



The Newsletter for
Clungunford
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January 2019

THE GUNNAS GAZETTE

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Dear Editor,

What a wonderful community effort the Great Clungunford Christmas Celebration was. Yesterday I drove out from Ludlow to view the trees with my friend Pauline (Slow Ladies) and we took our time and looked carefully at every one. What a wonderful display of inventiveness, creativity, imagination and handiwork. The hard work involved was evident. EVERYONE WAS A WINNER.

Yours sincerely, Pam Farquhar Ludlow



Top: An elegant tree from Aston on Clun Village Shop

Middle: What is believed to be a tree (somewhere under there!) from the residents of Church Row

Bottom: "Just hold it on till the judging is done."



*The Christmas Tree
Dressing
Competition*

A Happy New Year to All Our Readers

Clungunford Parish Hall – renovations

More details about the works starting in January will be in future *Gunmas Gazettes* and updates will be posted on Clungunford.com

Clungunford Parish Hall Committee

Clungunford Sports and Social Club and the Parish Hall

At a meeting of Club members held on 10 December members voted by well over 90% to simplify the future management structures of these two long-standing institutions, effectively merging them. This is a great relief to those involved on the committees of each. Broadly, the Parish Hall charity will have ownership of and overall responsibility for the community assets, namely the hall itself, the car-park and the playing field and bowling green. This means that they are safeguarded for the community and hall users in perpetuity. The events that are staged at the Hall – Saturday night dances and mid-week events to boost income – will effectively be managed by the existing club committee, continuing the role it has carried out successfully for many years and expanding on it. The drinks licence will no longer be limited in the way a members' club licence is. There will be no membership fees. The new structure gives a shield against future tax liabilities. It is a much needed step into the 21st century.

A new constitution is being worked out for the charity, so that the committee is democratically responsible to its users – the community and our loyal customers. In the meantime a holding committee is taking things forward.

Thanks are due to the Club members who carefully considered the issues involved and took the time to attend the meeting and vote there in person or by post. This was not an easy matter to comprehend, and the committees were impressed by the standard of input from members and the high level of understanding they had evidently taken the trouble to acquire. An impressive community showing all round. The Club concept has given us the lead for 50 years, and the challenge to our generation and future generations is to keep it going and improve upon it. We now have the management tools to do it! *Jonathan Roberts*

Flicks in the Sticks at Clungunford Parish Hall

Sadly, due to the refurbishment taking place in the Village Hall there will be no Flicks until April. All our loyal following will be welcomed back to the new facilities then. A big thank you to everyone who has supported us in 2018 and particularly so to those who have helped put on the film shows, served the ice-creams, helped at the bar and organized the raffles.

If in the meantime you have any enquiries, the contact details are as follows:

Tel: 01588 660159 (Keith) or 01588 660781 (Maureen) (maureenrooney2012@gmail.com)

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

The Parish Council

The never ending saga of the Hopton Heath Poultry Houses continues into yet another year. At present there is no planning consent to challenge, and so as yet there is no need for further action. The Parish Council has, however, been considering a number of aspects of the process in readiness. I have before mentioned that it is unwise to reveal too much by way of strategy in a potentially litigious situation in a publication which has a surprisingly wide circulation (i.e. *The Gazette!*). If and when the call for action arises, I can assure readers both that all will be revealed and that there will be no risk to Parish Council finances. In the meantime I can only apologise for this somewhat teasing and coy update. Members of the Poultry House circulation list will receive an update in the early New Year. If you are an ardent follower of the tale and wish to join the list, please let me know.

More generally, pot holes and highway matters continue to take up much of our efforts, and at our next meeting we will discuss the precept for next year i.e. that part of the Council tax you pay to support parish Council activities. Although I cannot speak for my fellow councillors, of course, it seems unlikely that Brexit will make much difference to our plans!

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the Parish Hall on Wednesday 9 January at 8pm. All are welcome to attend.

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)

The 100 Club

Winners for November:

1. (£60) Pat Morris
2. (£30) Eddie Gledhill
3. (£15) Ennis Brown

Winners for December:

Special prize winner (£100): Christine Tinker

Ordinary monthly prize winners:

1. (£60) Rob Rees
2. (£30) Cath Burt
3. (£15) Susanna Rocke

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 Slow Ladies

Thursday 17 January: Walk to Clunbury for their coffee morning via Clunbury Hill. Return by a slightly longer other route. Meet by North Barn at 9.30am.

