



THE GUNNAS GAZETTE

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*Merry
Christmas
and Happy
New Year to
All Our
Readers*



The Christmas Dinner

Clungunford Village Hall Committee is delighted to be continuing this year the long standing tradition of honouring the Parish's elders and seniors with Christmas Dinner. We have already got most of you on our invitation list for this year's dinner, which will be on Sunday 15 December, and invitations will be issued shortly during November. However, we cannot be entirely sure if we have everyone – and sometimes it is embarrassing to ask people their ages! We do not want anyone to be left out, and so if you have not received an invitation in previous years and you qualify and would like to come, please notify our secretary, Elizabeth Lyster on 01588 660152 as soon as possible, so that an invitation can be sent to you.

So, if you are over 65 (male) or 60 (female), please let us know if you have not had an invitation in previous years or if you have just reached the qualification age. Your spouse/partner (whatever their age!) will also be welcome to come as well, so don't forget to mention them too.

If you have not come before, do give it a try this year. It is a hugely popular event.



The Parish Council

Little to report. The High Court has now sealed the order quashing the Hopton Heath poultry unit consent, and we await events.

Our next meeting is on 13 November at 8pm in the Parish Hall, and 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)



Banish those post-Christmas blues and come along to a classic panto with fun, frivolity and local amateur actors!

THE WORLD PREMIERE OF...
DICK TITTERSTONE AND
THE MAYOR OF
CLUNFUNFORD



CLUNGUNFORD VILLAGE HALL

11TH JANUARY 2020 7.30PM (Doors open 7.PM)

12TH JANUARY 2020 2.30PM (Doors open 2.PM)

Adults: £6, Children: £3, Family (2 adults+2 Children) £15.

(additional children £1 each).

Book tickets from the Gunnas Bar or call 01588 660152

Refreshments available at both performances. All proceeds to The Village Hall Charity.

- **Woman driver seriously injured after swerving to avoid dog.**
- **Child may lose finger after being bitten by dog.**
- **Dog runover and killed on Church Road.**

Not headlines anyone would want to see and thankfully not true-yet-but if unsupervised dogs continue to roam around our village and Parish then we may see these and more besides. To be clear, I am a dog lover and a dog owner so I have no gripe with the dogs who are generally lovely, it is irresponsible owners who are not with their dog to supervise and very importantly pick up dog mess that I have trouble with.

Both the Parish Council and Village Hall and Green Trustees have been receiving complaints about unaccompanied dogs and the proliferation of dog mess in the past few months. Clungunford is a very nice place to live and we don't want this to escalate to neighbourly disputes or reverting to legal options. However, if people continue allowing their dogs run loose then action can be taken which could result in fines and your dog being removed.

So, to summarise.

- Don't let your dog out unaccompanied as it is dangerous to other people and your dog.
- Always pick up your dog's mess. It is just the decent thing to do.
- Do contact me if you do not understand your legal and social obligations of dog ownership and what penalties you are likely to incur in breaking them.

Cllr Elizabeth Lyster
(On behalf of The Parish Council)
01588 660152
lystere@btopenworld.com

The Slow Ladies

Friday 16 November: a circular walk from Bury Ditches via Brockton –5.5 miles meet 9.30am in car park with coffee and picnic.

Friday 13 December: Clungunford to The Lion via Shelderton and the High Road. Meet at 9.30am in Carpark Bring coffee and money for lunching in the Lion. Back on the 1 o'clock bus from Leintwardine.

If the weather promises to be good we may decide to do the Brown Clee walk which we couldn't do because of bad weather in October.

Please let me know if you are coming on any of our walks. We are always pleased to welcome new faces and feet to our walking group. *Pauline Mattison* 01588 660596

Get your Gazette by email and see all this wonderful material in colour. Send your email address to gunnasingazette@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 December**. Email to gunnasingazette@aol.com or deliver to Clungunford House (black box in porch)

Bar nights

These are proving very popular – if you have not been down already to mix with the crowd, make a point of so doing – you will not be disappointed. Village pub atmosphere at its best!!! See below for forthcoming Bar Nights.



