

October 2020

Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton upon Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



New tenants at The Lion

In this edition

- ✿ **The Lion Inn under new management**
 - ✿ **Shelsley resident breaks into the fashion market**
 - ✿ **New Silver and glass shop at Mill Farm**
 - ✿ **New Clifton Nursery**
 - ✿ **Details of Church services**
 - ✿ **Parish Council minutes**
-

Visit the website



www.temetriangle.net

Free to Residents



Local residents enjoying a takeaway pizza whilst watching the sunset at the Shelsley Social Club.

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Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editorial team. Teme Triangle is not responsible for goods and services advertised. Contributions may be edited at the discretion of the editor.

Our front cover photo shows:

Local residents Simon and Andrea Baxter who have recently taken over the lease of The Lion Inn in Clifton.

WELCOME to the October 2020 edition of the Teme Triangle.

As I put the finishing touches to this edition, it appears that we have unfortunately well and truly had the last day of summer. Whilst the sky is still a beautiful bright blue, the temperature has dropped considerably and I notice that even the trees are on the turn already.

It is hard not to get gloomy at the thought of Winter coming, particularly after the year that we have all had! But it is more important than ever to remain positive and enjoy every moment and everything that is around us, which is particularly easy to do in our special valley. Personally I love Autumn and the stunning colours that it brings and I look forward to this next chapter of the year commencing.

Indeed this edition of the Teme Triangle celebrates many 'next chapters' and 'new ventures' for our local residents and businesses. Let's all show them as much support as we can....

LION INN RE-OPENS

The Lion Inn in Clifton re-opens on Thursday 1st October, under new tenants - local residents Andrea and Simon Baxter, after a six month closure.

The couple, who have lived in the village for the past three years, plan to offer breakfast, bar snacks and light lunches, plus evening meals on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and also Sunday lunch.

"When we found out the Lion was up for lease we jumped at the opportunity," said Simon. "Our aim is to make the Lion the hub of the village. We are passionate about using local produce and local businesses."

Owner John Fletcher said he had every confidence that Simon and Andrea would make a success of the Lion. "But they depend on you, our customers, to use it and make the business work. I simply ask everyone to come and see what they have in store".

LOCAL RESIDENT PUTS SHELSLEY ON THE FASHION MAP

Former Teme Valley resident Ella Griffie has embarked on a new creative venture designing and making her own clothing line in Cornwall.

Ella, 26, whose parents Andy and Helen Griffiee still live in Shelsley Kings, studied fashion design at Falmouth University and honed her skills working for Cornish clothing company Seasalt.

Ella explained the concept behind her new business. “Having borrowed more than my fair share of my father’s shirts, an idea started to form. The comfort and familiarity of these oversized shirts couldn’t be paralleled. I adore the ritual of rolling my sleeves up and the security of a much-loved item. Gorgeously worn in and sturdy, these shirts became a reliable friend.”

She added, “This collection is an exploration of family and familiarity. The garments are designed to be worn by me and you, and then taken by the next generation searching for their piece of home to carry with them.”

“My garments are made from natural materials, and cut and sewn by me from start to finish in my Cornish studio. The buttons are Cornish through and through - made from recycled nylon sourced from fishing nets hauled in off the coast and 3D printed into beautiful, strong buttons.”

Ella’s clothing line includes shirts and rugby shirts for men and women, including one design named after her home village – the Shelsley Button Down Shirt.

Ella takes commissions and collaborates with the customer on materials, colours and fit. Why not commission a shirt as a gift for Christmas or treat yourself!

Find out more on her website: www.ellagriffiee.co.uk.
Be inspired by her Instagram at: [ellagriffiee_studio](https://www.instagram.com/ellagriffiee_studio).
Or email her at: ellagriffiee_studio@outlook.com.



Ella Griffiee, Shelsley founder of 'Ella Griffiee Studio' fashions.

MARIA ANNE SILVER DESIGNS – MILL FARM RETAIL

Maria has been attending silver-smithing courses as a hobby for many years and has now embarked on the journey of moving a much-loved hobby in to building a small business.