Friday 22 February: A walk to be decided nearer the time when we know what the weather might be doing. Please let me know if you are coming on either of these walks. We are always pleased to welcome new faces and feet to our walking group. *Pauline Mattison* 01588 660596

In The Garden

A cloudy day in Clungunford. A mild one though. Continuing the theme of the winter so far. I was able to work out in the garden this morning without having to wear a coat of any sort.

Mind, as I've said before after mentioning how mild the weather is, the passing of the shortest day is often a signal for the onset of the coldest weather of winter. And they have forecast that for some parts of the country in the next day or two. Time to settle down in front of the fire with a pile of seed catalogues then, and plan next season's vegetable crop if you haven't already done that.

A good time to finalise ideas for new plantings of deciduous trees, shrubs and hedges as well. Despite the all year round availability of container grown plants these days, January and February remain better months than summer ones for planting them. Bare-rooted plants need to be planted in winter. Re-siting established shrubs within a garden as a means of preventing it from becoming boring is also better carried out during the latter half of the dormant season. Where pruning is concerned, February is probably the better month of the two. Raspberries, currants of all hues and gooseberries can all be brought into shape. So too can apples and pears. Summer or autumn flowering clematis are best pruned in February. Wisteria should be pruned twice. Once in August, and then again in January.

Despite our usual excessively wet November, I managed to give the grass its final cut of the season. Unfortunately the rain didn't deter the mole. I think we only have one now since someone made a point of clearing them from the sports field across the way, but it remains active throughout the year. Simply retreating further underground to avoid the worst of the weather. I've learned to live with the damage it does do with its

tunnels, which are mostly confined to the vegetable patch now, rather than the grass where they used to run. Some years ago I tried plugging the tops of the exit holes the moles left when they came up for air with bottles. Something I'd heard of as a way of deterring them. I thought for a while it was going to be successful, but in the end it turned out to be just another saying which isn't true. Just as well probably. Lines of wine bottles sprouting from a lawn are even less attractive than lines of mole hills running across it. Neither would draw the eye away from sight of *Hamamelis mollis*, the Chinese witch hazel. A large shrub which has its bare branches ablaze with clusters of sweetly fragrant yellow flowers at this time of year, and has leaves which change colour in autumn too.

Brian Taylor

Postcard from Africa

A feature of Africa that is sometimes difficult to appreciate, even for those of us who have spent time there, is its size. It is vast! For example, before Sudan divided into two separate states, if it had been superimposed on Europe, it would have covered an area stretching from Scotland as far south as the Sahara Desert and width-wise from London to Moscow. And this is just one of the 54 countries, including island states, which make up the continent of Africa.

To carry out an overview of Africa is therefore very difficult because of the huge variation in social, cultural and traditional practices found across the continent. Nevertheless, I am going to try to give something of a snapshot of some of the key events that have occurred there in 2018, with the proviso that the list is far from complete and is entirely subjective.

As always, there is good news and not such good news, so let's start with the positive:

- a change of president in South Africa. Jacob Zuma was voted out of office and replaced with one of Nelson Mandela's right-hand men, Cyril Ramaphosa. While this will not bring an end to South Africa's problems overnight, at least Zuma's kleptocratic henchmen will not be able to plunder the national coffers as easily as they had been doing.
- rapprochement between Ethiopia and Eritrea, ending more than 20 years of tension in the Horn of Africa. The leaders of the two countries are talking about regional economic co-operation and development, which also must be good news for Djibouti and war-torn Somalia.
- general elections went ahead peacefully in Zimbabwe, enabling Zimbabweans to choose a successor to Robert Mugabe, who had been ousted from office in 2017. However, the successful candidate was Emerson "the crocodile" Mnangagwa, Mugabe's deputy and so there is unlikely to be a major shift in political direction in the short term. Most people are at least relieved that Grace Mugabe, Robert's spendthrift wife, has been all but marginalised from Zimbabwe politics.

These few items are quite seriously outnumbered by the items of not such good news:

- in west Africa, the Islamic fundamentalist group Boko Haram continues to cause mayhem in northern Nigeria and Cameroon. Civilians continue to be abducted, displaced and killed.

- ebola, a dreadful disease for which there is still no proven treatment, has broken out in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Access to affected communities is difficult due to local conflict, related to valuable minerals. Elections in DRC are now 2 years overdue.

- unrest continues in Darfur, in western Sudan where thousands of people displaced from their original homes have been living in camps for displaced people for more than 15 years. There is little news about Darfur that reaches us here, due to "media fatigue" and restrictions on reporting imposed by the Sudanese government - meanwhile, elsewhere in Sudan mass demonstrations against the government are taking place, protesting against the serious shortages of essentials such as bread and fuel and an inflation rate of around 70%. Reports suggest that more than 20 people have already lost their lives, allegedly shot by the security forces.

