



THE GUNNAS GAZETTE

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The Parish Council

It is comforting that the vaccination programme is now well under way and that most, if not all, of our most vulnerable residents are gaining an increasing protection from the worst effects of the virus. For all of us in this village this will have been the first time we have experienced a pandemic in our lifetimes, and I doubt it will be forgotten.

Nevertheless, we must all be careful to follow the Government guidelines until the virus is totally under control. The guidelines are not there to annoy you, but to keep you alive. It is, of course, important that you have your job as soon as it is offered, not only for your own benefit, but also for the benefit of others. For those of us who have experienced the job, it is totally painless.

In the village huge thanks are due to those who have helped vulnerable neighbours during the pandemic. Many people have helped out in so many different ways. It is not possible to name you all, but suffice it to say that if it was in our gift to distribute medals for community service, there would be many to be given out. With your help and prudence from villagers at large, we seem mercifully to be coming out of the crisis relatively unscathed, and let us hope and pray that this trend continues. Better times are, I am sure, ahead.

This would normally be the time of year when we organize our annual LITTER PICK. Certainly, the lanes need it, and subject to discussion by the Parish Council at its next meeting on the 10 March as to the legalities and advisability of doing this in current circumstances, it is hoped that something may be arranged for the end of March/early April before the hedgerows burst into life once more. Watch, the poster boards and notices at www.clungunford.com for further details.

One important announcement is that the Parish Council elections set for May are likely to be going ahead. This gives you a chance to become a Parish Councillor and to vote out the present incumbents! We are the only Parish Council for miles around who have a full complement, which is excellent. There are nine of us at present. If more people than nine put themselves forward for election, then there will be a contested election. If serving as a Parish Councillor appeals to you, why not give it a go? A note from our Parish Clerk follows on the procedures to be followed.

Our next meeting is on 10 March 2021 at 7pm. This meeting will be held again via the Zoom platform. Nevertheless, interested members of the public, as ever, are welcome to attend (please contact me or look for instructions on the notice board and website) Parish matters before (or after) the meeting may be raised either with me or via our email address: clungunfordparishcouncil@gmail.com Jonathan Roberts, Chairman (01588 660673: jonathan.roberts@morgoedestates.com). Our Parish Clerk, Max Maxwell, is now back in the reins after temporary leave. Jonathan Roberts

Parish Council election – 6th May 2021

All parish councils in Shropshire are scheduled for re-election on 6th May 2021 alongside other local elections. Current members of Clungunford Parish Council will have to re-nominate themselves if they wish to remain on the council, and other qualifying individuals in the parish are able to be candidates as well.

If there are 9 (or fewer) nominations then no parish election is required as this is the maximum number of councillors allowed in Clungunford parish and all nominees would be elected.

If you are interested in being a parish councillor the deadline for nominations is Thursday 8th April. Details of the parish council can be found on www.clungunford.com. This website will also have news and links to further information about the elections as it becomes available. Max Maxwell, Clerk to Clungunford Parish Council

Update on the Village Hall

Every time I go past the Hall I am sad to see it all locked up and not in use. We had such a great year in 2019 and were so excited about the plans we had for 2020. But we all know what happened next.

So, I just wanted to let you know that the Hall Trustees are as keen as everybody else to open and start activities again. When we are allowed to open we will let you know what plans we have and keep you informed using the Gunnas Gazette and <http://clungunford.com/>

Simon Lyster on behalf of the Village Hall Trustees

Winter 2020-21 - Wet with cold spells

In Hopton Heath, December 2020 was the wettest of my records, going back to 2007, with 192mm rainfall, including storm Bella on Boxing Day followed by some snow on the next two days.

January was the coldest since 2011 and the wettest since 2014, with 140mm rain including storm Christoph on the 19th but, surprisingly, very little snow.

The changeable weather has continued into February with wet, mild spells from the 2nd to 7th and after the 14th but with very cold weather from 8th to 14th. The cold spell was caused by strong easterly winds that brought heavy snow to the east of England but only a very light fall in Shropshire. It was often called 'The beast from the east two' after the similar period at the end of February 2018, which, however, continued into early March and produced more snow in Shropshire.

