

# THE GUNNAS GAZETTE

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## RIDE + STRIDES for Churches

The annual Clungunford Ride and Stride will be taking place on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

We have 2 groups from Clungunford, Riders on bicycles and Striders on foot. We set off from St Cuthbert's and follow a route visiting local churches and coming back to St Cuthbert's for a lunch.

The point of the day is to raise money for the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (SHCT). They raise money to maintain historic churches. The money we raise is split 50/50 between St Cuthbert's and the SHCT, and so it's an important opportunity to raise money.

On the same day St Cuthbert's has an open day where they will provide refreshments for local people and Ride and Stride visitors.

It is a relaxed event and a good opportunity to get some exercise and meet some new people. So, if you want to join us on the day to Ride and Stride, then please contact Simon Lyster on 01588 660152.

If you want to sponsor us, then please

visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/clungunfordrideandstride2022>



# **CAR BOOT SALE**

**Sunday**

**September 25<sup>th</sup> 2022,**

**9.00am – 13.00pm**

**Boots from 8.00am**

**Sellers: Cars £6.00, Vans £6.00**  
**(Sorry, no trailers)**

**Booking Advisable -**

**Contact Madelene on 07841 903159**

**or**

**email: [clungunfordhall@gmail.com](mailto:clungunfordhall@gmail.com)**

**Venue: Clungunford Village Hall, SY7 0PP**

## Dates for your Diary

4 <sup>th</sup> September	The BIG Breakfast – St Cuthbert's churchyard
10 <sup>th</sup> September	Ride and Stride – on behalf of Shropshire Historic Churches Trust
16 <sup>th</sup> September	Flicks in the Sticks- Downton Abbey
25 <sup>th</sup> September	Car Boot Sale – Village Green and Hall car park
29 <sup>th</sup> September	Harvest Festival Quiz and Supper– St Cuthbert's
1 <sup>st</sup> October	Clun Valley Music piano concert – St Cuthbert's
2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Clun Valley Music lunchtime piano concert – St Cuthbert's
21 <sup>st</sup> October	Flicks in the Sticks - Belfast
28 <sup>th</sup> October	Corvedale Festival Concert - Jarualda Quartet – St Cuthbert's
18 <sup>th</sup> November	Flicks in the Sticks – Finding your feet
25 <sup>th</sup> November	Arts Alive -Holmes and Watson -Farewell Tour
26 <sup>th</sup> November	Robert Bunting Organ Concert – St Cuthbert's
29 <sup>th</sup> November	Wales V England World Cup match
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Wine and Wisdom Quiz
9 <sup>th</sup> December	Flicks in the Sticks- Elvis
Date to be confirmed	Elders' Christmas Lunch

*More information on [Clungunford.com](http://Clungunford.com)*

### Regular events in the village hall:

- Bar is open every Friday night from 19.00-22.00 with a 2-course meal available 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month.
- St Cuthbert's Café every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month from 10.00 – 12.00.
- Bikers' Night on the first Monday of the month 18.00-20.00

### THE BIG COIN COUNT

**Where:** St Cuthbert's Café, Clungunford Village Hall

**When:** Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 10.00am – 12.00noon

**What it's all about:** Bring along any **British** coins that you may have accumulated during lockdown, especially those annoying 1p, 2p and 5p ones that get stuck in the bottom of your handbag or pocket, to donate to a good cause. Check down the back of the sofa and in the car dash tray to look for those that have escaped. The money collected will all be donated to **LAMB**, a medical charity working in remote parts of Bangladesh which St Cuthbert's has been supporting since before the Covid lockdown.

Regrettably we cannot accept any non-British currency – but cheques or other forms of foldable currency, in lieu of coins, will not be refused!

Of course, tea or coffee and cakes – and a chance to catch up on village gossip - will also be available as it always is at **St Cuthbert's Café**, held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.

***The Slow Ladies*** The **Annual Ride and Stride** fund raising event will take place on Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>. Many of you will have taken part in this in past years, but we hope to encourage more Striders to take part this year. We are repeating a walk we did a few years ago—that is a linear walk, of about 9 miles, from St. Cuthberts Church to Stow, via the churches in Hopton Castle, Bedstone, Bucknell and Stow. Most churches will leave something for you to drink and sometimes a biscuit or sandwich to help you on your way. We will return by bus and finish in St Cuthberts where there is always a wonderful welcome and plenty to eat. If you wish to take part meet at 9am by the gate at St Cuthbert's church and please let me or Isabel Jones (01588 661145) know if you would like to come. Please phone if you need more details. Pauline Mattison (01588 660596).

