

Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton upon Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey

September 2014



Fun at the Shelsleys' fete

In this edition

- ✿ Shelsleys' Fete photo roundup
- ✿ Clifton netball triumph
- ✿ Latest housing news for Clifton



www.temetriangle.net

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Dependent on voluntary donations



Beryl Robson welcomes visitors to the show

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If you or your organisation would like to sponsor Teme Triangle please contact Andrew Brazier. The cost of TT is £7 per household per year. Donations are encouraged, to Alden's Farm, Barbers Lane, Martley, Worcester WR6 6QD (cheques made payable to Teme Triangle Community Magazine)

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Front Cover: Lily Hutton and faithful friend at the Shelsleys' Fete and Dog Show

THOUSANDS RAISED FOR CHURCH AT SHELSLEYS FETE

The sun shone on more than 500 visitors to the Shelsley's Fete and Fun Dog Show which has raised more than £3,800 for All Saints' Church.

Organisers say they were delighted by the turn-out and the widespread praise for the event which was last held in the Shelsleys four years ago. "It was wonderful to see so many people of all ages really enjoying themselves after such a lot of hard work planning and preparing for the Fete by such a small group of volunteers," said Andy Griffie, chair of the organising committee.

The event, which was held at Little Blakes, home of the Marlar family, included a Fun Dog Show which attracted a very large number of entries. "We were truly astonished by the demand," said organiser Patricia Marlar. Local vet Jim Hemming had his work cut out as he put 91 different dogs and their owners through their paces. "There were 288 separate entries," reports Patricia, "and no less than 36 different entries for the 'prettiest bitch' category!"

The car park was full as visitors from the Teme Valley and neighbouring villages enjoyed the wide range of attractions on offer including stalls, games and face-painting organised by Louise Hutton, BBQ and teas masterminded by Milly Patton and Bridget Francis and the plant stall, regional produce stall, book stall, and Mel Williams's bric-a-brac stall which all did a roaring trade. The good weather also meant a constant flow of visitors to the beer tent which resulted in at least one beer barrel running dry.

Trade was equally brisk at the tombola stall run by Ian and Fiona Jones. "It was amazing," the pair said. "We had nearly 100 great prizes donated by people but the table was bare after just an hour and a half.

Committee treasurer, Andrew Brazier has been counting the pennies ever since and hopes that this year's total will be boosted further by the raffle which raised £1,350 four years ago. The funds raised will go to the upkeep and maintenance of All Saints' Church and, amongst other things, are likely to be spent on repairing metal windows in the bell tower and fixing some of the eroding stonework.

Has Teme got Talent?

16 local acts charmed, amused and entertained us at the finale of the Fete in our Teme's Got Talent competition. We had instrumentalists, soloists, bands, a choir, prose, cross dressing and of course to see that Elvis was alive and well in the valley - well that was eye-popping! Topping off the night with Judas Priest guitarist Glen Tipton was surreal but it was the children, the families, the talented young people and one valley resident who likes to dress up in a white sequined jumpsuit who we have to thank for a special community time together. And thank you to our judges Maria Masters, music teacher from Chantry School, Mark Tibbutt from Longside Radio and Alexandra Winnington who together did a superb job of recognising the winner in all our acts - even Elvis! Iain Patton

Buy your raffle tickets

A ride in a balloon across the Teme Valley is one of the many prizes waiting to be snapped up in the All Saints' Church raffle. The tickets have already been on sale at the Hill Climb and the Shelsleys' Fete but many more need to be sold before the big draw at the harvest supper in early October.

The tickets cost just £1 and a great range of prizes has been put together by Jamie Marlar and the organisers. As well as the balloon ride they also include a plane ride over the valley, dinner for two at the Manor Arms, a spa experience at the Elms, a Goodman's goose, a signed Worcester shirt and match ticket, a tour of the House of Commons with Harriet Baldwin MP and a case of wine, courtesy of Addison Wines.

