



# THE GUNNAS GAZETTE

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*A Happy New Year  
To All Our Readers*

## Dates for your Diary

20<sup>th</sup> January  
17<sup>th</sup> February

Flicks in the Sticks – The Duke  
Flicks in the Sticks- Film to be confirmed (see [clungunford.com](http://clungunford.com) for details)

*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 Cafe every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month from 10.00 – 12.00.
- Bike Night on the first Monday of the month 18.00-20.00

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

My mother always had trouble keeping me indoors. I was always outside trying to join in the jobs the farm workers were doing. They were very tolerant of this small child trailing along with them; fortunately, they also looked after me.

To keep me happy they would give me little jobs to do, like taking armfuls of hay or chopped swedes to the cattle, to toss into the manger for them to eat. I was also given the task of bottle feeding the orphaned lambs; we called them tiddling lambs. I loved that job most.

When the men were lugging in the hay or sheaves of corn from the fields, using the carthorses to pull the dray (a flatbed 4 wheeled trailer, which had thripples at each end to hold the load on the dray) I would be there, of

course. I would sometimes need to rest, so I would sit under the dray on the back axle. Holding onto the struts. I would lift my feet off the ground when I heard the shout “ ‘old ‘ard “. This instructed the horse to move on, until the shout of “whoa”, then I would let my feet rest on the ground while the dray was being loaded again. It was the perfect place to be if it started to rain!

When the harvest was in full swing, one of my “official” jobs was to go round the workers’ cottages to collect the baskets of lunch or tea from the wives for their men working in the fields. If I was lucky, some would give me a bite of their cake to eat. In the baskets would be chunks of cheese and bread, or a sandwich, big slices of cake and a bottle of tea wrapped in a sock to keep it warm. I happily sat with the men while they ate their

picnic, then I would be off back home to return the baskets to their wives.

At the end of the day, I would sometimes be allowed to ride home on the top of the full dray. Ropes were thrown over the load to hold it in place, I would hold onto these as I lay on my back watching the boughs of trees passing over me, and clouds making shapes against the sky, magical!

With the last load all the men rode home, some clinging to the thripples, others riding on the crossbar of the dray, or sat on the mudguards when it was towed by a tractor. Nobody wanted to walk home after a hard day's work in the fields.

*M.E.B.*

Time for a laugh? –

Three elderly women met at the coffee shop every week without fail for coffee, cigarettes, and conversation. One Saturday, Doris announced she was giving up smoking for her health.

“I survived cancer of the uterus,” she said, “and I’m not taking any more chances.”

Even after hearing Doris’s revelation, Edith lit up another cigarette. “aren’t you afraid of getting cancer of the uterus?” asked Hazel.

“Oh, no dear,” Edith replied, without batting an eye. “I don’t inhale that far down.”

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

**Friday 20th January 2023 at 8.00pm**

**The Duke** (cert 12)

In 1961, a 60-year-old taxi driver steals Goya's portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery in London. He sends ransom notes saying that he will return the painting if the government invests more in care for the elderly.

Starring: Jim Broadbent, Helen Mirren, Matthew Goode

Director: Roger Michell Drama

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**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 8.00pm**

**T.B.C. Please see the Clungunford website or Facebook page from mid-January for film info.**

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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.

**Should anyone feel inclined to join our happy little crowd on the Flicks in the Sticks committee please contact me, you'll be very welcome: Keith Arbery 01588 660159.**

## ***In the Garden***

A pouring wet day in Clungunford and I've just returned from celebrating Christmas in the south of the country and it poured with rain every mile of the way on our journey back home.

The trees in the fields either side of the road through the Herefordshire part of the journey, large and small, whatever type of tree they were, seemed to be hanging heavy with clumps of mistletoe, so large they dominated the view in every direction and put the single clump I have in my own garden to shame.

