

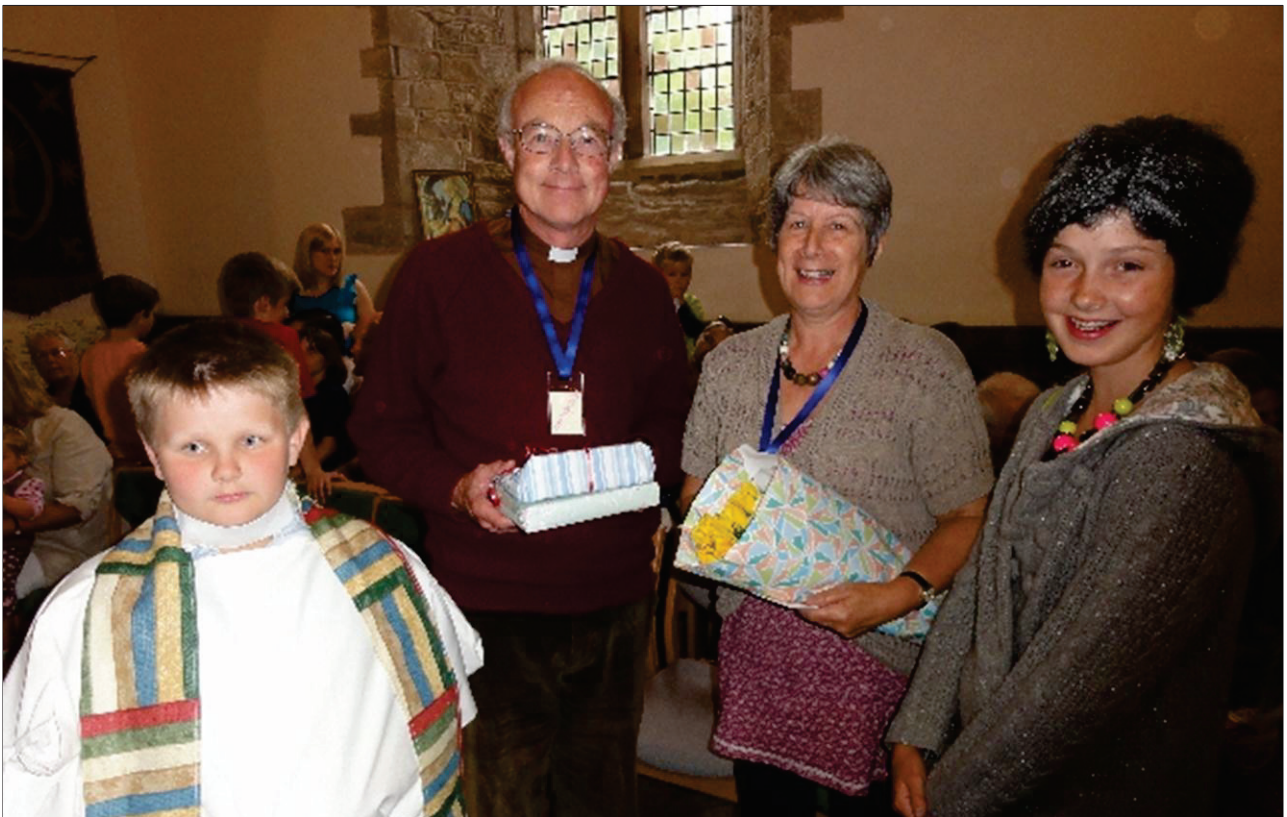
The Newsletter for  
Clungunford  
Volume 15 • Issue 1  
September 2011

# THE GUNNAS GAZETTE

A Retirement Party for Barney and Amaryllis

*Clungunford Parish Hall  
on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September  
from 3pm to 5pm. All welcome*

Bring and share tea party  
(finger food please)



*Barney and Amaryllis at the Holiday Club presentation from..... Barney and Amaryllis*

## ***The Parish Council and other matters***

Our meeting on 13 July took place immediately after a well-attended open meeting to discuss the arrangements for the living of Clungunford after Barney's retirement. This was well attended, not only by villagers but also by others from the benefice. A similar meeting with the Bishop of Ludlow and the Rural Dean took place the following week at St Cuthbert's, where representations were made that little or no consultation had taken place on the ground, concerning the proposals to join Clungunford, Bedstone and Hopton Castle with Bucknell and amalgamate Clunbury, Clunton and Hopesay with the Clun benefice. Despite the protestations made that the proposals were far from workable on grounds of cost and population alone, one suspects that little notice will be taken by the Church authorities of the many valid points made at these meetings. Being blunt about it, by "far from workable", I mean "ill-conceived". The various Parish treasurers involved see problems from the start, but these difficulties are being glossed over. It is a huge shame that those involved in the decision making seem totally inflexible in their thinking.

