

Clive & Grinshill Newsletter



HOW DID HALLOWE'EN BEGIN?—See Back Page

ISSUE NO 257

OCT/NOV 2023

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Mobile Library: Friday on alternative weeks **Please see page 25**

Grinshill

Grinshill Parish Clerk: Graham Bould 07792 300702 gbouldparish@yahoo.co.uk
Village Hall Booking Officer: Marie Barber 220678 barbermarie@outlook.com

To all Contributors please note the date for inclusion in the next newsletter will be the 15th November and we can only include items that include your name.

WHAT'S ON IN CLIVE AND GRINSHILL- OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2023

October

| | | | |
|------------------|--|---|-----------------|
| 1 st | Clive | Holy Communion | 11.00am |
| 1 st | Grinshill | Harvest Festival followed by tea and cake | 4.00pm |
| 8 th | Grinshill | Holy Communion | 9.30am |
| 8 th | Clive | Evensong | 4.00pm |
| 14 th | Clive | Clive Village Hall W.I. Meeting (See report) | 7.30pm |
| 14 th | Clive | Clive Village Hall – Bric-a-Brac Table Top Sale | 10.00am -12noon |
| 15 th | Grinshill | Morning Prayer | 8.30am |
| 15 th | Clive | Harvest Festival and lunch | 11.00am |
| 20 th | Grinshill | Annual Village Quiz Night(See Advert) | 7.15pm |
| 22 nd | Clive Hub | Clive Ladies at The Hub | 2.00-4.00pm |
| 22 nd | Clive | Holy Communion | 8.30am |
| 22 nd | Grinshill | Family Service | 9.30am |
| 27 th | Clive | Village Hall Coffee Morning | 8.45 – 11.45 |
| 29 th | All Souls Memorial Service for whole team in Hadnall | | 6.00pm |

November

| | | | |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| 5 th | Clive | Holy Communion | 11.00am |
| 5 th | Grinshill | Evensong | 4.00pm |
| 12 th | Clive | Team Remembrance Service | 10.45am |
| 14 th | Clive | Clive Village Hall W.I. AGM | 7.30pm |
| 17 th | Clive | Village Hall Coffee Morning | 8.45 – 11.45 |
| 19 th | Grinshill | Morning Prayer | 8.30am |
| 19 th | Clive | Family Service | 11.00am |
| 25 th | Clive | Clive Village Hall Christmas Fair | 1.00pm – 4.00pm |
| 26 th | Grinshill | Holy Communion (tbc) | 9.30am |
| 26 th | Advent Service for whole team Hadnall (tbc) | | 6.00pm |

NEWS IN BRIEF FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2023

CLIVE SURGERY. We are now administering the Covid Booster and Flu jabs to patients who are 65 and over or who are in the At Risk category. If you have not been contacted directly by the surgery or directly from NHS to make an appointment, you can make an appointment by ringing the surgery on 01939 220295.

WILD FLOWER PLANTING IN CLIVE Following on from the article I wrote in the last edition, a small group of us met to discuss wildflower planting around the village.

This project is sponsored by the Parish Council who have kindly donated funds to allow us to purchase seeds.

We have identified some initial sites and hope to get started later in the Autumn.

I'll give you an update in the December issue but in the meantime, if you're Interested in getting involved, please give me a ring on 220651. **(Steve Varga)**

YOUR VILLAGE STILL NEEDS YOU - TO VOLUNTEER

There are a number of groups and organisations in our villages who depend on local residents volunteering to ensure that these facilities continue to exist and run smoothly **BUT** many of these groups have come to a stage where they need new volunteers to assist or take up tasks to ensure that the villages continue to flourish in the way that we all enjoy.

PLEASE CONSIDER SERIOUSLY HOW YOU MAY BE ABLE TO HELP/VOLUNTEER/ ASSIST ANY GROUP BELOW BY CONTACTING THE RELEVANT PEOPLE LISTED IN WHO'S WHO OR THE EDITOR FOR DETAILS. ALL AGES WELCOME – WILLING HELP APPRECIATED – NO PAY !!

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY - Only every alternate month for about half hour/ish.

CLIVE CHURCH – Cleaning – flowers

CLIVE HISTORY GROUP – Treasurer – Auditor – Committee Members- Help to set up/clear up for meetings.

CLIVE VILLAGE HALL – Treasurer -Committee Members -Cleaning Rota – Help in kitchen at events – garden

CLIVE VILLAGE SHOW – Set up hall prior and clear away tables etc. after – Refreshment help.