She designs and makes Studio-Jewellery predominantly from Silver. Her designs are a mix of both traditional and contemporary with all relevant pieces hallmarked by Birmingham Assay office.

Maria particularly likes the freedom that making studio jewellery allows both in technique and for the opportunity to make more individual pieces and develop her own style.

Living and growing up locally in Hanley Childe, Maria has a natural affiliation with nature and takes her inspiration from her surroundings.

She is now part of the community of small businesses at Mill Farm Retail in Stanford Bridge. Maria works from her Studio/Shop and also supports other artisans by stocking Original Artwork and Handmade glass.

Maria comments: “Covid has been a difficult time for many businesses but it has made me more determined than ever to continue. The positive encouragement and community support and understanding has been really heart-warming”.

You can contact Maria on info@masilverdesigns.co.uk and view her opening times at www.masilverdesigns.co.uk.



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Notice of Annual General Meeting at 10.30 a.m. on Tuesday 13th October 2020 at Nora Parsons Day Centre, Venn Lane, Wichenford, WR6 6AY.

Chairman: Revd Canon David Sherwin

Agenda

1. Chairman's welcome and received apologies for absence
2. Minutes of AGM 22nd May 2019
3. Matters arising from minutes
4. Secretary's report for 2019/2020
5. Treasurer's report – financial report, accounts and adoption
6. Election of Committee members
7. Motions/Proposals from the meeting
8. Any Other Business

All interested parties are welcome to attend but in view of Covid 19 it would be helpful to have notice of your attendance so that the relevant rules and regulations at the time can be observed.

Chair: Revd Canon David Sherwin, The Rectory, Martley, Worcs, WR6 6QA.

Secretary: Pamela Morgan, Tega, The Common, Abberley, Worcs, WR6 6AY. Tel: 01299 896 656.

Treasurer: Eileen Richmond, The Nuthatch, 129 Old Road, Bromyard, HR7 4AX.

CLIFTON SCOUTS FUNDRAISING VIRTUAL THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE

Clifton-on-Teme Scouts is a newly formed Scout Group that has been running for just over a year. Having built up a great group with many members and still growing, they would like to purchase the camping equipment they need to go out and enjoy the great outdoors. To raise the money they plan to complete the Three Peaks Challenge.

“Unfortunately, due to the current situation, we are unable to climb the actual mountains as a group so we have challenged the children to the Three Peaks At Home challenge,” says Helen Wain.

“Each young person will choose a mountain from the three largest peaks in the UK; they will work out the height in metres and then climb local hills or their stairs to the equivalent height of the mountain. We will be posting the progress of this on our website and on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cliftonscouts/>, so you can click the links and see how we are getting on.

If you are able to donate and support us we’d be very grateful, and a big thank you to everyone who has helped us to raise half of our total already. Thank you for your support and encouragement from all of the Scouts.”

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/cliftonontemescouts>

BOOST FOR TEME TRIANGLE FUNDS

The Teme Triangle Committee would like to express their thanks to the following for their recent financial contributions to the on-going production of the magazine:

Clifton Parish Council

Clifton Parish Councillors agreed to allocate £500 towards the cost of producing Teme Triangle at their September meeting.

Caroline Palethorpe

Caroline is kindly making a donation as part of her role as MHDC Councillor for the Teme Valley Ward.

Shelsley Parish Council

Shelsley Parish Councillors agreed to allocate £200 towards the cost of producing Teme Triangle at their September meeting.

Private Donations

Each year we receive a number of private donations, none of which who wish to be named, but to whom we are extremely grateful.

“These are very welcome and generous gestures of support, which ensure the viability of our monthly publication,” said Andrew Brazier, the Teme Triangle’s finance officer.

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PIZZA, MUSIC, BINGO AND RACING AT SHELSLEY SOCIAL CLUB

The recently refurbished Shelsleys Social Club, located in the Village Hall building, is running a twice-weekly pizza night, fortnightly Bingo sessions, virtual horse racing evenings and live music as part of an active entertainment plan in the heart of the parish.