These are not Parish Council matters, you may rightly say, but the loss of a resident priest in the village after many hundreds of years of priestly presence is hard for the wider community of Clungunford to bear, and in its way it is as bad as losing the school. It is all the worse for happening on the retirement of Barney and Amaryllis, who have served us so well.

Nevertheless, I have no doubt we shall continue to prosper under whatever arrangements the Diocese of Hereford deems appropriate for us, and I am greatly heartened by the fact that these arrangements are likely to be of a DIY nature, as I am quite prepared to place my trust in Clungunford folk. In outside authorities I place my full diffidence!

At the Parish Council meeting I was mandated to write to Barney and Amaryllis to thank them for their service to the village and in particular to thank Barney for his service as a Parish Councillor. Let us hope their leaving party (see front page) is a good one: I am sure it will be.

The next Parish Council meeting takes place on Wednesday 14 September at 8pm in the Parish Hall. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Parish matters before (or after) the meeting may be raised either with me or with our clerk, Brian Taylor (01588 660653: [gunnasclerk@sky.com](mailto:gunnasclerk@sky.com)).

*Jonathan Roberts*, Chairman (01588 660673:

[jonathan.roberts@morgoedestates.com](mailto:jonathan.roberts@morgoedestates.com))

## ***Postcard from Africa***

You'll have to forgive me for writing about Sudan again, but it is not every day, week or even decade that a new country is born. South Sudan's independence on 9 July is an event that needs to be recorded as much in the *Gazette* as in other esteemed organs – such an event won't come this way again for a while.

I went back to Juba in the week before independence – something I was eagerly looking forward to as I had heard that there had been many changes since my last visit about 5 years ago. I was not to be disappointed. Juba, the largest town in South Sudan, perched on the bank of the River Nile, grew out of a collection of traditional African villages that were in close proximity to each other. Even now, after the rapid expansion of the past few years, there are still quite a number of grass-roofed huts in amongst the new concrete and glass buildings now going up, seemingly, on every open space. When I last was there, most of the roads were pot-holed tracks, mainly gravel and earth but with the occasional remnant of tarmac visible. It now looks as if there was no expense spared on new roads: not just resurfacing but completely new roads, linking new areas of town that didn't exist five years ago. It was a bit disconcerting coming back to a place I thought that I knew, but couldn't find my way around!

I met up with a lot of old friends there and I was keen to find out what their hopes and fears were for the future. From everyone, there was a huge sense of relief that they were now on the threshold of a permanent solution to more than 40 years of internecine strife which had been the cause of at least 2 million deaths. They said that they were going to party on the day, but there was also an encouraging sense of realism amongst everyone: "We will celebrate on the 9<sup>th</sup>, but we know that on the following morning we have to start to build a new nation". Raising a new flag and listening to some grand speeches will not bring an end to all of their problems. Huge tasks lie ahead and there are still a number of unresolved issues with their now former fellow countrymen in the north. South Sudan has considerable reserves of oil, but the only way that they can capitalise on this is by exporting it – through the one pipeline that runs through their northern neighbour. The north wants 50% of the value of the oil as pipeline "rent", the south says around 10% would be fairer. Some Sudanese haggling lies ahead.

Independence for the south does not mean an end to news from or about Sudan. The fighting in Darfur continues and another, potentially devastating conflict in South Kordofan has been gaining momentum in recent weeks. Not everyone in the south is happy about the new administration that has taken over there. But for the time being, for a little while longer, let us share the joy of the Southern Sudanese and congratulate them on gaining their new nationality and hope that when their hangovers wear off that they will be up to the task of building a new nation.

*Rob Rees*

## ***Nursing notes***

This article may not appear to be directly related to my work as a nurse. However, if stress impacts on one's working ability, then I am sure the event I am about to relate did affect my ability to perform at my best for a while!

In April 1993 we suffered the misfortune of a farm fire. Husband was ploughing, I was in the kitchen. Someone who used to buy a few hay bales from us was collecting some from our barn of hay. I heard a tremendous crash at the door as this gentleman hurled himself against it. I thought he was joking when he shouted that the barn was on fire, and he had let the cattle out into the field, and I told him "to pull the other one". His expression persuaded me this was no joke, I ran to the front of the house to phone 999 and from there I could see smoke and flames spiralling skyward. The fire brigade was on it's way. By now husband had seen smoke also from where he was working, so he hurried home. Daughter was riding her bike homewards and could also see the smoke from Hopton Heath, so she was pedalling as fast as she could back home because she did not know if anyone was here to help.

