



*The Newsletter for
Clungunford
Volume 27 • Issue 2
November 2023*

THE GUNNAS GAZETTE

Dates for your Diary

11th November- Beer Tasting – Hobsons Brewery
17th November – Flicks in the Sticks- A man called Otto
2nd December – Wine and Wisdom – Annual quiz
8th December – Flicks in the Sticks- Mrs Harris goes to Paris
17th December – Elders Lunch
21st December – Carol Service – St Cuthberts
24th December – Christmas Eve drinks in the Village Hall
31st December- New Years Eve party- Village Hall

More information on Clungunford.com

Regular events in the village hall

- Public Bar is open every Friday night from 19.00-22.00
- Foody Friday available 1st Friday of every month*
- Carvery Sunday available 2nd Sunday of every month*
- Takeaway Wednesday 3rd Wednesday of every month*
- St Cuthbert's Café every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 10.00 – 12.00.
- Bike Night on the first Monday of the month 18.00-20.00
- Table Tennis Club every Tuesday 14.00.
- Thrift Shop open every Thursday In the Bowls Green Pavilion
- Post Office Van in the hall car park from 11.45-12.45 every Thursday
- Sacred Space in St Cuthbert's Church every second Friday from 6pm till 7pm

*See www.clungunford.com for all details, menus and ordering contacts

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

Parish Elders' Christmas Lunch

Those of you among our more senior residents should by now have received your invitation to this year's Christmas Lunch on **Sunday 17th December**, hosted by the Village Hall Trustees. I would be grateful if you could return your reply slips to me so that I can inform the caterers of final numbers.

This is a very pleasant afternoon with a free, 3 course Christmas lunch served in the Village Hall by volunteers. The Qualifying age is 66 years in line with the UK retirement age. Please note that those previously invited will continue to be invited. If you fit the age criteria (maybe you are not on our age radar or perhaps you are new to the Parish) and would like to attend this year, then please contact me as soon as possible.

Elizabeth Lyster (Secretary)

Phone: 01588 660152

E mail: lystere@btopenworld.com

Farm Born and Bred

Continuing the theme of how I earned my pocket money:-

There were more ways on offer to generate a child's income.

One of these was by picking snowdrops.

A specified number of flowers had to be picked, along with four ivy leaves, arranged around the bunch. These bunches were wrapped with wool around the stalks, then packed into shoe boxes with damp moss to keep them fresh. The boxes were then put on the train to be sent for sale in Covent Garden, London.

Similarly, we picked violets, these of course were smaller flowers and stems and more tedious work. I think we used to get paid 6d per bunch.

A more lucrative pastime was preparing moleskins. My grandfather and workmen used to catch the moles using traps. We were then given the dead moles to skin, these were then pegged out on a board to dry. Once dried we packed them up in boxes and they were sent off, presumably to be made into articles of clothing.

My grandmother had a pair of moleskin gloves, they were beautifully soft and warm, with the fur on the inside, and skin to the outside. Were any skins made into moleskin trousers? I have no idea! I was paid 1 shilling for each moleskin I prepared.

Moles were also caught by poisoning. Molehills resulted in the soil getting into the crops which were fed to the sheep. The soil contains listeria which is a bacteria that lives in soil & can be ingested by livestock if the forages become contaminated with soil. This can be fatal & it also causes abortion. This risk was lessened by catching the moles. My grandfather & workmen used to pick up

worms after the plough had worked in a field. Hessian sacking was laid out on the ground & the bucket full of worms would be tipped out onto the sacking. Then strychnine powder would be sprinkled over the worms to coat them with the poison. The worms were then put into the mole tunnels, the worms would then be eaten by the moles which of course killed them.

This practice is not allowed today of course. Today you may see "the molecatcher" doing his job in fields, laying traps to catch the moles. He is usually paid per head.

If you are out walking you may see dead moles hanging on a fence in a row, proving his skill!

M.E.B.

