



THE GUNNAS GAZETTE

The Newsletter for
Clungunford
Volume 20 • Issue 6
July 2017

Welcome to the Clungunford Community Website

This site provides information about the parish of Clungunford in Shropshire, highlighting the Parish Council, the parish church, local community groups and events. It is supported by the Parish Council.

On this site you will be able to

- get involved at the [Clungunford Sports & Social Club](#) and the Parish Hall;
- access copies of the local newsletter; [The Gunnas Gazette](#);
- learn what is happening in the area via our [events calander](#);
- obtain information about [community groups](#) in the area;
- see [Parish Council](#) minutes and agendas;
- link to other websites about Clungunford and the area.

This is a new site for the community and is work in progress. If you have any ideas, thoughts, questions or complaints about this resource then please get in touch with us via the [contact page](#).

Dear Readers

If you go to www.clungunford.com you will find the above as the front page on the Clungunford website.

If you want the latest village news, this is the place to go to. Remember, The Gunnas Gazette only publishes every two months and there is much that goes on in between publications. The Gazette has served us well for 20 years, now let's use the village website and power of the internet to help and supplement The Gazette through the next 20 years!

Add www.clungunford.com to your Favourites now and make this the "GO TO" place for village news. Add your own news by contacting Max Maxwell on clungunford.ad1@gmail.com

Flicks in the Sticks at Clungunford Parish Hall

Flicks and its volunteers are having a well earned summer break. We'll be back towards the end of September with more exceptional films.

'Cuthbert to the Rescue!'

Registration forms are available now for this year's holiday club at St Cuthbert's Church, Clungunford.

It is open to all school age children and takes place each afternoon 2.00pm -5.00pm from Monday 7 to Friday 11 August.

We offer children a range of art/craft activities, sport, refreshments, stories, games and an opportunity to play together.

For more information please contact Catherine on 01588 660 231 or catherinelishman@hotmail.com

The Parish Council

The major news announcement from the Parish Council has to be, of course, the rejection of the Hopton Heath Poultry Units appeal by the Planning Inspector. Basically, the Inspector took the view that the noisy activities on the site would result in significant adverse effects on the peace and tranquility of this attractive area of countryside and that further harm would be caused to the living conditions of nearby occupiers as a result of noisy activities on the site and in the surrounding area. The harm would, in her view, have been significant.

Those who wish to read the full report can see it at:

https://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/files/DD9D03983286FB5175FA3F070FA92896/pdf/16_02402_REF-APPEAL_DECISION-3034783.pdf

Those of you reading The Gazette in its digital form can click on this link to take you to the report.

Although the overall result is satisfactory from the Parish Council's point of view, there were a number of findings by the Inspector with which issue might have been taken, not least over the threat to the mussels and visual impact and overall effect on tourism, but mercifully further action is not necessary, given the findings of fact.

This marks the end of a long drawn out campaign that started in July 2014. The proposal obviously caused those closely affected by it a great deal of stress and upset. Nevertheless, the community gathered round to make a strong case to thwart the development.

It is worth remembering that planning permission for the development was originally granted, despite local protestations. That permission was over overturned on a judicial review mounted by the Parish Council, and only subsequently did Shropshire Council turn down the application. That decision has now been supported on appeal.

The Parish Council is both grateful for and admiring of the considerable support its stance has enjoyed from the community at large, including from those who were not even directly affected by the proposal. The support has come in many ways – reasoned protest, technical input, pledges of finance – and the inescapable conclusion is that Clungunford has come together to defend its own. Well done to all concerned and thank you.

Having undergone this long drawn out saga, it is perhaps useful to reflect on some of the issues that have arisen out of it. I offer the following for consideration.

One, those who plan developments, particularly major ones (and this would have been by some way the biggest ever development in the Parish) should consult widely amongst the community before they start. It may save a lot of unnecessary expense and animosity.

Two, there is absolutely no cross-border communication between Shropshire and Herefordshire on planning applications close by the border. For major developments this is plainly silly.

Three, the planning executive of Shropshire Council is dysfunctional. Letters and communications from objectors are routinely unanswered, and I include the legal department in this criticism. This indifference does give the impression of bias toward planning applicants.

Four, Shropshire Council's planning executive appears to have an unhealthy bias toward favouring applications for poultry developments in unsuitable areas (cf the subsequent decision on The Hurst).

Five, when requesting technical reports to assist with planning applications, surely the common sense thing is for Shropshire to commission them (albeit at the applicant's expense) rather than leave it to the applicant to submit them, for applicants are highly unlikely to submit unfavourable reports.