We had just finished lambing, so there were no sheep in the building thank goodness. Some of my elderly hens succumbed to the smoke, otherwise no animals were injured.

The lad who had set fire to the barn was known to us and had been seen in the vicinity, so when the police were alerted they tracked his movements by helicopter. He made the mistake of taking refuge in The Engine & Tender pub. Here he was followed by the police on the ground who were accompanied by our neighbour's son, who could identify the criminal. Also in the pub there was a party of police from Birmingham out in the country on a fishing trip. Billy the arsonist could not have chosen a worse place to take cover!!

Fire brigades from Leintwardine, Clun, Craven Arms and Ludlow were all involved. Noise and activity went on all night, with the last fire engine leaving at 5am next day. We were all exhausted.

Billy was given a life sentence as he had been setting fire to other properties in the south of the country previously.

Who knows the mentality of a young person who had been given a good chance in life? He had been fostered by a couple living in the thatched cottage at Beckjay. He went to Ludlow School with our children. We were told that in court he said he liked to cause people grief. Well, he certainly achieved that ambition!

It is not just the loss of the buildings that affected us most, it was the immeasurable things, like all the effort of us personally that went into our harvesting of hay, straw and grain that went up in smoke so quickly.

However, we certainly found out who our true friends are; they were the ones on the phone within the hour, having seen the smoke filling the sky, offering help, and feed for our stock.

The memories of that day and night lingered long, with the smell of burning around us for many years. *Sister B*

PS. A motto for nurses:-

We the willing, led by the unknowing, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful.

We have done so much with so little for so long, we are now qualified to do anything with nothing!

## ***Parish Hall improvements***

I am sad to report that our most recent grant application to Shropshire Council was unsuccessful. We had applied for enough to finish the walls; £32,000, along with £10,000 from our fundraising and £8,000 for materials from the Sports and Social Club. We were going also to employ a co-ordinator for local tourism and so get some local, paid jobs and training. Our 4-star B & B at Gardener's Cottage and award winning tea rooms at Rocke Cottage supported our application as did the County Councillor.

But we could not 'demonstrate economic impact', only that the Parish and Parish Hall would continue to thrive. We stuck to our determination to employ respected local tradesmen and their suppliers. We stuck to our determination to stay open for all the clubs, meetings and family gatherings that use the Hall year in and year out.

We do not have a 'plan B' for funding. There is still to do: a joinery wall facing the car park and a block work wall facing the field. Both walls have to be done quietly, in stages, while there continues to be business as usual.

At least the roof is on and there are two finished walls that show what appearance could be achieved one day. Then there will be great energy savings and a level access too. After all, it has taken years and years for the Hall to get its present amenities.

I have pursued this dream since 1998 and it is now time for me to pass on the drawings, permissions and contacts. I would like to thank all those who have shared the dream and worked so well to make it come true – as far as we are able! Outstanding help has been given to me by Julia and Jim Gell, Jim and Mary Bason, John and Rita Taylor, the Roberts Family, Colin James, Brian Robinson and Lyn Fletcher.

I do intend to carry on as a Trustee for as long as I can to bring about a Hall that could last another 100 years – or longer still.

Thanks again. *Colin Fletcher*

## ***Flicks in the Sticks***

Last season we raised £1,045.45 from 10 film showings. We have paid for insulating the middle doors and making a 10% contribution to the cost of new equipment. An initial payment of £325 has been made to the parish Hall fund raising. Made in Dagenham was our biggest earner (£285) with the King's Speech close behind. The accounts are always available for anyone interested.

A group of six look at available films and make the choices; there are always wonderful films left behind but we need to make a best guess at what will be attractive to our audience – every film costs at least £109 to show.

We look forward to our *thirteenth* season which begins with

**ORANGES AND SUNSHINE** (Cert 15) on

**Friday 23 September at 8 pm:** 104 mins: DRAMA

*A true story of thousands of British children in Australia. In the 1980's a Nottingham social worker discovers their forced migration, their poignant stories and finds their birth parents. A superb portrayal of quiet heroism with an outstanding performance by Emily Watson as the social worker.*

Also starring Hugo Weaving and David Wenham.

**Friday 14 October at 8 pm**

**WILD TARGET** (Cert 12A): 98 mins:

ACTION/COMEDY

*A light-hearted British comedy and big Flicks favourite. A hit man, his apprentice and their intended victim go on the run. Great performances from Bill Nighy, Emily Blunt and Eileen Atkins.*

Also starring Rupert Grint and Rupert Everett.

**Friday 11 November at 8 pm**

**POTICHE** (trophy wife) (Cert 15): 103 mins:

COMEDY

**Friday 2 December at 8 pm**

**BRIDESMAIDS** (Cert 15): 125 mins: COMEDY

Tickets £4.00 (£2.00 up to 16).

