford Village Hall Facebook page.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2022**

- **Bar Nights: Every Friday 7pm-10pm**
- **St Cuthberts Café: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays.**
- **Supper with Matt: 4 March.**
- **Monthly Saturday Night Dance: 12 March.**
- **Flicks in the Sticks: "No Time to Die". 11 March.**
- **Arts Alive: "Ganga": 18 March.**
- **The Queens Big Jubilee Picnic: 5 June.**
- **Village Hall and Green Summer Party: 16 July.**
- **Clungunford Classic Motor Show: 14 August.**
- **A Clungunford Christmas Carol: 25/26/27 November.**
- **The Great Annual Wine and Wisdom Quiz: 3 December.**

***Remember, the Hall, Bar and Kitchen are available to hire at very reasonable prices for parties, anniversaries, private dining or for any reason you want a spacious, airy venue.  
See [Clungunford.com](http://Clungunford.com) for more information.***



# GANGA

## *Tales of Transformation*

EMILY HENNESSEY & SHEEMA MUKHERJEE

When the River Goddess leaps from the skies, only Shiva's hair can catch her wild torrents. But still she roars, surging from mountains to sea, leaving no stone - or ego - unturned as she washes illusion from the truth.

In the heavens, bored brothers steal the holy cow and face a terrible punishment - a life on earth!

A king has more sons than space, but taking a fancy to the Sky God's palace is never going to end well.

**Storyteller Emily Hennessey and sitar player Sheema Mukherjee conjure fast-flowing worlds of cosmic creatures, celestial curses, wise women and gods behaving badly in these Indian stories of liberation, love, life, truth and illusion.**

**Clungunford Village Hall Friday 18 March at 7.30**

**Tickets from our own VH box office 01588 660152 or from [artsalive.co.uk](http://artsalive.co.uk)**

**Adult: £12.00 Child: £6.00 Family: £30.00**



## ***Spread the news about bees***

Spread the news that in 2022 your community landscape has been identified as part of the solution to the loss of flowers and pollinators.

The B-Lines are a series of 'insect pathways' running through our countryside and towns, along which we are restoring and creating a series of wildflower-rich habitat stepping stones. They link existing wildlife areas together, creating a network, like a railway, that will weave across the British landscape. This will provide large areas of brand new habitat benefiting bees and butterflies— but also a host of other wildlife.

<https://www.buglife.org.uk/our-work/b-lines/>

Dave Goulson is coming to Shropshire. "We need an army of people at all levels of society" to reverse insect decline. Anyone with access to the outdoors can participate.

*We can all help in many ways, first by turning our gardens and urban greenspaces into oases for life, and second by fundamentally changing the way we grow food, and the food we buy.*

<https://www.theatresevern.co.uk/shows/talks/silent-earth/>

Just find a community champion, book a ticket for **Thursday 5th May at Theatre Severn** and join **Shropshire Wildlife Trust** in signposting us all towards making a difference.

I really hope that I will see you on 5th May! *Debbie Vivers*

## ***The Marches Choir***

The Marches Choir of Bishop's Castle, 15 additional singers from Cardigan in West Wales, the Marches Sinfonia and a host of professional soloists and musicians are combining forces to bring an exquisite evening of choral and orchestral music to the town on Saturday, April 2nd. The concert is devoted entirely to the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, whose tragically short life produced such a prolific output of inspired music, including Operas, Symphonies, Concertos, Choral and Chamber Music.

The featured work will be the Requiem in D Minor, composed at the very end of Mozart's life. The work is widely acknowledged as one of the greatest choral pieces of all time, displaying dramatic contrasts of expression, from the most subtle and beautiful turn of phrase as exemplified in the heart-rendering Lachrimosa, to the equally captivating power of the thunderous Dies Irae and the dramatic Rex Tremendae.

The brilliant and evocative Violin Concerto No 4 in D, K 218 is one of Mozart's best-loved works for violin and orchestra, and the Sinfonia will be joined by the gifted young violinist, Ayla Sahin who makes a welcome return to Shropshire following her previous appearance in 2018 when she performed Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto to much acclaim. Opening the concert is the jubilant C-major antiphon Regina Coeli, K. 276, a most delightful example of Mozart's early choral works, full of boundless energy. A musical treat is in store!

The venue is St John's Church, Bishops Castle, SY9 5AF at 7.30pm. Tickets (£15, children and students free) are available by calling 01588 650315 or online via [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk), and can also be purchased from choir members or on the night.