Six, pity the poor surviving fresh-water mussels when they have Natural England and Shropshire Council to defend them. Natural England could have killed the application stone-dead on day one, but instead cravenly consented subject to conditions which I suspect they knew were incapable of enforcement.

Seven, Shropshire Council should have a policy of how to deal independently with planning applications submitted by those who were but recently senior planning officers of the Council. The Civil Service has strict rules on this and Shropshire Council should have the same.

Eight, when issuing environmental permits for poultry units, the Environment Agency should consult with locals on the ground. An unanswered letter to Shropshire Council and an advertisement in the London Gazette (and no, I too do not read this) do not seem adequate, and so it is hardly surprising that in our case the Environment Agency did not know of local interest in the site or, apparently its proximity to the mussel bed. Nine, do we really need all these poultry units? Is anyone considering the combined effect of the manure produced rather than just looking at individual units? Do farmers spending big money on these developments really take into account that they are selling to global or national players off a far from equal bargaining base?

Anyway, enough of poultry units, and we pass to more mundane matters (pot-holes etc). Seriously, however, we are actively looking for a councillor co-opt to make up our numbers. If you want to be considered, please contact me or our clerk, Brian Taylor, before our next meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting is due to take place at 8 pm on Wednesday 12 July 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)

Nursing Notes.....

While rummaging among some papers I came across this Alternative Medical Dictionary:

Artery - The study of paintings
Bacteria - The back door of the cafeteria
Barium - What doctors do when a patient dies
Bowel - Letters like A,E,I,O or U
CAT scan – Searching for a kitty
D & C – Where Washington is
Dilate – To live long
Enema – Not a friend
Fester – Quicker
Genital – Not a Jew
G I series – A soldier's ball game
Hangnail – A cost hook
Impotent – Distinguished or well known
Labour pain – Getting hurt at work
Medical staff – A doctor's cane

Morbid – a higher offer

Nitrates – Cheaper than day rates

Node – Was aware of

Outpatient – A person who fainted

Papsmear – Fatherhood test

Pelvis – A cousin of Elvis

Postoperative – A letter carrier

Recovery room – A place to do upholstery

Rectum – “Dang near killed ‘em”

Seizure – Roman Emperor

Tablet – A small table

Terminal illness – Getting sick at the airport

Tumour – More than one

Urine – Opposite of “You’re out”

Varicose – Nearby

Vein – Conceited

Sister B

PS. Mother Teresa once said: “It is not how much we do – it is how much love we put into the doing”

Jim & Mary Bason's

Open Garden at Beckjay

with Cream Tea

Sunday 16th July 2017

2 to 6pm

£5 including Cream Tea

In aid of Parish Hall Funds

In The Garden

A pouring wet day in Clungunford. Hard to believe that only a few days ago I was sitting in the shade of a hot and sunny day in Mallorca, watching a gardener sweating as he cut the hedges and grass around us, and wondering how he could stand working in such heat – the temperature was up in the middle 40s at the time! I don't think I could have done.

Growing up the wall beyond where I was sitting, a *Plumbago capensis* had become a rampant climber covering everything around, rubbish bins included, not at all like the reluctant specimen I have to keep in my

greenhouse here in Clungunford if I want it to survive at all. It simply won't grow out in the garden.

Across the way from where I was sitting, and featuring in most of the gardens we visited, a *Lantana spp* had grown into a large shrub covered in multi-coloured flowers, which attracted, and were mostly alive with, a myriad butterflies. The ones I have in my own garden do survive outside for the few months I have them there, but have just a few flowers between them at a time, none of which look as happy in the cold rain battering them now, as the ones in Mallorca did basking in the sun.

I suppose it was whilst I was a boy gardener working for a local authority parks department in London, in the days when local authorities still had the money to spend on such fripperies, that I developed a liking for the exotic plants which served as dot plants dotted (of course) amongst the more commonplace geraniums, begonias and the like. Plants such as Lantanas and Plumbagos.

In the garden, amongst some summer bedding somewhere, hopefully enjoying a return to warm sunshine by then, look out for another of the plants used as dot plants in days gone by. *Abutilon hybridum*, from which most of the specimens grown in gardens developed, looks like a small tree, has leaves of various colours and spotted leaves. *Brian Taylor*

The 100 Club

Winners for May:

1. (£60) Ann Hunt
2. (£30) Susanna Rocke
3. (£15) Simon Bywater

Winners for June

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

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).

Now in our 20th year of publication, why not get your Gazette by email – join the digital age and enjoy the benefits of The Gazette in colour!

Send your email address to us
gunnsgazette@aol.com

The Slow Ladies

Thursday 27 July: A not too strenuous evening walk around Bury Ditches. Meet in car park there at 5.30pm or in Clungunford CP at 5 pm. Have a drink or a meal afterwards in Clunton or Clun.