Sister B still lurking in the background recalls a day at work:-

My first patient of the day was a grumpy old man with a colostomy. He was sat up in bed with a scowl on his face. I started taking off his colostomy bag and it smelled so bad my eyes were watering.

I kept my feelings to myself as I did not want him to see my reaction on my face. He looked at me and said, "God, you've got bad breath!!"

In the Garden

A cold and clear October morning. And I'm still here to write about it. Outside my window plumes of pampas grass sparkle in the sunshine as a brisk breeze sets them nodding. In the distance leaves torn from trees without waiting to change colour cascade to earth like poppy petals at the end of a Remembrance Day service.

Pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) always seems to me to be a plant which is greatly misused. Often planted where it will be shaded by the canopy of a low growing tree, or

crammed into the corner of a crowded shrubbery, what it really needs to give of its best is to be planted completely alone. The sexes grow as separate plants. Those with long silky flowers are female, the more open, grass-like flower heads belong to the males.

The colder weather, which has come with the east wind, seems to have put paid to the late flush of butterflies, though there are still bees on the last of the Michaelmas daisies in the garden and wasps on the ivy flowers in the hedgerows. It's still worthwhile checking brassicas for the caterpillars of both large and small cabbage white butterflies even though the colder weather has done for the more colourful ones.

The colder weather also means that some of the more useful creatures in the garden have settled themselves down for the winter. Moving my compost heap the other day I was confronted by an angry toad glaring up at me as the fork revealed its hiding place. It will make me more careful when moving other heaps something might be asleep in.

In the garden, look out for the scarlet shoots of *Cornus alba* 'Sibirica' sharply outlined against a darker background.

Brian Taylor

From Rev Martin Quayle

As I write this article, the news is unrelentingly grim about the war in Israel. For the moment, we don't know where this conflict is heading, but the views of many experts in international relations are that this represents a real threat to world peace and stability. For me, one of the horrors is the talk of 'collateral damage'. This is essentially the level of civilian deaths which might be considered acceptable given a particular military mission. For any Christian, and I assume any civilised human, the notion that any life is considered as a tradable commodity in warfare or international relations is appalling.

In the words of Winston Churchill, 'jaw, jaw is better than war, war'. What leaves me despairing is that for too long the line taken by many Israeli politicians is that the rights of those who live within the occupied territories are secondary to those of Jewish Israeli citizens. Justice is always necessary if lasting peace is to be secured and the notion that one person is superior to another due their ethnicity, or place of birth is obnoxious and galling to most of us. And yet the very same ideas were profligate in Northern Ireland not so long ago. Thank God only a small minority hang on to those ideas in that province.

Conflict is destructive and damaging in any community, and although at this time of year we remember conflict as armed nations going to war, the reality is that too many lives are harmed by fighting and discrimination fuelled by hatred which is irrational or ungrounded. In some respects our world is evolving for the better when we consider the freedom experienced by many in South Africa, but in too many places, too many find reasons or excuses to hate.

Of course, most of us find ourselves reflecting in constructive and open ways about the needs of others and the imperative of seeking reconciliation when problems arise with others. It is now over a hundred years since the ending of the First World War, which for most of us, is incomprehensible in terms of why it had to be fought at all. There is such a thing as a just war, because without this determination, the Second World War would not have been fought, and the world would now be a far darker place than it is now. That millions died in both wars is a tragedy beyond words.

There are many unanswered questions about these topics. But we all agree about the pointlessness of too many wars, and we mourn those who die needlessly. Let us pray and hope that next year, there will be fewer reasons to mourn and to reflect with sadness and regret over another year in which too many will die too young.

Martin 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. 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@aedghill.co.uk).