**Friday October 21<sup>st</sup> Clee Hill:** Pam will lead this. It is 5 miles long and will be steep in places up to the top of the hill, but after that it is flattish across the top. Meet in Clungunford car park at 9.30 am and bring a drink and a picnic. Please let me know if you are coming.

## ***Restoring verges and habitat and increasing biodiversity –***

***15 September at 7pm - Clungunford Village Hall***

Janet Cobb is coming to talk about her work in various projects.

She is a board member of Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project (RSVP).

She is currently working with colleagues in CPRE (the Countryside Charity) and CfGA (Caring for Gods Acre) on a project aiming to raise awareness and engage volunteers in local projects to increase biodiversity and habitat restoration.

### **CPRE, CfGA and RSVP initiatives in a nutshell:**

The 3 projects have joined forces for this coming year, they are all funded and 26 sites already identified by CfGA for work, most in Shropshire Hills AONB.

The intention is to work in the 26 sites in all three areas i.e. Hedges, Verges and Churchyards, and Clungunford St Cuthbert's church is listed as one of the sites for the Caring for Gods Acre ARK project

See website information on the 3 initiatives:

- CPRE Hedgerow Hero's  
<https://www.cpreshropshire.org.uk/hedgerow-project>
- RSVP Verge Project  
<https://middlemarchescommunitylandtrust.org.uk/guest-blogs/restoring-shropshires-verges-project-rsvp/>
- CfGA ARK project  
<https://www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk/opening-the-ark/>

## ***A message from Rev Martin Quayle***

At the time of writing, the news is dominated by the leadership campaign for the Conservative Party. The winner will be our Prime Minister. Although our constitution is not Presidential, the departing Prime Minister was 'presidential' in the way that he ran the

country. Opinion will always be divided about the style and methods of working of politicians, but it is clear that in this instance, this Prime Minister had to step down because his colleagues were no longer prepared to work with him. Governance is by consent - of the people, by the people and for the people. Integrity, and respect for the rule of law are fundamental principles which all of us in public office need to understand and respect.

In part of the Anglican prayers, we ask that under our Queen we are 'godly and quietly governed'. We may be tempted to think that these words are quaint, but not terribly relevant to our times. The prayer book was written within a time of tumult and rebellion. There had been violence and loss of life on a massive scale. Near to here, at both Hopton Castle and Brampton Bryan, there were sieges. The words were an ardent prayer of supplication, representing the longing of the country for peace and goodwill.

The qualities of integrity and a commitment to public service are critical to the health and welfare of our communities. We are incredibly lucky in this part of the County that we have local representatives of outstanding character and commitment. The best way that we can maintain these high standards is to appreciate and express gratitude to those who serve us well.

We have recently celebrated the outstanding contribution to our country by Queen Elizabeth. Although the current difficulties in our Government are demoralising and upsetting, we must remain positive about those who do so much good for us. Within the Bible there are exhortations for us to pray for those who have authority and to respect the role that they play in our communities. For now, shouldn't we be respectful and thankful to those who do serve us well, and often do a thankless task without reward? Thank you to all of you- may you find blessing and fulfilment in your work and lives amongst us. *Martin*

## ***Farm Born and Bred***

Further adventures as a small child!

Being the youngest, lightest and "only a girl" my role seemed to be acting as the guinea pig in all the escapades planned by my brother & two other boys during the holidays.

I had to test the strength of the ice on the pond to see if it was safe to slide on. On one occasion I fell through, fortunately not into deep water. My brother plodded off home to get warm, leaving me to extricate myself and follow squelching along with my wellies full of water.

I had to test the homemade raft on the floods to see if it would float, more soaking in store for me!

I was encouraged up the long ladders – again, to the top of the bales in the Dutch barn.

Here the boys would pull the ladder up after us, push the ladder onto the beam under the roof. I was instructed to sit in the ladder, legs dangling between the rungs. The ladder, with me in place, was pushed further out across

the beam, over the empty bay. Then the boys would take it in turns to see-saw. With them on the full bay, they would push the ladder in and out depending on their weight to get the balance right so that they could see-saw, using me as the counter balance. When they got bored, I was pulled to safety with the ladder and we all descended to the stack yard floor, and off in search of more fun!