Thursday 31 August: I will give details of this later, but possibly about 4 miles around Kington.

The **Slow Ladies** have been walking for 20 years this month. The first walk took us to The Kangaroo in Aston-on-Clun and in spite of a thunderstorm in the hills all around us, we didn't get wet. We've been lucky with the weather ever since. Not only have we explored many parts of Shropshire, we have also ventured for a few days to other areas of the country using trains and buses to get around. '**Slow**' really means we don't race on - we also like to stop, enjoy the view or try to identify a wild flower or bird song. We are pleased to welcome new faces and feet.

Pauline Mattison 01588 660596

Hercules versus The Unicorn Army

I didn't want to have to bring up the unicorn thing, but it's pretty damn hard not to in the present circumstances. My friend Hercules agrees.

Do you remember in the early days? You and I used to sneak upstairs to your bedroom in your parents' terraced house overlooking the sandy beaches of Scarborough framed by the grey wash of cold sea and sky. We could just see the donkeys clopping along on the road leading down to the beach; tired beasts of burden, weighed down with age and cares even before the obese ice-cream and waffle-filled kids clambered on top. But it wasn't those quadrupeds that concerned me. On the pink eiderdown we'd get to a particularly good bit. A bit where the bra fastening snapped off. A bit where our searching hands found some uncharted territory and...

OW!

Another bloody unicorn in the backside, I'd cuss.

Be careful, you'd say. They've got feelings.

If you'd said they were collectors' items, I'd have understood more – I'd have had some respect. Feelings though. Looking at your dewy eyes, I knew you were serious.

And that was where my lie began.

You believe in them too, don't you? You asked me this – this *Catch 22* question, trickier than the catch on your bra – as you unbuttoned another peep into the utopia beyond your almost-but-not-quite-transparent Tesco blouse.

After five years of fumbling around the pastel-coloured neoprene uni-horned cavalry that smelled of tutti frutti sweets, even right up to the point when I asked for your hand in marriage, even after six years of marriage – especially after six years of marriage – I have to confess: I don't believe in unicorns – I never have, I never will. Hercules agrees. It's not like we're talking about a Pegasus, right?

*

When the marriage disintegrates, we have to sit round the mediator's Stygian black ash furniture, dissecting our lives and possessions into lists of pros and cons. And that's where the unicorns bolt out of the stable at long last.

She believes in unicorns, I say. I mean, BELIEVES in them. How many unicorns do you see on the beaches of Scarborough?

That's nothing, you say. He thinks he can see Hercules! He talks to someone who isn't there! A mythical hero! Who's the real nut?

As your face becomes a bloated balloon of anger and incredulity, a sigh emanates from beside me.

We would never be in this position, if you'd only kept quiet about those bloody unicorns!

Hercules is right. He's always got a handle on the situation. The others agree with him.

The others? Oh, I've never told anyone about them. No one would believe me. Hercules agrees. *Jane Roberts*

"Hercules" was shortlisted for the Fish International Short Story Prize, and performed at National Flash Fiction Day 2016 in Bristol. Jane is currently part of the Writing West Midlands' Room 204 Writing Development Programme 2017-18." <http://janeeroberts.wordpress.com/>

CLUNGUNFORD CEILIDH

Hold the date!

Friday 11th November

Traditional Scottish ceilidh at Clungunford Parish Hall. Featuring local ceilidh band 'HighJinx' with a dance caller.

There will be food and a bar.

More details to follow in the next Gunnas Gazette and on Clungunford.com

Greetings from the Vicarage

Happy Summer all you Gunnas!

Well, since I last wrote, St Cuthbert's has been helping to give a much needed "happy" boost in the midst of a really heavy run of funerals in the Benefice across the last few months. Clungunford have had their share too.

But we've had some shiny times. Pentecost was wonderful with the Pilgrim Singers helping lead the Benefice Service, enhanced by the presence of three wedding couples who came to hear their Banns being read for the first time. Then the peachy Baptism Service for Maud, which was totally alive with children who all participated with great enthusiasm. I hope this is a sign of some great times ahead, especially with the Holiday Club this year "Cuthbert to the Rescue!" ~ no doubt flagged up in this edition.

Summer activities are starting up, a great time to get around and meet folk along the way. I love all the Fetes and Wakes and Duck Races, Barbecues and walks etc.

