

*The Newsletter for
Clungunford
Volume 21 • Issue 3
January 2018*

THE GUNNAS GAZETTE

A Happy New Year to All Our Readers



The snowfall on 9/10 December produced some magical scenes around the village. This excellent view from the porch of St Cuthbert's was captured by Julie Mitchell of School Lane

Club and Parish Hall News

The Club Dinner for the more senior members of the parish on 10 December was its usual success, thanks to the catering of Wendy Oakley. Given the snow abounding in Shropshire on the day, you will not be surprised to learn that this was about the only social event in the county that was not cancelled that day. Well done to all who braved the elements and contributed to the success of the event, as well as avoiding what would otherwise have been the problem of what to do with 70 odd turkey dinners!

At the time of writing over 100 are expected for the New Year celebratory dance.

More generally, the fencing around the bowling green has been renewed. The old railings were becoming a little tottery in places, and with some long drops to the car-park, there really was little choice other than to face up to the necessary expenditure. Nigel Lewis and his team from Ludlow did the work well and are to be thanked.

The new kitchen is now up and running, and we are now nearing the end game on the refurbishment that started 10 years ago! It is accordingly high time to thank the Parish Hall and Club Committees for their perseverance with the task. It has been a long and expensive haul, but apart from some initial grant assistance from the former South Shropshire Council – yes, it was that long ago when we started – all the funds hitherto have been contributed from village individuals and organisations. It is a tremendous effort, and there have been some who, quite reasonably, doubted we would ever reach this point.

Taking it down a level thanks are also due to the many individual contractors who have contributed over the years. From Alan Middleton and Rowsons at the start down to Mark Disley more recently, this has been a far from easy project and they have all contributed manfully and skillfully without having much of a plan to work to. The input of Brian Robinson on services – and generally – has been immense, and it is only his recent absence due to illness that has made the rest of us appreciate the effort he has put into making the hall function over the years. Well done to one and all, and thank you.

There is a bit more to do, of course. Keen volunteers – Max Maxwell and Matthew Trustman - are now looking at finishing off the project and raising the funds to complete the “extra room”. These plans are quite exciting and are progressing well, and it is quite feasible to hope there may be some grant funding available to go with funds already committed. More will be announced shortly.

Suffice it to say, the Parish Hall and The Club committees can have a sanguine outlook on 2018. The Club policy of staging events to supplement the Saturday offering will continue. Hitherto it has been a success and the first event of 20 is:

May Contain Food - May Contain You



Award-winning dance theatre company Protein presents a playful, immersive show that explores our relationship with food in an evening of indulgence, nostalgia and mischief. A dance show to delight those who aren't sure that they like dance, a treat for those who know they do! Great opportunities for sharing food and personal food stories.

Friday 23 February 2018 at 7.30 pm

CLUNGUNFORD PARISH HALL

Age range 12+ Tickets Adult: £10.00 Child: £5.00 Obtainable from 01588 660152

This is a joint production with Arts Alive. It will be followed thereafter by

The Dancing Club

More details will be available on posters distributed a little near the time and on the village website at www.clungunford.com but to give you a flavour of the piece

An empty ballroom is brought to life as tales of dancing and music across generations wake up the dance teachers. Frank and Wynn got a town dancing after the war and kept people moving through

the explosion of rock and roll, northern soul and disco. A space to express yourself. You could learn the waltz one night and see Marc Bolan and Captain Beefheart the next. Everyone is welcome as dreams are made and refuge found. It's time to learn a new dance and you're all welcome to try a few steps.

Friday 2 March 2018 at 7.30 pm

CLUNGUNFORD PARISH HALL

Tickets Adult: £10.00 Child: £5.00 Obtainable from 01588 660152

This is a joint production with Arts Alive.

Flicks in the Sticks at Clungunford Parish Hall

Friday 26 January 2018 at 8pm

My Cousin Rachel (cert 12)

Philip is a young Englishman who finds his cousin Ambrose dead after traveling to Florence, Italy. He vows revenge against Ambrose's missing wife Rachel, blaming her for his untimely demise. When Philip meets Rachel for the first time, his mood suddenly changes as he finds himself falling for her seductive charm and beauty. As his obsession for her grows, Rachel now hatches a scheme to win back her late husband's estate from the unsuspecting Philip.