Both holly and mistletoe were important in days gone by, especially during the cold winter months, to our Druid, Celtic and Roman ancestors. Holly, with its ability to keep its leaves and berries bright and healthy for so long was thought to assure the return of spring, and later, when Christianity came to these shores, was symbolic of the crown of thorns. Holly, in fact, was the “Christmas Tree” before we adopted the practice of decorating a Norway Spruce, which became popular during the reign of Victoria.

We in Britain are by no means alone in our associations with mistletoe however, from Greece to Norway, and everywhere in between, this strange, parasitic plant has a history that dates back millennia. Norse culture believed it symbolic of love and peace, while the berries were considered a sign of male fertility in Pagan culture and the Greeks referred to the plant as “oak sperm”.

Romans hung it over doorways as a symbol of peace, love and understanding. References to it being used at Christmas, and the custom of kissing under the mistletoe, date to the 18th century. The kissing tradition continued and during the Victorian era, the tradition became more formalised: a man was allowed to kiss any woman standing underneath mistletoe. With each kiss a berry should be plucked and the kissing should stop after all the berries were gone.

Mistletoe, to be in its prime, needs a bit of frost to turn the berries from green to the pearlescent white that most people recognise. And while it is mostly seen on the apple trees so prevalent in the Marches, it can colonise poplars and willows, too. It particularly likes the area due to the damp cool conditions, which is why it is so common in the area. It does grow on the Continent, but not at all in Ireland.

Today, when you find mistletoe and holly for sale at your local vegetable shop or florist, there's a good chance it has passed through Tenbury Wells, which is the last remaining town to have an official auction. A century ago, many towns in the main growing areas of Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire would hold sales in the cattle markets, and the Tenbury auction was held in the town's traditional cattle market until 2004.

The mistletoe comes from the orchards of the area. It was the holly that made up the auctions a century ago, and Tenbury was always one of the main auction sites for it, as there was a station. Tonnes and tonnes would be sent to the Midlands, London and the north of the country. Most buyers are florists, farm shops or garden centres. The main sale will normally attract a hundred or so registered buyers, but this varies from year to year, and during the Lockdown no sale was able to take place at all. The auctions have been held here for around 160 years, so it is a big part of the town's history.

Sometimes the holly crop fails to produce berries or, in a hard year, the fieldfares will arrive early and demolish the bright red berries. These days though, there's far less interest in the traditions of decorating your house with holly and mistletoe. Not many of this generation have grown up with it, and most buy plastic decorations, which is a shame.

In the garden, look out for the bright yellow flowers appearing on naked green branches, of *Jasminum nudiflorum*, the Winter Jasmine, which can be in flower any time between November and February.

Brian Taylor

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

Esteemed readers, I have to inform you that this will be my final contribution to the *Gunna's Gazette* under this strapline. During my working life which necessitated regular visits to Africa, it was relatively easy to find human interest stories I could write about that reflected life there in a way that you might otherwise not be aware of. I tried to find stories about ordinary people and their daily struggles, to provide for their families, to keep their children in good health and to find ways of celebrating the positive side of African society. Now that I am no longer travelling there regularly, I am only able to draw on the usual media sources for subjects to write about, and journalism being what it is, these subjects are usually focused on bad news: war, famine, military coups or similar. Positive news from Africa relating to, for example, art, music or success stories relating to reduction of poverty rarely make it to the front pages. Morocco's success at the recent World Cup has, at least, raised awareness to Africa's potential in the international footie world, so maybe this is a start.

I first worked in Africa more than 50 years ago when much of Africa was under the control of dictators or other "strong men": Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, Mobuto Sese Seko of Zaire, now the DR Congo, and Idi Amin of Uganda to name but a few. Apartheid in South Africa was subjugating its black citizens to the harshest of treatment, and Ian Smith was trying to create a mirror image in neighbouring Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. Meanwhile, President Houphouet-Boigny of Cote d'Ivoire was squandering his country's wealth on the construction of a new cathedral, to rival St Peter's in Rome. I would like to be able to say that in the interim there has been a marked improvement across the

