



The Newsletter for
Clungunford
Volume 24 • Issue 5
May 2021

THE GUNNAS GAZETTE

Keep up to date with local news and events....visit www.clungunford.com



Everyone at Clungunford Village Hall hopes that the path out of lockdown continues as expected over the summer. We are keen to return to some level of normality and see each other again.

Although the hall has been closed for a while, it is wonderful to see so many people making use of the Village Hall Green during lockdown. Thank you to the many volunteers who maintain this vital open space. We hope you like the new signage.

As restrictions lift, the hall will host events and be available for hire again. When we do, we will always observe the latest social-distancing and hygiene guidance.

We plan to have limited open-air **Bar Nights** from late May, and we already have an 'Arts Alive' **Improv Night** booked at the end of June. We are also planning a big **Summer Party** on the Village Hall Green in July to celebrate being able to socialise again. So, there are a few dates for your diary. Let's hope they won't be cancelled, but please check clungunford.com for the latest information if the COVID-19 situation changes.

We are aware that there are some new residents in the parish since the hall closed in 2020, and we look forward to seeing you all. In normal times we offer a wide variety of activities for the community. These include:

- a community pub – run and staffed by volunteers;
- arts and live-music events;
- big screen cinema through 'Flicks in the Sticks';

- regular Saturday night dances.

The hall is also available for hire and some of the activities offered by those hiring the hall have included bingo nights; circle dancing; yoga; table tennis; motorbike nights; and local air rifle clubs.

You can also hire the hall for a private event. And in 2021 we are welcoming a visiting Post Office van service (see page 8).

If all goes to plan, we expect that hall will be available for hire from 21st June and it will be after this date that most regular events may re-start at the hall. We hope to publish a list of activities that are returning to the hall later in the summer. Check out clungunford.com or watch out for information in the Gunnas Gazette.

In the meantime, please put the dates below in your diary..... See you soon.

Max Maxwell on behalf of the hall trustees

Bar Nights – every Friday from 21st May

What's your tippie...? Bar Nights will return on Friday 21st May. Service will be outside if the weather is good and we will put out additional tables and chairs. COVID-19 regulations should allow us to serve inside by then if people observe the rule-of-six, but we would prefer to operate in the open air if possible. Table service will be offered and cash will be accepted, although contactless payment is preferred. 7pm – 10pm. See David Wilkinson's note below to receive emails about the bar.

Arts Alive – Box of Frogs – Friday 15th June

Birmingham's premier Improv Group brings you a night of high-octane improvised comedy, based entirely on

your suggestions. Performing entirely without a script, half-a-dozen players and a musician will create a night of “Whose Line Is It Anyway” comedy. Tickets: adult £10, child £5 (01588-660152). 7.30pm

Summer Party – Saturday afternoon July 17th

Fingers crossed we can socialise again! Hoorah!

Clungunford Village Hall will host a summer party on Saturday 17th July. The event will take place on the Village Hall Green from 2pm - 6pm. There will be a licensed bar and live music will be provided by folk-fusion band ‘Red Madog’ from 3pm. We have also arranged for world-class burgers to be available from the ‘The Beefy Boys’ of Hereford. And, thanks to the generosity of local donors, there will be a free burger available for every resident of Clungunford parish.



**CLUNGUNFORD
VILLAGE HALL
SUMMER
PARTY**

Saturday 17th July 2021
Free entry **2pm - 6pm**

Licenced bar

**On the green next to Clungunford
Village Hall**

**Live music
‘Red Madog’**
A unique combination of instruments delivering an upbeat ‘folk-fusion’ sound.



Food
World class burgers by the ‘Beefy Boys’ from Hereford. Veggie also available...!



Parking at the Village Hall

While the hall has been closed, we are aware that there are still a number of cars regularly parked in the hall car park. As it re-opens, these spaces will be needed by the users of the hall. For some events, the whole car park can be filled.

We kindly ask that residents do not park in the village hall car park unless they are attending an event there. This will allow the hall to be available to more users. Thanks.