CHURCHYARD MAINTENANCE- Monday mornings 10-12 Through April to October No expertise required. General sweeping-weeding-strimming-racking up grass- pruning etc. Kettle boiling...coffee break at 11am

RENSHAW'S FIELD – General maintenance normally 2 hours session contact Cathy Dixon 07501457321

*All Saints Church,
Clive*



News from Clive & Grinshill Church

I find it hard to believe that we are now in Autumn and as I am writing this the leaves are already starting to turn brown ready to fall after giving us a lovely display of green through spring and summer. Autumn signals the end of Reverend Paul's sabbatical which seems to have flown by so I must give thanks to the following for helping to cover services in the last three months – Reverend Edith Quirey, Reverend Mike

Cotterell, Cathy Dibben, Mike Duckett & Jill Evans without them we would not have been able to keep a full rota in all our churches. My grateful thanks also, has to go to the lovely people that set up for the services making sure that it was business as usual while Paul was away.

Our Harvest Festival services were put in the diary for October this year so that Paul could lead our celebrations with Grinshill starting us off on Sunday 1st October at 4pm with tea and cakes afterwards. Harvest in Clive will be on Sunday 15th October at 11am followed by lunch. There will be the annual All Souls Memorial Service in Hadnall Church on the 29th October at 6pm where we remember loved ones by lighting candles on a large wooden cross at the altar.

Clive will be hosting our annual team Remembrance Service as usual on Sunday 12th November at 10.45am.



Jayne Hill

CLIVE PARISH COUNCIL

News Report – August 2023



Welcome to the October update

It feels very surreal to be writing the October update and thinking about autumn, when at the time of writing (early September) we are experiencing a very hot and humid Indian Summer - all the windows are open and I am gently trying to encourage the wasps and other insects to stay outside the office! By the time you read this we may well be back to cooler more typically autumnal weather, but if not please do remember to stay hydrated!

Wildflower meadows/verges

Speaking of insects, following the Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project presentation at the June Council meeting, a number



RESTORING
SHROPSHIRE'S
VERGES
PROJECT 

of interested volunteers mobilised and are already working hard on plans for a couple of wildflower verges in Clive.

Wildflower verges are a fantastic way of restoring wildlife habitats, and creating wildlife corridors for mammals like dormice. They also provide a vital food source for pollinators (who we rely on for our own food production), and also helps Shropshire Council save money on verge cutting costs. They are also beautiful to look at!

At the July Council meeting volunteers asked the Parish Council for a small budget to help towards equipment and native wildflower seeds and this was readily agreed. The Parish Council is going to have representatives on the volunteer group and will help as much as it can with this important project.

New faces on the Parish Council

The Parish Council is thrilled that two new members were co-opted onto the Parish Council at the July meeting. Your new Councillors are Sharon Cunliffe (Mattu) and Paul Hewitt. They both bring a range of valuable skills and backgrounds which will complement the skillset of the existing Council members, and we are looking forward to working together to help the local community.

Local Plan Review update

At the time of writing (early-Sept) there has not been much progress on the Local Plan examination process. This is partly due to the news of potential legal action against Shropshire Council, which some of you may have seen in the local news. We are keeping an eye on the examination webpage for updates, but this situation will undoubtedly cause further delays in the examination process.

At this point in time we don't know exactly what kind of impact this will have on the Stage 2 hearings, which were originally expected to be taking place this autumn. It is the Stage 2 hearings that are supposed to deal with specific housing figures and site allocations in settlements across the county, including Clive. I'm sorry that we don't have anything more concrete right now, but hopefully there will be further updates soon.

Traffic in Clive

Stumbling blocks for Wem Road VAS sign

As a further update from the last newsletter, unfortunately despite the Council's best efforts, the PCC (Police and Crime Commissioner) is to increase on the funding limit for individual road safety project grants. This means the maximum the police will be able to offer in grantng will still not be enough for the Parish Council to purchase its preferred model for the 3rd VAS sign that we hoped to install on Wem Road.

Another potential stumbling block is that Shropshire Council Highways are currently putting together new guidance on the processes for VAS signs installed. I (your Clerk) took part in a working group discussion in August to review the first draft of the VAS guidance document, which was very helpful and productive. There is understandably a need to ensure the road network does not become cluttered with signs that may not always be effective, however there were some concerns from myself and fellow clerks in the working group that the proposed process may make it a lot harder for small rural councils to have a VAS sign installed (even if they do have the necessary funds). There are still changes to be factored into the guidance, but the Parish Council may need to look into other ways of reducing speeding on Wem Road if a VAS sign is no longer an option.

