

May 2020

# Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton upon Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



*Thanks to the NHS*

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## In this edition

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- ✿ **Coronavirus Local Heroes**
  - ✿ **Shelsley Author's Lockdown Launch**
  - ✿ **Local Businesses Update**
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Free to Residents



*'Jan the Milk' was nominated as one of the BBC Midlands Today 'Local Heroes' last month by presenter Nick Owen*

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*Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editorial team.*

**Front Cover Picture**

*Freya Hurst, daughter of Kate Hurst of local flower company 'Camomile and Cornflowers' from Shelsley Kings*

## From The Editor's Chair

The coronavirus emergency seems to have brought out the very best among the residents of the three parishes in our part of the Teme Valley. In Clifton, the Shelsleys and in Lower Sapey, neighbours have been looking after one another, support groups have formed, prescriptions collected and delivered, shopping errands done for food and essential items for those less able to travel and countless other acts of kindness.



Those of us who live here are indeed blessed. Surrounded as we are by open countryside, a network of local footpaths to walk along and wonderful scenery to admire, it is often easy to think that the horrific consequences of the epidemic engulfing much of the world and most of Britain since the beginning of March is a drama being played out elsewhere. The awful reality is visible on our television screens day after day, and yet the almost traffic free roads and eerie silence that pervades our neighbourhood can make every day seem like a quiet Sunday.

There are some among us who have been on active service, battling with the Covid-19 virus on the front line. Five of them are featured in this edition (see pages 4-6), though there may well be others - nurses, carers and volunteers perhaps, who are dealing daily with the effects of the epidemic. It is they and countless others like them that we have been out applauding at 8pm on Thursday evenings.

Finding enough news and information to fill the pages of this edition of Teme Triangle has proved something of a challenge. In the absence of any news of forthcoming events, parish council meetings and minutes and almost everything else that was scheduled to have taken place in April, we have instead highlighted some of the varied activity that has been going on in our parishes related to the coronavirus emergency as well as those local businesses that are able to continue.

## Liz Sapey

Dr Liz Sapey, a Professor of Acute Medicine at the Birmingham Queen Elizabeth Hospital (*right*), has been working at the forefront of the treatment of Covid-19 patients admitted to the QE. Working in full personal protective equipment (PPE) since the beginning of March, she says: "It's amazing how you soon get used to wearing it and the donning and doffing of it, though it is claustrophobic and makes communication very difficult."

Liz, who lives in Clifton with husband James and children, also runs a research team in Birmingham focussing on Covid-19 as well as her clinical role at the hospital: "The staff were really frightened to begin with, but morale has remained high and everyone has a real sense of purpose," she adds.



## John Winer



Recently retired consultant neurologist Professor John Winer volunteered to return to front-line medical care at the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch where he has been working on one of the Covid-19 wards.

"I've been really impressed with the way various medical specialists have rolled up their sleeves and are doing something outside their comfort zone, working in extremely difficult conditions," he said. "I've had to learn a lot about Covid-19 as well as read up on the latest guidance on working in an Intensive Care Unit. But I've also been very impressed with the way all the medical staff have got together, especially the junior staff and the dedicated nurses."

John, who lives in Clifton with his wife Helen, retired at the age of 60 in 2015 after working as a consultant at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

### **Kirsty Ward & James West**

Dr Kirsty Ward, a member of the Knightwick Surgery team, has been dealing with a number of cases of patients presenting with possible coronavirus symptoms. “It’s been a busy time for us at the surgery as we had to change the way we operated literally overnight to minimise the risk of spreading the disease to our patients and staff. Our staff and volunteers have been amazing in adapting to the change in what is a very stressful time for everyone. Within a matter of days, we set up a new medicines delivery service for the now significant number of housebound patients and are working closely with the neighbouring surgeries of Tenbury and Great Witley (the Rural Primary Care Network) to strengthen primary care locally. We have been so appreciative for the support received from our incredible patients; everyone has been very understanding. Thank you.”

Kirsty, who also lives in Clifton with husband James, a paediatrician at Worcester Royal Hospital, added: “Personally, it has been challenging to home school alongside the logistics of manning our medical rotas. However, the beautiful countryside we are surrounded by in the Teme Valley has certainly helped keep us going as a family.”