Keep up to date with emails about the Gunnas Bar at the Village Hall



We are busy making plans to reopen the bar, which, initially will be a gentle process, but we are looking forward to seeing everyone back and having a get-together in the hall. I have been keeping a list of email addresses to which I send regular updates of bar activity and any other hall-related news, so you know what we're up to. I've got about 50 addresses so far but I have had a problem with a recent BT update that has scrambled my address book somewhat!

By the time you read this, I will have emailed everyone I still have on my list so you don't need to do anything. If you haven't had an email, or if you weren't on the list but would like to be, please email me at: d_wilkinson@btinternet.com. I always send out these mails as "bcc" so your email address will not suddenly become public property!! And you'll get more cute cat pictures! Thanks, David Wilkinson



BOX OF FROGS

Box of Frogs Improv Comedy

Box of Frogs, Birmingham's premier Improv Group, brings you a night of high-octane improvised comedy, based entirely on your suggestions.

Expect the unexpected as quick-witted players conjure up hilarious spontaneous songs, sketches and scenes on the spur of the moment. Performing entirely without a script, half-a-dozen players and a musician will create a night of "Whose Line Is It Anyway" type comedy, with improvised songs, stories and silliness.

Buy tickets online at www.artsalive.co.uk

DATES, LOCATIONS & TICKETS

Fri 25 Jun. 7.30pm
Clungunford Parish Hall, SY7 0PP
Tickets: 01588 660152
£10 / £5 / £25

Age 7+ (family show: child Under 16)

COMEDY

Flowers for St Cuthbert's



As we begin to tip-toe out of lockdown and reform as a community, I thought it would be a good opportunity to explain to people about the volunteers that provide fresh flowers for St Cuthbert's and see if any new people would like to join our list.

There has been a church on the site since the 13th century and St Cuthbert's is listed with the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. As a result of its long history and listing we have many visitors from all over the UK and the world and there has always been a tradition of having some fresh flowers and foliage on display. This little gesture makes the church seem vibrant and cared for and is often commented on in the visitors' book.

Sadly, due to Covid-19, St Cuthbert's has been mostly locked for the past year but we are hopeful that this situation will change soon.



So, what is involved? We do not require florists (although if we have any that would be great!) Basically, you would be asked to make two simple arrangements, a couple of times a year. We usually pull together for any special events such as Harvest/Easter and Christmas and fill the church windows which does make it look very special. We tend to use seasonal, local flowers and

foliage. You do not have to be a church attendee. You do not have to be female and you certainly don't have to have any experience which is how I started when I moved here! If anyone would be interested in helping then we would be very grateful and I am very happy to have a "no commitment" chat with you.

Please contact me on lystere@bopenworld.com or call me on 01588 660152.

Elizabeth Lyster

In the Garden

A sunny day in Clungunford but without the balmy weather we might have found on holiday in a warmer clime if we were able to visit one. In fact it's blooming cold out there!

One of the better things about watching the Beechgrove garden on TV is that, unlike Monty Don's garden, which always seems to me to have a climate more appropriate to Cornwall than Clungunford, even though it's supposedly only a few miles away from here, they actually have worse weather than we do. A week or so ago, when we had a very unseasonal snowfall in the garden, which lingered a few hours, they had a blizzard so bad they couldn't get back out into the garden for several days.

The trouble with our weather at the moment is that we've had virtually no rain at all since the floods of February, which eventually led to the telephone cable outside our house falling victim to a tall lorry forced to come through our village because all other roads had been closed to it because of floods.

I've had to water the new plantings I have out in the garden, and on top of that, night time temperatures have been below freezing for a week or more now, just at the time our fruit trees have been in flower, so we probably won't get any fruit from them again.

At least we didn't get the initial warmth this year like we did last year, encouraging the potatoes to send up new growths which were then knocked back by late frosts. This time it's been too cold for that.

The old adage used to be that you could start sowing seeds in the garden when the ground was warm enough to sit on unclothed. If you tried to do that in my garden at the moment, I fear it wouldn't be very kind to your extremities!

In the garden, probably hanging fire because of inclement weather, look out for the sweetly scented flowers of *Choisya ternata*, the 'Mexican Orange Blossom'. A medium sized shrub of rounded habit with shining dark leaves, which are distinctly aromatic when crushed.

Brian Taylor

Nursing Notes

I have been in many places in my life..... but I have never been in..

1) Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

- 2) Never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognises you there.
- 3) I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made many trips there, thanks to my friends and family. I live close so it's but a short drive.
- 4) I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm getting too old to do too much physical activity anymore.
- 5) I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit too often.
- 6) I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.
- 7) Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older..
- 8) One of my favourite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!
- 9) Sometimes I think I am in Vincible, but life shows me I am not!
- 10) People do tell me I'm in Denial, but I'm positive I've never been there before!
- 11) I have been in Deepshit many times, and the older I get, the easier it is to get there.
- 12) So far I haven't been in Continent, but my travel agent says it is on the list of places I am sure to go.

Travel safely everyone!! *Sister B.*

P.S. The speed of a sneeze can exceed 100mph. Coughs go a bit slower, usually around 60mph. Nurses with hand sanitiser can travel up to 250mph!

Early Spring 2021 - mostly dry with a warm spell, followed by some snow

After the wet winter, March was fairly average, with a wet spell from the 9th to 15th and a total rainfall of 67mm. I only recorded frost on three mornings at Hopton Heath and then it was very warm at the end of the month, when I recorded 20C on the 31st.

April, up to the 20th has been dry with only 11mm rain (including 1.5mm snowmelt on 7 April). As there is no forecast of rain for the rest of the month, April could be the driest April in my records (going back to 2007) and has been noted as exceptionally dry by the Meteorological Office, especially in southern England. From 13 to 20 April, it has been mostly sunny with frosts at night and although it has warmed up by day, the month has so far generally been colder than March.

I try to note the first appearance of migrant birds locally and also note when I first see butterflies. There were Sand Martins over the River Teme at Leintwardine on 4 April and also one Swallow. I also saw two Swallows near Kempton on 16 April. Chiffchaffs have been singing for some time but they often overwinter here now. Today (20 April) on a bird survey on Hopton Hill,

I saw one Whitethroat and two Redstarts, summer migrants that arrive from Africa in April.

I saw my first Brimstone butterfly at Hopton Heath on 22 February and two more on 16 March. Peacock butterflies have been around since 31 March, both at home and at Bury Ditches (where I help with a butterfly survey) and I saw a Comma butterfly in my garden on 2 April and a Small White butterfly on 19 April. *Mike Tucker*

Parish Church News

Should you need more information about services, events etc, please contact our Church Wardens, Michael Jones (tel: 01588 661145, email: mpjt51@hotmail.com) or Edward Gledhill (tel: 01588 660485, email: edward@aepledhill.co.uk).

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

Sunday 9 th May	10.00 am	Family Service
Sunday 16 th May	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 23 rd May	11.00 am	Holy Communion with Revd M Plunkett
Sunday 13 th June	10.00 am	Family Service
Sunday 20 th June	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 27 th June	11.00 am	Holy Communion

Since Palm Sunday we have held our services back in the church. The building allows us to respect the two metre guidelines and, with the services projected onto the wall, we have been able to dispense with service sheets. Hand sanitizer is provided, and please remember to bring your face covering if you are attending the services – everyone is very welcome. We look forward to the time when we shall all be able to sing some hymns together again.

We appreciate the support being offered by the Revd Stephanie in her role as Rural Dean with providing a priest to celebrate Communion with us on the fourth Sunday of the month. It is hoped that we will be able to continue our rota for services with two lay led services on the second and third Sunday of the month, and Communion on the fourth Sunday

Revd Annie Ballard

Easter is when we celebrate Christ's resurrection and is the most important date in the Christian calendar. The celebration this year had a further significance for the Middle Marches Benefice in that it was the last Communion Service at which the Revd Annie Ballard officiated before her retirement at the end of April. St Stephen's Church is the largest in the Benefice and has the advantage of flexible seating. With respect for social

distance guidance the Church was full with a congregation of over fifty people representing all eight Parishes.

Annie gave a very personal and moving sermon in which she outlined her journey of faith. The singing from the choir added greatly to the sense of occasion and Graham Trew's solos were of particular note. The readings and prayers were given by people from across the churches making the service a truly Benefice wide celebration. Mike Jones summarised the feelings of all in a short speech at the end of the Communion as he thanked Annie for her services and contribution to the Church. Margi and Mike presented Annie with a beautiful large shrub which we hope will grace her new garden in Knighton.