Latest VAS data

Whilst we try to sort out a VAS sign we are continuing to ask the local police for help with speed enforcement in the parish, and have shared

the most recent speed data with them. Many thanks to Cllr Ian Donoghue for downloading and analysing the data, and putting together the useful summary below.

The data itself can be found on the Parish Council website (check the “Speed Concerns” page under the “Policing in Clive” header), but here are the headlines:

1. Speeding is more prevalent on Quarry view - over 20% of all vehicles are in excess of 35mph. For Station road, this figure is about 7% but still represents more than 1 in 20 vehicles.
2. For Station Road, the overall vehicle count has dropped from 12124 to 9681. This doesn't represent a like-for-like period but it does show the morning peak (0800-0900) exceeds the afternoon peak (1500-1600) suggesting an eastbound flow through the village in the mornings.
3. The Quarry View sign recorded 29164 vehicles in the second half of 2022 rising to 44089 for the first 6 months of 2023. This VAS was offline for a significant period last year so this is not likely to reflect accurate numbers. However, the afternoon peaks exceed the morning peaks suggesting the flow of traffic is westbound through the village in the afternoons.
4. In targeting speeders, we have suggested to the police that AM rush-hour traffic eastbound (Station Rd) and PM rush-hour traffic westbound (Quarry View) should be the priority for enforcement. Of these, Quarry View comprises the higher proportion of excessive speed counts.

Community Speed watch

We're always in need of more volunteers for the Community Speed Watch, so please do contact the coordinator Matt Alexander (mattalexander_@hotmail.com) or the Clerk if you're interested. It's a good opportunity to get outside, catch up with neighbours, and do your bit to make Clive safer for everyone!

Public transport

We are continuing to lobby Arriva about the changes to the 511 bus service – our Freedom of Information requests revealed that there were no complaints about punctuality on the service, which was the original justification given for reducing the service. We have been keeping North Shropshire MP Helen Morgan in the loop about the situation and we had a very nice email from her office congratulating us on our hard work on

this matter. We understand Helen Morgan will be holding a roundtable event with bus operators regarding the importance of rural services so will continue to keep her updated.

Severn Trent road closure complaints

Despite the Parish Council proactively contacting Severn Trent regarding the planned works on 13th August, it was very disappointing to hear that once again, no one removed the traffic cones, road closures signs and other traffic management equipment once the work was complete. After reporting this to Shropshire Council and Severn Trent it was eventually sorted out, but once again the failure to remove traffic management equipment caused unnecessary confusion and disruption to motorists and buses attempting to get to Clive. This will be on the agenda again in September, so by the time you read this there may well be more updates.

**Next meetings: Thurs Oct 19th, Nov 16th 2023
at Clive Village Hall**

Clerk: Miss Lydia Bardsley
11 High Fawr Close, Oswestry, SY11 1TE

clivepc@hotmail.co.uk
01691 674742



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Fully Licenced Social Venue
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Please contact Kate Evans at the Hub
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01939 220058

Or message via Facebook search - '*Clive Hub*'



The Parish Council's Environment Committee works to encourage and help coordinate activities that protect and enhance the local area, for the benefit of parishioners, visitors and the natural flora and fauna. Our recent work has centred around two specific projects.

RSVP

The RSVP (Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project) got fully underway this spring and summer. Hopefully you noticed the verges either side of the road by the cricket club entrance were cleared of the ground elder and nettles that prevented almost anything else growing. Hard going, taking up to an hour to clear every metre of ground, but it was worth it.

Beneath the choking weeds, the soil was good (it's a bit of a myth that wild flowers thrive in poor soil, they just tend to have little competition there). It was a bonus to expose the stone walls on either side and also a pleasant surprise to find very little litter had accumulated over the years.

The sites were left bare for a few weeks so they could be revisited and re-weeded. Anyone with ground elder in their garden knows how persistent it is. My philosophy is that you have to keep battling against it, even if the war can never be won! After a few sessions, the ground was clean enough for seedlings sown earlier in spring to be plugged in – mainly foxglove, field scabious and lady's smock initially, then poppies, cornflowers and ox-eye daisies.