James says: “Fortunately children and young people appear to be less severely affected by coronavirus. Myself and my colleagues are concerned that the lockdown could result in children presenting later and more unwell from usual childhood illnesses. My duties vary, I can be on call on the ward or I’m set up to work remotely from home with telephone clinics where necessary. Outside of working hours, I’ve enjoyed the sunny weather, playing with the children and getting jobs done in the garden.”

### **Eileen Kirby-Walsh**

As a board director of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust, Eileen is part of the executive team leading the response to the Covid-19 pandemic across four hospitals in Oxfordshire, including the John Radcliffe Hospital.

The co-ordination of the response requires a huge effort by many different staff groups across all of the hospitals. Eileen said “Every member of staff plays a vital role at the frontline in delivering care to our patients porters, housekeepers, cleaners, managers, therapists, student nurses, student medics as well as nurses and doctors. It requires a huge team effort.”

“On a personal note, it is a privilege to work as part of the team and after 25 years of NHS service, I feel so proud of the dedication and commitment of our staff in these challenging times. The positive support from the community has been overwhelming and very heartfelt. It really means a lot to all of us in the NHS to hear the weekly ‘Clap for our Carers’ and gives us an extra morale boost to keep going in the fight to win this battle.”

### **LOCALS SEWING FOR THE NHS**

At the outbreak of the coronavirus epidemic, several of our Church Family (Bromyard Road Methodist Church, St John's, Worcester) had to self-isolate, being in the ‘Over 70’ bracket on the advice of the Government. Keeping in touch with our members still working, many on the front line, it became obvious that this highly contagious virus meant strict hygiene had to be observed. One problem that arose was reducing the handling of clothes worn while dealing with patients with the virus. Suddenly us oldies had a purpose and a project to do. Personally for the first time we were being cared for instead of being the carers, a strange and humbling position, this was a golden opportunity for us to return the favour by making laundry bags to reduce uniforms being handled more than once. The clothes would be placed directly into the bag, tied with the draw cord and put straight into the washer. Being the size of a normal pillowcase, this allowed the clothes to move around in the bag, ensuring they were thoroughly washed during the 60 degree wash cycle.

We have now moved on to making headbands and face masks. The bags have gone to local hospitals, care homes and posted to children of our church members working on the front line in universities and hospitals. I personally enclose a prayer card with each bag and sew a heart on the outside with the words ‘Stay Safe’. I am presently waiting for new supplies of elastic, but being a Patch worker, have lots of cotton material in my stash which I feel privileged to use for this project.

*Beryl Robson*

## SHELSLEYS COVID-19 GOOD NEIGHBOUR NETWORK

In response to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, about a dozen friends and neighbours from the three Shelsley parishes have been helping a number of isolating households with shopping, collecting prescriptions, sourcing local tradespeople for emergency repairs and offering a regular friendly telephone chat to those who are on their own. David and Jo Moore also kindly donated and cooked an Easter turkey, which the volunteers delivered to those on the list who wanted some. Anyone who is over 70 or has had to self-isolate for any other reason and needs help with groceries, vital supplies or moral support in the coming weeks can get in touch to request assistance:

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## CORONAVIRUS ACTION IN CLIFTON

**Prescriptions** from both the Great Witley and Knightwick surgeries will continue to be delivered to Clifton Villages Stores and/or the village hall.

“Anyone whose prescription is automatically repeated every four weeks can ask for these to be brought up to the shop, delivered weekly on a Thursday,” says Penny Bowden, former practice nurse at Great Witley. “You either have to have a pre-pay certificate or be exempt from payment (ie over 60). If you need these to be delivered directly to your house, because you are ill, self-isolating or just being careful, then let me know on 01886 812784. I will knock and then leave them on your doorstep. Anyone who has had a new prescription over the telephone can pay by credit/debit card (if required). I will be checking daily with the surgeries and will also deliver these. Contact me by e-mail or on the above phone number if you have any questions.”