Flicks in the Sticks at Clungunford parish Hall

Friday 15 November 2019 at 8pm

Red Joan (cert 12a)

Based on a true story, Joan Stanley is a widow living out a quiet retirement in the suburbs, when she's arrested. The charge: providing classified scientific information about the building of the atomic bomb to the Soviet Union. As she is interrogated, Joan relives the dramatic events that shaped her life and beliefs: her student days at Cambridge, her tumultuous love affair with a dashing political radical, and the devastation of World War II, which inspired her to risk everything in pursuit of peace

Starring: Judi Dench, Sophie Cookson, Stephen Campbell Moore

Director: Trevor Nunn **Drama/Mystery**

Friday 13 December 2019 at 8pm

Stan & Ollie (cert 12a)

Steve Coogan and John C Reilly give delightful performances nailing the duo's body language, mannerisms and routines. In 1953 with their immense fame on the wane, Stan "Laurel" and Ollie "Hardy" embark on a grueling farewell tour of British seaside towns. The tour starts badly; modest music halls, cramped little guesthouses, they struggle for audiences. A charming, poignant, insightful study of lifelong male friendship this is a fitting tribute to the greatest pair of comedians of all time.

Starring: Steve Coogan, John C Reilly, and Shirley Henderson

Director: Jon S. Baird **Comedy Drama**

Entrance to films: £4.00 Adults £2.00 Children

Licensed Bar, Ice creams, raffle (Donations welcomed), good car parking

Tel:01588 660781 (Maureen)

(maureenrooney2012@gmail.com) or 01588 660159

(Keith) for enquiries and reservations.

We now show all our films with subtitles

We are in the process of compiling 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.

Nursing notes

These really old remedies and treatments fascinate me, so I hope you find them equally interesting. This one for curing head congestion is from around 1596.

"A medicine for stopping the nose and head, which commeth by reason of a colde -

Take a good quantity of the juice of Primrose, and blow it with a quill into the Patients nose, and let him keep himselfe warme after it, and it will cleare both his head and nose"

By contrast this remedy dates from about 1682.

" For a Cold and stuffing in the Head, to draw Rheum from the Head, and comfort the Brain -

Take an Orange, and pare off very thin the yellow Rind; rowl it up conveniently to thrust up into the Nostril, turning the inner moist side outward to be next to your flesh within the Nose, put a rowl into each Nostril. It will cause sneesing, and will make much water run down at the Nose and comfort the Brain"

I can't recommend either of these remedies, as I haven't tried them!! *Sister B*

PS. Q: When was medicine first mentioned in the Bible?

A: When Moses received the two tablets.

Postcard from Africa

In this era of climate change and unpredictable weather patterns, it has been said that a potential cause of international conflict in future will be access to water. Water is essential for all forms of life and with an increasing global population, water consumption increases while the amount of water we have on this planet is finite. Competition for access to water and for the control of river flows is inevitably going to increase and protocols will need to be put in place globally to ensure that the above prediction does not come true. A very delicate situation currently exists in the Horn of Africa over just this issue.

Of the River Nile which reaches Egypt, 85% of the water comes from the Blue Nile, which rises in Ethiopia, flows westward through Sudan and joins the White Nile at Khartoum. Although there is one dam on the Blue Nile, in Sudan, it is a relatively small one that has no major impact on the overall flow of the river. However, on the Ethiopian side of the border, for the last five years, what will be Africa's largest dam has been under construction, aimed at producing enough electricity to meet the country's needs now and for many years to come. The reservoir that will be created will cover an area bigger than greater London and stretch for 250km upstream. Downstream of Ethiopia, more than 1000km away is Egypt, a country with a population of nearly 100 million people, most of whom live along the fertile Nile valley. Most of the people are involved in agriculture, either as subsistence farmers or growing crops for sale in the urban markets. Some of their produce can be found for sale here in Britain. All of this agriculture is dependent on irrigation and the River Nile is the only available source of water. Egypt is extremely worried that Ethiopia will be able to control the flow of the Nile, once the dam is completed, and the amount of water reaching Egypt will be reduced. Consequently, they have threatened military action against the dam if Ethiopia doesn't halt construction.

In the short term, Egypt's fears probably have some justification. Construction work on the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam as it is called will be completed by 2023, but then it will take 5-7 years for the reservoir to fill. Ethiopia understandably will want to start generating electricity as soon as possible, so they will only release a minimum amount of water into the river while the reservoir is filling. Although Egypt has a large reservoir of its own - Lake Nasser and the High Aswan Dam - that helps to regulate the flow through the lower Nile valley, there is great concern about the reliability of the future flow of the river especially at times of low rainfall. Even at present consumption levels and with the current rate of population growth, it is predicted that Egypt will be facing water shortages by 2025.