Starring: Rachel Weisz and Sam Claflin

Director: Roger Michell Mystery/ Drama

Friday 16 February 2018 at 8pm

The Mountain Between Us (cert 12a)

Stranded after a tragic plane crash, two strangers must forge a connection to survive the extreme elements of a remote snow covered mountain. When they realize help is not coming, they embark on a perilous journey across hundreds of miles of wilderness, pushing one another to endure and discovering strength they never knew possible.

Starring: Idris Elba and Kate Winslet

Director: Hany Abu-Assad Thriller/ Drama

Entrance £4.00 Adults £2.00 Children
Licensed Bar, Ice creams, raffle (Donations welcomed),
good car parking

Tel: 01588 660727 (Ann) or 01588 660781

(Maureen) (maureenrooney2012@gmail.com) for enquiries and reservations

We now show all our films with subtitles

We have an email list for anyone who would like to receive an email reminder each month of information on our forthcoming films including links to trailers and reviews.

If you would like to go on the list, please email: mike@mikeandrewshomeopathy.co.uk with your details.

The Parish Council

The planning application for the poultry units at Hopton Heath rumbles on.

The Parish Council commissioned a noise report to counteract that submitted by the applicants. Suffice it to say, the experts reported that the application, if proceeded with, would likely lead to complaints. The applicants have also been requested by Shropshire Council to look again at their landscaping assessment.

Reading between the lines, it would also appear that there may be some difficulties over emissions.

The points now raised are points, of course, which we all raised last time round (and had dismissed, save for noise). I am hopeful that this time round Shropshire Council will examine matters much more critically than before, where the impression was always that the officers were convinced by the strength of the application even before it came into the public domain.

The result of all this is that we cannot yet say when the application will come before the Shropshire South Planning Committee, but it is not likely to be before February.

The next Parish Council meeting is due to take place at 8 pm on Wednesday 10 January in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend. Parish matters before (or after) the meeting may be raised either with me or with our clerk, Brian Taylor (01588 660653: gunnasclerk@sky.com). Jonathan Roberts, Chairman (01588 660673: jonathan.roberts@morgoedestates.com)

(Definitely Not The) Nursing Notes.....

Just for a laugh, how easily the language can be interpreted to mean something else altogether!

These are genuine extracts from letters written to local councils in Britain:-

1. It's the dog mess that I find hard to swallow.
2. I wish to report that tiles are missing from the outside toilet roof. I think it was bad wind the other day that blew them off.
3. My lavatory seat is cracked, where do I stand?
4. I am writing on behalf of my sink, which is coming away from the wall.
5. Will you please send someone to mend the garden path. My wife tripped and fell on it yesterday and now she is pregnant.
6. I request permission to remove my drawers in the kitchen.
7. Dear sirs, 50% of the walls are damp, 50% have crumbling plaster and 50% are just plain filthy.

8. I am still having problems with smoke in my new drawers.

9. The toilet is blocked and we cannot bath the children until it is cleared.

10. Will you please send a man to look at my water, it's a funny colour and not fit to drink.

11. Our lavatory seat is broken in half and now is in three pieces.

12. Our kitchen floor is damp. We have two children and would like a third, so please send someone round to do something about it.

13. I have had the clerk of works down on the floor six times but I still have no satisfaction.

14. This is to let you know that our lavatory seat is broke and we can't get BBC 2.

Sister B

P.S. Nursing is a calling, but I'm not sure who called me or how they got my number.

Editor's note: this is an edited list of the council correspondence. The unedited list is even funnier, but may be more suited to an adult audience. If you are an adult and wish to see the full list, please email the editor at gunnasgazette@aol.com and it will be sent to you with the compliments of The Gazette.

The 100 Club

Winners for November:

1. (£60) Isabelle Jones
2. (£30) Jim Bason
3. (£15) Geoffrey Rollason

Winners for December:

Special £100 prize: Macduff Roberts

1. (£60) Sally Price
2. (£30) Susanna Rocke
3. (£15) Alan Williamson

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).