A team of local residents have formed the **Clifton Hill Helpers** group in a bid to support the community and ensure that no-one is left isolated or without support. A leaflet with their contact details has been delivered by hand to houses in the parish. To access the group, call or text one of the following numbers:

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## LOCAL AUTHOR'S LITERARY LAUNCH IN LOCKDOWN

There are worse places to suffer lockdown than the beautiful Teme Valley - but it can be less than ideal as a place from which to launch a new book.

Publication of my second crime mystery, *River Rats*, was due to be celebrated with a party in Bath but the coronavirus put paid to that. I was also due to embark on a carefully planned series of talks at book clubs, libraries and literary festivals but they have all been cancelled.

Instead, I am almost permanently camped in the study of my home at Shelsley Kings, trying to drum up publicity for the latest novel in the Johnson & Wilde series. Once again, the book follows the fortunes of journalist Jack Johnson and his young army widow friend Nina as they take their narrowboat around Britain's waterways.

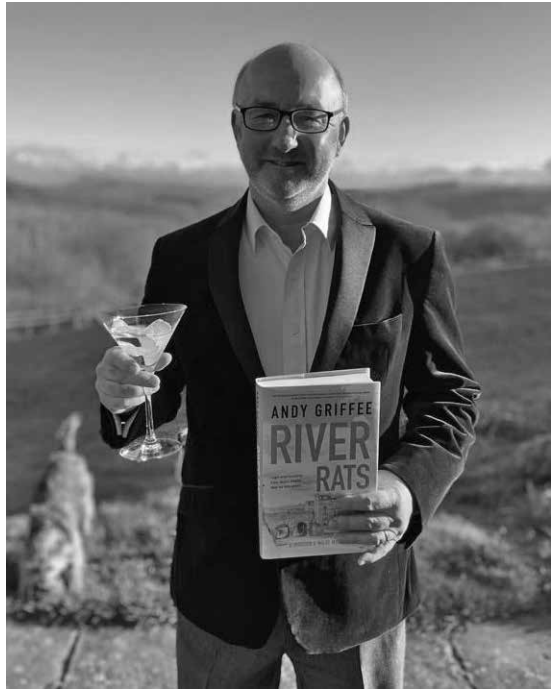
Instead of heading for Mr B's Emporium of Books in Bath, I ended up pouring a 'quarantini' cocktail, putting on a smart smoking jacket and talking to my launch guests via Facebook Live on my computer screen. In fact, it meant that far more people could 'attend' and it turned out to be fun with scores of questions, insults and messages flying in from around the UK and even abroad.

And I may not have been able to travel for my talks, but it hasn't been any problem being interviewed at length on several radio stations. I suspect the lack of news other than Covid-19 (or a shortage of staff) contributed to the generosity of the extensive airtime.

Of course, as a 50-something middle-aged man, social media can occasionally be a struggle for me. But my daughter Ella is furloughed at home and my wife Helen is still doing her day job as Communications Manager for St Richard's Hospice from the kitchen table. This means I have technical and creative back-up on hand which makes a refreshing change.

It also means I have companions for coffee-breaks and lunch which is lovely. Authors are used to splendid isolation, but I actually seem to have more people around during the day than ever.

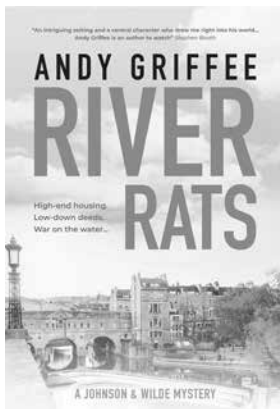
The Crime Writer's Association celebrates National Crime Reading Month every May but this time it's proving to be a particular challenge. So instead of advertising its writers' talks, it has asked us to provide a video of our usual working environment. Once again, darling daughter has come to the rescue and produced a marvellous four-minute video of me showing readers around the study of my home on Kingswood Lane.



So, all in all, the life of an author is progressing on its own sweet way – although I have found time to impress the neighbours with my wild garlic cheese scones. But soon, I shall have to knuckle down and begin crafting the next book in the series. Fortunately, I managed to travel to Budapest on my own for a writing retreat just before the lockdown and I worked out the book's plot.