## ***Awakening***

Circle Dance returns to the village hall on Sunday 10th April, 10.30 - 4pm with dancing to the theme of 'Awakening'. The dances will be led by Anna Dreda and Jeanette Whitford, and Anna will bring poems to share on the theme. The dances are suitable for those with no experience, or lots, and every dance will be taught.

The cost is £15 and please bring a packed lunch. Teas and coffees will be provided. Wear comfy shoes. All enquiries to [annadreda@icloud.com](mailto:annadreda@icloud.com) All very welcome.



## ***The Parish Council***

At our meeting in January we were pleased to confirm the appointment of Jeanine Honour as Parish Clerk.

We discussed plans for an extension at The Lynches, and there were no objections.

As is usual, various highways matters were discussed and comments passed on to the appropriate authorities.

At a subsequent meeting of the planning sub committee the new outline plans for Clungunford Farm were discussed. These were found to be an improvement on previous proposals, and comments to that effect were submitted to Shropshire Council with remarks on how it was recommended that the access be improved, both for safety reasons and to maintain the street-scape appearance. It was commented also that the hedge to the west of the site should be protected both during and after development and that the sewerage system proposed should take into account the rights of existing users (if any).

Our next meeting is on 9 March 2022 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](mailto:clungunfordparishcouncil@gmail.com) or directly with me. Jonathan Roberts, Chairman (01588 660673: [jonathan.roberts@morgoedestates.com](mailto:jonathan.roberts@morgoedestates.com)).

## *Sacred Space*



*Sacred Space is a new event taking place in St Cuthbert's Church on Friday 8th April, 7 ~ 8pm. We will gather together to share an hour of music and silence, led by Anna Dreda and Clare Johnson. We will use music to take us into a period of silent reflection, then music again, then silence, and so on, until the hour is ended by the ringing of a bell.*

*Sacred Space originated in St Peter's Church, Easthope, Shipton, and Anna is happy to bring it to Clungunford. Any enquiries to [annadreda@icloud.com](mailto:annadreda@icloud.com). All very welcome.*

## *The Mystery of Frederick William Evans by Brian Taylor – Part I*

When the man compiling a history of the men whose names appeared on the war memorials in Shropshire, as having died during the first world war, got in touch with me as parish clerk of Clungunford at the time, to ask me to ask in the village for any information concerning one of the men whose names appeared on our war memorial, whom he was having trouble pinning down as belonging to our village, namely one Frederick Wilfred Evans, I expected it to be a piece of cake for me to find out which local family he had been a part of. Evans, I knew, was a common name in the village, so how much trouble could it be to find out which family he had actually been a part of?

It turned out not to be the case at all. Evans *had* been a common name in the village once upon a time, but wasn't anymore. Hadn't been for quite a long time in fact. No one, in the village, it turned out, could furnish me with any information concerning the man on our war memorial at all.

I wasn't as perturbed by that as I should have been. I subscribe to Ancestry.com, and through them, had successfully researched my own family history. How much more difficult could it be to find out how the man on our war memorial came to have been there in the first place?

Much more difficult as it turned out. It didn't help that he was born in Tenbury Wells, the son of Edwin B Evans, a postman, and his wife, Emma, in the bosom of whose family the young Frederick appeared in the 1901 census along with two brothers and two sisters, a family gathering from which he had disappeared at the time of the 1911 census, having left home at some time, still in Tenbury Wells as it happened, but page boy to a physician and surgeon, a single man.

There haven't been the results of any published census since, and he wouldn't have appeared on them anyway, if there had, because the next appearance of the unfortunate Frederick, was on the Menin Gate war memorial, dedicated to the hundreds of thousands who died in the first world war, without any grave of their own to mark their passing, where he was recorded as service number 11501 of the 5<sup>th</sup> Kings Shropshire Light Infantry, who died on 25<sup>th</sup> of September 1915, aged 19, son of Mr and Mrs Bernard Evans of 35 Cross Street, Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire, without any mention at all of the village on whose war memorial his name appears, Clungunford in Shropshire, or how he came to be there.

The family originated near Eardisley, in Herefordshire, according to the place of birth William Evans, Frederick's grandfather, gave on all the Census returns he ever filled in, a place really in the back of beyond, near the Welsh and English border, with Kington possibly the nearest town. He never actually appeared in a census there at all, though. The closest he ever came to

it was to appear amongst a group in nearby Kinnersley, about a mile across the fields from Eardisley, in 1841, when he appeared in the company of Richard Evans, a stone mason, and a number of other people of the same name, though, it being 1841, without any relationship with each other being given. Margaret, Christina, Thomas and baby John were there with William, along with Anne Davies and James Downes, who were probably both servants of some sort.