"People and local businesses have once again been very generous," says Jamie. It's been four years since our last big fund raising effort, so I hope that everyone in the community will buy the tickets so we can raise as much money for the church as possible." Jamie and the raffle organisers also hope 'community champions' will come forward and agree to underwrite a certain number of tickets and then sell them on to friends, family and neighbours. Tickets can be bought from any of the fete committee members listed below.

Jamie and Patricia Marlar 01886 812261 (james.marlar@ukgateway.net)
(patricia.marlar@tiscali.co.uk)

Andy Griffiee 01299-896430 (andy.griffiee@live.co.uk)

Bridget Francis 01886 812696 (bridgetf@martley.org)

Andrew Brazier 01886 887898 (andrew@thebraziers.co.uk)

Louise Hutton 01299 896 126.

Iain and Milly Patton (iainpatton@shelsleybank.org.uk)

CLIFTON ROVERS MARATHON RUN

Clifton Rovers football squad will be attempting a marathon distance run around the village on Sunday, 21st September, in a bid to raise much-needed funds for the club.

Supporters, friends and local residents will be invited to guess the time it takes the players to complete the distance. Tickets for the draw cost £1 and the person whose guess is closest to the actual time will win a £50 cash prize.

Draw tickets can be obtained from Mark Dayson (01886 812567) and other players or from the Lion Inn. The event starts at 1.30pm and a barbeque and other activities are planned at the Lion for spectators.

Clifton Rovers players are looking forward to another successful season in Division 3 of the Worcester Sunday League.

NO SUPERFAST BROADBAND FOR CLIFTON AND THE SHELSELEYS?

Latest news on the roll-out of superfast broadband in Worcestershire suggests that there are no plans to include the Shelsley Beauchamp exchange area (Clifton and the Shelsleys) in the foreseeable future, leaving hundreds of local businesses and residents with a 2mbps speed at best.

The Superfast Worcestershire website (www.superfastworcestershire.com) currently shows the Shelsley Beauchamp exchange as the only area in north-west Worcestershire with no date set for superfast broadband. All the surrounding areas – Upper Sapey, Eardiston, Great Witley, Wichenford and Knightwick – have been told they will be getting high speed broadband soon.

The news has been met with dismay in Clifton where the chairman of the school governors, Chris Hurley, has written to local MP Harriett Baldwin (who lives in the Shelsleys) and County Councillor Ken Pollock asking why there is “no prospect” of the Shelsley Beauchamp exchange getting superfast broadband.

Ken Pollock replied that the Worcestershire County Council Scrutiny panel will be examining BT at County Hall on Wednesday, September 17th, to review how the contract is working out. “We will not get answers on where will be covered and where not, but some idea of how they determine priorities might be forthcoming. The meeting starts at 2pm and is open to the public and you or others could make submissions on behalf of your communities. You need to give advanced warning but it might help.”

Local businesses still awaiting faster broadband include the Polperro Heritage Press whose managing editor, Jerry Johns, said, “It’s very frustrating to be told yet again that there is no immediate prospect of our broadband speed being increased when everyone else in the neighbouring exchange areas is getting preferential treatment.”

THE SHELSELEYS GARDENING CLUB

Wednesday, 3 September is the first meeting of the autumn when Celia Davis will give an illustrated talk on Bees and Plants. This should be a fascinating talk and will be followed by:

Wed. 8 October: Cliff Wood of Laylocks, giving a short talk and answering questions.

Wed. 5 November: Roger Umpleby: A year on Bredon

Wed. 3 December: return visit of Brian Draper

All meetings start with refreshments at 7.30pm and new members or guests are always welcome.

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CLIFTON LAMB WINS TOP PRIZE

A Texel lamb born in all the snow and ice of March 2013 has just won 1st prize in the Texel Yearling class and went on to win the Reserve Champion Texel Prize at the prestigious Burwarton Show. Burwarton show is much acclaimed in agricultural circles and competition is always very strong - this year being no exception.