- and South Sudan continues to be devastated by internal strife which began in 2013. Hundreds of thousands of people are once again dependent on food relief for their survival.

One of the most bizarre incidents to have taken place during the year occurred in Uganda, where President Museveni was somehow able to convince the authorities there that his birth certificate was wrong and he was actually born several years later than it stated. Thus, he will be eligible to stand for another five-year term as president, to add to the 32 years he has already held that post.

What 2019 holds in store for the continent remains to be seen. I am sure you will join me in hoping that peace will return to those countries and regions currently affected by strife, that rains will be adequate for producing good harvests and political leaders will be enlightened enough to put the needs of their own citizens before their personal greed. Happy New Year Africa.

Rob Rees

Safari Supper – Saturday 23 March

As we announced in the last edition of the *Gunmas Gazette*, we are planning to organise a **Safari Supper** on Saturday 23 March 2019 as a fund-raising activity for Clungunford parish's new chosen charity, LAMB. For more about LAMB, see below. Already several people have shown an interest in taking part in this and now, as promised we are able to give further information for those of you who might still be undecided.

All participants will be asked to provide either a starter, main course or dessert for **SIX or SEVEN people** (there maybe a few threesomes), **including yourselves**. Which course you will be asked to provide will be decided purely randomly (no choices) and you will be informed if any of your guests have any specific dietary requirements. Everyone will have each course in

a different location with different couples or threesomes around the table each time.

If you are on your own, we will either suggest someone else with whom you can partner or make a threesome.

A day or two beforehand we will inform you on timings and where to journey for your starter. After each course the host will open an envelope and tell you where you will go to for your next course. Directions and any other useful information will be given to you then. Don't panic - you will not get lost!

At the end of the evening we will all join up at a central location for coffee.

We need to know **before February 28th** if you wish to take part. After that date it would be very difficult to reorganise if you have to drop out.

We ask you to contribute in two ways: to provide one "course" for six/seven people, plus a cash donation of at least £25 per couple (£12.50 for singletons), all of which will be paid as a donation to LAMB.

This has always been an enjoyable event and we hope to welcome as many of you as possible.

*LAMB is a medical programme in north west Bangladesh, serving a population of over 6 million people, founded in the early 1970's by the (American) World Mission Prayer League. Amongst other things, they run a 150 bed hospital, 28 community clinics, a nurses training institute and a rehabilitation centre for children with disabilities. Any funds which we raise will be channelled through the LAMB Health Care Foundation, a UK registered charity set up to raise funds to support the work in Bangladesh. Our contributions will most probably be earmarked for their **poor fund**, which is used to pay for the costs of medical treatment for the poorest patients who come to them for treatment. More information can be found at either www.lambproject.org or www.lhcf.org.uk.*

To register interest in participating, please contact either Pauline Mattison – 01588 660596 – paulinemattison@aol.com

or Rob Rees – 01547 540248 – rob_rees@hotmail.com (preferably, please use my e-mail, otherwise leave a message on my answerphone with your name and number and I will get back in touch.)

Looking forward to seeing you on 23 March

Nursing Notes

Here are some more remedies and treatment from centuries ago:-

9th Century. *To cure a headache:*

Headaches you will enchant; take some earth, touch your breast 3 times and say " My head hurts, why does it hurt? It does not hurt.

1470's. *General pick-me-up:*

Anyone who can ride a bear the distance of nine paces without faltering will be immunised against nine kinds of sicknesses.

1561. *To cure a nosebleed:*

Beat eggshales to powder and syft them through a linnen cloth and blew them into his nose. If the shales were of eggshales whereout yonge chickens are hatched, it were so much the better. Or else take the dounge of an asse, mix the same wyth vinegre, and holde the same at his nose. Lykewyse doth the dounge of a sow or swyne that hath eaten grasse.

1728. *To treat sore throats and coughs;*

The best remedy is to consume the mucilaginous essence of snails. " They abound with a slimy juice, and are experienced very good in weaknesses and consumption, especially for children and tender constitutions. To make a syrup of snails, take garden snails, early in the morning while the dew is upon them, one pound. Take off their shells, slit them, and with half a pound of sugar, put them in a bag, hang them in a cellar and the syrup will melt and drop through, which keep for use. It possesses in the best manner all the virtues of snails."

Also for earache; prick a snail to bring forth that slimy, foamy juice, and then drop the whole thing into the ear to cure an earache.