We used to make dens in the bales by pulling bales out creating tunnels into the bay. We knew the order in which the bales were stacked, and so were able to create passages through the bay. Then we would make a den by pulling out bales to create a square room. It got very hot in our tunnels so a ventilation shaft was made into the roof of the den. Here we would sit discussing the next adventures and life in general. Sometimes we would take a picnic in with us and imagine we were in a homemade cave house where we would carry on living. Hunger & heat usually drove us out to go home for tea!

On another occasion we went to catch our tea by catching minnows and cooking them. This involved getting an empty wine bottle, punching out the dimple on its base with a hammer and nails. Tying string around the bottle, lowering into the stream where the minnows would swim in through the hole in the base and be trapped inside the bottle.

We transferred the minnows in water into a jam jar, made a little fire, a tripod of sticks over the fire, jam jar hanging from this over the flames. The theory, according to the boys, was that the minnows would be cooked in the jar. In reality the heat of the fire broke the base of the jam jar, the water put out the fire, and the minnows floundered about in the remains of the ashes. Another failed adventure.

My grandfather was always kept in the dark about these adventures of ours, I expect my mother guessed what we were up to, but she never scolded us, just dried us off, applied plasters, repaired clothes or whatever was necessary.

Grandfather would have had a different reaction, mostly a quick slap across the face, and a shout to my mother – frequently heard of “Gwen, get those children to bed”!

*M.E.B.*

Sister B still fascinated by ancient “cures”:-

In the Middle Ages, some doctors believed that “like cures like”. So, when confronted by the Black Death, which was thought to be caused by deadly vapours, they thought that the key to fighting this disease was to use some “therapeutic stink”. Some urged people to keep goats in the house. Others recommended storing flatulence in jars. Whenever the deadly pestilence appeared in the neighbourhood, people were to open the jars and take a whiff.

Hmmm!?

## ***Flicks in the Sticks at Clungunford Village Hall***

**Friday 16th September 2022 at 8.00pm**

**Downton Abbey – A New Era (cert PG)**

A follow-up to the 2019 feature film in which the Crawley family goes on a grand journey to the South of France to uncover the mystery of the dowager countess's newly inherited villa.

Starring: Maggie Smith, Michelle Dockery, Hugh

Bonneville, Elizabeth McGovern

Director: Simon Curtis      Drama

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**Friday 21st October 2022 at 8.00pm**

**Belfast (cert PG)**

A semi-autobiographical film which chronicles the life of a working class family and their young son's childhood during the tumult of the late 1960s in the Northern Ireland capital.

Starring: Catriona Balfe, Jamie Dornan, Judi Dench, and Ciaran Hinds.

Director: Kenneth Branagh      Drama

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Entrance £5.00 Adults £3.00 Children

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

Tel: 01588 660781 (Maureen)

([maureenrooney2012@gmail.com](mailto: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.

## ***In the Garden***

A drizzly day in Clungunford at the moment, but luckily I finished shredding the tree and shrub branches and trunks, which have been building up on the rubbish pile for over a year or more now.

It's as well I finished that job before the rain arrived. The shredder is the only machine I still use in the garden powered by electricity.

There was a time all my implements were powered that way, and I would have to keep a nervous eye on the weather forecast before I began to cut the hedges surrounding the garden, of which there are many. All of my other implements are battery powered these days, so I don't have that problem anymore. Just the problem of what to do with the cuttings, of course.

The branches I've been shredding have mostly been overgrown Leylandii hedging, with a few oak, ash or sycamore trunks which have sprung up in various parts of the garden. As well as branches from various sorts of buddleia, and snowberries intent on taking over the garden.



A few year's ago I had a lot of yew trunks and branches I shredded, only to find many of the other plants in my garden didn't grow at all well when surrounded by the shreds from the yew. Some plants actually going as far as to die under those circumstances.