Ice creams, bar, raffle, good car parking

**Tel: 01588 660462/727**

Films at all venues as well as live shows can be viewed at [www.artsalive.co.uk](http://www.artsalive.co.uk)

All funds raised go to improvements at Clungunford Parish Hall. *Lyn Fletcher* For the Flicks Promotion Group

### **Parish Hall Talks**

Our series of informative and entertaining evenings at your local Parish Hall continues with.....

#### **The Great Migration: Tanzanian Wildlife**

a talk and slideshow with **Geoffrey Rollason**

FRIDAY 28 OCTOBER at 8 pm

Adults £5, accompanied children under 12 £2.50

ALL PROCEEDS TO CLUNGUNFORD PARISH HALL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Comfortable seating, warm Hall and a fully licensed bar. For tickets and further information please contact Colin Fletcher on 01588 660462

### **Bowling Club**

Following her exceptional performances, in the ladies' competitions, Margaret Harris was Ladbrokes' odds on favourite to win the Champion of Champions Cup. What Ladbrokes did not know was that Margaret has a new male companion in her life. His name is Michael, but Margaret insists on calling him by her pet name, Mikey; they are devoted to each other and cuddle up

together, while watching the bowling, barely occupying more than one seat and causing much tut-tutting. They were in such a position on the day of the above competition when a bit of fluff wandered up the steps from the car park and sat on the adjacent bench, to watch the bowling. Much to Margaret's annoyance Mikey could not take his eyes off her and, concerned about the motives of her fickle partner, Margaret made him sit in the car when it was her turn to bowl, a big mistake! No sooner had she started to play than the bit of fluff wandered down the steps again. Total concentration is needed to bowl well, and Margaret's anxious glances towards the gate indicated that she was more concerned with what may have been happening on the car park and consequently she did not progress beyond the preliminary stage. Ladbrokes were the beneficiaries. Amazingly Margaret and Mikey have survived the saga and still appear devoted to each other: it must be love.

The remaining players, having no such distraction, put on a stunning performance. Keith Rudd beat Ken Rowe in one semi-final and Mike Mansell beat Brian Lewis, by a single shot in the other and went on to win the trophy. Lillian Payne continued her impressive season both in the league teams and in the club competitions, winning the Brian and Don Lewis Cup by beating Jean Rudd in the final.

Neville Huffer narrowly defeated Bob Brown in a thrilling final to win the Non Winners Cup.

Another long dry spell has made our green very fast, challenging to us but even more so to visiting teams. This has enabled us to win some unlikely matches bringing us up to 10<sup>th</sup> in the Ludlow League.

Our teams in the Stretton League are similarly performing well, at present "Clungunford" are 3<sup>rd</sup> and "Gunnas" are 5<sup>th</sup>. *Mike Carson*

### **The Village Choir**

You've heard it all before! July and August are the months when the choir has a break. But the break is used to practise music for the Paul Spicer singing day at Dore Abbey in the Golden Valley (Saturday 10 September); and also the music for the Diocesan Choirs Festival in Hereford cathedral (Saturday 8 October). Both events are open at the end of the day to the general public, and are very enjoyable – details from any member of the choir.

This year, however, just to make sure that the vocal chords are kept in tune, we have been asked to provide a choir for a post wedding blessing in Clunbury church – during the "break". The phone calls involved will ensure that B'T will turn in a healthy profit for 2011.

We meet again on Wednesday 7 September to embark on work for.....

Harvest Festival – Friday 7 October at 7 pm

The Autumn concert – Friday 4 November in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Christmas Carol concert – Tuesday 13 December in Clungunford House at 7.30 pm

Service of Lessons and Carols – Wednesday 21 December in St Cuthbert's at 7 pm

But before all that, at the very beginning of September, and before our first formal rehearsal, we have the dubious pleasure of singing to mark the departure of Barney and Amaryllis from Clungunford for life across the border.

Barney has often come to our rescue in the past both as impromptu accompanist at practices, or as an additional tenor when we were short of singers. We are very grateful for all his help, and we are sorry to see them both go. We offer them our best wishes for the future.

*Alan W*

### ***Clungunford Village Choir***

are seeking a keyboard/piano accompanist to support them in rehearsal and in the preparation of their concert and church performances.

The choir is a lively and friendly group of singers with a membership of approximately 30.

The range of music we have performed recently includes music from the shows, folk songs, African songs, George Shearing arrangements

to church music and major choral items by composers such as Verdi, Faure and Handel.