continent, but I'm very sad to say that there hasn't. After the fall of Haile Selassie, Ethiopia endured many years of brutal military rule and more recently has been riven by a bitter civil war that is yet to be resolved. Idi Amin was replaced in Uganda by an equally oppressive dictator, Milton Obote, who was then overthrown by Yoweri Museveni. Museveni has now been head of state for 36 years and while he has succeeded in preventing further conflict, political pluralism is not on his agenda. Of course, the most notable success story from Africa during this period was the peaceful transition in South Africa, from apartheid to multi-party democracy, something that had been unimaginable at one time and is unlikely to have happened without the inspirational leadership of Africa's greatest statesman of our times, Nelson Madiba Mandela.

While the struggle for good governance and justice for all in Africa will continue for many decades to come, a much more urgent issue threatens the prosperity and stability of many Africa countries and that is climate change. As global temperatures rise and weather patterns become more unpredictable, crops such as tea, coffee and cocoa, which have become the mainstay of many economies, may become unviable. It will take many years to develop alternative means of economic activity that will be able to replace the foreign earnings which will be lost, creating a further obstacle to reducing development and poverty reduction. An aspect of climate change that is sometimes overlooked is the effect of rising sea levels. Some of the fastest growing population centres in Africa are in coastal cities: Luanda, Alexandria and Lagos (predicted to be the world's largest city by the end of the century). Tens of millions of people are at risk of being displaced between now and 2100 by the encroaching seas and even ports are at risk of becoming unviable. In Egypt, 60% of its most fertile agricultural land, namely the Nile delta, is at risk of becoming saline and non-productive from a 0.5-1.0 metre rise in global sea level. Human migration is going to be taking place at a far greater rate than anything we have seen to date. All this for a continent that has contributed a tiny fraction of the greenhouse gases that are alleged to be the principal cause of global warming.

This is not a very positive note to be signing off on, but my point is to illustrate that the world is and always has been interconnected – that what we do here in the wealthy and comfortable advanced economies has an effect on much less well-off people on the other side of the globe. Our governments must give greater importance to climate change mitigation and we as individuals must also play our part and adopt greener practices wherever we can. Before it is all too late.

*A luta continua\**

Rob Rees

\*The struggle continues – the watchword of the Mozambican freedom fighters in the 1970s. As relevant to all of us today as it was then.

## Postscript to Postcard

Rob has been a contributor to *The Gazette* for over 20 years and been one of our most loyal suppliers of content. His commentary on African affairs over that period has opened readers' eyes and minds to the realities of life in a continent which previously to most of us was merely a hotch-pot collection of countries we encountered in dry geography books at school or else in wild-life documentaries. We know from many comments over the years that readers have appreciated the column and avidly looked forward to it. Rob has covered wars, famines, dictators (some benign, but mostly not) and the odd success story, and, if he were minded to do so, which, knowing him he will not, he could proudly boast that he has done far more to inform readers of *The Gazette* about life in Africa than any of our national media outlets their audience during the same period. Thank you, and well done. Rob.

## Ride and Stride 2022



Many thanks to all those that contributed to the Ride and Stride event this year, both participants, helpers and sponsors.

It was not as successful as previous years, mostly, I suspect, as a result of the date changing at the last minute.

In total we raised over £1,350 for the charity, of which half will be returning to St Cuthberts to help maintain the building.

*Simon Lyster*

## Notes from the Vicarage

Hello from the Vicarage... and for a change it is the vicar's wife writing, as he needs a bit more of a break after the carols and Christmas services.

We've had twin grandchildren staying (under 5) plus a family friend who was incredibly helpful; my mother of 92 recently moved in with us, so our age range was fairly wide! I managed to go down with flu on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, so you can imagine this was not going to be the perfect Christmas! I tried to direct operations from the bedroom in between trying to get some sleep.

The atmosphere was however very happy – I did manage to see the boys open their stockings very early on Christmas Day, and that was lovely. I imagine that for many grandparents this is a very happy experience and reminder of when their own children were small.