After all, it would have been a much more difficult task with all these people around!

*Andy Griffiee*



Signed copies of Andy's book *River Rats* are available in hardback directly from [orphanspublishing.co.uk](http://orphanspublishing.co.uk) with free postage (£18.99) or as an e-book (£4.99). His first book *Canal Pushers* will be released as a paperback later this year.

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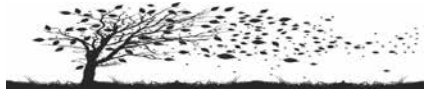


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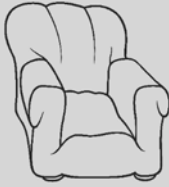
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# Church Matters

by Nigel Roberts



In recent weeks, because of the need to just shut the door and take a rest from the world as we have been told to do, we sometimes have needed a reminder of what is going on elsewhere in the country or world! If we just rely on the radio, internet or TV news for our information we might well have ended up feeling very depressed at times! Good news is to be found if we look in other places. We hear that all but a few of the homeless people in Worcester have been housed, the food banks have received considerable donations of food in no small part by those received and distributed by the Martley group of churches. Nurses and medical staff have selflessly worked to restore people to health, many from our own communities. Further afield, a Worcester church is helping support children excluded from an orphanage in Eastern Europe which has closed due to the virus.

Yes, there is much heartache too, suffered by the families of those who might not have recovered from the illness or the case of someone like a lady I know admitted to a nursing home in March not to receive her promised visitors and now diagnosed with an aggressive cancer. All demanding our prayers at this time. The picture has been one of much anguish but also the best that humanity demonstrates as it cares for others.

It has been said that life won't return to quite what it was before and no doubt that is true. Indeed, there are good things we should have learnt from this experience too. We have heard many suggestions of things that could change in the future. A former prime minister suggests a New World order or world government to solve our problems. A meeting of certain faith leaders discuss a one world church (which eventually got postponed); Bill Gates runs a symposium demonstrating how a chip could be inserted with a vaccine to identify and track those who have received immunisation and he proposes the whole world to be included in this programme!

Amidst change we look for things that remain constant, perhaps best found in some of the Bible's promises. Whereas each of the changes mentioned above for the future will undoubtedly come into effect eventually, each of them is promised in the Bible. One can ask therefore that if they then look as though they are coming true, why can we not trust in the promise that "In this world you will have trouble but I will deliver you" found in John 16 v.33 and then especially the promise that "He will never leave us or forsake us" ... even in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. A great consolation indeed!



## HOME RETREATS

Since 20 April we have been offering a seven-week daily retreat at home. A daily email includes readings from the Bible with a meditation. There is also be a 'Thought for Today' and either a note to help you pray or a poem. During this unusual and somewhat uncertain time of the pandemic and lockdown, this retreat gives us a chance to connect more deeply with God.

Each week there is an opportunity to meet with others for a chance to share your feelings or ask about any questions or doubts that may arise, led by Max and Cecilia Jourdier. The current circumstances mean that we can't, as originally planned, do this together with tea and cake. Instead it is done online, using Zoom video conferencing. For those of you unfamiliar with Zoom, do not worry, we can guide you through using it. These 40-minute meetings are on Mondays at 2pm. To take part in this retreat, please let me know so that I can arrange for you to receive the retreat emails and be part of the Zoom conversations. Please do extend this invitation to anyone who you think would also like to take part.

We are not having services in church but each week there is a Wednesday Holy Communion, a Friday reflection and a Sunday Service, all on Youtube.