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

Sunday 5 November	No service at St Cuthbert's	
Sunday 12 November	10.45 am	Remembrance Sunday led by Chris Tinker
Sunday 19 November	10.00 am	Morning Prayer led by Isa and Mike Holy Communion Rev Martin Quayle officiating
Sunday 26 November	11.00 am	Holy Communion Rev Martin Quayle officiating
Sunday 3 December	No service at St Cuthbert's	
Sunday 10 December	10.00 am	Family Service led by Christine and Robert
Sunday 17 December	10.00 am	Morning Service led by Anne and Eddie
Sunday 24 December	6.00 pm	Crib Service led by Christine and Caroline
Monday 25 December	Details nearer the time	Christmas Day Service

Harvest Supper

The Church hosted a lovely Harvest Supper at the end of September where sixty people enjoyed hearty home-cooked food and entertainment. Thank you to Tim Hughes for being Quiz master *par excellence* and to the 'Napoleon Snowball' for the closest of wins, beating off 'Persons of Quality Redux' in a tie-break! The church (as always) was beautifully decorated by the St Cuthbert's flower-arranging team.

Christianity Explored - first session 6/11/23 7pm

Following on from the last Bible Study course, the next course will be 'Christianity Explored'. The aim of the course is to share the basics of Christian faith using Mark's Gospel as our guide. You can read more about the course at ChristianityExplored.org (www.christianityexplored.org)

There are seven sessions in the full course and each session is accompanied by a video and guidance notes, lasting about two hours.

This is a really good opportunity to ask some of the questions on faith that you may have or just to listen to the thoughts of others.

The group will meet each Monday evening from the 6th November at 7pm, venue to be confirmed. If you would like to join in, or for more information, please can you let either Mike (07531 400391) or Eddie (01588 660485) know.

Remembrance Sunday - November 12th, 10.45am

The Remembrance Day service will be led by Chris Tinker.

The Quiet Church, every Thursday 4.45pm

The six-week Introduction to Meditation course has now finished, evolving into an ongoing group that will continue to meet weekly in the church on Thursday afternoons from 5 - 6pm. This is an open group, and all are welcome. You are invited to arrive at about 4.45pm to enjoy some quiet music before the meditation starts.

For further details, please contact Carole Dixon on caroledixon@me.uk or by phone on 01547 540685, or Anna Dreda on annadreda@icloud.com or just turn up.

Sacred Space November 10th and December 8th, 5.45pm

The next Sacred Space is on November 10th. Please arrive at about 5.45 for a 6pm start. This is a lovely hour of quiet reflection and relaxation and everyone is very welcome to join us. The heating will be on but do dress warmly and bring a blanket if you feel the cold. In December, the last Sacred Space until next Spring will be held on December 8th and we will serve warming refreshments to celebrate our end of year! Sacred Space is led by Anna Dreda and Clare Johnson. Contact Anna on annadreda@icloud.com

St Cuthbert's Café, Clungunford Village Hall November 9th and 23rd, December 14th, 10 – 12 noon

The café is open on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, from 10am – 12 noon and there are always delicious home-made cakes on offer along with tea and coffee and good folk to chat with. This month the café will be open on November 9th and November 23rd and the revenue from sales on November 9th will be for the British Legion, in advance of Remembrance Sunday. In December the café will only be open on December 14th and will be fund-raising specifically for Craven Arms Food Bank. All receipts from sales, any cash donations and donations of food items will be passed on to the Food Bank in time for Christmas.

Dates for Christmas –

Christmas Poetry Special December 17th, 3pm.

Join us for our annual poetry reading event as we share our favourite seasonal poems - old and new, secular and sacred, funny and wise - to tell a story of Christmas. Enjoy festive nibbles and warming mulled wine in this beautiful candle-lit church, while celebrating the magic of midwinter. (A lovely thing to do after the Elders' Christmas lunch?!) Tickets are £10 per adult, children free. To book, please email annadreda@icloud.com or message 07772 288077 or phone 01588 660154

Christmas Carol Service December 21st, 7pm.

We're delighted that former members of the Clungunford Choir will be helping to swell the voices as we enjoy well-loved carols with seasonal refreshments. More information from either Mike (07531 400391) or Eddie (01588 660485)

Crib Service December 24th, 6pm

The creative team are working on some festive fun in the spirit of Christmas! If you would like to bring a gift for under the tree, this year we will be collecting items for the Food Bank. Do join us for this special event on Christmas Eve – designed for children (of all ages!) to enjoy.