In 1851, William, described as an Ironmonger, was living in Banbury, Oxfordshire, a very long way away from Kinnersley, with wife, Sarah, who had been born in Wellesbourne on Warwickshire, along with son Robert G, aged 2 and eight month old daughter Mary, both born in Banbury, Mary Flint a 50years old annuitant from Avondale in Warwickshire, James Middleton, an ironmongers assistant, Thomas Swinbourne and Sophie Read, both house servants, and Amanda Hanna, a nursemaid.

The family had moved on to Kingsholm, Gloucester by 1861. William Evans was now an Ironmonger traveller from Nelson, Eardisley, living with wife, Sarah, daughter, Mary Frances 10, and sons Edwin B, William and Henry, all born in Banbury, and Mary Flint was visiting again.

In 1871 the family were still in Gloucestershire, but at St Mary's South Hamlet. William was a commercial traveller now, Mary a governess, and William an apprentice, though it didn't say to which trade; both had been born in Banbury. There were Edwin and Anna, both born in Gloucester, and said to be scholars, and Mary Flint was still there and described as William's mother-in-law now.

In 1881 the family, still in Gloucester, had moved again, this time to Oxford Road, St John the Baptist. William was away working as a commercial traveller, leaving wife Sarah, in charge. Edwin B, now 27, was a Draper's Assistant, Agnes B a daughter, was assisting at home, Mary Flint, 81, was now described as a gentlewoman. Mary Mulholland aged 4 from Durham, was a visitor. It was the last time William was head of household, he and Sarah, now described as retired, had moved to Cardiff by the time of the 1891 Census.

Whether Edwin B set up home as a result of that, or him setting up home promoted it, by 1891 he had moved to Tenbury Wells, in Worcestershire, a very long way away from Gloucester, where the new mineral water works was attracting workers, though he wasn't working for them at the time, but living along Cross Street, employed as an insurance agent, with new wife Emma, from Westbury in Gloucester and sons Maurice 3, and William 1, both born in Hereford.

He had changed jobs to that of a postman in 1901, though still living along Cross Street with wife, Emma, sons Maurice, now a telephone messenger from Westbury, and William 11, from Hereford, daughters Catherine, 7 Nora, 19 months and sons Frederick, 5, and Reginald, 4, all scholars and all from Tenbury Wells.

It was the only time Frederick was recorded by a census as living in the bosom of his family. By 1911, though the others were still living at 35 Cross Street, Tenbury Wells,

with Edwin now recorded as working at the mineral plant, son Evan Ewart a railway porter, and other son, Reginald a telegraph messenger, whilst daughters Teresa and Annie were both scholars. Frederick Wilfred Evans, 15, had left home and was being employed as a page boy to a surgeon/physician living elsewhere in Tenbury Wells.

All were still around, probably, to take part in the next Census, due to be held in 1921. By then, though, the name Frederick Wilfred Evans had been inscribed amongst the names of the other unfortunates on the Menin Gate war memorial, in Belgium, dedicated to the hundreds of thousands who died in the first world war, without any grave of their own to mark their passing, as well as amongst the names of the twelve men from Clungunford, who had died during the fighting in the First World War. Someone had thought Frederick important enough to Clungunford to put his names forward to be inscribed on the new war memorial erected in the church.

At the time of Frederick's death, you still had to be a volunteer to go off and fight in the battlefields of France and Belgium. Conscription was still two years away at that time, when not enough young men were coming forward as canon fodder anymore, for the authorities to get by without. Frederick must have been a volunteer not a conscript then, and had he not volunteered at that particular time, he might not have died in the war at all, but been fighting on a completely different Front.

Tenbury Wells was about twelve miles away from Clungunford, if you travelled in a straight line. In a different county even. Unlikely that the young man would find his way into a position with the staff at Clungunford House, working for the Rock family, who were Lords of the Manor of Clungunford at that time.

In Blue Ribbon Days, an account, in part, of life in Clungunford during the latter part of the eighteen hundreds and the early nineteen hundreds, Thomas Edward Lewis wrote an account of his early life there, before he eventually left to become a draper's apprentice in Knighton, his brother already filling the role of apprentice to his saddler father.

In the book he also gave a family history, beginning with the Bridgwater family who owned much of the village of Clungunford at the time, telling how the last female member of that family, married a farmer, John Evans, by whom one son and four daughters were born.