If you are interested in joining the choir in this capacity, or you know of someone who may be interested, please contact our conductor

Robert Bunting on 01588 638476

*Calling local children aged 8 years and over who are interested in singing.....*

Clungunford Village Choir are planning a Concert to be held on Friday 4 November in the Parish Hall. If this is something your children might be happy to be involved in, please contact Ann Hunt on 01588 660727

There will be a number of rehearsals arranged for the month of October. Rehearsals will be held on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. dates to be arranged. The children will be expected to attend at least two rehearsals.

### ***The Parish Charities***

The next meeting of the Charities will be held on Monday 10 October. It would be helpful if grant applications could reach the Clerk or any of the Trustees a few days before that date. *Patrick Ramsay*, Chairman

### ***Harvest Festival – 7 October***

This will take place in the church after the service in the form of "bring and share" finger food. Contributions to this will be gratefully accepted. So that we don't receive too much of one sort i.e. sweet or savoury, will you please let me know what you are willing to provide. Thanking you.....*Pauline Mattison* (01588660596)

### ***Parish Church News***

For any pastoral needs after 4th September, please contact either of the Churchwardens (Gordon Schofield or Philippa Rollason) or the Rural Dean, who is at present the Reverend Prebendary Richard Shaw (01588 640809). He is retiring as Rural Dean at the end of September, and the name of his successor will be announced in the Deanery Magazine.

### **SERVICES at CLUNGUNFORD in September and October 2011**

Sunday 4 September	10.30 am	Group Service of Holy Communion at Clungunford (Barney Bell)
Sunday 11 September	11.00 am	Family Service
Sunday 18 September	9.30 pm	Holy Communion (BCP) (Richard Shaw)
Sunday 2 October	11.00 am	Holy Communion (CW) (Robert Paine)
Friday 7 October	7.00 pm	<b>HARVEST FESTIVAL followed by the Harvest Supper in the Church</b>
Sunday 9 October	11.00 am	Family Service
Sunday 16 October	9.30 am	Holy Communion (BCP) (John Daniels)
Sunday 30 October	10.30 am	GROUP SERVICE (venue to be decided) (Robert Paine)

### **TEA PARTY** and Farewell to Barney and Amaryllis.

Everyone is warmly invited to a bring and share Tea Party in Clungunford Parish Hall at 3.00 pm on Saturday 3rd September.

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**SILENCE and MEDITATION** An hour's quiet time in Clungunford Church from 7.30 pm on Tuesday 20th September. All welcome.

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**FUNERAL** The Funeral of Joanne Linda Lewis was held in Clungunford Church on Thursday 25th August, followed by cremation at Shrewsbury Crematorium. We

offer our sympathy to Joanne's husband, Steve, her daughters, Fay, Clare and Stephanie, and all her family and friends.

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**THE MAGAZINE** If you have any items for the Deanery Magazine, please send them to: Janet Thain (for Clungunford: [janetthain@aol.com](mailto:janetthain@aol.com) and telephone 01588 660673), Carol Griffiths (for Clunbury: [carolgriffiths@btinternet.com](mailto:carolgriffiths@btinternet.com) and telephone 01588 660304, and for old fashioned, but reliable, snail mail: Cwm Bydd Farm, Clunton, Craven Arms, SY7 0QH), Pat Harding (for Clunton: [patmharding@aol.com](mailto:patmharding@aol.com) and telephone 01588 660169) Brian Kingshott (for Hopton Castle and Bedstone [brian@park-cottage.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:brian@park-cottage.fsnet.co.uk) and telephone 01547 530547), Arthur Dyball is also a contact for Bedstone (telephone 01588 660383) and Alex Sharpe (for Hopesay: [alex@std8.com](mailto:alex@std8.com) and telephone 01588 660429). Pat and Carol will then assemble the material and send it off to the Editors. Please do not send any material directly to the Editors, as they are not able to deal with a large number of individual items. Our thanks to all these people for kindly taking on this important task.

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**A PLEA** from the new Magazine team: As the October Magazine will be our first time doing this, could we ask you to provide us with information in plenty of time, we have to give the print-ready copy to the Editors by the middle of September, and would be grateful if you could get your items to us by 10th September. Thanking you in advance, as they say, from a nervous Carol and Pat.

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**THANKS** Many, many thanks from Amaryllis and from me for all the kindness and generosity shown by everyone over the past few weeks. Our final services in three of the churches so far have been memorable and very moving, and your good wishes have been greatly appreciated. As I write (on 14th August), there are still three weeks to go, but I do want to say now how grateful we are to you all. Barney

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**CLUNGUNFORD'S HARVEST FESTIVAL** will be at 7.00 pm on Friday 7th October. The Harvest Supper will follow and will be held in the Church.

