

THE GUNNAS GAZETTE



As part of the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations, we will be holding a Big Jubilee Picnic on the Village Green on Sunday 5th June. We cordially invite you to arrange with friends and family to meet on the village green between 12-4pm and bring along your own preferred food and drinks. The hall bar and kitchen will be open with drinks, coffee, tea and cakes available between these hours.

We will also have the following events taking place during the weekend:

Jubilee Poetry Competition: Why not have a go at poetry? Maximum length 30 lines, typewritten please, on the theme of ‘**Jubilation**’! Entries to annadreda@icloud.com by 1st June. There will be two categories under 18 and over 18. Jane Roberts will be judging and awarding rosette prizes. Participants will be invited to read their poems at the Jubilee gathering so get writing!

Saturday June 4th

Jubilee Dawn Chorus Skylark Walk! Start the celebrations this weekend with an early morning walk up Clunbury Hill, over to Hopton Castle and back to Clungunford. Coffee and croissants at Brook Cottage afterwards with Hilary and Anna. Meet on the lane by the (old) tearooms at 4am! Please let Hilary or Anna know if you would like to join the walk: hrw1@live.co.uk / annadreda@icloud.com

Sunday June 5th

Jubilee Cake Decorating Competition! Please bring cakes to enter the Jubilee cake decorating competition. All entries to be in the hall by 10am on the Sunday morning. Judging will start at 11am. Rosette prizes for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd best decorated cakes! The cakes will then be available for the public together with tea and coffee from 12.00, so please list all ingredients due to allergies.

Jubilee Picnic - This will start at 12.00, make your way to the village green or come into the hall for your picnic. Please bring your food, drinks and all utensils. Drinks and cake will be available from the hall, but we do not want any glass or crockery from the hall to be used on the green, so please bring your own.

Jubilee Games - There will be fun challenges and games, both traditional and new, for ALL ages organised on the green during the afternoon.

Live Broadcast – The BBC coverage of the Jubilee celebrations will be live streamed on the big screen in the hall during the day.

Queen’s Green Canopy - The Parish Council has purchased and planted an oak tree on the Village Green, we plan to carry out the official dedication at 14.00 and would like to get a photograph of as many people as possible around the tree. So please stay for this if possible.

Volunteers - We will need volunteers to help us on the day so if you want to help then please contact Simon Lyster on 01588 660152

A message from Rev Martin Quayle

Spring is upon us, and winter has gone. The warmth is returning and the days are getting longer. The season of Easter has started, and it covers not just the end of Lent, but continues for eight weeks. Easter celebrates the resurrection of Christ. For Christians, Christ's death represents the sense that the resurrection gives us hope and faith that life is eternal. Our physical death represents a new and glorious phase of life, in which something of ourselves is merged with the divine.

For some, if not many, this is difficult to accept. I recently attended a funeral of a family member which was conducted by a humanist celebrant. He was very proud of his certainty that our physical death represents the end of our existence, and of any kind of 'presence'. What individuals who believe this have often failed to understand, is that Christianity encompasses and embraces a wide range of beliefs about what the resurrection is all about. There are beliefs and ideas which range from a sense of physical reconstruction of the body to an idea that it is about something symbolic, and cultural understandings about how we process bereavement. For some, Stanley Spencer's paintings of Cookham churchyard, in which people climbed out of their graves, and began to 'float' around the churchyard like angels, is what awaits those who die. Whereas for others, we are talking about how as individuals, families and communities, we understand the process of coming to terms with bereavement, and an allegorical expression of how those we have lost, remain in our minds and souls as we find emotional healing.

It is complicated, and no-one can say with certainty what really happens when we die. The Gospel readings throughout Easter talk about how the first disciples grappled with the resurrection. The result of their process of grief, and coming to terms, was the creation of the Church. We do know that the life, teaching and death of Christ, and then His resurrection (however we believe that to have occurred) inspired many to remarkable lives. Whilst the Church can be criticised for many things, it is still here, and over 2 billion of the world's population claim to follow Christ. The Roman Empire may have been dominant at that time, but now it only exists as a historical reality. Within Christianity, we can find comfort and solace, in even the darkest moments. We can find faith in the sense that not only have others, but also God, in the person of Christ, have gone to the depths, and have returned to life, in some form or another. We may not understand how this works, but those who attended Good Friday and Easter services will have touched the depths in contemplating the horrors of man's cruelty to man, and then, have found joy and delight in the resurrection.

Faith gives us a way of processing very deep and painful subjects, within the relative safety of beliefs which explain something of the mysteries of life and death. One of the miracles is that although the myths Easter stories are familiar, if we think and process them appropriately, we can find new and exciting ways of

understanding. Sometimes these new understandings take time to realise - other times, we can have inspirational moments of new comprehension.

I wish all of you a joyous Easter season, and in this troubling and disturbing period in our national lives, I encourage all of us to be optimistic, and to respond to those challenges around us with generosity and kindness.

Martin

Farm Born and Bred

This month I am just going down memory lane as a small child of pre-school age, I followed my older brother everywhere - my hero!