Bar Manager Jessica Skipp confirmed: "The new-look Social Club is open to all every Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and we've got lots of regular activities and special events each week for everyone to enjoy!"

Every Wednesday and Friday evening from 6-9pm the Classic Pizza Company is onsite, cooking delicious, wood-fired thick or thin crust pizzas to eat in or take away (call 01886 812 121 to pre-order). Every other Saturday locals can also try their luck at Bingo and a raffle, with eyes down at 7.30pm.

"We've also got virtual on-screen horse racing nights and live music coming up," continued Jessica. "Plus we run walks, talks and 'bushcraft survival' days, which have been very popular."

VHMC vice chairman Dave Bates said: "The Hall and Club are working together to bring Northern Soul to the hall soon. Everything is being done with social distancing in mind and using our extensive outside space."

Follow the Facebook page @Theshelsleysocialclub for details of the Social Club's latest events. Dogs and horse riders etc are welcome.



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The advertisement features a background image of a pizza being cooked in a wood-fired oven. It includes the Instagram and Facebook logos, and the text 'Takeaway Available' and '01886 812121'.

Parish Councillor vacancy for Shelsley Beauchamp

A vacancy has arisen to represent the parish of Shelsley Beauchamp. The Parish Council hopes to co-opt a new member at the meeting on November 10th 2020.

The Shelsleys Parish Council meets six times a year to discuss & decide local issues. Applicants do not necessarily have to live within the parish but must be within three miles of the parish boundary. The Clerk can give more details on eligibility.

If you are interested and would like more information or an application form please contact Jan Speyer 01886 812 444,
email shelsleyspc@gmail.com.

Closing date is November 9th 2020.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB COFFEE MORNING

The Clifton Friendship Club will be holding a coffee morning at Marie Thompson's house, 26 The Village, Clifton

on Saturday 31st October

from 10am until 12 noon.



The Harpley Church 'Big Breakfast' fundraiser.

Abbreviated Draft Minutes of The Virtual Shelsleys Parish Council Meeting held on Zoom on September 15th 2020

Present: Dr Laura Taylor (Chairman) Mrs Val Jones and Mrs Jean Hammond. This represented a quorum. **In Attendance:** 3 members of the public and the clerk.

Apologies: Councillors Bates, Stinton, Styles, Metcalfe and Hutton & District Councillor Palethorpe. County Councillor Dr Pollock sent apologies after the meeting. There were

No Declarations of Interest:

Minutes: The minutes of July 9th & August 3rd 2020 were agreed as a true record.

Public Question Time: None. **Election of Vice Chairman:** To be confirmed at the next meeting.

Shelsley Beauchamp Vacancy: This will be re-advertised. **County Councillor and District Councillor's reports:** The full reports are available on the website details below.

Highways Footpaths and Lengthsman: The Lengthsman's worksheets for July and August were agreed.

All highways matters brought to the attention of the clerk, mainly overgrown verges and hedges, have been resolved.

Salt, the Lengthsman has 1 ton stored, it was agreed a further ton will be ordered by October 1st.

The broken chevron sign by Stirt lay bye has been reported to WCC.

Planning: There were no outstanding planning applications to be discussed. 19/00610/FUL Appeal result at Fetterlocks Farmhouse (agricultural building to dwelling). The appeal was dismissed.

Finance: The following payments were agreed. HMRC £144.00

Lengthsman's invoice for July and August £187.20

Internal Auditor £60

Glasdon bin £788.00

VAT repayment received. £1137.22 The Internal Auditor was thanked for completing the relevant section of the 2019/2020 Annual Return.

Tem Triangle. The last donation made was £100 in 2014 and there has been no request since. The PC has been approached for financial help and Councillors were able to view the latest accounts. It was agreed to make a donation of £200 for the current financial year.

Village Hall. Covid-19 restrictions and advice from NALC (National Association of Local Councils) has meant the last four meetings have been held virtually by Zoom. It was agreed as a gesture of goodwill to make a donation of £40 to cover the loss of rent to the Village Hall Management Committee.

It was reported by the management that the Village Hall is fully Covid-19 compliant and is observing all the necessary requirements as is the Social Club.