What hadn't been expected was that the seedlings were planted just as we went into a long hot and dry spell in May and June. Daily watering was essential and most evenings found me trudging along the lane laden with watering cans, with much appreciated support from others while I was away. I was wrong to think the cricket club might have an outside water source!

The seedlings seemed to thrive eventually and we did get some flowering, although it was always expected that next spring and summer should see more colour. The weeds returned of course, especially nettles. While clearing these, it was really encouraging to discover some species present that hadn't been planted – shining crane's bill, greater celandine, annual toadflax, fool's parsley, red shank, ground ivy, red goosefoot and even some lobelia and (according to my identifier) Peruvian zinnia somehow crept in! Perhaps the seeds of the wild species had lain dormant until the ground was disturbed.

In August we had three Royal Navy helicopter pilots at the end of their training volunteer for a morning, and they quickly cleared another few metres of weeds on either side of the road. That's saved us a lot of work so many thanks to RAF Shawbury for their services.

The newly cleared stretch has been left again for re-weeding but we have several trays of varied seedlings to plant there in October. Thanks to former councillor Helen Massy's dad for growing those.

This autumn we'll also sow some seed directly into the verges so they can over-winter (vernalisation). It'll be interesting to see how they develop - we're far from being experts but it's fun to learn as we go!

The project is a continuous one. The restored verges need maintenance and we want to extend the wild flowers wherever we can. At the moment it makes sense to continue along the lane where we've begun but we'll also be adding wild flowers near the woodland school.

No doubt there are plenty more sites that could be enhanced with splashes of spring and summer colour, whilst providing valuable food and habitat for wildlife diversity. They just need to be close to a water supply – or willing volunteers!

Wetlands

Another project that we're hoping to embark on in the coming months is the creation of a wetland area in Corbet Wood, in conjunction with Shropshire Council.

Wetlands and water courses greatly enhance biodiversity and this is something generally lacking in Grinshill. Those who use the hill will know from muddy experience that it has some areas that rarely dry out, and we've identified a site close to the old quarries that seems particularly suitable. It's not intended that a deep pond will be created, rather it will be an area of shallow water and marshy ground.

The idea is for a camber to be built onto the path so that it drains naturally to the sides, rather than settling as a mess of cloying mud for most of the year. To the side of the path the land is already quite marshy and it's hoped the natural drainage into this area would enable it to remain a viable wetland all year round. As we inspected the possible site with Mike Simms and Simon Brown of Shropshire Council in June, a dragonfly flew amongst us – it seemed a sign that we'd found the right place!

A final decision on the location has still to be made. The chosen site will be tested for water retention before being scraped and lined. Some tree work will be needed to avoid too much water being taken and the area being choked with leaves.

Hopefully before long we'll have a small area on the hill with an abundance of plants and wildlife that we wouldn't otherwise see.

WINE TASTING SESSION - ARE YOU INTERESTED?



Following the enjoyable wine tasting course we held in the Clive village hall several years ago.

Is there sufficient interest for a repeat six week session early in the new year on a Monday evening?

Please express your interest by email to:

pdwalters@hotmail.com



Sansaw Estate Update September 2023

As summer draws to a close and we look forward to the fruits, colours and cooler mornings that Autumn heralds. It is a time for more maintenance, milking and (still a bit more) mowing but also a time for planning and reviewing.

Sansaw Estate, like the Forth Road Bridge always requires maintenance whether it is blocked drains, a house refurbishment or just branches that need removing from a dangerous roadside tree. There is never a dull moment and one day is never the same as the next.

Over the past three months we have completed another two full house refurbishments at Alderton Hall and 10a Shrewsbury Road in Hadnall. We have spent the summer catching up on the perennial job card list as well as re-roofing 4 and painting 20 houses. The multi skilled maintenance team under the watchful eye of Gregg Davies are always on hand, endeavouring to be ahead of the next issue!

On the farm front we have enjoyed an unlikely season of plentiful grass and have filled the winter silage clamps, which will see us through well into 2024. The cows have performed fantastically and despite a relatively poor milk price we have achieved our best technical performance ever. As always credit to Bref Daly and his mighty team.

Having been back at Sansaw for 18 years I cannot help but notice how much more rubbish maligns the countryside and our roads - it brings me out in a fiendish rage. What is equally infuriating is dog walkers who are happy to clear up there dog poo only to leave their dog poo bags on a gate post or hanging in a tree or bush - even on the top of Grinshill Hill. We implore all dog walkers to take poo bags home with you so we can all enjoy our beautiful countryside!