We were pleased to host the Easter Sunday Benefice Communion at St Cuthbert's and were only sorry that this was Annie's last officiating service. We wish her a long and happy retirement and are pleased that she will not be too far away.

The Passing of Prince Phillip

In common with churches across the land, a bell at St Cuthbert's Church was tolled 99 times in remembrance of Prince Phillip at 12.00 am on Saturday 10th April. He was further remembered at our Service the following day through our prayers and thoughts as was her Majesty, the Queen, and the Royal family.

General Notices

Revd Annie Ballard's last day as the Vicar of the Middle Marches Benefice of which St Cuthbert's Church is part will be the end of April. The usual process would be for the Benefice to enter into a period of Interregnum during which time we would search for someone to take on the role of vicar. However, the Bishop would like to ask someone to step in and undertake an interim Ministry so that they can provide leadership and pastoral care during the vacancy period without assuming the position of Vicar.

The reason for this is to give time to look at Deanery Boundaries, including the Middle Marches Benefice, with a particular focus on geography they cover. St Cuthbert's Church, Clungunford is the most easterly tip of the Benefice and St Mary's Church, Llanfair Waterdine the most westerly. Going from one to the other is a distance of around 15 miles or 30 'Google' minutes. The discussion is that there may be better ways to organise the Benefice boundaries.

The Bishop believes that an interim ministry would allow those conversations to take place at a pace with which everybody is comfortable. This technically requires what is called a suspension of presentation, in other words a suspension of the right of the patrons to present a new candidate for the benefice while these conversations take

place. The period of suspension can be up to five years, but can be brought to an end at any time once the decisions as to the future are settled.

We will have greater clarity about the practicalities of this change over the next few weeks and we will keep you informed. St Cuthbert's, along with the other churches in the Benefice, has been asked to comment on the proposal. This matter was discussed at the last PCC meeting and the general feeling was that this is acceptable though we would like to continue to be informed and consulted as to progress.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM)

The AGM was held on the 25th March as an on-line meeting. During the meeting the following appointments were made;

- Church Wardens: Mike Jones and Edward Gledhill
- Assistant Church Warden: Isa Jones
- Treasurer and Secretary: Rob Rees
- Independent Examiner: Geoff Oliver
- Sides People: Sara Giffin and Robert Flitney
- Safeguarding Officer: Anne Gledhill
- Deanery Synod Reps: Mike Jones and Edward Gledhill

A special thanks was given to Janet Thain who has been Treasure and Secretary for many years and been a pillar of the PCC. Janet has kindly agreed to continue as a member of the PCC.

The APCM was held on Tuesday the 27th April. The APCM is a meeting at the Benefice level and covers Benefice wide issues as well as confirming the outcomes of the AGM.

Opening the Church

The Church will be open going forward. It is felt that, given the easing of the corona virus restrictions, we are once more able to leave the Church unlocked and available to be visited and for private prayer.

The Slow Ladies

Tuesday 25 May: Clunbury Hill

I thought it would be a good idea to meet up one day just to see each other again and to discuss what we would like to do next. If you are a new member of the group or have never walked with us before, please join us. I suggest making your own way up the hill and to arrive between noon and 12.30 with a picnic and a drink. (Aim for the solitary tree which looks like a telephone mast) If you are not sure of the way, or would like to walk with someone, give me a ring and I will sort that out.

Hope to see you---Pauline Mattison (01588 660596)

The Litter Pick – 27 March

A magnificent turn out of litter pickers at the end of March gave the village a splendid spring clean. The numbers were such that the load was in effect lightened for everyone. The back of the Land Rover was, as usual, filled to the brim with detritus collected by these eco-warriors. We have been doing this for a good few years now, and it is very pleasing to see that the number of helpers rises year on year. I don't think it was boredom with lockdown – people do genuinely care about the environment in which we live, and whilst our impact nationally is minimal, locally it does make a difference, and I am pleased that among its peer group of local parishes Gunnas stands to the fore in litter collection. You know you have done well when, a few days after the litter pick, a newly dropped Coke can causes you so much upset!