MAC: Mr Simon Durling representing the Midland Automobile Club (MAC) reported on the coming final events for this year at the Hill Climb., 19th/20th September and a Members only meeting 25th September. Spectators have been allowed in accordance with Motorsport UK when regulations have been fulfilled. The meeting last weekend had been excellent.

Progress Reports: Broadband: Broadband: There has been a recent announcement on increased funding for rural superfast broadband. The Clerk is awaiting an updated report from Openreach on progress on the three current projects in the parish.

Waste Bin: The site at Stirt Farm lay by has been agreed and the delivered bin will shortly be installed by Councillor Stinton.

Repair Café: All proposed venues are on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Councillors' Reports and items for future agenda. Councillor Hammond reported on a recent CALC (County Association of Local Councils) meeting with particular regard to the recent White Paper on planning. Further explanation of how this may affect the parish will be sought.

Next Meeting Date: Date and format to be decided. The meeting concluded at 7.40 when Zoom ended.

To view the minutes and agenda online go to the WCC website and look at The Shelsleys.
<http://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/>
Jan Speyer Clerk 01886 812 444.

CLIFTON-UPON-TEME PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held Thursday 3rd September 2020 commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors J. Bowden (Chairman), A. Henry (Vice-Chairman), R. Henry, C. Haywood, and J. Collins. Also present: County Councillor K. Pollock, M. Alexander (Clerk), J. Johns, C. Hurley and 1 member of the public.

Apologies: Ward Cllr C. Palethorpe. Councillor S. Haywood.

Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Clifton Hill Helpers were thanked by the meeting for all their support locally during the ongoing CV-19 pandemic. A new resident was welcomed to the meeting.

Declarations of Prejudicial & Pecuniary Interests: None.

Democratic Public Time: No matters for consideration.

Speaker: Dan Bayliss, MHDC Community & Environmental Protection Officer, Community Services. The Council heard about MHDC schemes to deter dog fouling and to encourage owners to pick up after their dogs. The Meadows development area has improved recently since signage was put up by MHDC and it is hoped that this continues. The Green Dog Walkers Scheme promotes responsible dog ownership and Cllr Collins agreed to follow this up locally. A poo bag dispenser will also be placed by the entrance to the playing field on a temporary basis by MHDC. The Council agreed to review matters periodically.

To agree the Minutes of a virtual meeting held 2nd & 23rd July 2020 – Both sets of minutes were agreed as a true record. Proposed Cllr J. Collins, seconded Cllr C. Haywood. All agreed. The Council noted, as matters arising, that several schemes had now been implemented by Highways locally, including yellow lines and white gates. A new battery has been ordered by the Clerk for the VAS - to be installed by the Lengthsman.

District & County Councillor Reports: Reports to be uploaded to the website.

Financial & Governance Matters: Payments agreed as per the schedule – Michelle Alexander - Clerk salary £456.47 / Michelle Alexander - Clerks expenses - £49.05 / Came & Co - insurance renewal £920.49 / MHDC - wheelie bins £73.68 / SSE - electric to pavilion £61.99 / M.B. Higgins – website maintenance/hosting £174.39 / A. Henry – reimbursement for plants & compost £184.54

New topsy style bin for Manor Road £212.00 – Proposed Cllr Bowden, seconded Cllr A. Henry. All agreed. Clerk to progress.

Clifton Upon Teme Archives Storage – J. Johns explained the option to store the village archives at the old schoolhouse. The historical material is currently stored at home but should be more readily available for the community to use. The cost to store at the old schoolhouse would be £500.00 p.a. and would be in liaison with the new Head Teacher and Governors. Some capital expenditure will be required to make the store ready for use, but this will be a long-term project and commitment for asset management. Funding via Awards for All scheme to be investigated, as school funds won't be able to meet these costs. The Council agreed that they would support the initiative, with a review in due course, and J. Johns agreed to prepare a summary brief.

Councillor Resignation and Co-option – The resignation of Councillor J. Dawson was accepted. The Clerk will progress the vacancy via MHDC.