The yearling lamb's name is ' **Timberyard Usher** ' and he has been bred by Jan & Ashley Jones of Clifton-on-Teme. Jan and Ashley have a small flock of pure bred pedigree Texel sheep in Hollybush Lane and this was their first time in the show ring. Lambing last spring was particularly difficult for them as drifts of snow lay four feet deep and both ewes and new born lambs needed constant care and attention throughout the dark winter nights in glacial temperatures. Back then, sleep was hard to come by and the nights were long. Preparation for the show ring entailed more hours of hard work with a now, large and heavy yearling ram lamb, unaccustomed to being led in a halter. This great success shows how their hard work has paid off.



RURAL REELS!

This month's film showing at **Clifton Village Hall** on **Saturday 27th September** is **American Hustle (15)** It is an American crime comedy drama starring Christian Bale and Jennifer Lawrence.

Doors open from **6.30pm** for a prompt **7pm** start. Tickets cost **£5**, interval refreshments will be available and there is free parking.

TEME VALLEY GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (TVGS)

We aim for top quality in our guest speakers and it is a surprise and delight that so many are prepared to come to our corner of Worcestershire and share their knowledge and enthusiasm for a particular geological topic often free of charge. We are therefore delighted to announce the first three events of our Autumn/Winter programme:

Monday, 22nd September - Andrew Bloodworth "The Secret Life of Your Mobile Phone". Monday, 27th October – Dr. Zalasiewicz "The Earth After Us" Monday, 17th November – a return visit from Professor David Siviter, "Chinese Cambrian."

The talks will all be held at Martley Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. Further details or any queries please visit our website or ring Harriet on 01886-888382

GOLF DAY SUCCESS

A Golf Day at Sapey Golf Club, organised mainly by Alyson Cox and Alice Timmis was enjoyed in June, despite some dubious weather, by 18 fourballs and raised £2,770 for All Saints Church funds. Thanks go to all who supported the venture in any way.

Johnny Crabbe

ART EXHIBITION AND SALE

Great Witley Art Group will be holding a one day exhibition and sale at The Village Hall, Great Witley, from 11am to 4 pm on Saturday, 11th. October. The group is a local, informal and friendly art group with members of all abilities who meet on Wednesday afternoons at Great Witley village hall.

As well as exhibiting their paintings some members will also be demonstrating how they work in various mediums. Everyone is invited to go along to view the paintings and to learn more about the group: new members are always welcome. Most of the paintings will be available for sale. Refreshments will be served all day and admission is free.

For further information please ring Lyn on 01886 812582

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Church Matters

with Charles Knowles



With my very generous birthday gift of a book token, I bought 'Music in the Castle of Heaven,' a portrait of J.S.Bach by John Clive Gardiner. Reading through it – slowly, I may add - one begins to appreciate the true meaning of genius. In Leipzig, Bach had to compose his wonderful music amidst the noisy and unruly boys of the Thomaschule. As well as teaching, he had to train them to be a choir, which is renowned to this day. Many times his score for a cantata would not be complete until the eve of its performance - imagine the frenzy.

Bach of course, is only one example of a genius, and we are bound to ask, 'What is the well-spring of genius?' There can only be one answer - it is a gift from God.

As it happens, my recent reading in church was from Exodus, and concerned Moses. The Israelites eventually come to Mt. Sinai. Moses had climbed at God's command, and been up there for forty days and nights. We have to wonder what he lived on... He came down from the mountain having been given tasks that could only be achieved by genius, as just defined. He had to build a tabernacle and sanctuary using unbelievable amounts of gold, jewels and other rare and beautiful substances. Where could these be found in the wilderness? Some of his people had gold, and others jewels, but most of the materials would have to be miraculously acquired, so that Moses' genius could put them to use as commanded.

Separated by thousands of years we must think of Bach's musical skill and Moses' ingenuity as miraculous-gifts from God.

'Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven'. Matthew 5v16

THE SUMNERS

John Sumner's prostate operation is (we trust) scheduled for the 2nd half of September. He will then be out of action for up to 3 months depending on the severity of the surgery and his rate of recovery. Medical advice is that it is a major operation.