I wanted to focus on the idea of acceptance – we never know what life will throw at us, from the trivial, such as a temporary illness such as flu, to the more permanent, such as giving a long-term home to an elderly parent. This has caused me to really think about my personal freedom, and the commitment that you have to make as a carer. However, my mother has loved and cared for me, and now its my turn to do the same for her. I am lucky that she is a very positive person, with solid Christian values which have sustained her all through her life. One of the real joys of having her living with us is that she has joined our Evening Prayer Zoom call most evenings (when life permits). Listening to her saying the Magnificat with such dignity and sincerity has been very touching. If you are unaware of the Daily Prayer App from the Church of England, it is easy and free to download, and if you take part by yourself or with another you know that you are participating in a much wider circle of prayer.

I hope that 2023 proves to be a year that brings peace of course to Ukraine, and other places of conflict, and also to all our homes and relationships.

With New Year blessings,

*Fiona Quayle*

## 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@aegledhill.co.uk](mailto:edward@aegledhill.co.uk)).

The planned Services for St Cuthbert's Church, Clungunford in the Middle Marches Benefice for January and February are as follows:

Sunday 8 January	10.00 am	Family Service
Sunday 15 January	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 22 January	11.00 am	Holy Communion with Rev Martin Quayle
Sunday 12 February	10.00 am	Family Service
Sunday 19 February	10.00 am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 26 February	11.00 am	Holy Communion with Rev Martin Quayle

## St Cuthbert's in 2022

The end of the year is a time to look forward to what will happen in the next twelve months and to be optimistic



about the troubles that we see not just in the UK but across the globe. It is also a time at St Cuthbert's to look back over the past year and remember some of the major events that have taken place in the Church, and to thank those who have been instrumental in making them happen.

### Music in the Church

We were very pleased to welcome *Clun Valley Music* to St Cuthbert's with two concerts in October. This year *Richard Tunnicliffe (cello)*, *Luba Tunnicliffe (violin)* and *JungSun Woo (piano)* played pieces from a variety of composers including Beethoven and Shostakovich, which once more amazed and delighted the audience.

The *Jarualda String Quartet* also played for us in October in a concert featuring works again by Beethoven and Shostakovich, and by Paul Henley. Earlier in the year the Jarualda Quartet recorded a CD of work by Paul Henley in the Church.

This was the first CD to be recorded at St Cuthbert's last year and was followed by a recording of a concert led by *Robert Bunting* featuring a newly written organ concerto which was played on our trusty Binn's organ.

*Robert Bunting* is a good friend of St Cuthbert's and his singing workshops are looked forward to by many in the area. More than fifty people attended this year's *Singing Workshop* in April and we hope to welcome him back to the Church in 2023. Another choir we look forward to welcoming back in 2023 is the *More Choir* with their music Director, *Alistair Auld*. The More Choir performed the Dvorak Mass in D in March, accompanied by the well known organist, *Richard Walker* from Shrewsbury.

The music of *Faith Brackenbury and Tony Bianco* in their '*Visio Improvisus*' concert in August was a fusion of contemporary jazz and improvisation. Tony's New York jazz drums and percussion and Faith's classical violin, viola and vocals produced an amazing sound.

### Charities we supported

We support a number of charities and Cuthbert's Café has hosted special Thursday morning sessions to help with this giving. The charities supported include;

- *Christian Aid*.
- *LAMB* (a medical charity working in remote parts of Bangladesh) The main fund raising event was the Big Coin Count which raised over £400.
- *The Poppy Appeal*.
- The *Shropshire Historic Churches Trust*. This is supported through the Ride and Stride. St Cuthbert's continues to be the biggest contributor to this in Shropshire. With the death of our late Queen coinciding with the Saturday of Ride and Stride, the amount raised this year

was less than has been the case in previous years but still amounted to in excess of £1350.

### Our Annual Events

The *Big Breakfast* in September has been a popular fixture on the Clungunford calendar for many years. This year the threat of rain saw the breakfast being moved into the Church. We are glad to tell you that the accompanying wind did not blow away the 'kitchen-under-canvas', which was outside of the Church!