The general feeling was that the rubbish was not quite so bad this year, but whether that is because of the lockdown or because of previous years' deep cleanings now beginning to bear fruit, it is difficult to say.

The litter pickers deserve to be named – some worked on the day, some before – and if I have missed anyone out, I am truly sorry – let me know and I will correct it. The foot soldiers were:

Anne Gledhill, Eddie Gledhill, Madeleine Wilkinson, Hilary White, Keith Arbery, Val Arbery, Simon Lyster, Elizabeth Lyster, Mike Jones, Isa Jones, Mike Tucker, Rosemary Johnson, Peter Johnson, Ennis Brown, Liz Roberts, Rob Rees, Sarah Rees, Geoff Oliver, Shelley Hennell, Christine Tinker, Pat Buchanan, Mary Bason, Jim Bason, Kerry Bason, Judy King, Lizzie Potter, Mike Mattison, Pauline Mattison, David Roberts, Ros McGregor, the Allsops and Sue Lambert, Jeremy Taylor

Well done, and the community's grateful thanks to you all.
Jonathan Roberts

The 100 Club

Winners for March:

1. (£60) Madelene Wilkinson
2. (£30) Paula Williamson
3. (£15) Sophie Cook for Cyrus

Winners for April:

1. (£60) Suzanne Stevens
2. (£30) Janet Thain
3. (£15) David Wilkinson

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

The 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 guunasgazette@aol.com.

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

The Parish Council

There will be no election for Parish Councillors on 6 May, as eight of the serving councillors have been returned unopposed. It would have been a full house of nine, but for a slight administrative slip-up in retuning papers, and so there will be a vacancy to fill by co-option. The 6 May elections for the Shropshire Council ward and for the West Mercia Crime and Police Commissioner will take place at the Parish Hall as usual.

If you wish to be considered for co-option, do please contact either Max Maxwell, our clerk, or me.

In order to hold a physical meeting we are having to delay holding the first meeting of the new Parish Council and the Annual Parish Meeting on 26 May, so that we can take advantage of the relaxation of the Covid rules. Please see notice boards and the village website for details of the time.

Parish matters before (or after) the meeting may be raised either with me or with our clerk, Max Maxwell (01588 661044:

clungunfordparishcouncil@gmail.com).

Jonathan Roberts, Chairman (01588 660673:

jonathan.roberts@morgoedestates.com)



New post office services in Clungunford

We are very pleased to inform you that as from Thursday 6th May there will be a weekly mobile post office visiting the Village Hall car park in Clungunford between 12-13.00.

We have been negotiating with the Post Office for over a year to get a regular, full postal service in the village and this has now been agreed.

The mobile service will provide the usual Post Office products such as a full postal service, including parcel returns and guaranteed next day service, cashing pensions, free cash withdrawals along with other banking services for most major banks, bill payments and pre-order foreign currency. The parcel return service should be particularly useful with the increase in on-line shopping. Most suppliers allow up to 28 days plus for returns so it will be very convenient to pop up to the Hall on a Thursday rather than queuing in Craven Arms or Ludlow.

Please try the service as it is on a 3-6 month trial and if it is not used then it may be withdrawn, if you have any questions or comments then please let me know.

Simon Lyster
On behalf of The Village Hall and Green Trustees.
01588 660152

A puzzle for you to solve.....

How well do you know your village? Anthea Bason poses the question to readers of *The Gunnas Gazette*.

On the back page there is a map drawn by Anthea, bearing the letters A to K.

Each of the letters on the map represents one of the place names below. Can you match up the letters with the place name?

Titchbrook is letter _____

Back Lane is letter _____

Barbara's Wood is letter _____

Cobbler's Corner is letter _____

Five Oaks Bank is letter _____

Dean's Hollow is letter _____

Mucky Lane is letter _____

The Plock is letter _____

Withy Beds is letter _____

Pogle's Wood is letter _____

Quarry Bank/Spout Bank is letter _____

See how many you get right! Anthea will give us the answers in the next edition of *The Gunnas Gazette*. She rightly thinks it will be a pity if the old names disappear with the older generation. Do you know of any that she has missed?