In the garden look out *Leycesteria Formosa*, a medium size shrub with white flowers carried in dense terminal drooping panicles of claret- coloured bracts, borne from June to September, followed by striking purple berries, pheasants are said to enjoy. *Brian Taylor*

### ***Postcard from Africa***

Kenya is a country whose name at least is very familiar to many people in this country. TV viewers interested in wildlife will have seen numerous programmes about the natural world made there, from some of Sir David Attenborough's earliest expeditions in the 1950's to more recent episodes of Big Cat Diaries and of course heart-rending documentaries about the state of Kenya's dwindling population of elephants. Some of you, I'm sure, will have visited Kenya, if not in connection with your work, then to enjoy some of the wonderful attractions that Kenya has to offer holiday makers who are looking for a change from Great Yarmouth or even the Canary Islands. White coral-sand beaches at Diani Beach or Malindi, bordered by whispering palm trees, or a few days spent "on safari" in Amboseli or Maasai-Mara national parks. Photographing giraffe with the silhouette of Mt. Kilimanjaro in the background are the stuff that dreams are made of. Above all else, Kenya is a very comfortable place for British visitors – they drive on the same side of the road as we do, English is spoken virtually everywhere and everything that we buy in shops here is also available there. Tourism is the second biggest foreign exchange earner for the country and the tourist industry is sophisticated and well managed, with the aim of attracting as many visitors as possible and to give them an experience that will only make them want to come back again.

Kenya, of course, was a British colony. Many thousands of British nationals settled there, attracted by the amenable climate and fertile farmland. A bitter war of independence was fought in the early 1950's, fuelled by the injustices that were meted out against the African population, resulting in full independence in 1963. Its first president was Jomo Kenyatta, one of the senior leaders of the Mau-Mau movement, who worked hard to build a multi-ethnic society post-independence, and allay the fears of the settler community that they would all be packed off back to Blighty overnight. Kenyatta became a much-revered figure, both at home and abroad and was seen as one of Africa's elder statesmen right up until his death in 1978.

Kenyan society is made up of many different ethnic groups, not all of whom see eye to eye with each other. One of the ways that the British administration managed the Mau-Mau situation was to play one tribe off against another. Classic divide and rule. Most of the Mau-Mau

fighters came from the Kikuyu tribe from the central highlands – their long-term rivals, the Luo from Western Kenya and the Wakamba from the east were persuaded to support the colonial administration, in return for promises of land and jobs when the conflict was over. This sowed the seeds for ethnic rivalries that continue to this day.

Kenya has been in the spotlight recently as last August, elections were held to choose a new president. Kenyan politics are very murky, very much determined by the tribal allegiances I have mentioned above and where patronage plays a big part in winning votes. Election rallies are often associated with huge amounts of food being provided to potential voters and cash being showered on individuals for no particular reason. The incumbent president has always had the advantage that he (always a he – no woman president of Kenya yet) has been able to use the machinery of government to facilitate his rallies, making it easy to create obstacles for the opposition. Election results have almost always been contested, often with violence – the 2007 elections were followed by upheavals that left around 1,500 people dead and over 600,000 displaced from their homes. Subsequent elections in 2010 and 2017 were also contested, but, fortunately, without the same levels of violence as in 2007. The most recent result was very close: 50.5% to William Ruto and 48.8% to his rival, Raila Odinga. What is particularly surprising is that Odinga was the favoured candidate of the outgoing president, Jomo's son Uhuru Kenyatta, so one trend has been bucked there. It is likely that the result will be appealed, but it will take a long time before the outcome is declared.

While the "C" word – corruption – is often used in narratives about Kenyan politics, it is not all bad news. One huge and important difference between Kenya and many other African countries is that the military and other security organs have no involvement in politics. Kenya has been a genuine multi-party democracy for more than 20yrs and in political terms, Kenya is a very young country: Ruto will be only the 5<sup>th</sup> president of the Republic. As more young people become involved in politics – people who perhaps have a broader view of the world – some of the old allegiances and prejudices are likely to wither on the vine. Kenya faces enormous economic problems, especially resulting from the war in Ukraine, so whoever occupies the Presidential seat will have a major job on his hands. For the sake of the 47 million Kenyans, it is to be hoped that he succeeds in his new role. *Rob Rees*

### ***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](mailto: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](mailto:mpjt51@hotmail.com)) or Edward Gledhill (tel: 01588 660485, email: [edward@aepledhill.co.uk](mailto:edward@aepledhill.co.uk)). The planned Services for St Cuthbert's Church, Clungunford in the Middle Marches Benefice for July and August 2022 are as follows:

Sunday 11 September	10.00 am	Family Service
Sunday 18 September	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 25 September	11.00 am	Holy Communion with Rev Martin Quayle
Thursday 29 September	6.30 pm	Harvest Festival and Supper
Sunday 9 October	10.00 am	Family Service
Sunday 16 October	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 23 October	11.00 am	Holy Communion with Rev Martin Quayle

#### St Cuthbert's Diary Dates

#### The BIG Breakfast – 4<sup>th</sup> September from 9.30am

The paella pans are out. The gas bottles have been checked. The food has been ordered and Jonathan has returned from his egg cookery course. Most important, Isa and Mike have found the 'Clungunford BIG Breakfast' pan! Yes, we are all ready for *the* social calendar event of the year, the Clungunford BIG Breakfast! Whether you would like sausages, bacon, eggs, black pudding, mushrooms, beans and more traditional breakfast fare or a vegetarian option, thanks to Elizabeth, there is something for you to be washed down with gallons of tea and coffee, and accompanied by toast and lots of good company.

If you have not been before, make sure to put it in your diary now. There is no charge for the breakfast but contributions are very welcome. The money donated will help with the ongoing work within the Church including lightning conductors and the stone work.

It would be very helpful, for catering purposes, if you could let either Isa or Mike Jones know if you intend to come, and if you have any special dietary requirements. Just in case you are worried about the weather, the BIG Breakfast will be in held in the Church if it rains. This is one of the most popular events on the Clungunford calendar so please just turn up and enjoy great company and wonderful food!

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#### The Harvest Supper – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm

It seems difficult to travel too far around the villages without coming upon the presence of a combine harvester reminding us, if we needed to be reminded, that it's harvest time. St Cuthbert's Harvest Festival and Supper will be on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September starting at 6.30pm. Last year we enjoyed memorable singing from both Tim Hughes and the James family at the short, entertaining service run by Chris Tinker. Hopefully we can equal that this year.

The Quiz, which will be during and after the meal, is being put together by Shropshire's finest quiz masters, Barbara and Bob Bates! This will challenge the best brains in the Parish. Be assured of a very entertaining and enjoyable evening.

Tickets for the Supper are available from the Church Wardens (Mike Jones 1588 661145 or Eddie Gledhill 01588 660485) at £8 to include a glass of wine, beer or soft drink. If you have any special dietary requirements ensure that you make us aware. Please support us and welcome in the Harvest. All are very welcome!

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#### Clun Valley Music 2022 presents JongSun Woo (piano), Luba Tunncliffe (violin) and Richard Tunncliffe (cello) – Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 7.30pm, and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 12 noon.

We are very pleased to welcome Clun Valley Music back to St Cuthbert's Church. You may recall that in 2021 Clun Valley Music brought the Ruisi Quartet to Clungunford in a very memorable concert including a very moving piece by Beethoven. This year both Luba and Richard Tunncliffe will be performing with pianist Jong Sun Woo in two concerts on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

The *Saturday Evening concert*, which starts at 7.30 pm, features Shostakovich's Piano Trio No.2 Op.67 and Schubert's Piano Trio No.2. D.929.

The *Sunday Lunchtime concert* begins at 12pm with Beethoven's Piano and violin Sonata Op.12 No.1, 6 Bagatelles Op.126 and Piano Trio in E flat Op.1 No.1. More information on the concerts and the artists can be found at [www.clunvalleymusic.co.uk](http://www.clunvalleymusic.co.uk). Tickets are available online at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/clun-valley-music](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/clun-valley-music) or by phone on 07811 967114 or 07846 786020.

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#### The Jarualda Quartet performing at St Cuthbert's – 7.30 pm on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October

We are very pleased to welcome the Jarualda Quartet to St Cuthbert's where they will performing on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October. The programme has yet to be announced but is expected to include Shostakovich's 11th quartet.

More information about the Jarualda Quartet can be found on their website; [Home \(jarualdaqartet.uk\)](http://Home.jarualdaqartet.uk) .

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### St Cuthbert's Café dates for September and October

Now a regular feature of Clungunford life, St Cuthbert's Café is in the village hall every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday from 10 am until 12 noon. The dates for September and October are;

- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September
- Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October (with the ***Big Coin Count in aid of LAMB*** – a medical charity working in remote parts of Bangladesh. More information on poster later in this issue of the Gunnas Gazette.)
- Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October

Rob Rees and Sara Giffen organise 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.