The *Harvest Supper* included a *Bob and Barbara Bates* quiz and the music for singing was provided by *Phil Trewinnard* on the accordion and *Tim Hughes* on vocals. We are very grateful to *Jim Bason* for telling us of some of his farming tales from years gone by.

### ...and a few Special Events

The two special events that stick out in my mind in 2022 were The *Clungunford Open Gardens* and God's Acre's '*Opening the Ark*'. These were two very special days. The Open gardens saw the opening of many wonderful gardens across the Parish and, with teas served in the Church, this very sunny day was an event not to be missed.

God's Acre has supported the churchyard for many years and in 2022 we were fortunate enough to have them hold their 'Opening the Ark' event at St Cuthbert's. I was totally flabbergasted by the number of moths that they caught in their overnight traps which just helped reinforce the message that graveyards are a very special habitat and one that we need to maintain.

October saw the *St Cuthbert's walking group* put on their hiking boots and walk twelve miles from *Glastonbury to Wells Cathedral* and from there to St Cuthbert's in Wells. Despite a little rain(?) a good time was had by all.



### Christmas 2022

This Christmas we had a *Christmas Carols and Readings* which featured both sacred and secular pieces. Mince pies and mulled apple juice rounded off a very

enjoyable evening. We were especially pleased to be supported in our singing by members of the Clungunford Choir.

*Anna Dreda's Christmas Poetry* is now an established favourite on calendar. This candle lit session is a great way to relax and enjoy some wonderful poetry.

On Christmas Eve we had *The Christmas Story and Carols* which told the story of Christmas through the eyes of a grumpy inn keeper. Tim Hughes acted the part of the grumpy inn keeper. Most out of character for Tim!



### **The building is in good order**

Or so we are led to believe following our 5 year *Quinquennial Inspection*. Though the full report has yet to be released, the informal feedback is that the church is in good repair. The main cause of concern is the tower which has cracks around the various openings. This will be a focus this year and will need repair work.

In 2022 the internal lighting has been replaced with led light fittings, the power distribution board has been

replaced and earthing faults have been addressed, and we have replaced the lightening conductors which were substandard.

We are very grateful to the *100 Club* who funded most of this work. Without them, we would have struggled to carry out any of this.

### **God's Acre**

God's Acre are hoping to lay the hedge along the track by the Church in January. They planted the hedge some years ago and they feel that it is now mature enough to lay. We continue to be very grateful for their work and enthusiasm.

### **Don't forget St Cuthbert's Café**

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 January and February are:

- Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February
- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February

Rob and Sara are always appreciative of cakes!

### **Thank you**

*For all those who helped in anyway with the events of the year, our most sincere thanks.*

*For all those who help with the day to day running of the Church (the flower arrangers, Ennis for opening the Church and winding the clock, the bell ringers, Rob and Sara for Cuthbert's Café, the support of the Village Hall,.....), our sincere thanks.*

*For those who lead our worship and Bible Studies, our sincere thanks.*

*For all those who attended events and services, our sincere thanks.*

*For all those that support us financially either directly or through the 100 Club, our sincere thanks.*

***A Very Happy 2023!***

### ***Autumn to Winter 2022 – one weather extreme to another***

On the 20th October, I was reporting some rain following the summer drought. The end of October was wet and the monthly total at Hopton Heath was 121mm, one of the wettest since 2006. November was even wetter with 150mm and I noticed the River Teme flowing again at Leintwardine on 4 November. Both months were among the warmest since 2006. Then all changed at the beginning of December!

From 1-19 December the mean maximum temperature was 3C and the mean minimum temperature was -3C.



Three days had minima of -8C and a total of twelve days had minima below freezing. Only December 2010 was colder in my records. There were hard frosts but very little snow in Hopton Heath, although south-east England and Scotland had heavy snow during this period.