The winter as a whole has been one of the wettest in my records with 421mm up to 21 February and depending on the rain in the next week may exceed last year's total of 467mm.

In spite of rain, it now feels quite spring-like with snowdrops and crocuses in flower and maximum temperatures of about 11C. We could do with some pleasant weather to lighten the pandemic gloom but previous years have shown that the winter may not be over yet even though it is March at the end of the week.

Mike Tucker

The Gunnas Gazette by email

The Coronavirus lockdown has brought into sharp focus the logistics of delivery of *The Gunnas Gazette*.

For each edition we used to print and distribute 155 paper copies and send out a similar number by email. *The Gazette* is also posted on the website at www.clungunford.com

Due to repeated pleas in *The Gazette* we are pleased to announce that we have now got the hard copy numbers down to the low 90s, and so many thanks to all who have now opted into the digital edition. It is a big help.

Nevertheless, the Committee guess is still that probably all bar maybe 50 homes are capable of receiving *The Gazette* by email.

Our selfless distributors on whom we rely are all among the self-isolating community, and so during the remainder of the lockdown at least we will continue to issue *The Gazette* by post rather than through voluntary distributors. The lower the numbers, the more sustainable a solution this is.

It is, therefore, important that **in future** those who are able to do so, take their *Gazettes* by email only, in order to reduce the number of paper copies still further. Not only can you store them on your devices, but you can see everything in colour – a benefit denied to paper copy recipients – and save a lot of trees into the bargain.

Please, please sign up for the digital edition, if you can, by emailing gunnasmagazine@aol.com

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, please contact our Church Wardens, Michael Jones (tel: 01588 661145, email: mpjt51@hotmail.com) or Edward Gledhill (tel: 01588 660485, email: edward@aegledhill.co.uk).

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

Sunday 14 th March Mothering Sunday	10.00 am	Family Service
Sunday 21 st March	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 28 th March Palm Sunday	10.00 am	Morning Prayer

Services will be on-line. Please contact one of the Church Wardens for more details on how to join and for services in April.

General Notices

Though we are allowed to hold services in the Church we are continuing to hold them online for the present. This may well change over the next few weeks as the UK starts to open up once more following our latest restrictions. The vaccination programme is now well under way and we have real hope that things will settle into a new normality and we will be back in Church shortly. Alas, no news on when we will be allowed to sing in Church again!

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

We are legally required to hold an APCM each year with a very prescriptive agenda. The meeting includes items on the state of the Church finance and the building along with reports from the Vicar on the Benefice, and an annual report from the Church Wardens. It is also an opportunity to elect Church Wardens, Deanery Synod Representatives and PCC members. Over the last two years we have covered all these items at a Parish AGM and taken the output from this meeting to a Benefice wide APCM. The intent is to do the same this year.

The AGM this year will be held on Thursday 25th March at 7pm. It will be an on-line meeting as we are currently not allowed to hold meetings in a church building. You are warmly invited to attend the AGM. If you would like to do so, please could you let either Mike or Eddie know so that we can send you an invitation and an email with the documents that will be presented. If you do not wish or are unable to attend online, please ask for a set of papers to be delivered to you.

Lent Bible Course

During Lent we are following a Lent bible study course. The course is called 'Live Lent 2021' and is promoted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The meetings are online and take place on Monday evenings at 7pm. You are very welcome to join us. If you would like to do so, please let Mike or Eddie know and we will send you an invitation and the study notes.

Message from the Church Wardens about our Vicar, the Rev Annie Ballard

On 1st February 2021, we received a letter from the Reverend Annie announcing her retirement as from the end of April. It was not unexpected news, given she has clearly been unwell for at least the last two years. It is also evident that she has been under severe strain trying to manage such a large Benefice with seven Parishes while being physically unwell; then the pandemic and the complexities that this caused added to the burden.

On behalf of St Cuthbert's Church and the Parish, we would like to thank Annie for her service over the last five years. We know that this has not been an easy period of her career, particularly with her health issues. Yet despite this, she has been able to ready people in St Cuthbert's Church congregation to be able to continue offering services and to ensure the general running of the Church for the foreseeable future as we enter into the uncertain period of Interregnum.

We wish her a long and happy retirement and that her health will continue to improve.