Our YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCn0LugYeU-YbAfhD1Fn1Cg>, our Website <https://wwrt.churchinsight.com/>, and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Worcesterwestruralteam/> are all good ways for people to see what is happening. I think Barbara Seeley might have written to you about it. With every blessing,

*Becky Elliott*



*Candy Connolly and the Rev Julia Curtis at the end of their local litter pick*

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## WILD GARLIC PITHIVIER WITH WATERCRESS, MUSHROOMS AND GOAT'S CHEESE



Makes 4 servings

- 10g dried wild mushrooms
- 100ml just-boiled water
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp butter
- 100g brown mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and finely chopped
- 2 medium shallots, peeled and finely chopped
- 75g watercress, roughly chopped
- 100g baby spinach
- 100g roughly chopped wild garlic (about one large handful)
- 125g ricotta
- 125g soft goat's cheese
- 1 egg
- ½ tbsp grainy mustard
- 600g puff pastry
- Plain flour for dusting
- 1 egg yolk mixed with
- 1 tbsp milk

Place the dried mushrooms in a small bowl and pour over the hot water. Leave for 20 minutes, then strain the liquid through a muslin to catch any grit. Finely chop the rehydrated mushrooms.

In a pan on a medium heat, sauté the brown mushrooms in 1 tablespoon olive oil and 1 tablespoon butter. When softened, add the garlic and cook for 30 seconds before adding the rehydrated mushrooms and their liquor. Season and cook until most the liquid has disappeared. Tip into a bowl and place the pan back on the heat.

In the same pan, season, then sauté the shallots in 1 tablespoon olive oil until softened, about 10 minutes. Add to the bowl of mushrooms, then place the pan back on the heat.

Add the final tablespoon of oil to the pan, then season and cook the watercress, spinach and wild garlic until it has all wilted. Allow to cool a little, then squeeze out most of the moisture.

Add the greens into the bowl with the mushrooms and add the ricotta, goat's cheese, egg and mustard. Stir well.

Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4.

Roll just under half the pastry into a disk about 25cm in diameter. Brush with the yolk/milk, then pile the mushroom mix into the middle. Roll the rest of the pastry into a 30cm disk and lay over the top, pressing round the outside to seal the two layers together. Brush with egg mix, then place in the fridge for 30 minutes.

Pierce a small hole in the top with a knife and lightly make scores on the dome from the top to the outer edges in a curved shape.

Bake on the middle shelf for 20 minutes, then on the bottom shelf, to help cook the underneath, for a further 15 minutes.

Serve hot or warm in slices; delicious with a lightly dressed green salad.

*[From Alexandra Winnington on behalf of Sue Thompson from Shelsley Beauchamp. "It was sourced from Philippa Davis and featured in The Field magazine. Sue made it and said it was delicious. There is plenty of wild garlic growing in the lanes now.]*

## **TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE**

No Mow May! No, it isn't a political slogan left over from last year, it's the rallying cry of the wildflower charity Plantlife in an effort to increase the amount of nectar and pollen available to pollinating insects. (Although it did, weirdly, coincide with the departure of a certain Prime Minister in 2019.)

This project went under my radar at the time, but a recent copy of the Plantlife magazine reported the results of last year's efforts with a promise to repeat the exercise this year, so I thought you might like to join in. Plantlife decided to harness 'citizen science' to survey the flowers on people's lawns. They know that ordinary people want to do what they can for biodiversity and, acknowledging that there are 22 million gardens in the UK, they realised that here was a huge untapped resource for sustaining pollinating insects.

They set up a project called 'Every Flower Counts' in which they encouraged anyone with a lawn to leave their mower in the shed for May, then to count the number of flowers in a metre-by-metre square of their longer-than-usual grass. They suggested throwing a ball over a shoulder to use the point where it landed as the centre of the square. A fun way to ensure randomisation I thought, and one clearly designed to encourage children to get involved in measuring and counting in their own back-gardens. The results were then submitted to the Plantlife webpage, after which calculations were made and returned, as to how many bees your square of lawn could provide for.

The huge total of 495,676 flowers was counted. As you might have guessed, daisies, dandelions, buttercups and germander speedwell made up the greatest numbers. The results were then shared on the BBC's Gardeners' World TV programme, in a feature on meadows. This prompted a follow-up survey in July. The commonest flowers at that time of year were white clover, selfheal and, to the surprise of Plantlife who thought it wasn't so common in lawns, bird's-foot trefoil. Out of more than 200 different plants recorded a few rarities popped up, including seven species of orchid and meadow saxifrage – all of which would otherwise have been mown down.