I expect I was very irritating, always saying "me too" as I trotted after him.

We used to go and play in the stackyard. Here all the bays in the Dutch barns filled up with sheaves of harvested corn and bales of hay.

There was usually a ladder propped against the bay to enable the farm workers to throw down the bales to be taken to feed the livestock.

One day my brother decided we should climb the ladder to investigate the top of the bay. This was a nearly full bay and the ladder was very long, the top nearly at the highest beam of the barn.

Up went my brother, and with him encouraging me, I followed. Nearing the top of the ladder, some 15 feet above the ground, my brother called to me, "Look how far you've come"

I did so and remember nothing else.

As I turned to look, I apparently let go of the ladder, and descended rapidly to the ground.

I was rendered unconscious and remained so for a few days!

My brother ran home to get my mother, telling her that the blue beret which I always wore, went down more slowly than me.

I was carried home and put to bed, where my mother tended me. In those days of the late 1940s doctors were rarely called on, except in "real" emergencies.

My mother coped, and apparently I survived to follow my brother once again into many more adventures. How much damage this caused to my brain is questionable!!!

M.E.B.

P.S. I can't resist a couple of quotes:-

"I'm 52 years of age, but I prefer to think of myself as 11 centigrade" - Tom Lehrer - singer songwriter / satirist.

"The lead car is absolutely unique, except for the one behind it, which is identical" - Murray Walker - auto race commentator

In the Garden

A cloudy sort of day in Clungunford, and I've just been debating whether or not the ground has dried out enough since our last storm to for me to try to work out on it.

We've been having enough storms in such quick succession lately, you'd think they could have all

managed to get by with just the one common shared name between them, not the plethora of them, too many to remember.

Popping out in the garden with something for the compost bin last week, I noticed that the pond was full of frog spawn. Sometimes the frogs make themselves very obvious with their amorous activities, but this time they seem to have carried on with it in rain too heavy for us humans to venture out in it.

Just what the wild life does in your garden regardless of any input from you is a matter of great interest sometimes.

A few years ago on August Bank Holiday a very large bat I identified later as a Noctule Bat, known for its large size and swift flight, misjudged that swift flight whilst hunting insects on our patio at twilight, ended up in our house, and had to be encouraged to go back outside without harm to any of us, bat or human. We have never seen the bat since.

Back in January, having put the Christmas decorations back in the attic until next Christmas, we were disturbed an hour or two later by a Noctule Bat we assume we had disturbed from its hibernation whilst in the attic, hibernation which should have carried on until March, zooming around us for a while before, we assume again, disappearing back to wherever it had been hibernating when we disturbed it.

In the garden, away from passing frogs and hibernating Noctule Bats, look out for the flattened cymes of white, pink budded flowers amongst the dense luxurious masses of glossy dark green oval leaves of *Viburnum Tinus*, the 'Laurustinus.' 'Brian Taylor

Flicks in the Sticks at Clungunford Parish Hall

Friday 13th May 2022 at 8.00pm

The Last Bus (cert 12a)

An old man whose wife has just passed away uses his free local bus pass to travel to the other end of the UK, to where they originally moved from, using only local buses, on a nostalgic trip but also carrying his wife's ashes in a small suitcase, 'taking her back' and in doing so he meets local people. By the end of his trip, he's a celebrity.

Starring: Timothy Spall, Phyllis Logan

Director: Gillies MacKinnon Drama

Friday 17 June 2022 at 8pm

West Side Story (2022) (cert12a)

A Steven Spielberg adaptation of the 1957 musical. In the midst of a tense gang rivalry between the Jets and the Sharks, Tony finds himself falling in love with his rival's sister, Maria. As the turf war between the two gangs grows more violent by the day, their love blossoms and threatens to rip apart the neighbourhood.

Starring: Ansel Elgort, Rachel Zegler, and Ariana DeBose

Director: Steven Spielberg. Musical Drama

Entrance £5.00 Adults £3.00 Children

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

Tel: 01588 660781 (Maureen)

(maureenrooney2012@gmail.com) or 01588 660159

(Keith) for bookings and enquires.

We now show all our films with subtitles.

We advise booking, and request cash only at the Box Office. Card payments accepted at the bar.

Parish Church News

The Revd Martin Quayle, Vicar for the Parishes of the Middle Marches Benefice, can be contacted by email at office.middlemarches@gmail.com. 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 May and June 2022 are as follows:

Sunday 8 th May	10.00 am	Family Service
Sunday 15 th May	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 22 nd May	11.00 am	Holy Communion with the Revd Martin Quayle
Sunday 12 th June	10.00 am	Family Service
Sunday 19 th June	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 26 th June	11.00 am	Holy Communion with the Revd Martin Quayle

Don't forget St Cuthbert's Cafe

St Cuthbert's Café goes from strength to strength -and that's not just the tea! Just a reminder of the dates for St Cuthbert's Café in the Village which starts at 10.00 am and runs through until 12.00. The dates for May and June are:

- Thursday 12th May (Christian Aid)
- Thursday 26th May
- Thursday 9th June
- Thursday 23rd June

Christian Aid week this year runs from 15th to the 21st May. We would like to support this very worthwhile charity and so the money raised from the Café on the 12th May will be donated to it. Please support Christian Aid by coming to the Café.