Our vision is and always has been to leave the Estate in better condition than when we took it on, we are merely custodians and we continue to work tirelessly to improve our built and natural environment through strong stewardship and a genuine love for the countryside.

As always there are a number of other activities happening on the Estate - in June we hosted Open Farm Sunday and the first two weekends in September saw 300 horses gallop, in a mainly controlled manner, over Sansaw's green and pleasant pastures. These were in aid of the HAJ Memorial Trust that supplies AED's to communities across Shropshire and the West Midlands.

As always please do not hesitate to visit the website www.sansaw.co.uk or email us at info@sansaw.co.uk or call us on 01939211100.

James and Åsa Thompson



Sansaw
Estate



Clive Village Hall

A warm, welcoming and inclusive space

Home to many local groups, events & activities

Our newly refurbished village hall is available for hire.

Suitable for social events, meetings, classes, family parties etc. Facilities include: main hall; reception area, well equipped kitchen, disabled access and toilets plus our beautiful garden.

For more information contact Paul Nicholson 220500

Follow our Facebook page - 'Clive Village Hall'

Clive Village Show: Saturday 26th August 2023

Our 50th Show was held In Clive Village Hall at start of the August Bank Holiday weekend. This wonderful community event attracted a large number of visitors and was a great success.

The Hall was filled with magnificent displays in each of our five sections. Although entries were a little down on the previous year there was still an amazing array of exhibits for visitors to appreciate, including delightful artwork from the children at Clive School. Well done and thank you to all our exhibitors.

.A big thank you to the team of judges, who had the very difficult task of selecting the top three exhibits in each class and the winners of our annual trophies. Thanks also go the Show sponsors, Black Birches Rose Centre and to all our individual trophy sponsors.

After viewing the exhibits, visitors had the opportunity to spend time with friends and neighbours; enjoying delicious tea and cake in the garden or a burger and a pint courtesy of our friends at Renshaw's Field and the Hub. All-in-all, a very successful day.

In the autumn, we will be holding a meeting to discuss next year's show. If you are interested in joining the friendly team and helping with the planning and running of future shows please contact me on 220500.

Paul Nicholson



| Clive Village Show : 2023 Trophy Winners | | |
|---|--|---|
| Section | Most Points | Most Outstanding Exhibit |
| Produce | A J Shirley Cup Sponsored by David & Helena Barber Ted Shepard | Frank Barkley Rose Bowl Sponsored by David Barkley Gardening Services Bryan Daniel |
| Flowers | The Challenge Cup Sponsored by Aroma Tea & Coffee Merchants Julie Daniel | The Joan Fowles Trophy Sponsored by Maurice's Sticks Val Walters |
| Arts & Crafts | Society Craft Shield Sponsored by Ms Wendy Davies Ann Peake | The Chalice Cup Sponsored by the Davies family in memory of Beryl Davies Christine Thomas |
| Baking/ Cookery | The WI Cup Sponsored by Clive Show in memory of Madeline Lucas Alison Gilling Jenifer Martinez | The Ella Phillips Memorial Trophy Sponsored by Mr & Mrs Roger Phillips Helen Phillips |
| Children's classes | Mary Bibby Challenge Cup Sponsored by Beeston Property Services Tillie-Beau Bushill | Lee Smith Memorial Trophy Sponsored by Mr & Mrs Roger Smith Poppy Foxall |

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07877 760931**

At the September meeting Clive & Grinshill WI welcomed volunteers from the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity. Marcus has been a fundraising volunteer for over 20 years. He arrived in his motorised wheelchair and is grateful to be alive - he was an innocent victim of a motorcycle accident and was airlifted to Stoke with life changing spinal injuries. He now gives fundraising talks most weeks around the Midlands area.

John Darlow, our Clive resident air ambulance pilot, joined Marcus and gave some interesting technical information and also the coping mechanisms in place for witnessing the trauma of 'the worst day of someone's life'.

The October meeting is a craft evening and will be led by Loppington member Barbara Cooksey who is a local designer and artist (specialising in pottery and glass art - check her out on the internet). We will be making rag wreaths - hopefully little skill required!

November will be the AGM and the launch of the 'Clive & Grinshill WI Centenary Year'. This will be followed by a social event - Fun quizzes, wine and nibbles!