For this time Alice will need to be withdrawing from most of her parish tasks too.

However, we plan to keep things running as normally as possible. With help from church members, from well wishing parishioners and from other ministers in the West Worcestershire Rural Team, we think we have got things mostly covered.

Alice and John would really like to thank everybody who has shown kindness and support at this time.

LOWER SAPEY NEWS by Marion West

The First World War in Lower Sapey exhibition had a successful opening on Sunday, 3rd August. Many interested visitors enjoyed the displays followed by tea and cakes (and lots of discussion!) This exhibition came about solely through the research expertise of Mo Padfield, with particular help from John and Claire Padfield and Valerie Edwards. We owe our thanks to that very efficient team. We expect the displays to continue through Remembrance Sunday and in the meanwhile we welcome visitors at any time (St Bartholomew's Church in Harpley is always open) and we love to read the comments in the visitors' book.



The next event at Lower Sapey will be the BIG BREAKFAST on Saturday, 20th September. There will be a raffle and treasure hunt. Everyone is welcome and tickets are available from Candy Connolly
Cconnolly111@gmail.com Do come and enjoy fantastic food and fun!

Church care in September:

FLOWERS for 7th and 14th will be taken care of by Margaret Griffiths and for the 21st and 28th by Bettie Nicholls.

CLEANING for September is in the charge of Margaret Griffiths.

Looking ahead - Harvest Festival will be on 26th October with David Sherwin officiating.

Ladies Bible Study will be at 2pm on Tuesday, 9th September with Marion West.

On Wednesday, 10th September will be the next big Churchyard clear-up starting at 6pm if possible, as the nights are drawing in!

Please remember that Holy Communion on the third Sunday will normally now be at 10.30am (by popular request).

TAI CHI

If you are interested in improving your health and well being then perhaps you will wish to know that Tai chi classes will start at Great Witley village hall on Mondays, 7-8pm from 15th September. The classes are suitable for beginners and those wishing to build on experience.

For further details and to register your interest tel. 01905 358967 or contact caroldawson05@gmail.com.

NETBALL TRIUMPH

Well done to the Clifton-upon-Teme Primary school netball team for winning 6 out of 8 netball matches in the Worcester Primary school netball league in 2013/14. Some of the schools that they played against were large, Worcester schools with many more children to select from, so the girls did amazingly to win against them.

Coach Jo Massey from Teme Valley netball club and a parent at the school said "This was the first year that the school has participated in the league and after a tentative

first match, the girls' confidence grew with each match. I am thrilled with how they have progressed in such a small period of time. They had some tough matches, and the school is very proud of them". Clifton girls look forward to taking part in the netball league again in 2014/15.



top left clockwise: Pippa Green, Rebecca Francis, Kaylee Fay, Evie Cawley, Ellie Brown, Isobel Dipple and Sadie Gatfield (also in team Daisy Ling)

LOCAL ARTIST CELEBRATED

The exhibition of work by Elaine Dennis, the local artist who lived at Stanford on Teme until her death in 2009, will take place in Stanford village hall over the weekend of the 13th and 14th of September between 10am and 4pm.

The exhibition is being organized by two admirers of her work, Maggie Wood and Gill Churchill, to celebrate her work. Elaine undertook many commissions, many of them of much loved animals, and she was known for her ability to somehow capture the spirit of her subjects. Admission is free and refreshments will be available.

For further information contact either Maggie Wood on 01544 260848 or 07952 972746; e-mail maggiewood99@hotmail.com or Gill Churchill on 01886 853240 or 07779 009876; e-mail egchurchill@yahoo.co.uk



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WINE TIME

Rude Wines will be presenting a wine tasting evening at Hanley Village Hall on Saturday, 6th September 2014 at 7.30pm. Learn the difference between Grenache, Muscadet, or Cinsault as opposed to red/white or rose.

The evening will include several reds, whites and rose wines to try, with nibbles to enhance/compliment or change the taste of the grape.