- The intent of the café is to provide a meeting opportunity. Everyone is welcome in the comfortable surroundings of the Clungunford Village Hall.
- Rob Rees and Sara Giffen have taken on the responsibility of organising the café but all help is appreciated by providing a hand on the day or baking cakes! If you would like to help, please contact Rob or Sara.
- Please come along and enjoy the company.

Sacred Spaces

Sacred Spaces took place at St Cuthbert's for the first time in the Church on Friday 8th April. The next occasion will be Friday 13th May and will be from 7pm until 8pm and will be led by Anna Dreda and Clare Johnson. Sacred Spaces is an opportunity to gather together and to share an hour of music and silence. The music is a mixture of sacred, classical and inspirational pieces and is interspersed with periods of silence.

All are welcome. If you would like to know more about Sacred Spaces please contact Annadreda@icloud.com

St Cuthbert's Annual General Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meetings

Many thanks to all who attended the St Cuthbert's Church AGM on the 21st March. The meeting was in two parts. The first covered the business of the Church including finances, fabric and worship. During this part of the evening the various roles within the Church were voted on including Church Wardens, Treasurer and the PCC. The second part was really an opportunity to say thank you to all who help make the place it is through their valuable contributions. The usual Clungunford custom was observed and so the thanks were accompanied by a glass of wine or two, along with a little sustenance. Also in the tradition of Clungunford, a good time was had by all!

Robert Bunting's Singing Workshop

Robert Bunting's Singing Workshop during Holy Week was a great success with around fifty singers enjoying the occasion. After an afternoon of rehearsal, the group performed to a selected audience in the evening. Alastair Auld added to the occasion by playing on the Church's Binn's organ.

This has become a regular annual event. We are very grateful to Robert for donating the profits from the event to the Church's organ fund.

St Cuthbert's Walking Group - 2022 Pilgrimage: Glastonbury to Wells Cathedral (and St Cuthbert's Church in Wells)

It's not too late to register interest in this twelve mile Pilgrimage from Glastonbury to Wells Cathedral and from there to visit St Cuthbert's Church in Wells. If you are interested in joining this group please get in contact with Hilary White for further information. Email: hrw1@live.co.uk or phone 01588 660154.

The dates are 19th-21st October, 2022.

All welcome!

The Slow Ladies

Friday 20 May Mary and Anne suggested a walk starting in Aymestrey - not a strenuous one. We will have lunch out. Meet in the Clungunford car park at 10am. Hope to see you. Please let me know if you intend to come.

June

I thought we could repeat what we did years ago and catch the train into Wales—possibly to Llanwyrtyd Wells, walk and eat there. There will be new and improved timetables out in the middle of May, so I will see those before making a definite date.

New walkers are always welcome. Do not hesitate to contact me - Pauline Mattison (01588 660596)

The 100 Club

Winners for March:

1. (£60) McDuff Roberts
2. (£30) Christine Tinker
3. (£15) Ann Hunt

Winners for April:

1. (£60) Isa Jones
2. (£30) Pat Morris
3. (£15) Mike Jones

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

Memories for a Platinum Jubilee (1952-2022)

Although I do not remember when the Queen succeeded to the throne in 1952, I do remember the Coronation in June 1953. I was five years old and was staying with my grandparents in Portsmouth. I do not think my parents were there. I believe that they had returned to London by train, with my eleven month old sister, because my

father had to return to work the next day. He worked as a compositor for the rather superior Curwen Press printers, located in the East End. He cycled there each day from Ilford, east London, where we lived, next door to Dad's widowed mother and younger sister.

In Portsmouth there was a lunch-time street party. Tables were spread out down the road of 1930s three-bedroomed terraced houses. There is a photo of me sitting there wearing a silly little hat, kept on my head by elastic under my chin. There were sandwiches and cakes and a Punch-and-Judy show. My grandfather, a confectioner by trade, probably made a cake with lots of piped icing but it would not have matched the cake he made for my parents wedding in 1947. That cake had three tiers and was quite an achievement considering sugar, along with lots of other things, was rationed.

Half a mile from the street party were the ruins of St Cuthbert's church, which was largely destroyed by German bombs during the Portsmouth blitz of the Second World War. My grandparents' house was also damaged, not too badly, but the family, including my mother and aunt, only just got to their Anderson air-raid shelter in time. The huge church has since been rebuilt. Much larger than our St Cuthbert's in Clungunford, it is much less historic, being built at the beginning of the 20th century.

After lunch, we went to a neighbour's house, because they were one of the few people who had a television! We crowded round the tiny screen to see grainy black-and-white images of the Coronation coach progressing through the rainy streets of London. We then went back to my grandparents' house. I know their house was very full. There were two other children besides me, a second cousin, a girl a few years older than me, who I was rather in awe of, and possibly another second cousin, a boy, also older than me. My great grandparents (Nan's parents) also lived in the house and I think my aunt was also there.