Defibrillator

Lin Brown has kindly offered to conduct a training course to use the defibrillator (or a refresher course for those previously trained). This is likely to be on 13 January in the morning at a venue to be set. To gauge interest, please contact me as soon as possible on 01588 660673. *Jonathan Roberts*

The Slow Ladies

Thursday 25 January A walk from The Baron (of Beef) in Bucknell. Length of walk will depend on the weather. Meet there at 10am. Lunch there.

Thursday 15 February Oakley Mynd. About 5 miles. Meet in Car park at 9.30 am Lunch in the Powys Arms, Lydbury North.

Please let me know if you wish to join us. We are always pleased to welcome new faces and feet to our walking group. *Pauline Mattison* 01588 660596

In The Garden

A bitterly cold day in Clungunford, and I've been thinking about the Winter Solstice, just a day or two away, one of the great fire festivals of the year. People used to light their Yule log at the start of it and have it burning throughout the season. Oak if they could get it, because that was considered most sacred of all.

Nowadays we are less likely to have a Yule log alight in our homes, but we may go to see a pantomime sometime over the Christmas season. Cinderella perhaps.

There can be few people who have never heard of Cinderella. The story of the young girl who overcomes adversity with the help of her fairy godmother is a popular folk tale throughout Europe, where at least 500 versions of it have been recorded. Less well known, are her connections with vestal virgins, hearth spirits and the cradle of civilisation.

The roots of the story as we know it can be traced relatively easily to Roman primitive religion, though it is undoubtedly much older than that. Religion in ancient Rome was a family affair in the charge of the head of each family group. Concerned mainly with the personal and material welfare of those involved, it had little room for more than the most rudimentary of moral overtones.

Worship centred on the home as the gathering point for the family and within the home took as its focus the hearth. Tending the hearth was the responsibility of the younger, unmarried daughters of the family.

The practice mirrored that adopted by the royal family of Rome in the early days before the Empire. Though the rule was by king, succession was through the female line, as consort to the reigning monarch. This lent an importance to the royal daughters similar to that of the princesses of ancient Egypt.

The hearth was the centre of Roman life and within it burned a perpetual flame, which was tended for longer or shorter periods, depending on the need. Whilst the royal sons were being sent out into the world to find suitable wives and foreign lands in which to settle, their sisters remained at home until such a time as one of their number, having been chosen as consort to their successor, gave birth to daughters of their own.

Proof that the cult was of an antiquity far beyond that of the growing Rome rests in their choice of sacred animal and of sacred fuel for their fire. The latter - in common with that burnt on sacred fires in many lands which never fell under the influence of the Imperial Empire - was oak. The former was the Mediterranean ass. Basis enough for suspecting that this particular form of worship arose in ancient times in the Middle East - the cradle of civilization.

Wherever she originated, however, and under whatever guise, there is no escaping the fact that Vesta was greatly venerated in ancient Rome, where she was believed to belong to the inner circle of twelve gods. Patroness of fire and hearth, she was served by spirits who took responsibility for various parts of the home and by young girls who served her through the College of Vestals.

At first there were only two, then four, then finally six maidens who served Vesta in that capacity. They were chosen only from the best families and served under the direction of the chief priest, one of whose jobs was to whip them should the sacred fire go out. Girls as young as seven years old were taken for training and obliged to serve for at least thirty years before they could retire and marry if they so wished, though few did.

Vestal Virgins played a prominent part in Roman life, particularly the religious aspects of it, and their house was a repository for wills and other important documents. Ordinary people regarded the maidens with the awe and respect such arbiters with the gods attract. They were even allowed the best seats at the theatre at cut price rates. Should the chastity of a Vestal Virgin be violated, however, it was a different matter. The unfortunate victim would be buried alive in the belief that her innocence would be proven should Vesta intervene.

Worship of Vesta and her alter-ego continued throughout the years of empire until the decline of Rome brought an end to the trappings of Imperial rule. By the time the world emerged from the Dark Ages which followed, a new god had swept away the power of Mars, Jupiter, Diana and the rest. Only one of the inner circle survived in a form so altered by folk memory that the new order failed to recognise her and allowed the story to be told unchallenged. So it is that every Christmas, in countless pantomimes throughout the world, Cinderella, the last of the Vestal Virgins, watches over the eternal fire.