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CLIFTON HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Steps Farm

Revised plans for a total of 20 houses on land opposite Steps Farm, Clifton, are being submitted to Malvern Hills planners by Bidwells on behalf of Brockhill (Winnington) Estates. A special meeting of Clifton Parish Council was held on 17th July at which parish councillors voted unanimously not to support the new plans.

The original proposal for 15 houses on the same site has also been the subject of a planning appeal against the refusal by Malvern Hills planners to allow it. The Inspector's decision is expected to be announced shortly.

Hope Lane

Miller Homes, the developer given the go-ahead for 30 new houses in Hope Lane, Clifton, has submitted the following new street names for the development to Malvern Hills District Council: Honeysuckle Avenue and Roseleaf Drive. Clifton Parish Council has been asked to comment.

CLIFTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN LATEST

A total of 145 Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires have been returned by Clifton parishioners following the distribution in June. These are now being processed and analysed prior to the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group this month. "This is a very encouraging response, representing nearly 50% of the households in the parish," said Helen Winer, chairman of the Steering Group. "I'm very grateful to everyone who took the trouble to complete their questionnaire and particularly to the volunteers who assisted with the distribution."

CLIFTON UPON TEME PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 JULY AT THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30PM

Present: Cllr B Pound (Chairman), Cllr C Balch, Cllr B Bradley, Cllr R Crump, Cllr M Newman, Cllr N Parkinson & Cllr H Winer. Also in Attendance: District Councillor Mrs G Farmer, Mrs J Dale (Clerk) and 9 members of the public.

Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from County Councillor K Pollock.

Public Question Time: Replacement village sign is on order. The footpath officer will be appointed this evening. Some tree work is necessary. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on June 5th were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting.

District Councillor Report: Cllr Farmer reported that MHDC is planning to share a Chief Executive with Wychavon and also to share other management which will result in a lower cost base. The CE hopes to be in place by October. Cllr Farmer kindly offered to make a financial contribution from her Ward Grant for the purchase of a shared jetter.

Planning: 13/00161/FUL - Councillors were asked to keep a watch on the conditions attached to the Decision notice and report any contraventions to the Clerk or MHDC. 13/01153/FUL- Land opposite Steps Farm Appeal lodged - noted 14/00265/HOU -The Manor House. Application Approved – noted.

Correspondence:

Email from C Hurley about spare bin: After discussion it was agreed to place this in Manor Road. WCCC - Pound Lane road closure for carriageway patching works. 7 weeks from 1st August – noted. Email from Health Check Service. It was agreed to request this service for 1 day in the Village Hall. Rural Housing Survey - Cllr Pound to complete on behalf of Council. MHDC- re Parish Conference 23.10.14 – noted; CAB-Community Champion -to be placed on notice boards
WCALC Briefing Insurance – noted; CAB-AGM-noted.

Parish Path Warden: Mr John that he is happy to take on this role. CHR Pounr proposed, seconded by Cllr Bradley that Council appoint Mr Bowden. All in Bowden has confirmed favour. A letter of thanks to be sent to Mr Ray Fletcher with a small token of appreciation for his many years of service.

Progress Reports: Hollybush Lane Landslip. Cllr Crump confirmed that some willows will be planted. Website - Ongoing - after discussion it was agreed that no personal statements would be on the site and contact details would be via the clerk. Dog fouling on playing field - Additional signage in place - ongoing. Should anyone see anyone exercising their dog on the playing fields please point out that it is not allowed. Shared Jetter - Awaiting approvals from other parishes.

Incompleted items 2013-2014

Ham Bridge visibility. Cllr Bradley reported that some work had been carried out with more to follow ongoing.

The Pound – ongoing; Pound Lane drainage - work being carried out in August

Section 106 Funds – ongoing; Community Assets - ongoing

Woodmanton Corner hedge - clerk to contact WCC

Finance: Payments as circulated on schedule were agreed and cheques signed accordingly. The external auditors report was read and noted. Financial Regulations to be amended by Cllr Pound, Winer and clerk and submitted to next meeting for consideration.