If you would like to say your goodbyes to her, then it is planned that Annie's last service will be on Easter Sunday. We shall confirm this shortly with a notice on the local notice boards.

Best wishes

Mike and Eddie

Letter from the Rev Annie Ballard to 'All of my friends in the Middle Marches Benefice' (1 February 2021)

Dear Friends,

I wrote to the Benefice Council with this news in January to enable them to pray and begin to plan but was advised to wait until things were further advanced to make a general announcement. I had hoped to share this at our Benefice Service planned for Candlemas at Clungunford but in these extraordinary days this was not possible to do in the flesh. I did mention it at the end of our online Benefice service yesterday.

This news will not come as a surprise to many of you. As you know I have not been well through the last two years and I have been suffering from several chronic conditions which have yet to respond to treatment. It has not been helped not being able to see a doctor face to face tho thankfully last week I was given a long and thorough examination for the first time for a year and the GP seeing me is taking my treatment in different directions.

So, the news is that, although I initially thought I would continue working beyond retirement age until I am 70, I realise that that is not wise and have been trying to work out how I can retire in the next few months. I talked to Stephanie, the acting assistant Archdeacon, late last year to discuss timing. The dates we are working with is for my final Sunday to be 4th April, which is Easter Sunday. I am hoping that we will be able to gather for a Benefice Communion at Clungunford, which is the only one of our Churches that we could have a joint gathering and manage the social distancing with larger number. I am sure there will still be restrictions then, but we can pencil it in. My official date to end will be 30th April, giving me a few weeks "break" to help clear the decks. I am then allowed to stay in the Vicarage for a further month ~ and negotiate more time if that is needed (tho I'd be paying rent!)

Bishop Richard has been incredibly supportive. He is happy with the plan but has underlined that I should allow a measure of flexibility to make sure my new home is ready. I would hate to be out on the street with all my junk! Factors I must take into consideration, as many of you know, I have been trying to sell my little cottage in Wales which I need the proceeds from to afford my retirement property. Before Christmas I found a buyer and the process is coming along, but not completed yet. Meanwhile in the early hours of New Year's Day I saw a property in Knighton online which rang lots of bells. I saw it several days later, fell in love with it, and within days my offer had been accepted. Hopefully, the timing will work, but the Bishop has advised me not to sign my legal papers re retirement until I am sure I have access to the property and can sort the move.

As you can imagine, I am going to be in a bit of a whirl working with solicitors and surveyors and finance people plus the practicalities of packing up and getting rid of furniture as I prepare to move from a five-bedroom Vicarage into a small terrace. Lockdowns are slowing things down on various fronts. Please pray for me through this as it is difficult to go through all this on my own when I am needing to shield because of my health conditions. However, I know I will have offers of help along the way. If I look at what must be done in the next few weeks, it is very scary, but I know that if I take things step by step and the time is right, I will find that "with God all things are possible"! I would like to thank all of you who have been helping to look after our Churches in this particularly challenging time. Especially the Wardens and others who have been keeping Worship going when it has been possible, and the growing practice of joining together online to chat and have Services in an alternative mode. And there is a real sense that you have not simply kept things going but continued to provide prayerful and thoughtful worship and loving care in your parishes.

We will continue to provide Services online throughout Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday and there will be at least one Study Group too. For those who do not do online we will continue to provide material for prayer and reflection by email or hard copy. Please contact your Wardens to make sure you get a copy each week.

And so, we continue to pray through this New Year and a new world and new ways of doing things.

With love and prayers

Annie

In the Garden

A gloomy day in Clungunford and I've just retired indoors out of the rain beginning to fall from a leaden sky, which has been threatening all day, and just begun to fall.

When the first lockdown began almost a year ago now, nobody knew what to expect. Firms I had ordered plants from on line, when they eventually got themselves together enough to do so, warned me they probably wouldn't be able to fill those orders.

Most eventually did, but by then I'd searched around for other firms on line who *were* able furnish me with the plants I wanted, so in some cases I ended up with more plants than I needed really.

Extra brassica plants in particular, didn't get the chance to be wasted by me though, because they were snapped up by the pests which frequent my garden every year and *weren't* being locked down, unfortunately, because, though I never saw what pests they were, they champed the plants down to their roots with wild abandon.