In the garden, from late November through to January, looking through someone else's window to see them, as you're on your way to that pantomime perhaps, because they won't survive outdoors, especially with the temperatures we've been having lately, look out for *Schlumbergia truncata*, or *Schlumbergia x buckleyi*, sometimes called the Christmas cactus. *Brian Taylor*

Postcard from Africa

Probably the biggest story emerging from Africa in recent weeks is the fall of the Old Man of Africa, Robert Gabriel Mugabe, the first and only president of independent Zimbabwe. He had held sway over his country for the past 37 years but at the age of 93, he was probably at least 20 years past his best-by-date.

He had come to power in 1980, after 15 years of bitter conflict with the soldiers of the Rhodesian Defence Forces, under the command of Ian Smith. Smith had made a unilateral declaration of independence from Britain in an attempt to maintain white minority rule in

the country and be a mirror image of neighbouring South Africa. Britain had refused to grant independence to the then Rhodesia unless there was more genuine power sharing with the majority black population; the small, settler community controlled most of the businesses and owned most of the land and refused to countenance the possibility of losing their privileged position, hence UDI. Mugabe was an active participant in the guerrilla war that followed and even though he was imprisoned for 10 years, he emerged at the end as one of a small group of politicians who would lead the country following the Lancaster House peace agreement reached in 1979.

Mugabe was probably the most ambitious of the group and soon set about securing his position as unchallenged Head of State by neutralising the opposition. Zimbabwe has two principal ethnic groups, the Shona and the Ndebele. Mugabe is a Shona and most of his support came from the Shona community. The Ndebele mostly supported his main opponent, Joshua Nkomo. To neutralise Nkomo, Mugabe condoned a massacre of Ndebele people in their villages, during which it is alleged that around 20,000 people lost their lives. The military officer who was in charge of this operation was one Emmerson Mnangagwa, of whom more later.

The features of Mugabe's rule are well known: the land grabs, destruction of the economy, appalling treatment of people who lost their homes and livelihoods. All this while he portrayed himself across the continent as the "liberator" of the black population of Zimbabwe and proceeded to spend vast amounts of money on himself and his family while an increasing proportion of his people lived in poverty. After the bitter war of liberation of the 1970's, no one there wanted a return to violence and so Mugabe's excesses were tolerated, knowing that the old man would not live for ever and change would eventually come. However, it was the actions of his wife, "Gucci" Grace that proved to be his undoing. She was not content with spending vast amounts of the country's money on herself, on shopping trips to Paris and Hong Kong, she also had the aim of succeeding her husband as President, with all the opportunities that would present. However, there were others in the way, principal among these being Emmerson Mnangagwa, the long-standing Vice President and who had been Mugabe's trusted ally for many years. Gucci Grace persuaded her husband to sack him which was seen to be a step too far by the other military officers. The proceedings of the coup-that-wasn't-a-coup were widely broadcast: the easing out of power of Robert Gabriel and then the subsequent installation of Mnangagwa, nicknamed the crocodile, as interim president.

At the time of writing, this story is still unfolding and it is too early yet to know if this change is going to bring about the return to democracy that so many Zimbabweans want. Mnangagwa has said different things to different people: he has said that there will be free and fair elections next year but has also said that his political party – ZANU-PF – will hang onto power by

any means. One huge asset that Zimbabwe has is that there are numerous civil society and human rights organisations that will be working to ensure there is real and permanent change. There are many highly competent professional people – doctors, teachers, accountants – who are ready to go back to their country to help rebuild it under the right conditions. There is also plenty of goodwill from the international community. As one Zimbabwean human rights worker put it: the tyrant is gone but not yet the tyranny. *A luta continua* – the struggle continues!

Rob Rees

***Clungunford Players give you
advance notice that they will
proudly present....***

**Don't Get
Your Vicars in a twist**

**Friday March 9th &
Saturday 10th March
Clungunford Parish Hall**

**A farce by Ann Gawthorpe
& Lesley Bowen**

Full details in the next edition of The Gazette
and on the village website at
www.clungunford.com nearer the time

*"Never seen acting like this before": Clun
Observer*

"Streugth": Bucknell Times

*"You would think this production scarcely
possible": Mocktree Advertiser*

From the Vicarage



Happy New Year from The Vicarage! I'm hot wheeled back from Staffs after a 36 hour foray to my Ma's for Christmas dinner (which we have on Boxing Day so we can all be there (one of my sisters is a nurse and

also often on duty on Christmas Day) ... and Red comes too (happily still with us!)