The Centenary year has some 'Open Evenings' which will be open to everyone. This includes the 'Thai Cave Rescue of 2018'. Other interesting evenings are an 'Indian cookery demonstration including supper' in March, a "Singing Florist" in June and a day trip to Anglesey Llanfair PG, the original founding WI, and Plas Newydd NT gardens in July.

All events welcome visitors - so please come along and enjoy the activities, speakers, chat and refreshments!

Contact: Liz Griffiths, Secretary, lizgriffiths56@hotmail.co.uk, 01939 220737

Events for 2023

November 14th A.G.M.



December 12th
It's Christmas – Time to Celebrate!

The **Coffee Shop** will be open



8:45am - 11:45am on:

Friday, 27th October

Friday, 17th November

Friday, 15th December

Table Top Bric-a-Brac Sale

Saturday, 14th October, 10am - 12 noon

(Sellers set up from 9:15am)

To book a table to sell your unwanted good quality items contact Paul (220500)



Clive Christmas Fair

Saturday, 25th November

1pm - 4pm

**Grand Prize Draw; Christmas Gifts
& Cards; Handmade Crafts;
Refreshments**



Clive Baby and Toddler Group

Meets every Wednesday, 9.15-11.00am,
at Clive Village Hall (term time only)

All welcome – parents/carers, grandparents,
childminders, mums to be – just turn up!

• parent led • snack/activity rota •

• craft activities • role play • slide • trampoline • ride on's •
baby corner • dolls house • cars • building blocks • lots more! •

£2.50 per child (+ 50p for additional sibling)

Includes drink and healthy snack for children

Tea/coffee and biscuits for adults

For more information contact Catherine on
07769 309664 or find us on Facebook –
Clive Baby and Toddler Group



**Friday 20th October
7.15pm Grinshill Village Hall
Annual Village**

QUIZ NIGHT!

To enter please contact:
Ian Driscoll
Tel: 01939 220 666
email: iandris@aol.com



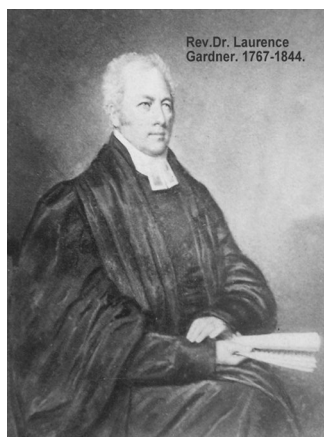
Max 4 people per team. £10 entrance per team.
We will be limiting the number of tables to 10 for this event.



THE CLIVE & GRINSHILL HISTORY GROUP

THE GARDNER FAMILY OF SANSAW HALL.

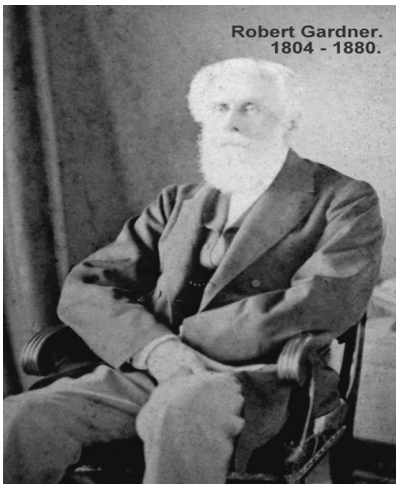
Few Clive families can equal the 260-year association of the ancient branch of the Gardner family, successful Drapers who were closely linked to our mother church of St Mary's in Shrewsbury. Their early ancestors are commemorated here, whilst others chose to be laid to rest in the Gardner Vault of Clive Church. John Gardner [1595-1628], 12th in line of this ancient family, purchased Sansaw Hall in 1622 from Richard Russell and initially the Estate was passed down the Gardner line: through Thomas [1617-1667], John [1660-1699], Thomas [1680-1763] and John [1745-1801]. The last- named carried out extensive alterations to the mansion in 1774 immediately prior to his marriage the following year to Emma Kinchant. By this period the family owned a substantial proportion of Clive and Sansaw village as evidenced in John's will which names: "divers quarries of stone on Clive Hill...the sheep walk called Clive Hill....and New House Farm [Yorton].



Rev. Dr. Laurence
Gardner. 1767-1844.