Over the course of the months which followed, firms supplying me with plants and materials did get their act together enough to allow me to keep growing and harvesting things in my garden regardless of what was going on in the world beyond my boundary hedge, and whether we were being allowed the freedom to come and go at will, or had been locked down completely again.

Will they be able continue that service if, as we all hope, this *does* turn out to have been the final lockdown? Or will they have to get themselves together again?

In the garden, regardless of what is happening beyond its borders, look out for *Pachysandra terminalis*, a dwarf evergreen shrub useful for covering bare spaces under trees. Spikes of greenish white flowers are produced at the ends of its previous year's shoots in February and March. *Brian Taylor*

Nursing Notes

Here are some more notes from medical treatments of years ago!

Instructions on how to bathe in the 7th century in January:

Make a compound skin lotion by mixing 3lb. weight aloes, 1lb. myrrh, 2 egg yolks.

Combine these and apply to the skin. This is the quantity per person.

Apply it before you enter the bath, and have three bucketfuls of water poured over you, then sweat, then go into the open air and sponge the ointment off thoroughly.

After washing the ointment off, rub down with cooling wine and egg yolks mixed with hot rose oil, then make love.

[I guess that this method of bathing was only considered by the more affluent members of society?]

Greek medicine in the Middle ages was influenced by astrology. For example:-

Aries should avoid incisions in the head and face, and cut no vein in the head.

Geminis should avoid incisions in the shoulders, arms or hands and cut no vein.

Virgos and Libras needed to stay away from cuts on the belly.

Capricorns must avoid cutting the knees or veins and sinews in these places.

In Medieval times, to cure a quinsy:-

Take a fat cat and flay it well, clean and draw out the guts.

Take the grease of a hedgehog and the fat of a bear and resins, and fenugreek and sage and gum of honeysuckle and virgin wax.

All this crumble small and stuff the cat within as you would a goose.

Roast it all and gather the grease and anoint the patient with it.

[Think I will pass on that one!]

For centuries mercury was used to treat pretty much everything.

Scraped knee? - rub mercury on it.

Problems with regularity? - put some mercury up there.

[If you lived more than a hundred years ago you weren't considered healthy if you weren't leaking silver out of at least one orifice.

Mercury, as we know now, is very toxic.

Symptoms of mercury poisoning include chest pains, heart and lung problems, coughing, tremors, violent muscle spasms, psychotic reactions, delirium, hallucinations and suicidal tendencies.]

Tobacco was considered a panacea for a short time in medical history. The addictive and poisonous effects of nicotine were not yet known. The warmth and stimulation provided by tobacco smoke was thought to be a treatment for :-

Apparent death... smoke should be blown up the behinds of recent drowning victims. Cholera victims. People near death, and often simply as a health tonic.

Don't try any of these "remedies" at home!!

Sister B

P.S. Whatever you do, give 100%. Unless you're donating blood.

Postcard from Africa

Many of us above a certain age in our community have had our first vaccination against Coronavirus by now – some may have even had their second – and we wait, patiently or otherwise, for lockdown restrictions to be lifted. We are all profoundly grateful to our wonderful

NHS, for the dedication of the staff and the sacrifices that they have made, some of which will have a long-lasting affect both on the health service and individual lives. We are even grateful to the health companies and research institutions that have been able to produce effective vaccines within months of the start of the pandemic, rather than the years that were originally predicted. We are indeed very fortunate.

Governments and even the companies that manufacture the vaccines are faced with a moral dilemma: do they, first and foremost, give absolute priority to their own population or do they give consideration to the global community on the basis that no-one is safe until we are all safe? Manufacturers are having difficulty producing enough vaccine to keep up with demand here in Britain and Europe, but should some of that production be diverted to poorer countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America even if the result is more illness and deaths at home?