Today (19th December), the northerly airflow has been replaced by south-westerlies and the weather has become very mild. At midday I am recording 12C. The forecast is for this mild weather to continue until after Christmas. It seems unlikely that the recent cold weather will change the prediction that 2022 will have been the warmest year on record.

Beechings (our house) is on a bore-hole water supply. We lost water during the summer due to the bore-hole drying out and again, recently, due to the pump being frozen. The supply is only very slowly returning. We like our (filtered) water but weather extremes sometimes make life in rural Shropshire a challenge. We will see what the rest of the winter has in store!

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 [gunnasingazette@aol.com](mailto:gunnasingazette@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 November:

1. (£60) Joe Rooney
2. (£30) Pat Morris
3. (£15) Geoffrey Rollason

### Winners for December:

Special £100 prize: Caro Skyrme

1. (£60) Caro Skyrme
2. (£30) Sally Price
3. (£15) Sara Giffen

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 Slow Ladies

**JANUARY 27<sup>th</sup>:** Anne and Mary will lead this walk. Details will be available when they have decided where to go!

**FEBRUARY 24<sup>th</sup>:** We will meet May Bywater in Church Stretton for a shortish walk—about 3-4 miles.

Meet in Clungunford car park at 9.30am.

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

## The Parish Council

At our last meeting in November there was little of moment to discuss other than the usual potholes and the lack of our speed sign posts, which we were promised for October. Modest ex gratia payments were voted to those who have helped to maintain the village green and the website, where help had been contributed voluntarily.

The year has been a quiet one for the Parish Council, I am pleased to report. There have been no controversies or issues within the village, and so for that we should be thankful.

We are still one of the few councils around that has a full complement, and the community should be grateful that there are such numbers willing to be councillors. Quiet though this year has been, it is comforting to know that if and when issues arise, there are those among us willing to step up and make decisions.

Our next meeting is on 11 January 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)).

## Writing for The Gazette

If you think you have something interesting to contribute to *The Gazette*, whether prose or poetry, whether informative or amusing, do please send it to us for publication. Join the many among your fellow residents who have done so over the past 25 years and help us to keep *The Gazette* fresh and up-to-date. You can email to [gunnasingazette@aol.com](mailto:gunnasingazette@aol.com) or, if you need further information, you can always call me on 01588 660673. Jonathan Roberts.



## Ancient woodland restoration in the Shropshire Hills

Ancient woods are some of our most valuable habitats. Centuries of undisturbed soils and accumulated decaying wood have created the perfect place for communities of plants, fungi, insects and other micro-organisms. Birds and mammals, including vulnerable and threatened species, also rely on ancient woodlands.

Around 5% of the Shropshire Hills AONB is classed as ancient woodland, but two thirds of this is Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS). These are ancient woodlands which have been largely felled and replanted with non-native species. Although damaged, these sites still have the complex soil of ancient woodland and can be restored with careful management.

PAWS woodlands in the Shropshire Hills are mostly conifer trees which are now mature. These may have value when extracted, while also restoring the woodland to a more natural state. In partnership with the Woodland Trust, we have secured funding from the Forestry Commission to work with woodland owners to actively restore PAWS and ancient semi-natural woodlands in the AONB.

The **Ancient Woodland Restoration Project** will identify priority and at-risk woodlands in the Shropshire Hills and engage with their owners, offering advice and condition assessments, fund practical management and support woodland products or timber marketing/sales. The project is intended to be at no cost to woodland owners and easy to access with minimal paperwork.

If you own woodland in the Shropshire Hills, you can check whether it is classed as ancient or PAWS by looking on the online Ancient Woodland Inventory. There is a link to it, along with more information about the project on our website at [The AONB's ancient woods are some of our most valuable natural assets \(shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk\)](http://shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk)

To register your interest in the project as a woodland owner, please email our Natural Environment Officers [mike.kelly@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:mike.kelly@shropshire.gov.uk), or [Rachel.glover@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Rachel.glover@shropshire.gov.uk).