An update on the Church tower, from Eddie Gledhill

Good news! As I write, the Church tower is not falling down! Not so good news! We need work doing to both the stone work and the wood in the roof of the tower to stop the deterioration. There are very obvious cracks in the stonework and the pointing has reached a stage when it is totally absent in places. The rain and frost will continue to degrade the condition of the tower unless we do something about it.

The first step has been to commission a report from a structural engineer to identify the problems and the cause of them. Ian Ceney of c²designs is an experienced structural engineer with a specialism in church structures, and is a member of the Deanery Advisory Committee

(DAC). Ian's report states that he believes that cracking prevalent is due to longitudinal thermal movement and the start of it probably dates back to shortly after the tower was constructed in 1895. He has outlined a number of actions for us to consider and we will look to get quotes to undertake this work.

One of the issues identified is access to the roof of the tower which is described as being 'unsatisfactory'. This is something that those of use us who climb up there on an irregular basis would certainly agree with. The climb to the top is on vertical ladders which have no safety measures. We are looking to address this as part of the work.

The next step will be to specify the work that needs to be done, identify companies with the right skills and experience in this sort of work, and go out to tender. Clearly, until we have done this, we do not know how much the work will cost. We have a reserve fund for building work which is mainly thanks to those contributing to the 100 Club. This is unlikely to meet all of the costs and we will look at fund raising once we know how much we will need.

If you would like to become part of the 100 Club, with the opportunity to win one of three cash prizes every month, please contact Maureen Rooney, Mike Jones or Rob Rees

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.

The 100 Club

Winners for September:

1. (£60) Adam Gledhill
2. (£30) Isabel Jones
3. (£15) Ann Hunt

Winners for October:

1. (£60) Elizabeth Hughes
2. (£30) Pat Morris
3. (£15) Suzanne Stevens

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

Friday 21 November: a 5 mile forest walk from Pam's house via Ludford Bridge, Overton Rd as far as Mabbits Horn and on to Forest Paths. Return via Whitcliffe.

Pam has very kindly offered soup and rolls for lunch at her house afterwards. Everyone is welcome.

Clungunford contingent meet in the carpark at 9.25 am. Pam would like a 10am start.

Ludlow ladies meet at Pam's house (19 Temeside) at 9.55am. Please let me know if you are coming in plenty of time so I can tell Pam how many will be there.

Friday 1 December: lunch at The Lion, Leintwardine. Walk across the fields to reach there for a 12 o'clock lunch. Return either by foot or on the bus. I haven't yet contacted the pub to see if they can fit us in. Will do so this week and I will be sure of a date. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to join us. Meet at Rocke Cottage 9.30am.

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

Clungunford Village Hall – Flicks in the Sticks

Friday 17th November 2023 at 8.00pm

A Man Called Otto (cert 15)

Starring: Tom Hanks, Rachel Keller, Manuel Garcia-Rulfo.

Director: Marc Foster Drama

Otto is a grump who's given up on life following the loss of his wife and wants to end it all.

When a young family moves in nearby, he meets his match in quick-witted Marisol, leading to a friendship that will turn his world around.

Friday 8th December 2023 at 8.00pm

Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris (cert PG)

Starring: Alba Baptista, Lesley Manville, Lucas Bravo.

Director: Anthony Fabian Drama

In 1950s London, a widowed cleaning lady falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress, deciding she must have one of her own. After working to raise the funds to pursue her dream, she embarks on an adventure to Paris that will change not only her own outlook -- but the very future of the House of Dior.

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.



Hobsons Beer Tasting



Saturday 11th November
Doors open 6:30pm for 7pm start

Clungunford Village Bar is proud to serve Hobsons beers.
This is an opportunity to taste a range of their locally brewed beers, find out about the brewery and how they make the different beers.