Portable VAS: It was agreed unanimously to contribute £40 towards the replacement of the batteries. **Trees:** Various trees in the village require inspection and probably maintenance work. Clerk to contact A Draper and arrange inspection and get estimate.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group: Cllr Winer reported that 139 questionnaires had been returned to date. Jerry Johns is attending a WCALC networking event. Next meeting will be held 3rd week September.

Clerk's report on urgent decisions: Country Trust using the pavilion on ist/2nd July.

Lengthsman's duties: Tidy grass around signs. Clear grills as appropriate.

Councillors' Reports: Cllr Winer reported briefly on the training day on Finance she had attended with the clerk.

Cllr Parkinson requested that the "SLOW" signs on the road at bottom of Clifton Hill be re-painted.

Next Meeting: After discussion it was agreed that no meeting will be held in August. Next meeting 4th September in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

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Draft Abbreviated Minutes of The Shelsleys Parish Council Meeting held on July 8th 2014

Present. Present: Mr C Roberts J Stinton, W Sutherland, B Hart, T Taylor and D Styles. Councillor Dr Pollock, 6 members of the public and the Clerk (Mrs J Speyer).

Apologies. A Champion, Mrs H Webb and District Councillor Farmer.

Declaration of Interest: None. **Co-option of a new Councillor for Shelsley Beauchamp:** There were two applications. Mr David Bates was co –opted after a show of hands.

Minutes: The minutes for May 6th 2014 were approved as a true record and signed.

Public Question Time: The Chairperson and members of the Social Club voiced their disquiet over the recently held AGM of the Village Hall Management Committee and its decision to give notice to and close the Social Club. The Chairman noted the points raised and will report these to the VHMC. **Highways, Footpaths and Lengthsman:** There was no Lengthsman’s report or worksheets to inspect. Clerk to await time sheets before payment is made. **Progress report at Leys.** The work to the drain and culvert has not yet been done by WCC. **Drain in Pard House Lane ref 6259878.** This has been reported to WCC. In view of its urgent nature Dr Pollock will contact Highways Department.

Information regarding the **Vehicle Activation Sign** at Stanford Bridge. Number of vehicles exceeding the 40mph speed limit was 2469 by Lane’s and 2145 on the post by the turn to The Bridge.

Batteries for VAS to discuss purchase of batteries. Contribution of payment for these batteries shared between the parishes was deferred until further information received.

The Parish Council upheld its decision made last year not to share with other parishes in the purchase of a **jetter** (for highway drains).

Ham Bridge. The boundary hedge and undergrowth has recently been cut back. It was suggested that the owner be written to and thanked. **County Councillor’s report:** Dr Pollock gave a verbal report.

Planning: There were no outstanding planning applications to discuss MHDC decisions.

14/00469/FUL Wilderness Cottage. Approved.

14/00588/FUL Stirt Farm. Approved.

17/00180/CLE Holiday Chalet at Os 7328 6498 Kingswood. Refused.

Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb: Councillor Hart agreed to liaise with the Midland Automobile Club on behalf of the Parish Council.

Safer Roads Partnership has been contacted and will report to the Parish Council after their meeting this month.

Clerk’s report on urgent decisions. 14/00588/FUL Stirt Farm. Sub-division of main dwelling. Parish Council recommended approval.

Cheque for J Crabbe £60.00

Finance: All invoices paid including Clerk’s quarterly salary and expenses and the Lengthsman’s invoice. Invoices totalled £1056.10 Monies received. WCC £160.00

County Association of Local Councils. All information has been circulated by email.

Councillors’ Reports and items for future agenda. There is a Village Hall Management Committee meeting on July 14th 2014. Councillors Hart and Stinton to attend.

Trees and overgrown hedgerow causing visibility problems on the highway before and after the quarry on the left hand side going uphill. Clerk and Lengthsman to investigate.

Date of next Parish Council meetings: September 9th at 7pm

The meeting concluded at 8.15pm.

To view the minutes and agenda online go to The Shelsleys on the WCC website. www.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/

Jan Speyer Parish Clerk.

TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE

September is the time of mists and mellow fruitfulness, nowhere better displayed than here in our own Teme Valley. Ripening apples tint red among the tree foliage, and damsons, which are so familiar here, quietly flourishing in almost every hedgerow, darken and acquire that lovely soft bloom on their blue-black skins.

Worcestershire has long been a fruit-growing county. The twelfth-century writer William of Malmesbury described Worcestershire as “productive of fruit”. He continued, “..you may see the highway clothed with trees that produce apples, not by the grafter’s hand, but by the nature of the ground itself...” In 1665 John Rea, a plantsman and author from Kinlet, made a list of apples including one called the Angels Bit, “much esteemed in Worcestershire.” At the same time, a favourite apple grown in the locality was the Golden Pippin. It was used as a dessert fruit, cooking apple and cider variety. Popular for jelly, it was also dried and made into preserves for the winter.

Other varieties followed, with Worcester Pearmain and William Crump developed in our county, at Worcester and Masdresfield respectively. With the improving transport system of the nineteenth century and the rapid growth of industrial towns, Worcestershire produced fruit for Birmingham and Manchester. Writing of Manchester in her novel of the 1860’s, “Wives and Daughters”, Mrs Gaskell describes the Eardiston Pippin, so Worcestershire’s apple-growing expertise even received a literary acknowledgement!

Today our apple orchards are shorter and aimed at the cider-maker. However many old standard trees, apples and cherries mainly, remain. In 1955 Worcestershire produced 8% of England’s cherry crop, but now our old cherry orchards are havens for wildlife rather than commercial enterprises.

The Teme Valley Wildlife Group has undertaken a number of orchard surveys, looking for a beetle called the Noble Chafer. We’ve found it, too! More obvious inhabitants of old orchards are woodpeckers. We’ve just had a nest of green woodpeckers in one of our old cherry trees, and I’ve never heard such a racket as these birds can make! They’ve now successfully fledged and taken off to make a noise elsewhere. Their call is technically called a yaffle, but lately I’ve had some other words to describe it! Smaller birds such as tits, finches, tree-creepers and blackcaps nest in orchards, and bats reuse old woodpecker holes for their roosts. Small mammals such as mice, shrews and even stoats and weasels scurry in the orchard floor. Fallen fruit is enjoyed by many creatures. Red Admiral butterflies particularly enjoy pears, and fieldfares and redwings peck fallen apples, carefully leaving behind the core and skin.

Well that’s all for mellow fruitfulness, so I’d better say a few words about mists. Here in the valley wreathes of mist threading along the valley floor rise up the wooded flanks as the day progresses. They are caused by colder nights

leaving a heavy dew which evaporates as the morning sun warms it. Just the day for hop-picking. See you there!

The next indoor meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group is on Thursday September 11th when we welcome Dr Joy Rooney talking on the ecology of Hartlebury Common. The meeting is at Rochford Village Hall 7:30pm and as always it is just £2 on the door where everybody is most welcome.

For up-to-date information on what wildlife is being seen in the area, or to give us your sightings, visit us at www.temevalleywildlife.com. The group normally holds a meeting on the second Thursday of the month. All are very welcome. Tel. 01584 781500 or email dannyarnold@waterwide.com

Our travelling Teme Triangle Editor Judie Welsh updates us on her latest adventures.



THE MORE YOU LEARN THE LESS YOU KNOW

We have made it back to France after several exhausting months of travel. It was certainly not a holiday but what an adventure?

Across Europe and through the Balkans we lost count of the boats, trains and kilometres, not to mention assorted beds, although Chris reckoned it was over 30 beds of very variable quality!

We learned plenty too. About politics, ancient history, culture and religion and spent many happy evenings filling the gaps in our knowledge thanks to Mr Google.

A visit to the ancient city of Butrint, one of many precious and fascinating places we visited in Albania, exploring Bronze age settlements in central Sardinia and attending a 'relic' service in a Serbian monastery in Kosovo during the elections there last May - watched by UN peacekeeping soldiers - were just some of our unplanned adventures.