In the Benefice we have our own set of summer activities, beginning with a Confirmation Service with Bishop Richard at the end of July, up at the tiny church, St Michael's, Stowe. If you haven't ventured up there, it is a real gem; unusually we have four adults being confirmed and several others being baptised up there. Weddings are beginning, and in August Daniel Mellings and Charmaine Kerswell are being married at St Cuthbert's on Saturday 19th in the morning. Then I shoot off to do another at the other end of the Benefice in Llanfair Waterdine in the early afternoon.

As I mentioned in the last mag, we are doing a series of Summer Specials again this year, overriding the usual timetable, putting in some lovely opportunities for people to share across the Benefice at a time when many folk are away, so it makes sense to join forces. It is a good opportunity to get round and see the other lovely little and not so little Churches in the Benefice. The Services will be simple and accessible, around summer themes. Everyone is invited to come to any or all of them, and especially welcome to join us for the walking and eating! Less able folk welcome to the worship and eating too!

Now I'm simply going to include the Summer Plan now and hope that some of you may be tempted to join us for some of our happier events!

Middle Marches Benefice Summer Sundays

*Come and Share with us! An opportunity to Explore!
Everyone is very Welcome to any or ALL of these Events*

"Transfiguration" 11 am Summer Communion at Sunday 6 August Bedstone followed by Brunch. Walk "Pray, Eat, Walk" over the hill with Transfiguration Prayer at the top. Gather at Hopton castle for tea and early 4 pm Evening Worship.

Sunday 13 August "Summer Fun" 11 am "Cuthbert to the Rescue" Simple Summer Communion –extra child friendly, picking up the Holiday Club theme. Bring a picnic to eat together afterwards indoors or out

6.30 Wakes Celebration Praise at Llanfair Waterdine

Sunday 20 August
"Pray, Eat, Walk"
11 am Summer Communion at Chapel Lawn. Bring and Share Lunch followed by a circular walk around Bryneddin Wood

Sunday 27 August
"All Things Bright and Beautiful"
11 am Summer Communion at St Michael's, Stowe, followed by a simple lunch indoors or out.
3 pm "Come Bless your Pets" at St Mary's, Bucknell. Pets of all shapes and sizes and well-behaved owners – All Welcome!

Many Blessings and Son-shine to you all! *Annie and Red*

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

The pattern for Sunday Services for 2017, applied in the month of May, with no service on the first Sunday; a Family/All Age Service on the second Sunday, which focused on Christian Aid week, after a very successful fund raising Coffee Morning on the Saturday; and Morning Prayer on the third Sunday, based on Rogationtide. Both were at 10.00 am and were lay led, with coffee etc afterwards. On the fourth Sunday, Rev. Annie Ballard led an 11.00.0'clock Communion Service, which was followed by a 'Bring and Share' lunch.

The pattern changed in June, when there was a Benefice Service for Pentecost, on the first Sunday, as St Cuthbert's welcomed the participants of the Knighton Pilgrimage of Song, who were involved in the service, which was led by Rev. Annie Ballard. It was followed by lunch, as the Finale for their week end. Their music making was much appreciated.

The Family Service on the second Sunday appropriately became the Christening for Maude, with a wonderful number of children and guests attending – a very happy occasion.

The third Sunday was lay led, with reference to Fathers' Day. with 'special', surprise refreshments for the very warm day!

In July, the pattern of services will be as for May. Details of other services across the Benefices can be seen in the Deanery magazine and on church notice boards.

In August, Rev. Annie Ballard is planning for one service, on each of the four Sundays, to be held at different parishes around the Benefice. See her 'Greetings from the Vicarage', for details.

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

Rev. Annie Ballard, Vicar for St. Cuthbert's and for the six other parishes of the Middle Marches Benefice, can be contacted on 01547 530030. Any messages left, will get a response. Her email address is:

revannie.middlemarches@gmail.com

SERVICES at CLUNGUNFORD in the Middle Marches Benefice in July 2017. Please note that the services below will be at St Cuthbert's unless otherwise stated.

Sunday 2 July	No service at St Cuthbert's	Holy Communion, at 9.30 am at Chapel Lawn; and Evening Worship at 6.30 pm at Bucknell
Sunday 9 July	10.00 am	Family Service. Lay led service for all. Refreshments will be served after the service
Sunday 16 July	10.00 am	Morning Worship. Lay led Service of Praise. Refreshments will be served after the service
Sunday 23 July	11.00 am	Family Communion. Led by Rev Annie Ballard. With coffee etc. after the service, followed by a 'BRING AND SHARE' LUNCH – details from Christine and Robert Flitney, on 01588 661056
Sunday 30 July	No service at St Cuthbert's	Everyone is invtd to attend the service of Confirmation led by Richard, Bishop of Hereford, at Stowe at 3 pm.
August		Please see details under "Greetings from the Vicarage" above

From the Parish Registers and Recordings

Since the last edition of *The Gazette* the following can be reported:

The Funeral of Olwen Lewis of Clungunford took place on Tuesday, the 30 May, followed by burial in the churchyard.