We may have listened to the wireless (as it was then called) for a while. When it came to my bedtime, I was rather put out to find that, as the youngest, I had to sleep in a cot, while the other two children slept in single (or camp) beds, in the same bedroom. After I had been sent to bed I believe my grandmother entertained people by playing the piano. She taught piano lessons in her home. From what I remember her playing in later years, she probably played some Chopin and Schubert. I am sure it was all very civilised.

A few years later, my great grandmother would sometimes sing songs to me, mostly about 'down in the coal mines underneath the ground'. Her family originally came from Sheffield. My great grandfather would let me try out his binoculars that he used when he was in the Navy, although he retired from the Navy well before the Second World War. He had served as a stoker and chief petty officer, especially on the battleship HMS Terrible. When I was older, my grandmother tried to get me to read the book about the exploits of the HMS Terrible. It was mostly about the Boer War in South Africa and the

Boxer Rebellion in China but as a teenager in the 1960s, I was not very interested in these remote events. My father's account of the army in the Second World War, including the invasion following D-day, was more interesting to me, as was his father's army service in the Middle East in the First World War, that I found out about later. Grandfather Tucker's main responsibility was to look after the horses that pulled the guns in the artillery, as the troops travelled from Egypt to Palestine to fight the Turkish army, especially at the Battle of Beersheba. This was at the same time Lawrence of Arabia was helping to lead Arab irregulars in their raids on railways and other Turkish installations.

This was all a long time ago and so much has changed in the last 69 years. However, with the horrendous Russian invasion of Ukraine, politics do not seem so very different to those early days of the 'cold war', when Stalin had recently died but still dominated Russian policy and the Second World War was still a very recent memory to my parent's generation. *Mike Tucker*

The Gunnas Gazette by email

We are making genuine progress in reducing the number of printed copies of *The Gazette* delivered.

However, there is still more that can be achieved, so if you can receive your Gazette by email, please sign up to do so by sending an email to gunnasingazette@aol.com.

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

St Cuthbert's Holiday Club 2022

Plans are afoot to resurrect Cuthbert's Holiday Club! Newcomers to the village may not know that for one week every summer St Cuthbert's church is transformed by volunteers into an activity club for local children and grandchildren of local

residents. It last took place in 2019 and ran from 2.00 'til 5.00pm each day at a cost per child of £10 for the week, including refreshments.

If there is sufficient interest, we hope to run it again each day from 2.00-5.00pm in the week beginning Monday 8 August. 2.00 - 5.00pm. It will be open for children aged 5 and upwards.

Please could you let Anne Gledhill or Catherine Lishman know asap if you have children in your family who may consider attending - children/grandchildren/nephews/nieces of school age.

Many people who have helped in previous years are willing to help again but we always welcome new faces, so please get in touch with either of us for more information or to volunteer either an additional pair of hands or a particular skill.

Catherine Lishman:
catherinelishman@hotmail.com

01588 660 231
Anne Gledhill: annegledhill@outlook.com
01588 660 485

Postcard from Africa

I regret to write that much of the content of this Postcard will again be bad news. Africa has more than its fair share of calamities, some due to natural causes, others of human origin, and when they occur, they are usually on a huge scale. Just at the moment, floods are currently devastating Kwa-Zulu Natal province of South Africa, after many years of drought, and a largely unreported civil war is being prosecuted in Ethiopia, resulting in death and displacement along the lines of that which we see on our tv screens every night, from Ukraine. The flooding is probably a result of climate change, a phenomenon to which Africa has contributed very little but it is difficult to explain the Ethiopian

conflict as anything other than local and historical rivalry between different groups competing for power.

As happens quite often, while one part of the continent suffers from too much rain, other parts are enduring prolonged drought. This is the situation currently affecting the Horn of Africa – the north-east corner made up of Ethiopia, Somalia, Djibouti and parts of Kenya. Most livestock dies of starvation and there have been several consecutive years of total crop failure. These are the same countries that were affected by infestations of desert locusts last year, which were contributory factor to the current crisis. Just this morning, the UN has reported that the number of children in this region who are at risk of severe malnutrition has increased from 2 million to 10 million.

In addition to these problems exclusive to Africa, the global community is on the brink of a food crisis that is as unexpected as it is serious, brought about by the conflict in Ukraine. Russia and Ukraine together account for around 30% of the global trade in wheat and an even bigger share of the trade in vegetable oil. It is already having an impact on the supermarket shelves in this country – there are restrictions being imposed on the amount of cooking oil that customers can buy here – and some countries in Africa are going to be affected in similar ways. In much of north Africa, from Morocco across to Egypt and Sudan, bread has become the staple food of choice and while there is some local wheat production, this is not sufficient to meet the daily demand. Prices will inevitably rise and, as closer to home, people on lower incomes spend a greater proportion of their incomes on food and so it is the poorer people who will be most affected. The most serious aspect of this looming crisis is the suddenness with which it has happened, not allowing for any contingency measures to be taken in advance.