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The **HOLIDAY CLUB** has just finished, and what a week! Thirty-four young people, whose ages ranged from 4 to 13, were registered for the week. With the theme "Cuthbert's on the move" the young people looked at all sorts of things connected with transport. That included having pony rides, a ride in a pony and trap, a visit from a vintage motorbike and lots more besides. The visit of an activity trailer also brought go-kart races, as well as a challenging climbing wall and archery. There were all sorts of crafts, kite-making and model vehicles among them. A football coaching session on the village sports field was eagerly enjoyed, the participants receiving certificates at the end of the session. Needless to say, after all that fresh air, the

break-time refreshments were eagerly consumed. A very big vote of thanks goes to Sandra Schofield and her indefatigable band of helpers for putting on another fabulous week. The Club was rounded off with an open session for parents and friends (with ample refreshments afterwards), when the children were able to show off some of the things they had done. They also sang a goodbye song, as two of the children, specially dressed to look very much like someone else we know, made their exit .... (see picture on front page)

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**FIKELELA SUPPER** at Benn's Cottage, Abcott - Saturday 17th September. Now fully booked..

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The morning rain cleared, and the sun shone on the Clungunford **SUMMER EVENT** on the village sports field on Saturday 16th. July. It was a good afternoon, with young and old energetically wanging wellies and tottering down the course with potatoes and spoons. The bar did a brisk trade, the raffle and tombola tempted hopeful customers, John James's magnificent Fairground Organ provided just the right musical accompaniment, and the sumptuous teas were thoroughly enjoyed. The event raised £716 to be shared between the Parish Hall and the Church: thanks to all who helped and attended.

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**CONCERT** "European Journey", the annual Clungunford Village Choir Concert on Saturday 25th June was another very successful and inspiring evening, with a large audience filling the church. The choir, orchestra and soloists gave memorable performances of a varied programme of music, and the evening was rounded off with enjoyable refreshments with plenty of time for conversation. Our thanks to all who performed or helped put on the event: it made a profit of £522.61, shared between the Church and the Choir.

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Shropshire Historic Churches Trust Sponsored **"RIDE & STRIDE"** Saturday 10th September 2011. Please support the Trust's sponsored bicycle ride to raise money for the Trust and for Parish Funds: money raised is split between the two. The Trust uses the money to help local churches fund repairs and in 2009 St Cuthbert's, Clungunford received £2,500 from the Fund. This year six people are planning to do the bike ride: David Boxall (660136), Stephen Haxby (660231), Adrian, Frances and James Milburn (660372) and Gordon Schofield (660158). We plan to cycle to Chapel Lawn, Bucknell, Bedstone, Hopton Castle, Clunbury, Clunton, Lydbury North, Edgton, Hopesay and Clungunford. Please will you sponsor someone? Should you wish to cycle with us, or need more information please contact me. Thank you for your interest and kindness. Gordon Schofield

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**UPDATE FROM THE CCC** re. Developments at St. Cuthbert's, Clungunford. An application was sent to the Hereford Registry in London in June. This requested approval for the plans and the work to make changes at

the Church. We received notice on the 7th July that the Faculty had been granted. One of the conditions was that there must be sufficient funds available for the work, before commencement. A group within the committee is starting the process of seeking grant help. We will keep you informed of our progress. *Sandra Schofield* (on behalf of the CCC)

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### **JUMBLE SALE**

With TABLE TOPS & CAR BOOT SALE

ASTON ON CLUN VILLAGE HALL

2 - 4 p.m. SATURDAY 24th. SEPTEMBER

Contact 01588 640119 for details & to book

For Clunbury Under-5s

with Refreshments for Macmillan Cancer Support

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**THE LINE THAT NEVER WAS** - an extract from the Clun Valley Parochial Magazine (as it was then) of August 1897:

Clun Valley Light Railway. We understand that the first meeting of the Syndicate that was formed last May will take place in the Town Hall on July 30th. at 2pm. The route has been roughly surveyed and an estimate given, but before much more can be done, information must now be given by the inhabitants of the district as to the total tonnage per annum they either receive or send off along the road towards Broome: everything should be considered and accounted for in the return. Also the number of cattle sent to and fro. Gentlemen will be asked to take different districts and to collect information of this kind; and we are requested to ask all to give full information and to at once begin and calculate the amounts, so that they may be ready with their reply. It is suggested to have stations at Clunton, Clunbury, and a siding at Hopton Castle. *Barney Bell*

## ***The 100 Club – results for July and August***

### ***Winners for July:***

1. Julia Gell (£60).
2. Lesley Knowles (£30).
3. Robin Bywater (£15).

### ***Winners for August:***

1. Ann Hunt (£60).
2. Linda Allsop (£30).
3. C Bert (£15).

### **The special summer prize of £100 was won by Sally Price**

If you would like to join—or even add an extra ticket to an existing membership (£5 per month by cheque or even better by standing order), please phone Maureen Rooney (01 588 660 781), Robin Bywater (01547 540 307) or Martin Knowles (01 588 660 270). *Robin Bywater*

## ***Parish Hall fund -raisers***

Jim and Mary Bason would like to thank everyone who supported and helped with their recent coffee morning at Beckjay. £300 was raised toward the Parish Hall development fund. Jim and Mary had fine weather.