Use of the Nile water is currently governed by an agreement reached between Britain and Egypt, signed in 1929 that not only gave Egypt almost unrestricted use of the flow in the river, but also the power of veto over any plans to extract water from the river by any of the countries upstream through which the river flows. Even 90 years later, Egypt insists that this agreement still applies and Ethiopia should therefore have obtained Egyptian approval before starting work on the dam. Of course they did not: as a sovereign state, Ethiopia claims the right to use water flowing through its territory without the need for approval from anyone. Unfortunately talks between the two countries have not made much progress - a classic case of an unstoppable force up against an immovable object. Common sense suggests that it ought to be relatively easy to find a solution to this problem, to meet the needs of both countries without resorting to armed conflict, even though both sides will have to make compromises. It

could be a win-win situation: Ethiopia will have surplus electricity to export and Egypt could benefit from cheap power generated from renewable sources. Ethiopia needs to be sensitive to the needs of its downstream neighbours and guarantee at least a certain minimum flow but for its part, Egypt needs to refrain from threatening the use of force to impose its will far beyond its borders. *Rob Rees*

Early autumn weather – wet and mild but with a dry spell in September

Although August was wet overall, the last ten days were dry and warm with 26°C on the 26th at Hopton Heath.

September continued the tendency for weather to change after ten days. The first ten days were moderately warm with light rain, with a total rainfall of 17mm. The next ten days were dry and warm, with only 1mm rain and a mean maximum temperature of 19°C (possibly an 'Indian summer?') However, the last ten days of September were extremely wet with a total of 116mm rain and five days with over 10mm and two with over 25mm.

October has been consistently wet up to the 20th with only three days without rain. The total up to the 20th is 86mm with three days recording more than 10mm. It has been mild and I recorded only one day with a slight frost (on the 17th). It has been wetter in many parts of the country, with the Met. Office recording 100mm or more widely up to the 20th. It appears to be dry today and the forecast is for a few more dry days until the 25th. Perhaps the weather changes are now going to be every five days.

Mike Tucker 21 October 2019

Editor's note: Sure enough, the Heavens opened and the floods came on 25 and 26 October!

In the Garden

A foggy day in Clungunford and I've been doing what I always do at this time of year - cutting my hedges. Thinking back, though, to warmer and sunnier days. August Bank Holiday Monday for instance.

Last bank holiday Monday was a very hot day here in Clungunford and we had been sitting outside on the patio watching the martins catching insects high in the sky above us. Just after we came indoors from doing that around 6.30 pm something which looked very like a swallow in shape flew into our kitchen and then disappeared from view entirely, though we went from room to room downstairs looking for it. It seemed unlikely it could have been a bird had flown into the house like that, because previous experience of birds doing that is that they fly around in a panic and are difficult to control. This intruder had disappeared completely. With our previous experience of having a bat in the house we thought that was a more likely intruder.

Some years ago now we were sitting watching television when something passed through the room on the periphery of our vision and disappeared into my study. When I went to investigate I found a Pipistrelle bat clinging to one of the long curtains covering the bay window. Not wanting to handle it, I searched out a

butterfly net I had in the garage, caught the bat in it and put it back outside where it belonged. Further investigation showed there was a window open along the upstairs landing the bat must have come in through.

We saw nothing more of the intruder and had begun to believe it must have flown back out as swiftly as it had flown in though we hadn't seen it go.

We went to bed around midnight and I came out of my bedroom almost immediately to come face to face with something with large pointed wings flying at high speed along the landing. At my sudden appearance in front of it it wheeled into the adjacent bathroom and I closed the door behind it so it couldn't escape, wondering how I was going to open the window in there to let it out without it coming back onto the landing past me. When I opened the bathroom door to do just that, however, it was no longer there. I met it coming back up the stairs at high speed and assumed it must have escaped via the gaps around the pipes leading from either the sink or the bath.

I went to put on the overall I wear when looking at my bees, because I had only been wearing pyjamas until that point. Coming back up the stairs wearing it I met the fast moving creature just flying down the stairs to escape Iris, who had appeared at the top of them at that moment. At my sudden appearance in its path again it wheeled away into the study to avoid me. Lucky for all of us that was, because the study has a door I was able to fix and stand in front of so it couldn't escape back into the house.

It was clear by now this was some sort of bat, though not a Pipistrelle this time. It clung to the same curtains that had whilst I opened the windows at either side of the study and with frequent bursts of rapid speed on those long pointed wings, it eventually made its way to the larger of the windows, out of it and away.

Consulting the internet the next day showed our visitor to have been the largest of the British bats, a Noctule, noted for its rapid flight on pointed wings. The internet also said Noctule bats fly two hours either side of dusk, often in the company of Martins, so I suppose that was what it had been doing when it accidentally strayed into our kitchen.