The Death of John Prytz, formerly of Abcott, Clungunford, who was cremated in Shrewsbury on the 21 June.

The Christening of Maude Underhill took place on Sunday 11 June.

The Wedding of Daniel Mellings and Charmaine Kerswell will take place on Saturday, the 26 August, at 10.00 am

If you have questions or need any information or assistance, please contact Gordon, 01588 660158 or Mike, 01588 661145.

Christian Aid Week Many thanks to all who contributed so generously, both in the house to house giving and by supporting the Coffee morning, at the Church, where £340 was raised.

Thanks too, to those who collected in Clungunford, Beckjay and Shelderton, and in Clunton, Clunbury, Aston on Clun and Broome.

The Grand Total for the group came to £1,329.59

Summer Concert A pleasant evening for an enjoyable concert, with the Village Choir, conducted by Iain Wright, accompanied by Steve Beck, presenting a wide range of songs. The serving of drinks and an abundance of refreshments which followed, was also much enjoyed and appreciated.

Thanks to all involved with the Village Choir and to all others who contributed.

Visit of the D.A.C. It was a great pleasure to welcome the D.A.C. (The Diocesan Advisory Committee) to St. Cuthbert's, near the end of June. The group, led by Stephen Challenger, were visiting five churches, across the Diocese, who had made improvements to their churches, for the benefits of visitors, churchgoers and their communities. They were delighted too, to inspect the Lych Gate and were full of praise for its construction. They were also happy with the lunch provided.

Many thanks to all who helped for the occasion.

On-going The Church Wardens and other members of the PCC and friends, have represented St. Cuthbert's at the meeting of the Shropshire Churches Tourism Group, at the Presentation of awards for "Ride and Stride", at Benefice Council Meetings, at Deanery Synod, at Benefice Training Sessions, and at the Bishop's Visitation.

Jane Chamberlain, Church Architect visited in May to make the Quinquennial Inspection of the church. The report has yet to arrive, but there would seem to be the need for some work of preventive kind for the tower.

There is evidence too, that significant work needs to be done on the organ.

A considerable amount of work has been put in, in the churchyard. Much appreciation goes to the members of the 'God's Acre' team, for their work; to Gordon Price for his ongoing efforts; and to the group that has come together most recently to assist with general tidying and with the path, dealing with weeds, and aligning it between the Lych-gate and the porch. Please note, offers of help

with work, both outside and inside the church would be much appreciated. In addition, if anyone is interested in arranging flowers in church and would like to be on the rota, please get in touch, via the phone numbers given above.

Coming up Work is on-going in the preparation for Holiday Club. Notices and Application forms are available. Meetings are being held for planning. Details and contact numbers show on other pages.

Material for the next edition

Material for the next *Gazette* should please be with us by **25 August**. Email to gunnasgazette@aol.com or deliver to Clungunford House (black box in porch)

Club and Village Hall matters

White lining

We hope to re-do the white lining in the car-park during July. The contractors will need to have the car park completely free for two clear days, both to do the work and allow for the markings to set.

Watch out for notices when the time is appointed and please ensure the time-table is observed. Cars obstructing the work are liable to be towed away – remember they should not be parked there anyway without Club authority.

Playing field

Mowing the field on 1 July, the groundsman removed four glass Pepsi type bottles from the swings area, together with several spent tin cans. In previous times glass bottles have been found at the bottom of the slide.

Will parents of children who use the playing field please ensure that their children are educated about the dangers of leaving bottles on the field.

They can easily be mown over and broken and quickly become a hazard to unwitting users of the facilities. There is a handy bin for rubbish at the top of the ramp, and it is altogether better still if glass bottles and any other rubbish are taken home. If children – or adults for that matter – are found to be leaving glass bottles around the field, they will be barred from further use of the field until an appropriate period of education has taken place!

Jazz night

A full hall turned out to hear the Elliott Sansom Trio on 16 June. Enjoyed by all who attended, this is the first of a number of Club productions designed to branch out from the pure Saturday night model – watch this space! Even those not so keen on jazz seemed to appreciate the bar!

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Finally, here is one from Liz Lewis's scrapbook. A mysterious "Mr Rollinson Skellerton" is on the rostrum. You will probably work out who that is, but how many more do you recognize?

Clungunford villagers held their annual fete for church funds on Saturday in the parish rooms. Pictured above Mr Rollinson Skellerton starts the auction with a good crowd.