Matters however now took an interesting turn as John Gardner died in 1801 without issue and his closest surviving relative proved to be a cousin – the Reverend Laurence Panting [1767-1844]- qualifying through his parents: Josina Gardner and Rev. Steven Panting of Wellington. An unusual condition of Laurence's inheritance of Sansaw Estate was that he change his name by Royal Licence to Gardner: "in manifestation of his grateful and affectionate respect" a stipulation that perhaps came as a shock to his young wife, Martha Pemberton, whom he had married only two years earlier. A Doctor of Divinity, his ministry was

most extensive as he continued to hold positions in several London parishes besides closer responsibilities in Lichfield, Birmingham and Condover. Despite these numerous commitments, he also served as Vicar of Clive [1810-1844] and was interred alongside his wife in the Clive Vault. Such an active religious career proves most helpful in revealing that this extensive estate of farmland and quarries was managed through a collection of tenant farmers, labourers and quarrymen whose livelihoods depended upon regular employment by their local Squire. Also evident was Laurence's pastoral concern for the education of his parishioners in his rental of Stone Grange from 1828 to 1841 for £4,4s. per annum.



Robert Gardner.
1804 - 1880.

Once more the problem of inheritance arose, due to a childless marriage and the death of his brothers, which resulted in Robert Panting [1804-1880] – eldest son of Thomas – taking over the Estate in 1844 once he too had agreed to the obligatory change of surname. A solicitor in the family's legal practice in Shrewsbury and later a Justice of the Peace, Robert had made a most judicious marriage [1828] to Jane Eliza Kynnersley, thus inheriting Leighton Hall where all seven of their children were born. Herein lay a major problem for Sansaw Estate and Clive

village, as initially they were forced to rely upon a non-resident landowner. The occasion of the Gardner family's eventual decision to reside at Sansaw in June 1860 was therefore "hailed as a matter of joy and felicitation by every class" with band-led processions, bell ringing and even canon fire accompanying a reception for local dignitaries at the Hall followed by a larger celebration for between 500 to 600 villagers on the Hill. The event was described in the local paper "as one of the pleasantest which has ever taken place at the Clive."

The euphoric nature of this reception did reflect a more practical sentiment as reflected in the welcoming speeches which hoped: "that this neighborhood will henceforth be permitted to profit by your residence in it." This expectation was soon realized two years later when Robert gifted land in Grinshill for the construction of a village school, and tellingly an act which

quite specifically targeted “a school for the education of children and adults; or children only of the laboring, manufacturing and other poorer classes of the Parish.” A philanthropic and long-term concern for local villagers again became manifest in the early 1870s not only by donating an extensive section of his land, but additionally contributing £222.16s.61/2d to the funding of Clive School. His second son, Robert Junior, further served as Chairman of the School Committee.

The succession to the Estate by Robert’s eldest son, Thomas Kynnersley Gardner in 1880, might have promised a continuation of this family’s generous patronage, but these hopes were soon dashed due to Thomas having accrued substantial debts from 1868 onwards and even being cut out of his father’s will. A lengthy courtroom battle of Dickensian proportions then ensued, although in the short-term Thomas pointedly returned to the original Kynnersley surname of his mother – this being his third change of name! Finally, the Sansaw Estate was sold in 1882 to James Jenkinson Bibby of Hardwicke Grange thus bringing to an end the sustained involvement of the Gardner family in the historic development of our village stretching from the reign of James 1 through until Queen Victoria’s time.

(Our sincere thanks to John Pemberton for sharing the detailed research that he has undertaken on this family history).

The Clive & Grinshill History Group

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(01743) 872477. Email: bryan.bishop@talktalk.net

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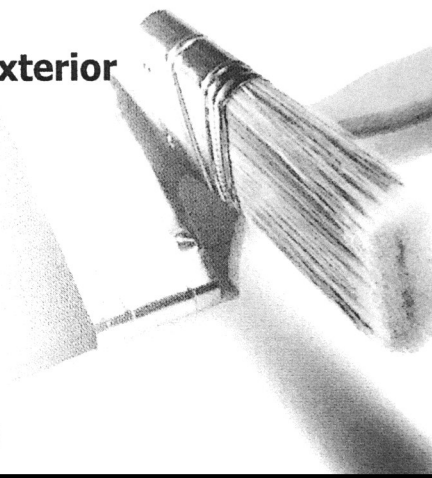
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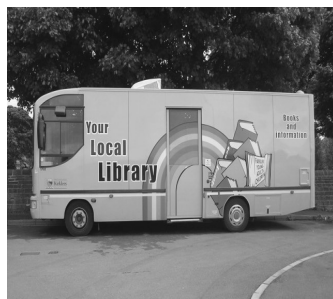