Countries in central and southern Africa will not be so badly affected. While consuming bread – and cakes – is seen as a sign of affluence, other crops and foodstuffs are still widely used. Maize, although an introduced crop itself, is probably the most common but more traditional cereal crops such as sorghum and millet are also widely grown. Africa is probably close to being self-reliant in vegetable oil – sesame and ground nut oil are often produced from home-grown crops and in coastal regions, palm oil is the traditional oil of choice. In most countries, in fact, locally produced alternatives will be available, but it will take some time to readjust both production and consumption habits.

The good news in this message is that there is an innate resilience amongst African people. They have a history of facing up to adversity and finding a way to cope, often with a cheerfulness that disguises the underlying hardship. While bread might become much more of a luxury than it is now, sorghum and millet growers may be able to look forward to some boom years ahead.

Rob Rees

The Parish Council

At our meeting in March we were pleased to welcome Jeanine Honour as Parish Clerk.

We discussed flooding concerns in the Broadward Bridge area, following concerns expressed by a resident, and these were passed on to the Environment Agency. One of the matters raised concerned removal of timber debris from the river, and subsequent "guidance" received shows that neither the Environment Agency nor Natural England seem entirely clear as to whether consent for such removal would or even could be given (or by whom) due to constraints caused by the Special Area of Conservation centred on the pearl mussel beds. Whilst the Broadward problems are largely caused by a build up outside our parish, the attitude of officialdom is no more than a repetition of the intransigence experienced by riparian owners in this parish over the years, when clearances have been mooted.

Since the March meeting the Parish Council has finally been awarded some CIL money - "Community Infrastructure Levy". When we signed up to being a planning "cluster" some years ago, inviting modest development of an infill nature up to 2025, we were promised a share in the levies to be made on developers. Many readers will recall that foremost in our minds at the time was the help that might be given to the ailing parish hall project, which was then short of the funds for completion. Happily, we did finally finish the hall, largely due to local generosity. Now, after a long wait and despite the best efforts of Shropshire Council to divert the vast majority of CIL funds for their own purposes, the Parish Council will have just over £2,000 to spend to benefit local projects. This will be discussed at our next meeting.

Our next meeting is on 11 May 2022 at 6pm, followed at 7pm by the Annual Parish meeting. This meeting will be held live in the Hall. Interested members of the public, as ever, are welcome to attend. Parish matters before (or after) the meeting may be raised via clungunfordparishcouncil@gmail.com or directly with me. Jonathan Roberts, Chairman (01588 660673: jonathan.roberts@morgoedestates.com).

Litter pickers

Many thanks to all those who turned out to pick the village clean of all litter on 26 March. We had more volunteers than ever, ranging from the very young to, dare I say, the not so young. We were able to cover every road in the parish. Well done to you all – bless you all for your public spiritedness. If the Parish Council had medals to hand out for community service, you would be recipients. It really does make a difference. Needless to say, there was more litter than ever, but I suppose that is a result of the lifting of the Covid restrictions. Thank you all, once again. Jonathan Roberts

Ukraine sale at The Rectory

Sarah and Paul at The Rectory held a drive-way sale of surplus clothing recently and have various surplus clothing items available for refugees, if required.

Also, at the sale their son, William made little cakes to raise money for Ukrainian families, and we are pleased to report he has raised around £30 for them from donations received from visitors. Very well done, William, and the family would like to pass on their thanks to villagers who came to support the event and make such generous donations. Sarah and Paul were pleased to meet more neighbours and have the opportunity to speak to them properly.

Sacred Space



Sacred Space will take place in St Cuthbert's Church on Friday 13th May and Friday 10th June, 7 ~ 8pm.

We will gather together to share an hour of music and silence, led by Anna Dreda and Clare Johnson. We use Sacred, classical and inspirational music to take us into periods of silent reflection until the hour is ended by the ringing of a bell and the reading of a poem.

Sacred Space originated in St Peter's Church, Easthope, Shipton. Any enquiries to annadreda@icloud.com. All very welcome.



There are lots of upcoming events so here is a taster to whet your appetite. Further event specific information will follow closer to the time or can be found at Clungunford.com or on the Clungunford Village Hall Facebook page.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2022

- **Bar Nights: Every Friday 7pm-10pm**
- **St Cuthberts Café: 2nd and 4th Thursdays**
- **Flicks in the Sticks: Fridays 13 May and 17 June**
- **The Queens Big Jubilee Picnic: 5 June**
- **Village Hall and Green Summer Party: 16 July**
- **Clungunford Classic Motor Show: 14 August**
- **A Clungunford Christmas Carol: 25/26/27 November**
- **The Great Annual Wine and Wisdom Quiz: 3 December**

***Remember, the Hall, Bar and Kitchen are available to hire at very reasonable prices for parties, anniversaries, private dining or for any reason you want a spacious, airy venue.
See Clungunford.com for more information.***

ARE YOU CONCERNED
ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF UKRAINIAN REFUGEES?



If so, please come to an Open Meeting to find out about what help our local community could bring to Ukrainian Refugees coming to our area. No commitment required, just a desire to explore with us how we might help.