Teme Valley Triangle (TVT) funding request – A request for funding had been received by the Clerk from J. Johns, which was read out to those present. The Council noted that a contribution had previously been paid by the PC and that other PCs in the area also contributed to the annual running costs. It was also noted that most of the distribution was in the Clifton upon Teme area and that the TVT is keen to keep a printed version available. It was proposed by Cllr R. Henry, seconded Cllr Bowden that the Council contribute £500.00 p.a. to the TVT. All agreed. J. Johns will forward an invoice to the Clerk in due course.

41.20 Parish Matters: Footpaths Noticeboards – Cllr Bowden will circulate quotes to the C for consideration at the next meeting. Recreation Ground – Cllr Bowden had visited the area and confirmed that the potholes had now been filled in. A meeting is to be arranged with Cllrs C. Haywood, Bowden & R. Henry to undertake a risk assessment of the outside space. Cllr Bowden will also contact A. Berrow (Scouts) for the meeting. It was noted that the CFAF project includes car park refurbishment. **Repairs to the Recreation Field fence** – it was agreed that R. Wilks should undertake necessary works as agreed by Cllr Bowden and the Clerk, to make the area safe.

Kenelm Close hedge – the hedge at the end of the close has grown far too tall and wide. Work has already been done on the Manor Road side and it was agreed that R. Wilks should do works as required to keep the hedge well maintained as it is adjacent to the footpath. The Clerk was asked to look into the ownership. Pavilion usage – the Football Club have restarted and are using the pavilion again. Cllr C. Haywood will request a Covid-19 risk assessment asap for the Clerk to approve usage. **After-school Club** – the school have already asked if the club can use the pavilion whilst work is carried out at school, when the term starts shortly. They have confirmed risk assessments and the cleaning, which will be done after use. Use of the pavilion was approved and Cllr Haywood will ask the Football Team to liaise urgently via the Clerk and Cllr Collins re usage going forward, especially with Covid-19 measures required.

Section 106 Committee update: CFAF project - C. Hurley's report had been circulated by email. Cllr R. Henry queried the size of the MUGA football area, which was explained by C. Hurley. The recommendation to use Kompan & Grimshaws was outlined to the Council, and a letter of intent was requested, which would enable the project to continue to move forward and assist in maintaining some of the current pricing. There are already indicative annual maintenance costs and C. Hurley will work with the Clerk to prepare a summary document asap in time for precept planning. R. Wilks has already been approached and has agreed to undertake the required grounds maintenance works. There was further discussion regarding community consultation and how this can be managed in the current climate. C. Hurley reminded the Council of what had been achieved so far and what was planned for the future. Cllr Bowden informed the Council of comments received by him personally. The Council agreed that the Clerk should draft a letter of intent in liaison with C. Hurley, and with a caveat re maintenance costs and the need for final approval by the Council.

Community Transport Survey – a draft had already been circulated by the Clerk. It was agreed to print x400 copies for distribution end Sept/Oct. Clerk to forward a quote for approval.

Planning Matters – Applications to be considered – 20/01046/HP Mr A. Tulloch, Hollands Mill, Clifton WR6 6HJ – rear two storey extension and refurbishment of dwelling. No objection. Proposed Cllr A. Henry, seconded Cllr R. Henry. All agreed.

Applications responded to – 20/00782/ADV Mr J. Guest land at Os 7113 6138, Hope Lane Clifton – construction site advertising. OBJECTION submitted 11/08/2020 – no permission currently in place so inappropriate to advertise.

Notifications Received – 20/00815/AGR – Cliftonswood Farm, B4204 The Village to Herefordshire – prior approval not required for an agricultural track.

Highways Matters: The Clerk will liaise with the Lengthsman about outstanding tasks. The replacement gully outside The Meadows is an on-going issue via Highways / County Cllr Pollock. The hedge to the rear of the BP Hut needs clarification re ownership, which the Clerk will look into. The Clerk was asked to check with WCC re notification about footpaths as they are not being regularly received.