Tickets Now Available

Please book in advance on, call: 01588 660152 to book
Entrance £15.00, includes beer tasting and accompanying snacks.

www.clungunford.com



Clungunford Village Hall
Chapel Road
Clungunford
Shropshire
SY7 0PP



NEW YEAR'S EVE IN CLUNGUNFORD

*Well, last year seemed to be a success
so let's do it again!*

*Join us for fun and festivities on
New Year's Eve from 7.00 until
we've run out of steam!!*

*There will be the ever wonderful DJ
Angus, food by Matt and his team
and a selection of all stars behind the
bar.*

*Cost is £22 per head – be sure to
book with me on:*

d_wilkinson@btinternet.com



*Come and join us on Christmas
Eve for drinks and
complimentary nibbles, good
company and the chance to get
your second wind before
commencing the Christmas day
challenge!!*

The Parish Council

At our last meeting it was resolved to bring pressure to bear upon Shropshire Council to install the posts on which our speed signs can be pinned.

We raised no objection to a residential annexe at Hopton Heath, subject to conditions.

Mike Jones has agreed to be a parish councillor and will be co-opted. The search for a clerk continues.

It was pleasing to see that village properties escaped flooding in Storm Babet, although there was certainly plenty of water around. Let us hope we are as fortunate with the next named storm.

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 8 December in the Village Hall, starting at 7pm. 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).

John Price

John passed away peacefully on 16 September. St Cuthbert's was full for his funeral on 14 October, which was a fitting recognition of the esteem in which he was held by the village. It was a real community occasion. Dennis, Gordon and Glenys are each of them immensely grateful for the kind words and well wishes they have received. I had the privilege to deliver John's eulogy, and if anyone wishes to read it, I will gladly forward it. However, the first lines were all that really mattered: "John Price was a nice bloke ... we all know that" jonathan.roberts@morgoedestates.com

Very mixed weather late summer to mid autumn 2023

After the hottest June on record, with a mean maximum temperature of 24C, July and August were very average, with mean maximum temperatures of 21C in both months. July was very wet with 19 rain days and a total of 126mm. August was very mixed with 15 rain days and a total of 67mm rain.

September began very warm and dry, with no rain until the 10th and six days with maximum temperatures of 27 or 28C, which was hotter than any period in July and August. Although the rest of September was cooler, with some very wet days, the mean maximum temperature for the month was 21C, the same as July and August, which is unusual for the first month of autumn. The total rainfall for September was 95mm, with 27mm on the 19th-20th but only 7mm during the named storm, Agnes, from 27th-28th.

October began with two wet days and was then mostly dry until the 10th. Since then it has been mostly wet, with a deep depression on the 13th, giving a total of 40mm rain over two days. Then, on the 18th, the second named storm of the season, Babet, with a very low pressure of about 980mb, persisted over Britain for three days and gave a total of 96mm rain up to the 21st at Hopton Heath. There was widespread flooding, both locally, elsewhere in the midlands and especially in eastern Scotland. At Hopton Heath, the trains were cancelled as a river ran down the track, almost covering the rails. This stream came from an intermittent stream that runs down past fields, past two houses and then across the road to Twitchen. In Clungunford the village hall car park was flooded leading to the cancellation of a film night. *Mike Tucker*



A face still familiar to many in these parts but unknown to more recent residents, this is John Rocke of Clungunford House. The picture can be dated to 1971 because that was the year he was High Sheriff of Shropshire. John was a magistrate and rumour has it that he was a benign beak. John died in 1985. John Rocke, his forebear, was sheriff in 1869. Will anyone from Clungunford ever be sheriff again?



Please come and join us for an evening of

Wine and Wisdom

at our

3rd Annual Christmas Quiz **at Clungunford Village Hall**

2 December 2023

Bar open 7 p.m., Quiz starts 7.30 p.m.

Please ring Madelone

on 01588 660847

or 07841 903159

to secure a table of 6 to 8, all welcome

£6.00 per head, Includes wine, cheese and bread.

Please feel free to bring your own snacks if you wish.

Proceeds to go to upkeep of our village hall