Clungunford Village Hall

Tuesday 3rd May 2022 at 7.00pm

Please share with everyone you know

The Mystery of Frederick William Evans by Brian Taylor – Part II

At a meeting on 29 July 1914, the British cabinet had narrowly decided its obligations to Belgium under the 1839 Treaty of London did not require it to oppose a German invasion with military force. However, this was largely driven by Prime Minister Asquith's desire to maintain unity; he and his senior Cabinet ministers were already committed to support France, the Royal Navy had been mobilised and public opinion was strongly in favour of intervention. On 31 July, Britain sent notes to Germany and France, asking them to respect Belgian neutrality; France pledged to do so, Germany did not reply.

Once the German ultimatum to Russia expired on the morning of 1 August, the two countries were at war. Later the same day, Wilhelm was informed by his Ambassador in London that Britain would remain neutral if France was not attacked, and in any case might be stayed by a crisis in Ireland. Jubilant at this news, he ordered General Moltke, the German chief of staff, to "march the whole of the ... army to the East". Moltke protested that "it cannot be done. The deployment of millions cannot be improvised." Lichnowsky, in any case, quickly realised he was mistaken. Although Wilhelm insisted on waiting for a telegram from his cousin George V once received, it confirmed there had been a misunderstanding and he told Moltke "Now do what you want."

French intelligence was well aware of German plans to attack through Belgium, and their Commander-in-Chief, General Joseph Joffre asked that his troops be allowed to cross the border to pre-empt such a move. This was rejected by the French government, in part to avoid antagonising the British, and Joffre was told any advance into Belgium could come only after a German invasion. On 2 August, Germany occupied Luxembourg and exchanged fire with French units; on 3 August, they declared war on France and demanded the Belgians allow them unimpeded right of way, which was refused. Early on the morning of 4 August, the Germans invaded; Albert 1 of Belgium ordered his army to resist and called for assistance under the Treaty of London. Britain sent Germany an ultimatum demanding they respect Belgian neutrality and withdraw, which expired at midnight without a response; Germany was now at war with Britain and its global empire.

At the outbreak of war on 4 August 1914, the British regular army numbered 247,432 serving officers and other ranks. This did not include reservists liable to be recalled to the colours upon general mobilization or the part-time volunteers of the Territorial Army. About one-third of the peace-time regulars were stationed in India and were not immediately available for service in Europe.

For a century British governmental policy and public opinion were against conscription for foreign wars. At

the start of World War I the British Army consisted of six infantry divisions, one cavalry division in the United Kingdom formed after the outbreak of war and four divisions overseas. Fourteen Territorial Force divisions also existed, and 300,000 soldiers in the Reserve Army. Lord Kitchener the Secretary of State for War, considered the Territorial Force untrained and useless. He believed that the regular army must not be wasted in immediate battle, but instead used to help train a new army with 70 divisions—the size of the French and German armies—that he foresaw would be needed to fight a war lasting many years.¹

In 1914, the British had about 5.5 million men of military age, with another 500,000 reaching the age of 18 each year. The initial call for 100,000 volunteers was far exceeded; almost half a million men enlisted in two months (see the graph). Around 250,000 underage boys also volunteered, either by lying about their age or giving false names. These were always rejected if the lie was discovered.

In May 1915 the Allies carried out an offensive north of Arras towards Lille. This was the Second Battle of Artois (9 May - 18 June 1915) with the aim to push the Germans off the dominating high ground of the Loretto and Vimy Ridges north of Arras. British attacks on the German line took place a little further north on the flat Flanders plain at Aubers Ridge and Festubert. By the end of the offensive there were approximately 100,000 French casualties, 26,000 British casualties and 90,000 German casualties.

In July 1915 the French carried out an offensive almost 3,000 feet above sea level on the rounded peaks of the Vosges mountains of Alsace. The offensive followed battles between the French and the Germans for possession of the peaks in deep snow and storms in the early part of 1915. Following a limited offensive to try to push the Germans out of the Fecht valley on the east side of the mountain range at Munster the French pressed on later in the summer to try to take the peaks and mountain road routes around Le Linge. The Battle of Le Linge (20 July - 15 October 1915) was fought for almost three months. Since the fighting there earlier in the year the Germans had reinforced their lightly-held positions by constructing an impregnable fortress of tunnels, trenches and bunkers hewn either out of the rock or supplemented by reinforced concrete. The German line could not be broken and after the close of the battle the Front Lines on this peak remained static, and only a few yards apart in places, for the rest of the war.

In the autumn of 1915 the French and British Armies carried out a second large-scale, two-pronged offensive against the German positions, which were by this time well-consolidated and proving increasingly more difficult to break into. The Second Champagne Offensive (25 September - 6 November 1915), had the objective of forcing the German Third and Fifth Armies in the Argonne sector to withdraw along the Meuse river towards Belgium. A simultaneous attack by French and

British forces from Vimy Ridge to La Bassée, called the Artois-Loos Offensive or the Third Battle of Artois (25 September - 15 October 1915), aimed to break through the German Front in Artois. This would compel the German Second and Seventh Armies caught between the two attacks to pull back to the Belgian border in order to protect their road and rail routes in their Lines of Communication on the Douai plain.