Well, I hope I have spurred your interest in this project. The surveys for 2020 will take place between 23 and 31 May and between 11 and 19 July, so if you would like to take part, register your interest at [www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts](http://www.plantlife.org.uk/everyflowercounts) then you can put your feet up when you might have been mowing and get on your hands and knees to count those daisies at the end of May.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group on Thursday May 14th, 2020, which would have been highly appropriate, 'Orchids in Meadows and Gardens', has been postponed. We're working to reschedule it for 2021. Whilst our meetings are out of action, do contribute your photos and thoughts to our Facebook group, join our Common Bird Survey or upload records of anything you spot to iRecord. Our regular meetings are usually at 7:30pm at Stoke Bliss and Kyre village hall, WR15 8RR. 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](http://www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk) We normally holds meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by telephone on 01584 881397 or by email at [twg@outlook.com](mailto:twg@outlook.com)

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## **NEW INN, CLIFTON, TAKEAWAY & DELIVERY MENU**

Residents of Clifton, the Shelsleys, Martley and surrounds can now enjoy a selection of delicious hot or cold pub lunches, evening and children's meals, thanks to a new food takeaway and delivery service set up by the incoming management team at the New Inn, Clifton, last month.



The idea is the initiative of Alan and Wendy Moore, who come to the area from a café in Romsey near the New Forest and are set to take on the tenancy in May. The couple have 20 years' experience in the catering trade, always achieving a 5-star hygiene rating.

“Although the New Inn can't be open in the usual way, we would like to support the local community by offering a tasty takeaway and delivery service for those who are self-isolating and craving a little bit of normality,” says Wendy. “We hope it will give a flavour of what to expect when we open the doors again fully in due course.”

Lunchtime options available to order include a selection of filled sandwiches, paninis, baguettes and jacket potatoes plus traditional brunches. The evening menu offers hot pub favourites such as battered cod, chicken curry, scampi, chilli-con-carne and vegetable lasagne with all the popular accompaniments. A range of children's meals and desserts are available too. Sunday lunch is expected to be a particular favourite with customers. “What could be better than still being able to enjoy your choice of roast beef, lamb, chicken or Quorn chicken with a medley of vegetables and all the trimmings?” adds Alan.



Orders can either be collected or delivered free of charge to Clifton residents in self-isolation. Social distancing measures will be in place at all times. The service is available for lunches 12-2.30pm and dinners 5-8.30pm from Tuesdays to Saturdays, plus 12-4pm on Sundays for Sunday lunch. There are plenty of vegetarian options, and intolerances and allergies can be catered for.

See the menu on the New Inn's Facebook page: @thenewinnclifton. To order (minimum £10; slots subject to availability) call 01886 812226 early same day or the day before and pay by either card or cash in an envelope. The New Inn is situated on the Old Road in Clifton, WR6 6DR.

## LOCAL BUSINESSES UPDATE

The **Clifton Villages Stores** has set up a telephone ordering service enabling customers to ring 01886 812303 and place an order with the shop who will then arrange either delivery or collection. Payment by cheque or cash on collection.

"We'd like to thank our staff who have been tremendous in dealing with everything that has come before them, they have all upped their game and are going above and beyond," said Peter and Beverley Richards. "We'd also like to thank all our customers both old and new for their patience and adhering to social distancing from each other and our staff. With more people using us and not visiting supermarkets, we've had a great strain on our food stocks, but we are constantly looking for alternative suppliers to be able to ensure the shelves are stocked as full as possible until this craziness is over."



The Farm Shop, **Bailey's of Stanford** at the Stanford Mill Retail Park is open every day of the week (9am-3pm Monday – Friday, 9am-4pm Saturday and 9am-1pm Sunday). John Bailey will take orders over the phone (07891 596429) or by e-mail: [baileysatstanford@gmail.com](mailto:baileysatstanford@gmail.com)

Also at the Stanford Mill Retail Park, Louise Mawditt at **Angel Gardens** is taking orders for plants, compost and a range of other garden items. Tel: 07967 642270 or [louise@angelgardens.co.uk](mailto:louise@angelgardens.co.uk)

Paul Matthews, the traditional butcher at **Tasty Meats** is open and also taking orders by telephone: 01886 853212