If you haven't yet been to the Café, come along and enjoy the company!

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### Sacred Space

For many of us, it is rare in this time of 'hustle and bustle' that we take time to stop and reflect upon the issues of life. Sacred Space provides just such an opportunity. It offers an opportunity to gather together and to share an hour of music and silence. The music, which is interspersed with periods of silence, is a mixture of sacred, classical and inspirational pieces.

After a Summer break, the next occasion to join in Sacred Space will be Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September and then on the 14<sup>th</sup> October at the new time of 6 pm until 7 pm. Sacred Space is led by Anna Dreda and Clare Johnson. All are welcome.

If you would like to know more about Sacred Space please contact [Annadreda@icloud.com](mailto:Annadreda@icloud.com)

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### .....And other news

#### Let there be light, and there was, thanks to the 100 Club!

We are very pleased to be able to inform you that the issues that we faced around the electric supply in St Cuthbert's have now been addressed and that new high-level LED lighting has been installed in the nave and sanctuary. The work was undertaken by Bright Electrical Ltd of Tenbury Wells and was completed in four days. In addition to the new lighting, a new distribution board has been installed and substandard wiring has been replaced. The work was required as the electricians failed an

Electrical Installation Condition survey. The Church electricians now have a clean bill of health.

The new LED are small and far less obtrusive than the old lighting. As well as being cheaper to run, they also provide a wealth of soft lighting. Rob Rees, who has managed this project, threw the switch at the morning service on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> August and the Church was filled with light!

In addition to the work on the lighting, we have also been addressing the lightning conductors which unfortunately no longer meet the required standards. Wiltshire Steeplejacks from Trowbridge have been engaged to bring the lightning conductors up to spec. A number of new earthing rods have replaced the existing ones but more work needs to be carried out before the Church is deemed to be adequately protected. It is expected that the remaining work will be carried out in the next few weeks. Our thanks go to Rob Rees who is also managing this project.

The above work was necessary to both ensure that the electricians and lightning conductors are compliant with the required standards and to meet the conditions of the insurance policy. The price tag for the work is costly and is expected to be close to £10,000. We are grateful to the ***Clungunford 100 Club*** whose generous funding has allowed us to undertake the work. Our sincere thanks go to all who contribute monthly to this very worthwhile cause and help to make St Cuthbert's a vital part of our community. We would specially like to thank the trustees and Maureen Rooney for founding the Club.

If you would like to support the Clungunford 100 Club, the details to allow you to do so are given below.

If you would like to join the 100 Club with the opportunity to win either a £60, £30 or £15 prize each month (minimum 6 months' subscription at £5 per month payable by standing order), please contact Maureen Rooney (01588 660781), Rob Rees (01547 540248), Jim Bason (01588 660673), Mike Jones (0588 661145) or Janet Thain (01588 660673).

#### Further work on the Church – can you help?

Every five years the St Cuthbert's has an inspection of the fabric of the church building. We are due for our next Quinquennial on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October. We are very conscious that work on items identified in the Quinquennial report are still outstanding or are items of a maintenance nature ie clearing away the weeds around the building. Some of these items require the work of skilled workmen such as has been carried out on the electricians. Others need people to clear weeds, oil church doors, and sort out minor maintenance issues.

If you have some time to spare to help with keeping the church building in order please contact one of the Church Wardens (Mike Jones or Edward Gledhill). Your help would be appreciated.



One of the next major items for us to address is the stonework and, in particular, the church tower. It goes without saying that a building 700 years old needs continual work.

### **CARING FOR GOD'S ACRE – 'OPENING THE ARK'**

What would you do on a Friday evening at the end of July at 8pm and then check on the next morning at 5.30am? Well, the answer is obvious if you are Tom Hayek. You set up moth traps at St Cuthbert's Church yard for the God's Acre 'Opening the Ark' event!

Over fifty people came to Opening the Ark at St Cuthbert's and most stayed for the full afternoon. It was difficult not to be excited as Tom delved into his moth traps and found more and more different species of moth, some of which he had never seen before. By the end of the afternoon in excess of 130 different species had been recorded. Everyone was astounded at the size and colour of these wonderful creatures that live in our churchyard and yet are total strangers to us.