Jim and Julia Gell fell foul of the weather in opening their garden, but notwithstanding the elements, they raised another £160 toward the building fund. They too would like to thank all who helped them stage the opening and supported it.

.....And thanks also to Jim, Mary, Jim and Julia for their hard work in staging these events. *Editor*

## ***St. Cuthbert's Outreach Project – Fikelela***

Typically it has been a quiet time Fikelela-wise with people on holiday. However, we will soon be into full action on the fundraising front with our Pate and Pudds event on 17<sup>th</sup> September at Ben's Cottage, Abcott beginning at 7pm.

The tickets for this event are now SOLD OUT and I am sorry if this disappoints anyone. However, we do have to take a decision on just how many people we can cater for and keep dry, given that the weather may not be kind to us on a September evening.

I hope that those of you who are busy finishing your V necked jumpers will have them ready for Jonathan and Peter to take back to South Africa. They leave for warmer climes at the very start of October. (Lucky them, you may say, and so do I: funny how as one gets older that winter weather seems rather less appealing!)

Please give me a call on 01588 660270 if you would like me to collect the jumpers from you.

A couple of decades ago, the HIV virus was viewed as a sure-fire, untreatable killer. A swift death sentence. So it is most encouraging to see the US regulators have approved the simplest treatment yet for the condition – a once a day pill from a Californian drug company whose name is Gilead.

The drug is a single one a day tablet regime combining three tablets in one for newly diagnosed patients. This far simpler tablet form does away with the cocktail of drugs and potions that were the previous method of treatment.

The treatment of HIV and AIDS has been one of science's outstanding successes within our generation.

Then what are we all fundraising for, you may well be thinking, and what is the problem out in Africa?

WELL, typically the problem still lies with finding an agreement on just how to make these drugs available to everybody irrespective of their nationality or their ability to pay.

AND, until that is resolved then we will continue to help in whatever way we can with our knitting, our fundraising and our overall support for the Fikelela Project in Cape Town South Africa.

It is because of the AIDS epidemic that there are so many children left alone following the death of their family members and who still need our help and care as they go forward with their lives into maturity.

As another way of fundraising you may be surprised to read that by shopping on-line you have raised a total of £651 for Fikelela since we began. Please take a look at [www.buy.at/clungunford](http://www.buy.at/clungunford)

to see whether you can use this way of shopping to help Fikelela at the same time!!!

We are very mindful of course that we are soon to be losing Barney and Amaryllis from the village. Barney and Amaryllis have always encouraged and supported Fikelela in so many ways, attending our events even during their heavy workload. We will miss them and their encouragement greatly and would wish to add our good wishes for their future in Presteigne and to say that there will **always be a plate of delicious food and a glass of wine for them should they ever be around for one of our future fundraising events.**

Fikelela was and still is of course a St. Cuthbert's Church outreach project, and we shall continue to support it as St. Cuthbert's goes forward into a period of change without Barney and Amaryllis.

It is now not only a very well supported project and a project that has brought many people together in that support, it has, as the Bishop of Hereford said recently in his address at Hopton Castle Church, been a way for many of us to extend our personal 'gifts' such as cooking and entertaining into a most worthwhile vehicle, in that we can raise much needed funds for a most worthwhile project AND enjoy ourselves into the bargain!!!

I am sure that many of us returned from that service thinking 'what other gifts do I have that can be put to good use?'

We look forward, once Jonathan and Peter are safely back in Cape Town, to hearing what else has been happening at Fikelela and to hopefully receiving up-to-date news and photographs that will feature in the next edition of the Gunnas Gazette.

*Lesley Knowles*, St. Cuthbert's Outreach Project, Fikelela.

### ***The Slow Ladies***

**Thursday 15 September:** next stage of the Unk valley walk: 6.5 miles

Meet in Clungunford car park at 9.30 am with picnic.