The Champagne offensive gained a few miles of ground and captured some 25,000 German prisoners, but with German reinforcements brought into the sector from the Eastern Front, the French could not withstand repeated German counter-attacks. French losses were over 145,000 casualties by the time the Champagne offensive drew to a close.

The Artois offensive witnessed the first use of a gas cloud weapon by the British Army on the Western Front at the Battle of Loos (25 September - 8 October 1915). The French managed to get onto the Vimy Ridge but did not succeed in pushing the Germans off this dominating ridge. The British attack achieved some success north of Loos and by the end of the first day they had passed through Loos village and reached the outskirts of the industrial, built-up town of Lens. Crucial time lost by the delayed arrival of the reserve divisions added to problems of command and control of the troops on the ground east of Loos, who had inadvertently headed south instead of east in the confusion of battle and the confusion created by similar pit-head landscape features in this mining area. The pause in the attack gave the German Fourth Army time to bring in reserves to the area overnight who reinforced a new German Second Position located on higher ground with good views across the British attack area. The British did not succeed in making any headway against this Second Position and suffered heavy casualties on 26 September. A second British advance against the German Second Position failed with heavy casualties in early October as bad weather closed in.

The lessons learned by the German defenders in these 1915 autumn battles was the value of "Defence in Depth". This is the term for a tactic whereby the defenders man the Front Line lightly, the attacker is initially allowed to gain some ground beyond his own artillery cover in the opening phase of an attack, and then he is counter-attacked by groups of well-placed defenders in second and third positions constructed behind the Front Line.

At the same time as Frederick Evans must have been living and working in Clungunford, to be mentioned on the war memorial like that, even if the greatest irony of all is that he didn't actually die during any of the Battles of the Somme, which happened later, but during the third Battle of Atois, an altogether lower key affair, though not for the thousands of men who died during it of course, another nineteen years old boy who also went by the name of Evans, was living at Clungunford.

Living with his grandmother, Lucy Jacks, and his mother, Ellen Evans, who had taken her surname from

her father, Charles Evans, at the time when Lucy was Lucy Evans, and had had two illegitimate sons under that name at Crossways in Clungunford at the time of the First World War, was another lad of about the same age as Frederick, Edward Leonard Evans who, though also going by the name of Evans, but not related to him in any way.

The Evanses from whom the Lewises were descended had moved out of the village a long time before. These Evans were from the lower echelons of society. They were only Evanses, in fact, because their mother hadn't married and they'd kept her name instead of whatever their father's name had been. She was living and working in Manchester by the time of the First World War.

According to his short service attestation when he signed on as a soldier with the Kings Light Shropshire infantry on 31st august 1914, for an initial period of three years which could be lengthened to more time depending on how long the war lasted, Edward was a blacksmith living in his father's house who had been an apprentice in the trade but the time had expired

In fact Edward Leonard Evans was a blacksmith by trade, but he lived with his grandmother at Crossways by night and by day was to be found in the blacksmiths shop, close to Sycamore Cottage in the centre of the village.

The blacksmith shop used to be where the village hall stands now, next to the brook which cut across Chapel Road there, Sycamore Cottage has always been where it is, and the chapel which gave the road its name lay in between the two.

In the mood of optimistic enthusiasm for the war, which marked its beginnings, it is very likely that two young lads of the same age and the same name, would feel drawn to enlist with the local infantry force when they arrived at Ludlow on August Bank Holiday for that purpose.

Edward Evans certainly did. His Short Service Attestation was signed at Ludlow recruitment fair on that day, witnessed by a captain in the Shropshire Light Infantry. He signed on for an initial three years, or as long as the war lasted, but was lucky enough, though he might not have thought so at the time, to be deemed unfit for service, on grounds of health a month later, without ever having to face the horrors of the war.

Frederick Evans must have also filled in the necessary paperwork, though none of it survives and though what does survive tells that he did enlist at Ludlow, there is no saying that it was at the same time as his blacksmith friend. Frederick was unlucky enough *not* to be refused service for any reason, health or otherwise, and was killed a year and three weeks later, though not on the Somme as the memorial suggests, but along the River Artois, after Edward Evans failed attempt to enlist.

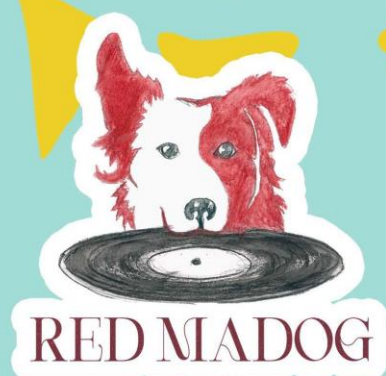
Brian Taylor

CLUNGUNFORD SUMMER PARTY

SATURDAY 16TH JULY 2022
2PM-6PM

LIVE MUSIC

FROM 'RED MADOG'
PLAYING A UNIQUE COMBINATION
OF INSTRUMENTS, DELIVERING AN
UPBEAT 'FOLK-FUSION' SOUND



FOOD

WORLD CLASS BURGERS BY
'THE BEEFY BOYS' FROM HEREFORD
VEGGIE OPTIONS ALSO AVAILABLE!
Voucher on gate for free burger to each
Clungunford resident!