The son eventually married and moved away to Cleobury Mortimer, where he took over an inn, called The Talbot, thereby ending the Evan's family's association with Clungunford. The daughters, meanwhile, were married to a number of local tradesmen in the area, one of whom was Edward Lewis, a carpenter, who lived at Sycamore Cottage, which became a Saddlery first and then the village post office as well.

It was run by Thomas Edward's brother and sister, Mary Anne and John, who carried on with running both until the second world war, as well as setting up a Primitive Methodist chapel in their grounds, for which they did a

lot of fund raising. Both were there together at the time of the First World War. John usually having an apprentice saddler working for him as well.

Whether the Evans family from whom the Lewises were descended came from Eardisley or not is impossible to say, because the Clungunford parish registers have a lot of gaps in them at vital times. Eardisley is only about eighteen miles from Clungunford in a straight line, so it *is* possible that that was the case. And that being the case it is also possible that Frederick Evans, having found his way to Clungunford to work as an apprentice saddler sometime between appearing on the 1911 census at Tenbury Wells, working as a page boy, also found his way to fight and die on the western front on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1915, aged only 19 at the time. In fact, working in the saddlery might have been what took him there in the first place.

[The conclusion of Brian's investigation will appear in the next edition of *The Gazette*]

## ***Postcard from Africa***

There have been two momentous events in the past week, of considerable significance to us here in Britain, but which also have resonance across Africa. The first issue was good news for all of us here: relaxation of restrictions on our movements and behaviour that had been introduced to combat Covid, returning us all to almost, pre-pandemic days. The second issue was not good news and has devastated all free-thinking people around the globe: the invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

I suspect that there was a huge collective sigh of relief when it was announced that Covid restrictions here were going to be lifted. No more compulsory mask wearing, not even on public transport and no more self-isolation following a positive rapid-flow test. We have to thank the very effective vaccination campaign that has been rolled out here, especially the booster jab that has reduced the number of serious infections and hospitalisations. Despite this good news, we should not forget the adage that was in wide circulation in the early stages of the pandemic, that no-one is safe until we are all safe. All countries in Africa are at least a year behind Britain in their response – according to the WHO, only around 13% of the African population have been fully immunised and unless this figure rises significantly and quickly, there is every likelihood that new variants will emerge that then rebound on us. There are a number of reasons for Africa being so far behind, not least of which are poor public health services. Inadequate facilities for the storage and handling of the vaccine, for instance, and lack of appropriately qualified staff all play their part, but the very slow rate at which vaccines were being made available by the countries where they were manufactured is also a major contributory factor. While richer countries in Europe and America were sitting on big stockpiles of vaccine, African countries were unable to buy the

vaccines directly and had to wait until the richer countries' needs were satisfied before they could take up any surplus that was available. Sadly, Britain was one of the countries that was and still is, hoarding vaccines and have even had to destroy some stocks as their shelf-life had expired. This should be declared a crime against humanity.

In addition to the impact on public health, a not so obvious side effect of the pandemic has been on the economies of countries across Africa. With a reduction in international trade and commerce generally, the World Bank estimates that around 40 million people in Africa will have been pushed into extreme poverty by the pandemic. It will take decades for countries whose economies were struggling beforehand, to get back to where they were prior to 2020.

Few people in Africa, who follow international events, will be surprised by the attempted take-over of Ukraine by Russia. They will say that it is a sign of Russia's attempts to impose its political will on other countries in whatever way it can – something that has been happening in Africa for many years. A shadowy Russian paramilitary organisation called the Wagner group has been deployed, to "advise" African governments and to promote Russian influence and interests. Wagner personnel recently appeared in Mali in West Africa, shortly after a French peace-keeping force had been withdrawn. It might be coincidental, but the military junta that is currently in power, then declared that it was going to remain in power of at least the next 5 years and would not be handing over to a civilian government as they had originally promised. Similarly in Sudan, it is widely believed that Wagner has a presence there, advising the military members of the joint council that has been running the country since the overthrow of the former president, Omer el Bashir in 2019. They are held responsible for the disbandment of the joint military-civilian council in October 2021, the detention of the Prime Minister and the assumption of overall power by the army. Dreams of a new, democratically elected government in Sudan were crushed, even though every day in Khartoum, thousands of unarmed protesters come out onto the streets to call for a restoration of the transitional process. Of course, the Russian presence is not seen, they remain in the shadows, pulling strings and it will be very difficult for the civilians in Sudan to dislodge them. Probably, the only way that their influence will be curtailed will be a change of attitude in Moscow, something that the whole civilised world is hoping for, before Armageddon is rained down on us all.

*Rob Rees*