**Thursday 6 October:** a local walk. Please phone for details. Soup and sandwiches at North Barn afterwards.

*Pauline Mattison* 01588 660596

***Wanted!*** Material for the next issue should be with us by the **22 October**. Please place it in the blue box in the front porch of Clungunford House or fax it to 01588 660269. Please send e-mails to [GunnasGazette@aol.com](mailto:GunnasGazette@aol.com)

## **Free Youth Event – don't miss it!**

With help from local Churches, Lighthouse 'The Gathering'

present a **FREE** event for 11-18yr olds.

**When?** Sat. 17<sup>th</sup> September 2011

**Where?** Craven Arms Community Centre.

**Time?** 3-10pm. Come all day or just a part of the day.

**3-7pm.** Activity zone run by Pulse and others.

Sumo Suits, gladiator jousting, Xbox and Wii

**Food from 50p**

**7-10pm.** High energy fun with Pulse ministries, then

The talented band **LIFE COLOUR** and their **ONE HOPE TOUR**

**Book** by calling Holly 07779493359 or Sarah 07816674463.

### ***In The Garden***

A showery day in Clungunford, and a disappointing summer, which never really got underway, slips slowly towards autumn as the first of the shrubs in my garden to change colour take on their autumn hues.

At least the number of cabbage white butterflies there are around might begin to lessen now that the nights are drawing in.

One of the few positive things I can say about this summer is that there seem to have been very few caterpillars of the large cabbage white butterfly attacking my brassicas this year. There have been plenty of caterpillars of the small cabbage white butterfly, but they have a more laid back approach to eating sprout plants than their voracious larger cousins, which attack en masse, and can clear a crop in an afternoon if they aren't dealt with in time.

I suppose I have something of a split personality where butterflies are concerned because, though I seem to spend half my time when out in the garden in summer squashing or spraying the unwanted offspring of white butterflies, I seem to spend much of the other half on hands and knees, text book in hand, observing brown and blue butterflies amongst the meadow grasses, rye grass, cocks foot and couch grass I have allowed to grow to various heights in certain parts of the garden, and the clovers, trefoils and medicks this encourages to flourish amongst them. Not what I was expected to produce in the days when I was responsible for weed-free sports

turf scalped to soil height, but a maintenance regime which I think adds much more interest to my garden. In the garden, of absolutely no interest to cabbage white butterflies at all, even if there are any still around by then, look out for the flushed reddish-purple leaves and deep purple stems of *Cornus alba 'Kesselringii'*, one of the Dogwoods, as it displays its striking autumn colours.  
*Brian Taylor*

### ***And on a lighter note.....***

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian .
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
9. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
12. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
13. I wondered why the cricket ball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
14. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
15. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
16. A backward poet writes inverse.
17. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
18. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine ....
19. A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'
20. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.
21. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'

### **Free to Good Homes!**

I have a quantity of strong plastic feed bags which are suitable for bagging up small amounts of builders'/decorating waste for disposal. Can deliver locally, if required.  
Tel: Janet on 01588 660673

### ***The Cricket Match***

Our annual match with Leintwardine and Brampton Bryan took place on the 25 August.

Your village heroes braved the rain, the bad light, warm beer and the worst bowling attack I have ever seen the opposition produce.....and still we lost!

Good individual performances from Jim Bason and Mark Davies with the bat did not give us quite enough runs to defend in this limited overs match. In fact, had he not retired, Jim would probably still be batting now, working his way to a hard accumulated century before Christmas. Jim is at the cricketer's mid-life crisis point – good technique, but no longer interested in running singles and a bit too stiff to hit boundaries – signs of a mis-spent golfing middle age! We scored nearly 90 in our 18 overs.

When we bowled, there were several note-worthy matters. The first, is that we have discovered a new star – a wicket-keeper at that. Kerry Bason was undoubtedly the best we have ever had in that position. She caught a catch and kept the number of byes down to a mere handful. Secondly, Denis Price appealed for a run out of a batsman backing up. The umpire refused to give this on the grounds the rules had been changed. Denis had to be placated at this. When I looked at these so-called new rules on the internet later, it was quite obvious that Denis was right, the new rules not being relevant to the circumstances, and so if the decision had gone for us, the result might well have been different. Mark Disley and Mark Davies bowled well, but the pick of the bowlers was Martin and Lesley Knowles's grandson, Charlie, whom we imported for the occasion. Good bowling notwithstanding, the opposition reached our score with a few balls to spare and a few wickets in hand.

We did well in The Sun afterwards and performed to our true potential at last.

*Jonathan Roberts*

*In The Gazette next time... the first part of account of life after the earthquake in New Zealand.*

*If you have anything interesting to share with Gazette readers, do please send it in.*

# Harvest Festival

## Service & Supper



*Friday  
7 October*

*Service  
at 7 pm*

*All are Welcome  
at the Harvest Service at St Cuthbert's  
followed by a "Bring & Share" Supper in  
Church*