LICENCED BAR

TAKING PLACE ON THE GREEN, NEXT TO CLUNGUNFORD VILLAGE HALL
CHAPEL ROAD, CLUNGUNFORD, SY7 0PN



Croquet comes to
CLUNGUNFORD
Bank Holiday Monday
2nd May, 2022
From 2.00pm, the Bowling Green
Everyone Welcome
No Charge
Bring your own
refreshments

Contact Mike Jones for more details:
Mobile - 07531400391 or email - mpjt51@hotmail.com



Library to Lane

With the coming of spring and the ending of covid restrictions, would you like to step outside your front door and take a closer look at your own locality?

Library to Lane is a project funded through the National Lottery Community Fund, with thanks to all lottery players. It invites people in Shropshire and its borders to engage with and share aspects of the place where they live: its history, wildlife, occupations, traditions or folklore – and to think about how things have changed over the years.

The project is hosted by FOLK: a Shropshire-based group with a special interest in three Shropshire women: Charlotte Burne, author of *Shropshire Folklore*; Georgina Jackson, author of the *Shropshire Word Book*; and Mary Webb, Shropshire novelist and poet. Between the 1870s and 1920s, these three women, who all suffered from disabling health issues, observed and recorded different aspects of Shropshire's rich landscape and traditions. *Library to Lane* follows them 'down the lane!'

Supported by local project co-ordinators, participants are invited to use whatever means they choose to share their findings. It could be via a written journal, photographs, a recording of a chat with a knowledgeable neighbour, a sketch book, or by creating a database. For those who find it difficult to get out and about, looking out the window is a great, accessible way to get involved. It's all about personal experience and what is distinctive about the place where you live. For those who'd like it, there'll be help on finding out more about the local history of their area through resources in libraries, archives and online.

Library to Lane is a pilot project, at the end of which participants will have taken a short journey together from past to present, from library to lane, discovering, observing, noting and celebrating aspects of their area. Throughout the project coordinators and volunteers will be on hand to help participants find creative and artistic ways to interpret their findings. If there are lots of creative responses it may be possible to exhibit these in local spaces and share our project with an even wider community.

It is hoped *Library to Lane* will provide evidence to support a further funding bid to create an active data base and to continue on the path first explored by Georgina, Charlotte and Mary.

For further details and to get involved, please contact: folkcc@mail.com or look on our FOLK facebook page: FOLK510537079412355

Robin Bywater

It is with great sadness that *The Gazette* reports the passing of Robin Bywater.

There are Bywaters aplenty in these parts, and Robin's father was the tenant of Heath Farm, then part of the Ripley Estate. Robin's father was a famed bone-setter, a gift inherited by Robin's late sister, Ruth. Robin's plan was to take over the farm in succession to his father, but the design failed when Robin's father died at an early age and with Robin too young to take over the tenancy. The Bywaters moved to The Gables, and Robin had to re-think his career. To all who knew Robin this change brought about a sadness that endured throughout his life. However, change direction he did, and with what a spectacular outcome!

From Ludlow Grammar School he proceeded to Edinburgh University and trained as a vet, acquiring on the way a doctorate and the lovely May, as a wife. Sons Owen and Simon came along in due course, whilst Robin built a stellar career in animal health with various leading pharmaceutical companies. Agriculture world-wide has gained much from Robin's efforts, and whilst the details are too technical for popular reading, suffice it to say he received his fair share of "life-time achievement awards" and industry and academic accolades.

In retirement Robin and May came to join us at Little Common. They entered into village life with great gusto and did much for the Church and other village causes. For that we are truly grateful to Robin and May.

Robin took up poetry and published several booklets, the proceeds of which went to research into Parkinson's Disease, which Robin sadly contracted in later life. One particularly fine poem records the farm sale at Heath House, and for anyone who has been to a farm sale and who knew the circumstances of this sale, it is heart-breaking to think of how much this must have affected the young Robin.

Robin and May moved finally to more suitable accommodation in Church Stretton, and his long battle with the disease ended peacefully. Our thoughts and prayers are with May, Owen and Simon and the extended family.

A final thought. No one can recall Robin ever uttering an unkind word.

Village Hall & Green Volunteers



We are all rightly proud of our Village Hall and Gunnas Bar but it would not be the success it is without the small army of volunteers who give their time, skills and enthusiasm to make it successful.

The Trustees will be hosting the annual volunteers "Thank you" barbeque on **Sunday 29th May** at the hall, which is our small way of showing appreciation for all that they do and to give us an opportunity to celebrate together.

The volunteers contribute in so many ways but here are some examples:

- Serving in the bar
 - Gardening
 - Grass mowing
- General maintenance
- Helping with events

If anyone is interested in finding out more about joining our happy band of helpers or would just like to know if you can help in anyway then please pop along between 1pm-3pm where you will find a warm welcome and a barbeque.

Elizabeth Lyster
(On behalf of The Trustees)