Correspondence: A letter from the BP Hut Committee re car park & signage was noted. (see also Parish Matters)

Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agendas: The Council noted that the old storage container on the pavilion car park was currently being retained for the CFAF project, but the contractors have said it is no longer required, so other options are being explored by C. Hurley regarding disposal.

Next meeting to be held Thursday 1st October 2020 – arrangements to be confirmed.

Meeting closed 21:35.

M. Alexander

Clerk

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Unfortunately the current COVID-19 pandemic has put a halt to our activities for the time being, but we are hopeful that The Riding for the Disabled Association can re-commence in the New Year.

I have been lucky enough to be part of the 'Durrance' RDA group for several years now and find it hugely enjoyable and worthwhile. The progress that our riders make and the enjoyment that they gain from it, is indeed heartwarming to see and be a part of.

However, there are several RDA groups now, as with so many other charities, that are struggling due to the current crisis. Both the 'Durrance' and 'Franche' groups, both based at Stourport Riding Centre, are in desperate need of more volunteers to help with the ponies and riders.

Before the lockdown, these groups were both run on a Monday (term time only), Durrance at 12:30 – 13:30 and Franche at 13:30 – 14:30. We are hoping that these timings will remain the same once we are given the go-ahead to re-commence.

So, if you are at all interested in volunteering to be part of either of these essential teams, then please do contact Jeannie Bird, County Chairman, on her email: jeannie.bird123@hotmail.co.uk. Full training and certification will be provided. No previous experience required. Many thanks,

Louise Hutton.

LOWER SAPEY NEWS

With Margaret Griffiths

Here we are again, almost in the same position as when I wrote my last article in June. I am afraid it looks as if there will be a winter surge in the virus and another possible national lockdown, but let's be positive and remember that we have very few cases in our larger area. The weather is beautiful (at the time of writing), the gardens have flourished, as have many of the fruit crops, some theatres are opening and restaurants are still serving meals or take-aways. Students are back at school and university at last - and it has been an exciting season of cricket for England! It seems so strange that the sporting events particularly are so quiet, no Barmy Army, no crowds singing, but we are almost used to this now.

Here in Lower Sapey and Harpley we have been even more isolated recently with the closure of Hollybush Lane for the bridge repairs near the Old Pumping Station. Fortunately normality is restored now.

Incidentally, we all admired Lois Pearson's painting of the pumping station and well done to her for having this accepted by the Royal Academy no less.

Sadly, St Bartholomew's Church is now closed for worship for the future as having had the heating installed, we now have a collapse of small parts of the ceiling, so it is unsafe to use. This has distressed us all as we were looking forward to a warm winter Church for the first time in years. Builders and architects are working on the problem and we hope it won't prove to be too serious. I fear we will have to plant an orchard of money trees to cope with all this! However, as long as the weather is dry, we hope to have services out of doors, socially distanced of course.

The service in August with Candy's quartet, was particularly successful. We also held a Covid secure Breakfast Bap morning on 12th September and how lovely to see so many people there in the sunshine. We made a profit of £250 for the Church, a drop in the ocean, but so welcome. Thanks to everyone concerned, especially Liz Younge and Candy Connolly. (See the photo on the inside back cover.)

Our future services, the Harvest Festival and the Remembrance Service, will most likely be held in the Church car park if the weather is clement. The Church will continue to be open for short periods on a Sunday morning for private worship, but its availability depends on the progress of the building work. Marion West and Candy will usually be there to welcome people. Thank you both.

I am also afraid the Ladies Bible Group is cancelled for the moment, but we hope to get together nearer Christmas. Christmas....what will it be like? A sheltered friend of mine has already arranged to hold a picnic with her close family (less than 6) and will have turkey sandwiches and mince pies on the Mendips. I am not sure about that!

Stay safe everyone and keep well.

Notices

The Mobile Library has started to call again in our area and will do so on Friday 16th October at 10.20am.

The Harvest Festival Service has been arranged for Sunday October 11th.

The Remembrance Service will be on November 8th.

We have not arranged a date for the Carol Service yet.