Distributing and administering the vaccine across Africa will be an enormous logistical challenge and to expect to vaccinate the entire population is totally unrealistic and unachievable. The population distribution is so disparate, from the densely packed urban areas of Johannesburg and Nairobi to the nomadic pastoralists of the Sahel and Turkana that a single strategy will simply not work. In some countries, continuing conflict and long-term instability will make it impossible to even plan a vaccination campaign. In the eastern parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo, medical teams trying to address the Ebola scourge were deliberately targeted by groups fighting against the government; a doctor who had won international acclaim for the work he was doing with women victims of sexual violence was assassinated and there is likely to be the same reaction to any campaign to eradicate Covid. And there will be political obstruction as well – at least one country on the continent refuses to acknowledge that there is such an illness as Coronavirus and hence has no official programme to combat it. Potions and traditional herbal remedies are all that is needed, according to the Tanzanian Ministry of Health.

Britain has generously donated several hundred million pounds to a joint programme called Covax, which has been set up under the umbrella of WHO to co-ordinate the provision of vaccine to poorer countries, but so far this has been quite slow to turn money into jabs. Their aim is to provide 2 billion doses during 2021, the first donation having arrived in Ghana this week. Presumably, this will not have been the Pfizer vaccine that needs to be kept at the eye-wateringly low temperature of -70°C – there will be few places in Africa and certainly none outside the largest cities that have those kinds of facilities. The announcement by Johnson & Johnson this week that their vaccine, which requires just a single dose, has now been approved will be enormously important. However, the provision of Coronavirus vaccine has already become politicised, with Russia and China already donating large numbers of doses of their own vaccines to countries in Africa without any co-ordination

with anyone else. Great headlines for them but such a pity that they are not prepared to collaborate with western countries on this global issue. Has it been done purely out of altruism or with the aim of gaining influence?

WHO has stated that in order to bring Coronavirus under control, 70% of the global population has to be vaccinated, or 5.5 billion arms to be jabbed. A mind-boggling challenge. But in answer to my own question I posed earlier, it is only right that vaccines are distributed equitably, that poorer countries are not denied access to life-saving medication when richer countries are buying up far more doses than they need for themselves. We live in an increasingly interdependent world, intercontinental travel whether for business or pleasure is now routine and the risk of exposure to the virus and its emerging variants will always be there. But the overriding reason is humanitarian: those countries that have the ability and resources to do so must help those in a less advantaged position – after all, sharing vaccines across the globe is not going to cost as much as sending a robot to Mars! *Rob Rees*

The dangers of rat poison

A concerned resident mentioned to *The Gunnas Gazette* that villagers should be mindful of the effects of rat poison. Two cats from separate households in the village had to be put down recently over a 48 hour period with what appears to be poisoning. Accordingly, pet owners should be aware of the potential dangers of their pets eating either poison or poisoned rodents, so that if their animal develops symptoms they can get them to the vet immediately.

Those who put down rat poison should, of course, use pet proof containers.

Interestingly, a recent post mortem on the sole golden eagle in Wales revealed that it too had most likely eaten a poisoned rodent.

Tidings from the Gells

I would have liked to have written a message to you all in Gunnas before Christmas to wish you glad tidings and a sort of farewell to Clungunford friends. However, having moved on December 4th to deepest darkest Broome there was no time to write.

I have been reflecting on our 18 years in the village, as Clungunford village life was such fun. I loved being part of the Players, under the direction of Brian or Eileen, or both. I particularly enjoyed the pantos, both acting and prompting (which turned into a farce on one occasion when a certain actor argued from the stage mid performance with me!) All great fun. Pauline ran a small group who made kneelers for the Church and I joined that, enjoying making friends whilst stitching. Before I started back at work part and then full time, I got out with the Slow Ladies walking group when I could, exploring more of the Shropshire Hills. Jim and I have enjoyed the annual Carol Concert hosted by Janet and Jonathan et al, St Cuthbert special services, Open

Gardens, Mary and Jim's Open House with cream teas, and various concerts/services in the Church and other events- craft displays, Christmas tree decorating competition, quizzes and so on to raise money for the village hall and St Cuthbert's. We regularly attended Flix in the Sticks until I joined a Friday evening Line dancing group in our rival event village – Aston on Clun, which clashed, (sorry) and we enjoyed concerts and plays, poetry evenings in the village hall, not to mention the Curry and Bollywood nights that Anne ran, raising money for the hospital in India. Matt's Ceilidh was great fun as were all the Safari suppers, Christmas lunches and Harvest suppers, not to mention the soirees we were invited to. Our B & B was attended by quite a few of your visiting relatives, all of whom we enjoyed hosting, thanks for using us!