Christmas dinner was my first proper meal for weeks as, like many, I went down with a particularly toxic bug, sadly having to make a mortifying exit in the middle of Hopton Castle Carol Service! The following week I had to miss several Carol Services.

I had been OK for Clungunford's, which was really special, with the choir on very good form, and an extra sense of pleasure because of the added challenge of battling with the snow to get there. Fortunately I was well enough to lead the services over Christmas itself, though it was touch and go - with no exchanging of The Peace and asking others to administer communion. So the last phase of Advent was, for me, very traditional, actual fasting. It was a great reminder that with careful planning everything could go ahead successfully without me there!

This time of year is all about that battle between darkness and light and the echoing of that battle in our lives. Learning to keep awake to the glimmering light in the midst of the nastiness, disappointments, pain and challenge.

As I was driving home on Christmas Day it was raining on and off, but the journey was also interspersed with the most fabulous light. Along the way I was encouraged onwards by several radiant pulsating rainbows which, along with a wonderful playlist I had on in the car, reminded me of a line in one of my favourite hymns "I trace the rainbows through the rain" - a reminder that without the rain you would never experience the wonder of the rainbow.

Often it is through the crap times, the most challenging experiences, whether foisted upon us or those we trip up along the way, that we learn about our own resilience, resources and sources of support, that we catch the love through which we can grow to become our better selves.

Today is the anniversary of my Farewell to my flock in my last patch, and last night I came across a poem by S.C.Lourie that I had up my sleeve that day:

'Life is strange.

I am learning that as my heart feels like it's breaking, it's actually just breaking open.

That as I am falling to pieces,
really I am just finding my peace.

That as I spill my heart everywhere,
really I am just filling it with truly-being-alive experiences.

That as I feel sadness, my roots are deepening,
making room for future gladness.

And when it feels there is a winter in my soul,
surely spring is around the corner'

2017 was a shocking and challenging year for our nation and our world. Let's hope that 2018 will bring some resolutions and victories and progress towards peace and justice. Meanwhile I am sure that in this community there are people who work their socks off to help care for each other and to help keep the light and hope burning here. Let's encourage one another in all those endeavours. And let's determine to work together to make 2018 very happy and peace-filled Year! Red joins me in sending you Love and Prayers. Annie B Rev Annie Ballard: The Vicarage, Bucknell, SY7 0BA email: revannie.middlemarches@gmail.com Telephone: 01547 530030 (Please do leave a message and I will get back to you asap)

Parish Church News

Should you need more information about services, events etc. or about receiving the Deanery magazine, please contact Gordon Schofield: 01588 660158 or Michael Jones 01588 661145

SERVICES at CLUNGUNFORD in the Middle Marches Benefice for January and February 2018. Please note that the services below will be at St Cuthbert's unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 7 January	No service at St Cuthbert's	Holy Communion, at 11.15 am at Hopton Castle
Sunday 14 January	10.00 am	Family/All Age service. Christingle. Lay led. Refreshments will be served after the service
Sunday 21 January	10.00 am	Morning Worship. Lay led Service of Praise. Refreshments will be served after the service
Sunday 28 January	11.00 am	Holy Communion. Led by Rev Annie Ballard. With coffee etc. after the service.

Sunday 4 February	No service at St Cuthbert's	Please check for details of other services in the Benefice
Sunday 11 February	10.00 am	Family/All Age service. Lay led. Refreshments will be served after the service
Wednesday 14 February		Service for Ash Wednesday. Time and location to be announced. Please check.
Sunday 18 February	10.00 am	Morning Worship. Lay led Service of Praise. Refreshments will be served after the service

Advance notice Friday 2nd March – **Women's World Day of Prayer**

From the Parish Register The FUNERAL of William Duggan, aged 90, of Chapel Road took place on Thursday, the 9th November. Rev. Carol Gloag conducted the service.