I also suppose the reason we didn't see it after it had done that was that it had been hiding from potential enemies in the shape of two humans, who might have harmed it in some way if they'd come across it, until we seemed to have gone to bed, after which it came out from wherever it had been hiding and tried to find its own route to freedom. It wouldn't have succeeded though without my help, because we don't leave windows open overnight. Who knows what might have happened to its bid for freedom without me there to help it on its way.

In the garden looking quite magnificent at the moment because it has managed to retain most of its leaves despite autumn winds and rain, look out for *Vitis cognatae*, the Crimson Glory Vine, a deciduous woody-stemmed tendril climber, grown more for its foliage than its black berries, growing vigorously to fifty feet or more.

Brian Taylor

From the Vicarage

It's been quite a year on all fronts!

So it is good to have opportunities to celebrate.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Christmas events ... and possibly others before that!

Meanwhile I introduce my new little friend and with him I am:

With love and prayers from *Annie and Meriadoc*



The 100 Club

Winners for September:

1. (£60) Susanna Rocke
2. (£30) Caroline Pierotti
3. (£15) Ann Hunt

Winners for October:

1. (£60) Mike Jones
2. (£30) Anne Gledhill
3. (£15) Robin Bywater

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

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 November and December 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 3 November		No Service at St Cuthbert's
Sunday 10 November	10.45am	Service of Remembrance (Led by Pat Morris, Mike Jones and Eddie Gledhill)
Sunday 17 November	10.00am	Morning Prayer (Led by Robert and Christine Flitney)
Sunday 24 November	11.00am	Holy Communion (Led by Rev Annie Ballard)
Sunday 1 December		No Service at St Cuthbert's
Sunday 8 December	10.00am	Family Service (Led by Isa and Mike Jones)
Sunday 15 December	10.00am	Morning Prayer (Led by Melanie Taylor)
Thursday 19 December	7.00pm	Carol Service with the Clungunford Choir and led by Rev Annie Ballard
Sunday 22 December	11.00am	Holy Communion (Led by Rev Annie Ballard)
Tuesday 24 December Christmas Eve	6.00pm	Carols around the Crib (led by Catherine Lishman and Anne Gledhill)
Wednesday 25 December	10.30am	Holy Communion (Led by Rev John Daniels)
Sunday 29 December		No Service at St Cuthbert's

Forthcoming Events:

Special services during November and December

We have many special services during November and December starting with **Remembrance Sunday** which this year falls on the 10th November. As is customary, we will mark the occasion by the reading of the names of those from our Parish who gave their lives during the wars and remembering them with a minute's silence at 11.00am. If you would like someone who is not mentioned on the Church's memorial board to be remembered by having their name read out during the service, please let one of the Church Wardens know so that they can be included.

On Thursday the 19 December at 7pm we will have our **Christmas Carol Service** supported by the Clungunford Choir. We are very fortunate in the village to have the Choir and thank them for making this service special. Come along and sing your favourite carols!

There is a further opportunity to sing carols and to also enjoy the dressing of the crib at the Church on Christmas Eve at 6pm at the **Carols around the Crib** service. Take a break from the Christmas preparations, get out of the house and enjoy some good singing.

Sunday 1 December Advent Celebration – Quiz and Supper Night

Christmas is fast approaching as the advertisements for toys, foods and a vast array of other goods are happy to remind us. The lead up to Christmas in the Church starts with Advent and we will have an **Advent Celebration – Quiz and Supper Night** in the Church on Sunday 1 December starting at 6.30 pm. There will be hot food, a licensed bar and good company as well as a quiz to tax your local and general knowledge. You can enter the quiz as a team of six or come along and join a team. Whichever you choose to do, I am sure that you will have an enjoyable evening. Tickets will be available shortly from the Church Wardens at £10 which includes food and a glass of wine, beer or soft drink.

Thursday 19 December from 3.00 until 4.30pm - Christmas Poetry Special

Anna Dreda will be hosting a Christmas Poetry Special in the Church on Thursday December 19th, 3 - 4.30pm. Tickets are £10 (but a donation on the day to the church for heating would be very much appreciated as well!) We'll have candlelight, a Christmas tree, warming winter drinks, festive refreshments, and we'll tell a story of Christmas in poetry with readings from Anna and her team. All very welcome, but pre-payment and booking helps with catering and planning so please email Anna on annadreda@icloud.com or phone 01588 660154 if you'd like to come. (But if you don't get round to booking,

come anyway, there's lots of room.) This is a very special event and will really get you into the Christmas spirit.