When Barny and Amaryllis left for Prestigne, a box of Christian Aid information was deposited in our front porch. Jim and myself can't remember saying we would take the organisation of the Christian Aid collection over, but that's what we did. Thank you to all the collectors roped-in to traipse around Clungunford, Beckjay, Shelderton, Clunbury, Clunton, and Aston on Clun (the old Parish boundaries), knocking on doors and collecting. St Cuthbert's organised a coffee morning each year and St Andrews in Craven Arms did likewise. We raised approx. £1,500 each year. Thank you also, to all who so kindly donated to the charity which helps so many people in need around the world. We have left said box with Mike (church warden)! who will be looking for volunteers to take over.

Thank you too for the kind generosity of everyone who has so kindly supported the Craven Arms Community Food Bank in Craven Arms, which Jim and I head up, supported by a dedicated team of volunteers. We can't begin to say what a difference you have made to those who need it and are so grateful for everything they receive. We sent out over 20 hampers this Christmas too, and those who received them were so grateful.

Finally, thank you for all your friendship, Clungunford is a village to beat! In a year's time we will be moving to West Hope to a house which is being built. Thank you for our welcome 18 years ago and for your friendship ever since. We will see you again, of course, and we wish you all a belated happy & healthy New Year.

Love from Julia and Jim Gell.

South Shropshire Climate Action (SSCA)

[South Shropshire Climate Action](#) was set up in November 2019 following a large public meeting in Craven Arms of concerned citizens. The first activity was a very successful online conference in September 2020 which strongly supported the idea of local action to combat the twin threats of Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss. Philip Dunne, the local MP, attended both meetings and encouraged the initiative which covers the whole of the Ludlow constituency. A similar campaign is taking place in the rest of the county by Shropshire Climate Action Partnership (SCAP) and the

two organisations are working closely together. SSCA's objective is to create an action plan for the achievement of Net Zero Carbon emissions in South Shropshire by 2030 and, in conjunction with others, to implement the plan as far as possible.

There are three working groups focussing on Buildings & Energy, Transport and Land & Biodiversity – and a fourth group concentrating on Communities and Education including the creation and maintenance of a website so that materials are available for community groups and schools.

We are contacting local organisation of all kinds to see how we can learn and help with mitigating the climate and ecological crisis. If you would like us to be involved in your climate emergency discussions, please get in touch at info@southshropshireclimateaction.org. Our second online conference is planned for 22nd May 2021. There is still time to join one of the working groups. And we would be pleased to hear from you if you would just like to know more.

CLUNGUNFORD SCHOOL,
NEAR LUDLOW.

JAMES GREEN returns his most sincere thanks to his numerous Friends, for the very distinguished support and liberal encouragement he has so long experienced; begs leave to inform them, that business of an indispensable nature obliges him to resign the said School and Mr. John Urwick, being appointed by the trustees his Successor, he takes the liberty of recommending him as a young Man every way qualified for so important a charge. Mr. Urwick has been regularly brought up under Mr. G.; and has, for several years past, been employed as Usher in the School, and had a considerable share in the management and care of the Young Gentlemen educated there. All Persons indebted to the said James Green, are to pay the same to Mr. John Price, Clungunford.

JOHN URWICK,

being appointed to succeed Mr. Green in the School, at Clungunford, humbly solicits the continuance of the Favours of Mr. Green's Friends, and begs leave to inform them, and the Public, that he intends opening the above SCHOOL, for the reception of YOUNG

GENTLEMEN on Monday, the Sixteenth day of March instant, where they will be genteelly Boarded, and carefully and expeditiously Instructed in English, Writing and Arithmetic in all their branches, Mensurations, and the most useful parts of the Mathematics, on the following

TERMS:

Board, per Annum	L. 18. 18 . 00
Entrance	1. 1. 00
Washing, per Annum . . .	1. 10. 00

[Note: this was an advertisement in the Hereford Journal of 18 March 1801. Younger readers may need to know that "L" is short for "Libri", meaning pounds, followed in the row by shillings and pennies. Boarding school fees today range from £30,000-£40,000 per annum, but we suspect that the fees for the Clungunford School were fairly cheap, even for 1801!]