He was interred in Leintwardine churchyard, with his wife. He was a well-known and well-respected character, in Clungunford.

The WEDDING of Paul Whitefoot and Joanne Owen took place at St Cuthbert's on Saturday, the 25th November. Rev. Annie Ballard led the service. They had a wonderful day, with good weather and a full church of well-wishers. May they have continuing blessings and much joy, in the years ahead.

Other news Bedstone College held their Advent Carol Service at the Church, on the 3rd December, the first Sunday of Advent.

Snow On Saturday the 9th December, Shropshire awoke to a significant fall of snow (see the picture elsewhere in the magazine recording the event). Because of the travelling difficulties caused, the 10.00 am Family Service on Sunday the 10th had to be cancelled. Nevertheless, despite the cancellation of the final rehearsal for the Village Choir, the CAROL SERVICE was well attended and much enjoyed. Thanks must go to the Village Choir, their conductor Iain Wright, accompanist Steve Bolt and organist Norma Hartley Porter. Thanks too, to those who read and to those who prepared and served refreshments.

On Christmas Eve, **CAROLS ROUND THE CRIB**, prepared and led by Christine and Robert Flitney, was a well supported and joyous occasion. Thanks too to Edward Gledhill, who played the organ. As always, the service provided a very happy start to the celebration of Christmas. Thanks to all who attended and for the generous gifts of items and money that were placed under the Christmas tree, to support a local 'Women's Refuge'. All greatly appreciated!

As always, St. Cuthbert's, looked well for **Christmas!** So much is contributed, in effort, money and time, to make the church reflect a time and place of **CELEBRATION!** from the providing of a tree, a wealth of greenery and flowers, the lending of lights, decorations and of wonderful figures for the crib, to the efforts of so many, as things were put in place and arranged, as warm spiced apple juice and tarts were served, and clementines and chocolates were in abundance, the desire was for St. Cuthbert's to be a place of giving! There was the recognition of the support of 'absent friends' and the importance of friendship across age groups and across the miles. May 2018 provide joy and rich blessings to all.

PCC Meeting on Monday 15th January 2018. Items for the Agenda are being considered. Please contact any member of the PCC should you have any suggestions or items for consideration.

One item that will appear on the Agenda will be 'forthcoming events for the year'.

This will include inevitably, several 'fund raising' events, both for essential church repairs, including the organ, and for chosen 'good causes', as well as to help with St.Cuthbert's payments to the Diocese and 'running' expenses.

Your help would be appreciated, not only to give money, but to give ideas for events, and to give help with 'putting things on'.

In recording events of the past months, you may have noticed the numerous times that thanks have been expressed for people's contributions. St. Cuthbert's is greatly blessed by a superb team of volunteer help, but that team could do with some more help, be it for the churchyard, cleaning and maintaining the church, taking part in services, reading, singing, helping with events, with fund raising, distributing magazines, arranging flowers, bell ringing, etc.etc.

It may be a surprise, for example, that members of the PCC take turns on a monthly rota to clean the toilets?! (for so many people one of our most valuable assets!) Please contact one of the Church Wardens (phone numbers above) or a member of the PCC, with ideas or offers of help. Many thanks!

Finally! In the most recent Deanery magazine for December/January, (with the red cover), on page 40, there is a letter from Sally Currin, who has recently become treasurer for Hyssington PCC. She starts her 'view' by saying that her only knowledge of a PCC was

from watching the 'Vicar of Dibley!' She observes that she had no thought or realisation of how much it costs to maintain a functioning church and graveyard. It is well worth reading! (There are still a few spare copies in the church!)