Tom was joined by Sam Devine-Turner who captured everyone's attention with her collection of skulls, instruction on how to read nut shells to discover which animal had been eating it's contents and the insight into the life of dormice. Yellow rattle thrives on the northern side of the graveyard and Rob Rowe was kindly handed out yellow rattle seeds whilst identifying a host of different flowers and telling folklore tales relating to them. The theme of tales was taken up by the poet Jean Atkin who entertained our younger visitors by helping them make tiny books of stories made up by the young authors.

It was truly a wonderful afternoon enjoyed by all. I am sure that there cannot have been one person who left without having learnt something and having a new respect for the inhabitants of the churchyard. And then, of course, there was the tea and cake!

Our sincere thanks to God's Acre for running a very special event!



### ***Weather report – extreme heat in July and August but less drought in Shropshire***

This summer, from June up to 20th August has been one of the hottest on record and in many places one of the driest. The West Midlands has just been added to those places, previously mostly in the south and east of England, where drought measures are in place to conserve water. My weather records indicate the

situation in south Shropshire. After the dry spring, the total rainfall at Hopton Heath in June was 90mm which was above average (although Shawbury in north Shropshire recorded only 42mm, well below average). This can partly be explained by a thunderstorm on the night of 4-5 June (when we had just returned from holiday) which I failed to mention in my last report but which gave 27mm rain at Hopton Heath, the highest daily fall since the storms of February.

July was dry, with only 39mm, nearly all falling on the 21, 22 and 30 July and with meteorological drought (with no rain) from 2-18 July. August has also been dry with most of the 14mm rain falling from 15-19 August. There was no rain from 3-14 August. The small amounts of rain in these months may have offset the worst of the drought.

In terms of temperature, the summer has certainly been extreme. In June there were temperatures above 25C on five days; in July maximum temperatures exceeded 25C on thirteen days, including five with 30C or more with the highest I recorded being 35C on the 18th; in August there have been eleven days with temperatures above 25C (up to the 20th) with the highest at 33C on the 14th. 2021 had a warm June (with a mean maximum temperature of 23C), record high temperatures in July with eleven days with temperatures above 25C, with five of 30C or more and the highest at Hopton Heath being 32C but August was cooler, with a mean maximum temperature of 21C compared with 25C for July. So, summer 2022 has been warmer and also much drier than 2021 but Shropshire has escaped the extreme drought of eastern and southern England.

The low pressure systems that have crossed Britain over the past few days have given relief from the heat and also some rain. On a butterfly survey in Bury Ditches today, it felt almost autumnal. The National News reports that in some areas trees are beginning to shed their leaves, although this is put down to heat stress rather than an early autumn. *Mike Tucker*

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## *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

[gunnagazette@aol.com](mailto:gunnagazette@aol.com).

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

## ***The 100 Club***

### **Winners for July:**

Special draw (£100): Anna Dreda

1. (£60) David Wilkinson
2. (£30) Elizabeth Lyster
3. (£15) Jim Bason

### **Winners for August:**

1. (£60) Suzanne Stevens
2. (£30) Liz Roberts
3. (£15) Elizabeth Hughes

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).

## ***The Parish Council***

At our last meeting in July inter alia we discussed what to do with the near £2,000 Community Infrastructure Levy funds sitting in the Parish Council account. This money has to be disbursed for public benefit, and the conclusion reached was that the money should be applied toward improving play facilities on the playing field. As a Parish Council we have to ensure that the funds are actually spent, and so the Village Hall trustees have been tasked with presenting a costed plan to further this end. The matter is in hand.

Since the meeting we have learned that there is every prospect that the posts to bear our speed warning equipment will soon be in place.... It has only taken a couple of years plus to get this far.... and with much prompting!

Our next meeting is on 14 September 2022 at 7pm. 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 with Jen Honour, our Parish Clerk, via [clungunfordparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:clungunfordparishcouncil@gmail.com) or directly with me. Jonathan Roberts, Chairman (01588 660673: [jonathan.roberts@morgoedestates.com](mailto:jonathan.roberts@morgoedestates.com)).