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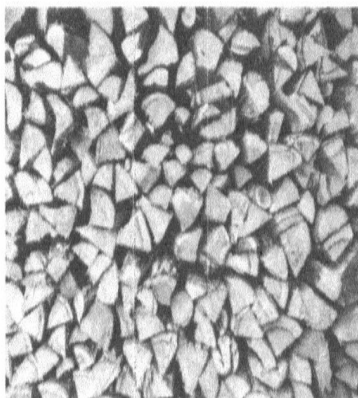
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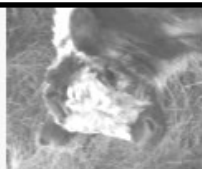
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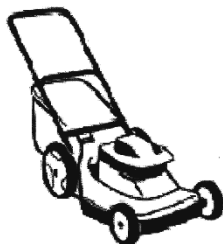
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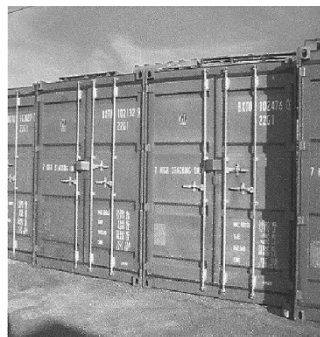
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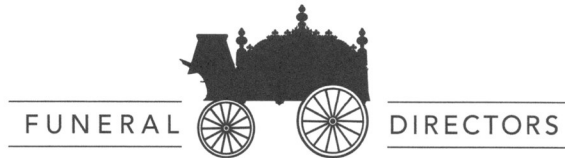
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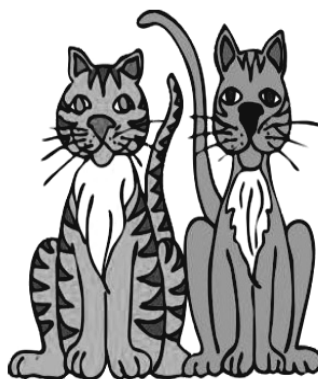
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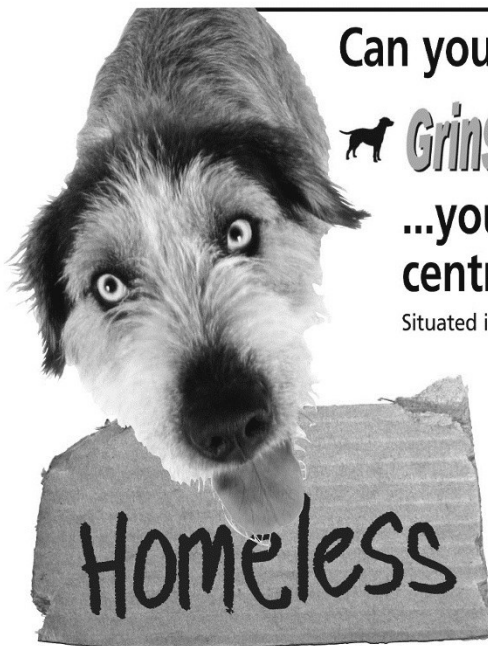
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However, I'm sure many of us remember when it was the humble turnip that lit up 31 October and, to my mind at least, I think they look far more gruesome.

I know that a lot of people bemoan the fact that turnips have been replaced by an American fashion but the irony is that these are in fact an Irish and Scottish invention.

These emigrants to the US took with them the tradition of Jack O' Lantern, a man who tried to outsmart the devil and was left wandering in the darkness, neither in heaven nor hell, with only a humble turnip to light his way.

Once they got there they were keen to continue their tradition but soon cottoned on to the fact that a pumpkin is a lot easier to carve than a turnip and so they adapted that as their choice of decoration.

Although it took a while, this new slant on Hallowe'en eventually came back to the UK making everyone's life a little easier.

Some of us are even lazier and have a ceramic pumpkin which can be reused every year and avoids cut fingers as well. Ours will be on display as usual this year and it's a good way of letting people know that it's OK to call for Trick or Treat.

Leaving pumpkins out after Hallowe'en or putting them in the woods is not recommended by wildlife organisations; apart from the fact that they could attract rats and other vermin, they can cause illness in animals such as hedgehogs and some birds and they may also have decorations, including candles, which will harm animals if eaten. However, chickens love them and so do pet rabbits (in small amounts) so if you

know someone who keeps either then you could offer yours.



Steve Varga