Material for the next edition

Material for the next *Gazette* should please be with us by **23 February**. Email to gunnasgazette@aol.com or deliver to Clungunford House (black box in porch)

Weather for Autumn to Christmas 2017 – Change and Change again

After a changeable August, September was mostly dull and wet. October was enlivened by ex-hurricane Ophelia, which hit Ireland but had little direct effect in Shropshire. However, on 16th October, the sun turned red and the sky turned an ominous grey-red, requiring car lights in the middle of the morning. Strong upper southerly winds on the right flank of Ophelia had blown smoke from forest fires in Portugal across England. The rest of the month was fairly ordinary, as was November. Then, in December, it began to snow on the 8th. Initially it was light in south Shropshire but heavy in north Shropshire and Shrewsbury. Heavy snow began in Hopton Heath on the night of 9-10 December and I recorded 12cm of lying snow on the morning of the 10th, together with a very low pressure of 966mb (or hPa if you are up-to date). Snow continued all day and by Monday 11th there was 24cm of lying snow. Schools and colleges were closed and no trains ran on the Heart of Wales line. On the 12th snow remained and the minimum temperature fell to -9°C in my garden screen but lower in Leintwardine and with a record low temperature for England of -13°C at Shawbury in north Shropshire. Looking at previous years, back to 2007, only 2010 had such heavy snow, so early. In that year the snow began on 27th November but then snow and extremely low temperatures continued until after Christmas, unlike this year.

This year the snow began to melt on the 14th and was mostly gone by the 17th. Very mild conditions followed with a minimum temperature of 9°C on 22nd December. This morning (23rd December) is mild and sunny and mild weather is expected to continue, with rain forecast for Christmas Day. I hope you all had a Happy Christmas. *Mike Tucker*

Flicks Curry Evening Friday 27th October 2017

This proved to be a very successful evening with 66 people from Clungunford, surrounding villages as well as farther afield, enjoying a variety of scrumptious curries cooked by a host of volunteers. The film this year was "Lion"- the engaging story of five year old Saroo who gets lost on a train which takes him thousands of miles across India, away from home and family. Twenty-five years later, armed with only a

handful of memories, his unwavering determination, and a revolutionary technology known as Google Earth, sets out to find his lost family and finally return to his first home.

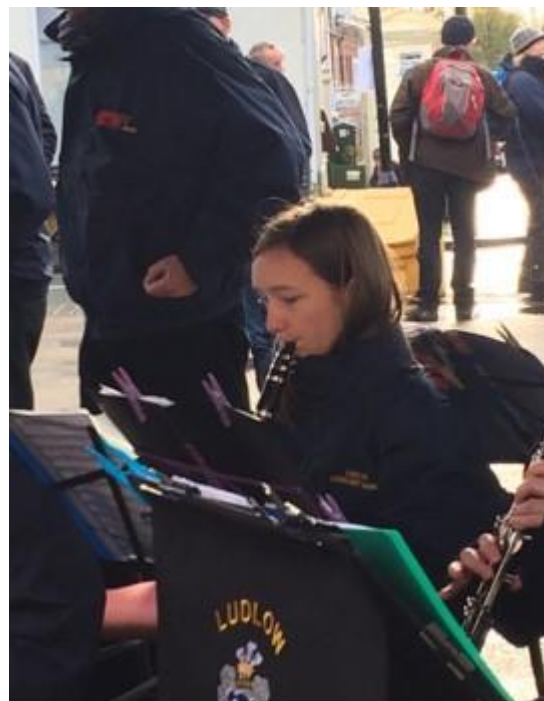
I would like to thank all the fantastic cooks who excelled with the variety of curries they cooked, the donation of raffle prizes, the people who helped on the night and especially to the Flicks team for their huge support in organising and running this event. We are pleased to say that £843.00 plus £65.00 beer money was raised for the Parish Hall Improvement Fund.

Participants wrote:

"It really was a treat to be so well fed and then entertained with a wonderful film in the Parish Hall and shared with so many good people. I know that to put on such an event, and for it to run smoothly, requires a lot of planning and effort and it was so good. My family are incredulous about what happens in Clungunford and last night was another perfect example of a community coming together to share fun while raising money for a local cause. Well done and many, many thanks".

"I wanted to say how well I thought the curry evening went...the food was all delicious and it was so well organised. You all worked your socks off and we all had a lovely evening". Judy Andrews

The Charities Assist



Last year Hannah Tucker (who is now fourteen) was very pleased to receive a grant from the Clungunford Charities to help pay for a new clarinet. She has been playing clarinet since she was nine. She has recently joined the Ludlow Concert Band and joined them on Sunday 12th November, playing her new clarinet in the Castle Square, Ludlow as part of the Remembrance Day Parade.