**Central Stores** in Martley is also open every day (7.30am-7pm Monday – Friday, 8am-6pm Saturday and 8.30am-1pm Sunday) for groceries and household items including the Post Office counter. Tel: 01886 888728



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## **FUTURE EVENTS:**

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**Friday 6th** December Big Sister

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## MESSAGE FROM ST KENELM'S CHURCHWARDENS

Our Church continues to be alive and active but due to COVID-19 our buildings must remain closed at the specific request of Government and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The clergy in the WWRT team, David Sherwin, Anne Potter, Jennifer Whittaker, Becky Elliott and Jen Denniston are working together as a team and so for the period of lockdown the normal weekly Leigh Group pew sheet has been adapted so that it can be distributed across all the WWRT parishes - it saves on time resources as well!

For those of you with computers, I-pads or other such 'modern technology' the team will continue to find creative ways of offering worship through WWRT live stream as well as keeping you informed through the website [www.wwrt.churchinsight.com](http://www.wwrt.churchinsight.com) the WWRT Facebook page [www.facebook.com/Worcesterwestruralteam](https://www.facebook.com/Worcesterwestruralteam) and the Suckley Facebook page [www.facebook.com/suckleychurch](https://www.facebook.com/suckleychurch)

If you wish to contact the clergy please contact either Rev David Sherwin (Team Rector) 01886 888664 [davidwin56@aol.com](mailto:davidwin56@aol.com) Rev Anne Potter (Team Vicar) 01886 832355 [revannepotter@gmail.com](mailto:revannepotter@gmail.com)

If you have an administration query please contact Alison Khan on 07984 748059 or [leighrectory@outlook.com](mailto:leighrectory@outlook.com) or Liz Edwards on [lizedwards69@aol.com](mailto:lizedwards69@aol.com)

**WORCESTER FOODBANK:** Before we had to shut all the churches we were encouraging folk to leave food in special boxes in the church. This week David had the following plea from Roy Walford, a member of Martley Church, who is involved in the foodbank:

Foodbank volunteers are working hard to feed an increasing number of families in crisis but donations have drastically reduced for obvious reasons. Below is the virus food emergency list - when you are out shopping perhaps you could pop a couple of items in your basket and then when you have a bagful either put them on Roy's doorstep 20 St Peter's Drive, Martley, put them in the box by Becky's doorstep, Clifton Rectory.

If you are in self-isolation and can't arrange for actual groceries to be purchased and delivered to any of the collection points why not go online and make a financial donation. List: Tinned potatoes; 1 litre fruit juice; 1 litre UHT milk; cracker biscuits; tinned meat - ham, spam, corned beef,

Fray Bentos meat pies etc; tinned fruit - single fruit such as oranges, grapefruit etc; Smash; cooking sauces for rice and pasta; sandwich paste; peanut butter; jam; sponge puddings; coffee (small jars); rice pudding; tinned custard; tinned spaghetti- egg hoops etc

Roy also told David that WWRT have donated more than ½ tonne so far and that is just from the four churches he collects from - well done. Clifton church is one of these. Thank you everyone.

Many of you will have noticed the cross outside the church doors, placed there by Rev Becky for Easter and the flowers at the foot of the cross. We are going to leave the cross in place, until we are able to re-open church. If anyone would like to place flowers, in whatever utensil you wish, at the foot of the cross please, please do so. It will symbolize our caring and loving community.

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus:

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy. Sustain and support the anxious, be with those who care for the sick, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may find comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. God Bless

*Alana and Barbara*

## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 10-16TH MAY**

Christian Aid Week 2020 will take place this year, but not as we have ever known it. The planned events and house to house collections in the Teme Valley have had to be cancelled or postponed until later in the year due to the coronavirus-induced social distancing restrictions.

In spite of being the sixth richest country in the world our society has been rocked by the aggressive nature of this hidden enemy and we are being tested to our limits. It is therefore unimaginable what impact the virus will have on countries without a well-established health service, government support packages for workers and a welfare state. The work of Christian Aid is as vital as ever, its work with the world's poorest communities is ongoing; added to this is the damage being wreaked by the current global crisis, felt strongest in the world's most fragile countries who are least able to withstand its affects.