Aunt Agatha

Here, *The Gazette's* own social affairs correspondent, gives her individual advice to concerned readers.

Mr T of Beckjay writes: I mentioned in July that my wife had gone to visit Mr S in Shelderton at the start of lockdown to see how he was recovering from his recent hernia operation. She has been marooned there ever since. What comfort can you offer me?

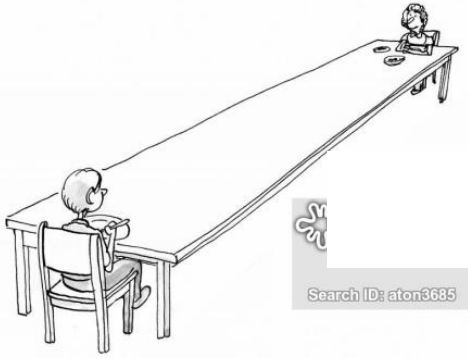
Aunt Ag advises: I am told by the authorities that the mobile and broadband signals are likely to be improved in Shelderton in about three years' time, so not long to wait now before you hear from her..

The Parish Clerk writes: I am told in confidence that several councillors are unlikely to accept being voted off the Parish Council in the next election and that they plan to storm the Village Hall and declare the election a gross fraud, organising a mass demonstration. What is to be done?

Aunt Ag advises: My initial advice would be to declare martial law (i.e. summon The Old Bill from Leom'ner), but thinking about it, the demo won't last long as all the booze has been taken away from the Hall during lockdown. I gather one Mr D Trump is available as interim dictator, if needed.

Janet and John of Gunnas write: We have been home-schooling our parents for months now, and we have struggled to get them to retain their concentration. They do not seem to be making any progress. What shall we do, especially as we have to return to school soon?

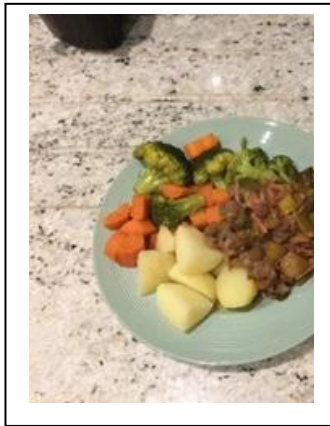
Aunt Ag advises: Don't worry about it in the slightest. There is no need for any hang-ups about this. I don't know how to put this in a way that will not prejudice your future relationship with your Mom and Dad, but the fact of the matter is, I am afraid, that they are both as thick as planks – always have been! I don't know where you got your brains from.



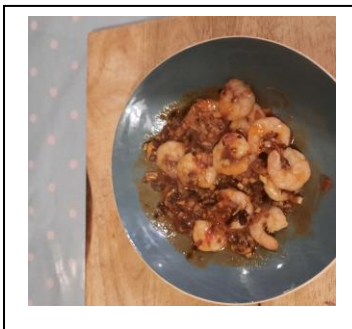
“Having dinner together brings us closer.”

Gunnas Supper Club

During this long winter, the Gunnas Supper Club has been active by sharing our love of food together, using monthly themes. We have been cooking for our own household in our own kitchens, sharing pictures and messages by email.



In The challenge in **January** was to investigate our **store cupboards**, to find our oldest (but still palatable ingredient) or the most unusual ingredient. In the spirit of the adventure, the Lambert household made game casserole with meat from the freezer, out of date bacon and wilting leek from back of fridge. As well as out of date carrots and potatoes that had started to sprout! The Gledhill's found a very dusty jar from the back of the shelf of cherries in kirsch, well preserved in alcohol and yummy.



Last month, **February**, we celebrated the **Chinese New Year** of the Ox. It was a chance to try a take-away or dust off the wok. The Morris household made delicious ginger prawns in garlic. The Giffen and Mattison households enjoyed a Peking kit from Sainsburys and a couple of us supported Itadakizen in Ludlow, who serve excellent bento boxes.

Interested in joining us? Do get in touch with me.

The theme is sent out one week before so that you can buy ingredients. Hopefully we will soon be able to evolve into eating at each other's homes or meeting at a restaurant.

We 'meet' 7:30pm on the **second Saturday** of the month; the next meetings are 13th Mar 21, 10th Apr 21.

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