We met some delightful people and met up with old friends all over. Some we had arranged to see whilst others were unexpected and occasionally tearful reunions.

In July we came back to the south of France and sizzled in temperatures hovering around 35. Undaunted we played our 'dernier' pentanque match, an 'au revoir' ping pong tournament (and were given souvenir bats) and were invited to drinks with the Mayor on Bastille Day- now that was exciting! And we attended a new sort of village fete - one where they release bulls into the High Street! Despite all that Chris managed to find time for a very hot game of golf on his birthday.

It was perhaps a joke at our expense that we were invited to join an 'end of the season' walk in our adopted village. We set off at 9pm when the temperature was cooler (not much) and hiked up and down the hills until 2am., stopping to clamber down into a (very dark) grotto, climb up to admire the, not very clear, view from a hilltop vantage point and take some very dark photos!

As the oldest by some margin we did at least get an honorary mention in dispatches for making it to the end!

Now we are in Maisons Lafitte, a small town in Ile de France on the west of Paris, that is famous for flat racing. The French have gone on holiday, mostly to the south....there was an estimated 1000 km of traffic jams last weekend as the exodus began...and the north is deserted, except for Chinese who are busy colonising urban France.

The TV news each evening brings endless reports from the seaside, interviewing doctors, psychiatrists and education experts on the absolute necessity for everyone to have a month on holiday in the summer. Economic crisis - what economic crisis? This is France!

We are now looking forward to getting home in the Autumn and reflecting on our year, although I think we may have more questions than answers.Thank goodness for Mr. Google.

Judie

CALENDAR

September

- 3 The Shelsleys Gardening Club. VH. 7.30p.m.
- 6 Coffee morning for Clifton Rovers, 26 The Village, Clifton 10am-12noon
- 9 Shelsleys Parish Council meeting, VH 7pm
- 13-14 Exhibition of Elaine Dennis art, Stanford VH 10am-4pm
- 21 Clifton Rovers marathon run, Lion Inn 1.30pm
- 27 Clifton Rural Reels: American Hustle VH 7pm

October

- 2 Clifton Parish Council meeting, VH 7.30pm
- 4 Clifton Friendship Club coffee morning, 26 The Village 10.30am-12noon
- 25 Clifton Rural Reels: 12 Years A Slave VH 7pm

November

- 1 Clifton WI Great Bake Off: VH
- 6 Clifton Parish Council meeting, VH 7.30pm
- 10 Lion Inn Quiz (Friendship Club), Clifton 8pm
- 11 Shelsleys Parish Council meeting VH 7pm

Services for SEPTEMBER

day	month	Lower Sapey (Harpley)	Clifton	Shelsley Beauchamp	Shelsley Walsh
1st	Monday		10.30 Push-Chair Praise		
7th	2013 September	10.30 am Morning Prayer Rev John Sumner	8.00 am Holy Communion Rev John Sumner 10:00 am Morning Prayer Pat Snelling	11:00 am Valley Praise Alice Sumner	
14th.	Trinity 13 Holy Cross Day	10.30 am Methodist Service	10.00 am Holy Communion Rev John Sumner		6.30 pm Evening Prayer Pat Snelling
21st.	14th after Trinity St Matthew	10.30 am <i>Circle Service</i>	8.00 am Holy Communion Rev. Adrian Graesser 10.00 am Family Service	11:00 am Celtic-style Service	
17th	Wednesday		7.30 pm Time for TIME OUT		
28th	Trinity 15	10.30 am Circle Service Rev. Richard Tweedy	Holy Communion by Extension (Pat Snelling) 6.30pm Evening Prayer Barbara Seeley	12 noon Baptism Rev David Sherwin	8.00 am Holy Communion Rev Richard Tweedy
5th.	October Trinity 16	10.30 am Morning Prayer Pat Snelling	8.00 am Holy Communion Rev David Sherwin 10.00 am Morning Prayer <i>Mark Wild</i>	5.30pm Harvest Festival Des Robson	
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Churchwardens					
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