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TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE

Following the many footpaths that criss-cross our island is an excellent way of keeping fit, seeing the countryside and enjoying the great outdoors. In 2006 my husband and I set out to walk the length of the River Teme in the company of two friends who were fellow residents of the valley. Fourteen years and thirteen long-distance paths later, we arrived at the Worcestershire Beacon on a sunny day in July to celebrate 1000 miles of walking together. Looking back over our rambles, many of them in the beautiful Welsh Marches, I wondered how much wildlife we had seen and what had been our most memorable encounters. Admittedly, four people chattering along a narrow path is not the ideal way to find God's creatures, but we did have some interesting moments.

Deer were the largest animals we met. On the Mortimer Trail we were lucky to spy a good-sized herd of the unusual long-haired fallow deer that inhabit the Mortimer Forest. They are unique to that place and are thought to have been there since Norman times. Occasionally we had a glimpse of the larger red deer, but these were invariably sprinting away as we emerged from woodland into quiet valleys. Badgers, foxes, stoats, rabbits and rodents all kept their distance, but we enjoyed looking at their tracks, especially when newly printed in snow. The best sightings were of hares, starting up from the long grass and jinking off out of danger with long ears bobbing. Wonderful.

Birds were easier to spot. Many of our walks were accompanied by skylarks and we were frequently soared over by red kites. High up the Carding Mill valley we reversed the situation by looking down on a kite hunting below, whilst at the same time a cuckoo called in the distance. Sometimes we saw birds we didn't recognise. On the Teme at Martley a flock of smart water-birds proved to be a group of female goosanders and on brassica fields near Bredon we came upon a pair of yellow wagtails. By water we caught the odd flash of kingfisher blue and saw lots of herons, both real and plastic. Once we came upon a dark pond lined with half-dead trees. In the branches were perched dozens of hunched-up herons, looking very disconsolate on a wet, Welsh, winter day.

More lively were insects. My interest in dragonflies meant that sometimes I was able to contribute a few records for the farer-flung parts of Worcestershire. Out with the field-guide though, for some busy yellow moths fluttering along a sunny woodland edge. These were brimstone moths and just as beautiful as their namesake butterflies.

We saw lots of flowers. I had my first sightings of early purple orchids on The Worcestershire Way, moschatel on the Offa's Dyke Path and autumn crocus on The Herefordshire Trail. Over the years we covered many types of terrain from lowland arable and meadowland to upland pasture, moor and marshland. We enjoyed countless stunning views of the countryside, deepening our love for the wonderful area we live in. We only hope that the next 1000 miles will be as fine as the first.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group is on hold whilst we await the re-opening of our venue. Our meetings are usually held at Stoke Bliss and Kyre village hall, WR15 8RR, at 7:30pm. It is just £2 on the door and everybody is most welcome.

For up-to-date information on what wildlife is being seen in the area, or to give us your sightings or comments, visit our Facebook page. Our programme of events, bird survey and archive photographs are available on our website www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk. We normally hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by telephone on 01568 750 413 or by email at twwg@outlook.com.



LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES FOR OCTOBER 2020

October 4th

10.30 am Clifton – Morning Prayer/Matins

October 11th

Harvest YouTube Service

October 18th

4.00 pm Clifton – Family Harvest Service

5.00 pm Shelsley B – Harvest Service

October 25th

4.00 pm Harvest Zoom Service with 'social' breakout rooms

CALENDAR

October

11 Lower Sapey Harvest Festival Service.

14 The Shelsleys Gardening Club, V.H., 7.30pm.

16 Lower Sapey mobile library 10:20am.

November

8 Lower Sapey Remembrance Service.

11 The Shelsleys Gardening Club, V.H., 7.30pm.

December

9 The Shelsleys Gardening Club, V.H., 7.30pm.

AND FINALLY...

A reminder again that Teme Triangle has a Facebook page – so you can keep abreast of all the latest news on our site: www.facebook.com/TemeTriangle. Also, our printed magazine will continue to be available in all local shops and community spaces so you can choose how and when to keep up to date.

Do keep sending us your news and photos – we all need to read positive stories in these strange times.....

Copy for the next (November 2020) edition by Friday 2nd October please.

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