The Church Yard fire

Some of you may have noticed a fire engine that came through the village, turned down the track leading to Church Row and the rear of the Church yard to *extinguish a fire* that had started in the Church's compost heaps. The day of the fire was a very warm one and the dry material on the surface was easily set ablaze. The firemen could not attribute the fire to any particular cause but said that it could have easily been caused by a fragment of glass focusing the sun's rays. We are very grateful to the volunteers of the fire service in Craven Arms who attended the fire.

We are also grateful to Dennis Price and Liz Lewis. It was Dennis who first noticed smoke coming from the back of the Church and went to investigate. Thanks to his prompt actions and those of Liz Lewis, who phoned the emergency services, the fire was dealt with quickly and damage was limited.

Tuesday 5 November – God's Acre

We are very grateful to the team from *God's Acre* which continue to help with the management of our Church yard. They recently undertook a wild flower survey and will be visiting us again on the 5 November to do Autumn tasks. God's Acre are a volunteer group and a charity who help preserve the diversity of plants and wildlife in church yards across the country. Volunteers are always welcome!

Monday 11 November at 7pm – Bible Course

We will start a new York Bible Course entitled 'Faith, Hope and Love' on Monday 11th November. This is a five part course and we will meet on the second Monday evening of the month. The first meeting will be at Mike and Isa Jones. All are welcome.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We would like to thank everybody that came along to support the Macmillan coffee morning on Friday the September 27th. A wonderful £432.38 was raised!

A big thank you to everybody who baked and helped on the day and our lovely quartet that played free of charge for us.

A very big thank you to you all. *Jackie Huse*

Circle Dancing in Clungunford Village Hall

with Anna Dreda and Jeanette Whitford

Happy to report that the circle dance regroup is going well with some twenty dancers on each of the last three Fridays. We meet most Friday mornings from 10.30 - 12 noon, and we are loving the beautiful sprung floor and the wonderful surround sound system - thank you village hall!

Our dates from now to Christmas are: November 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd. And December 6th, 13th and the Christmas special on December 20th.

Circle dancing is for everyone, and every dance is carefully taught. You don't have to come every week, we are happy for you to drop in when you are able. Always welcome!

Any queries to annadreda@icloud.com or phone 01588 660154



Village Hall Bar News **MORE VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!!**

We already have a good and growing core of volunteers for bar work, but more are always useful. Should any brave souls wish to join the intrepid volunteers, please contact me on 01588 660847 and we will be delighted to recruit you to the team.

David Wilkinson

Christmas Carol Service

Thursday 19th December

at 7.00

with the

Clungunford Village Choir

refreshments to follow

St Cuthbert's Church

Clungunford



Carols around the Crib

*A short service for all the
family with lots of carols from
new born to great grandma!*

6.00 pm Christmas Eve





St Cuthbert's Church, Clungunford
Advent Celebration

Quiz and Supper Night!

6.30 pm on Sunday 1st December

live music, hot supper, licensed bar, sociable
team quiz and prizes - the best start to the
Christmas Season. Teams of 6, or come and join
a team. All welcome!

Tickets £10 to include food and a free glass of wine/beer/soft drink.
Contact Mike Jones 01588 661145 or Eddie Gledhill 01588 660485

A NEW LOOK FOR THE GUNNAS BAR. Come and have a look on the 8th November!

The more observant amongst you may have seen a lot of activity in the bar in the past few weeks and we are pleased to announce that the refurbishment of the bar is now complete! Such an achievement requires a bit of a celebration so we are inviting everyone to come and have a look on the Friday 8th November (doors open 8pm). If you have never been before, or it has been a while, you can be sure of a warm welcome, a surprising well stocked and very reasonably priced bar and of course see the new décor. The Gunnas is truly a community bar, run by villagers for the benefit of everyone so do come and support it and bring your friends and family.
Here is a tantalising preview.....



Elizabeth Lyster
(On behalf of The Village Hall and Green Trustees).

The Marches Choir

The Marches Choir presents Britten and Handel - Saturday 23rd November. The choir together with the Marches Sinfonia, professional tenor soloist Clifford Lister, and members of choirs from Bedstone College and Prestfelde schools, will perform Britten's St Nicolas Cantata and Simple Symphony, excerpts of Handel's Chandos Anthem No.9, and a piece written specially for the choir. St John's Church, Bishops Castle, 7.30pm, £12 (children and students free), 01588 650448, or on the door."

THE CLUNGUNFORD VILLAGE CHOIR
INVITES YOU TO

COUNTRY HOUSE
CAROL
PARTY

THURSDAY 5TH DECEMBER

CLUNGUNFORD HOUSE

7.30PM

WARMING REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

RAFFLE

ADMISSION - £7 AT THE DOOR / SCHOOL AGE FREE

THE PERFECT START TO CHRISTMAS