19th Century. *For disobedient children:*

Along came "soothing syrups", lozenges and powders, all of which were carefully formulated to ensure they were safe to use by the youngest & most vulnerable family members. Actually they pumped each bottle full of as many narcotics as it could hold.

Each ounce of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup contained 65mg of pure morphine.

In 1910 it was reported that this was a bad idea, and it was reported that these soothing syrups contained "morphin sulphate, chloroform, morphine hydrochloride, codeine, heroin, powdered opium, cannabis indica...." and sometimes several of them in combination.

The syrups were effective as long as you didn't mind your toddler being strung out on the midnight oil, or dead.

Lovesickness:

Being lovesick may be the worst sickness of all. A lovesick patient may develop pustules, shrink, then howl like a wolf and die. It was advised that to open the hemorrhoids was the surest remedy.

DON'T try these at home!!! *Sister B*

P.S. A patient with orchiditis and severe oedema of the testes / scrotum was asked by the doctor if his testicles

were still bothering him. To which the patient said "No" When the doctor had left the room, the patient turned to me and said " I really don't know what the doctor asked me about, but my balls are killing me!"

Parish Church News

The Rev Annie Ballard, Vicar for the Parishes of the Middle marches Benefice, can be contacted at The Vicarage in Bucknell (tel 01547 530030). Should you need more information about services, events etc. or about receiving the Deanery magazine, please contact our Church Wardens, Michael Jones on 01588 661145 or Edward Gledhill on 01588 660485.

SERVICES at CLUNGUNFORD in the Middle Marches Benefice for January and February 2019. Please note that the services below will be at St Cuthbert's unless otherwise stated. Details of all the Services in the Benefice can be found in the Deanery Magazine.

Sunday 6 January		No Service at St Cuthbert's
Sunday 13 January	10.00am	Christingle Service
Sunday 20 January	10.00am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 27 January	11.00am	Holy Communion (Rev. Annie Ballard)
Sunday 3 February		No Service at St Cuthbert's
Sunday 10 February	10.00am	Family Service
Sunday 17 February	10.00am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 24 February	11.00am	Holy Communion (Rev. Annie Ballard)

Recent Events:

On the 8th December - The Great Clungunford Christmas Tree Celebration!

The Great Clungunford Christmas Tree Celebration saw ten teams of devoted Christmas Tree decorators meet for battle and the title of the Best Decorated Christmas tree 2018. All were very worthy entries but in the end after a public vote, the 'Slow Ladies' were awarded the title closely followed by 'Tree Generations'. Music was provided by 'High Variety' and Peter Faulkner, and readings compiled by Liz Roberts and Anna Dreda made the afternoon fly by, as did a surprise visit by Father Christmas. Soup, hot dogs, cakes and drinks added to the enjoyment for more than a hundred and

twenty people who came to the event. Thank you to all those who made the day very special! The pictures elsewhere in *The Gazette* speak for themselves

On the 13th December, was the Carol Service with Christmas reading and carols. The Clungunford Village Choir provided some excellent music and lead the singing.

On the 24th December, was the Crib Service led by Robert and Christine Flitney. This is always a popular event and this year was no exception. The readings were done by the young and the 'not so young', and background of Christmas Trees, candles and carols made for a magical evening.

Many thanks for all who have helped with making the Church a special place this Christmas; for those who have decorated the Church, those who have read and sung, and provided food and drink. It has been a busy Christmas and all efforts have been appreciated.

Get your Gazette by email and see all this wonderful material in colour. Send your email address to gunnagazette@aol.com, and we will do the rest.... and you will save a few trees

Material for the next edition

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

In the last edition of The Gazette we promised you a picture of the Riders in the 2018 Ride and Stride. Here they are, wet and steaming outside a local church





Top: Anxious competitors await the decision of the judges



Middle: The Catering Department



Bottom: The Raffle Department

*More Pictures
from
The Christmas
Tree Dressing
Competition*

A New Year Competition

As we have not had a Christmas competition this year, let us have a New Year Competition.

Below is a picture of Messrs Ennis Brown and James Wilkes, the one on the left from Church Row and the one on the right from Michigan. At a recent gathering it was found that they have something strangely in common.

What is it?

Answers, which must be submitted by email to gunnsgazette@aol.com by the end of January 2019, must be tastefully appropriate and be capable of being published in *The Gazette*. The reader who is nearest the right answer will win £5.00.

Clue: the answer has nothing to do with the choice of neckwear (both dubious).

The editor's decision is final and neither Ennis nor Jim may enter (or any spouse thereof).