## ***North Herefordshire/South Shropshire Ukrainian Support Group***

Dear All

It is three months since we met at Clungunford Village Hall to discuss how our local community might support the plight of Ukrainians fleeing to the UK. Virtually everyone at the meeting indicated that they wanted to help – ranging from hosting guests in their own homes to offering practical support around transport, teaching English, or negotiating access to services.

At the meeting it was explained that help in our community was being organised through the Diocese of Hereford,

acting as the Sponsoring organisation, which includes South Shropshire, up to Shrewsbury. Friends in Leintwardine had already set up a steering group to coordinate support in the area, so it seemed sensible to feed into that group, so information about potential hosts (with their agreement) was shared with them. **Since then, 13 hosts have come forward and 28 Ukrainians have been matched with them, 17 arrived, 11 travelling or processing visas.**

This has been a tremendous effort and the need for active support from the community remains high. The two local authorities (Herefordshire and Shropshire) are charged with supporting the programme but have very different offers in terms of information and advice. Shropshire Council runs an excellent website [www.shropshire.gov.uk/homes-for-ukraine](http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/homes-for-ukraine), and provides an over-view of progress.

Some of you may already be involved in supporting guests, but the current flow of Ukrainians is predicted to increase in advance of the likely continuation of the war and the on-coming winter. More hosts are desperately needed and volunteers who can provide transport, support the English teaching that has already taken off in Ludlow, and help guests negotiate UK government services will be vital.

If you are able to offer any support, please let us know. We can then share it with the Diocese and sign-post you to some of the support groups that have sprung up locally, particularly in Ludlow.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes

Jon Allen, Gill Allen

Judith Trustman, Matthew Trustman

[gh@allen-haynes.com](mailto:gh@allen-haynes.com)

## ***A few words from Owen Bywater***

On behalf of myself, my mum May and my brother Simon could we offer sincere thanks for the kind words in a recent *Gunnas Gazette* about my dad Robin Bywater. He and my mum moved to Church Stretton seven years ago for reasons of practicality but his heart always lay in the Clun Valley and there was never any doubt that we would want his celebration to take place at St. Cuthbert's and at the village hall. We were tremendously moved to see so many people from the community and felt it was just the kind of occasion he would have enjoyed thoroughly. We'd like to thank everyone who helped us organise the hall hire, the catering, the photographs and all the other aspects of the day. Although it was of course a sad day, he lived a full life on his own terms and we will always remember the warmth and affection in which he was held by everyone. Thank you again. *Owen Bywater*

# THE BRODSKY QUARTET

with Richard Tunncliffe, cello

**Friday 2nd September**

*St. George's Church, Clun 7.30pm*

Bach (arr. Cassidy) – Sonata in G minor (after BWV 1001)

Shostakovich – String Quartet No.14 Op.142

Schubert – String Quintet in C D.956

*Tickets £15 (16yrs and under £5)*

*Clun Valley  
Music 2022  
presents*

**JONGSUN WOO** piano  
**LUBA TUNNICLIFFE** violin  
**RICHARD TUNNICLIFFE** cello

*St. Cuthbert's Church, Clungunford*

**Saturday 1st October 7.30pm**

Shostakovich – Piano Trio No. 2 Op.67

Schubert – Piano Trio No. 2 D.929

**Sunday 2nd October 12 noon**

Beethoven

Piano and violin Sonata, Op.12 No.1

6 Bagatelles Op.126

Piano Trio in E flat Op. 1 No. 1

*Tickets Oct. 1st £15, Oct. 2nd £10 (£5)*

*Combined ticket for Oct. 1st & 2nd £20*

**\*SPECIAL  
EVENT\***

The trio will present a  
lecture/concert at the  
Community College,  
Bishops Castle. SY9 5AY  
**Friday September  
30th at 2pm**

[www.clunvalleymusic.co.uk](http://www.clunvalleymusic.co.uk)

*Tickets at [ticketsource.co.uk/clun-valley-music](http://ticketsource.co.uk/clun-valley-music)*

*Enquiries  
07811 967114 or  
07846 786020*



## ***The Classic Car Show***

*What a day the three Daves (Wilkinson, Cole and Roberts) with the Village Hall Committee put on! Over 500 people were there, and all enjoyed themselves and went home happy, promising to return. Let us hope this becomes an annual event. Many thanks to all the volunteers, too numerous to mention, without whom the event would not have been possible.*