Last year we raised a colossal £3,056.28 thanks to the kindness, generosity and support of our community, and the hard work and efforts of the Christian Aid committee and collectors.

This year we invite you, if you are able to, to contribute to Christian Aid either online via our Just Giving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/>

temevalleychristianaid or by posting a cheque payable to 'Christian Aid' to Marion Dipple, 20 The Village, Clifton-upon-Teme, WR6 6DH. We invite you to give whatever you can to support the work of Christian Aid and its emergency appeal in response to the coronavirus. During Christian Aid week we hope to hold a number of on-line quizzes so please look out for details of these which will be sent out via Clifton Next Door, Facebook, WWRT and e-mail posts. Meanwhile, stay safe and well.

*Marion Dipple*

## **LOWER SAPEY NEWS**

I am writing this in early April and it's difficult to know where we may be by the time you read this. Maybe the awful death rate will be falling, restrictions on our daily lives will be lifted and may the sun still shine. It is a shame to be confined to our homes at such a lovely time of the year, with the lanes looking beautiful with spring flowers and the fruit blossom coming out. We are so lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the country and most of us to have an outside space to walk out in. It must be truly awful to live in a high-rise apartment in the middle of a city. However, sticking to the rules will help us all eventually - we hope and pray.

I thought when this lockdown started that I would get busy baking, reading the works of Dickens, writing a book and learning a concerto. Of course, none of this has happened and days merge into one another and time passes quickly. It's more important to keep in touch with friends and family and just to keep going and trying to keep cheerful. We must thank so many people locally who have helped with shopping and deliveries, the local shop, the milkman who still comes every week day, friends who check on us and above all the NHS and caring staff, who risk so much. We go outside to clap them every Thursday and hope this helps them a little. At least we appreciate them! Thank you also to David Sherwin and his team, not forgetting the puppets, for their online services over Easter.

We had planned so much in Harpley for the summer, all centred round St Bartholomew's. In a few week's time, we were all going to celebrate VE Day and we hoped to have a lunch, with music and memories. Thanks to Pat Savage, we were also having another Bluebell Walk through her woods, followed by a tea at The Hatt House. Everything comes with a tea and cake! Now, it looks more like we will have a walk through the colourful woods in the autumn and possibly our Big Breakfast.

There are no notices as at this moment. The churches are closed, there is no mobile library and the Ladies Bible Group will not meet until further notice. I hope everyone is staying well, being careful and keeping safe.

*Margaret Griffiths*

## HARPLEY NATURE NOTES

While there isn't exactly an abundance of hot gossip coming out of Harpley to report on, it does have one striking thing going for it: the number of walks and beautiful scenery to keep you busy during quarantine. Being in isolation, especially while the sun is shining, is difficult for everyone. By now most of us have exhausted our board games, films, and Netflix series. But living in the countryside definitely has its perks. It's difficult not to be appreciating where we live at the moment and Spring is the best time to enjoy a walk outside in nature. The weather is clearing up and the bluebells are in full bloom. Without so much traffic



about, we are also seeing so much more wildlife. This month on a walk through a small woodland, we came across a den with fox cubs (*pictured*), which is just about the most exciting thing to happen in Harpley for a while now. *Teme Triangle* readers are invited to name the fox cub...

*Anna Stephens*

## RAINBOW LETTER PROJECT

As many of you may have read or heard about, there are various initiatives going on around the country encouraging children to send letters or pictures to the elderly – either relatives, neighbours or even those unknown to them in their own community or local care homes. As part of the 'Shelsley CV Helpline', it has been suggested that we could do the same for our elderly or self-isolating neighbours and also the Nora Parsons Day Centre in Wichenford, which plays such an important role for all our local villages. It seems appropriate to call this our 'Rainbow Letter' project – rainbows being a symbol of peace and serenity and also a sign of hope and promise.

So if any local children (anywhere within the *Teme Triangle* catchment area) would like to write a letter or draw a picture, to help brighten up someone else's day during this surreal and (for far too many) lonely time, please do encourage them to do so and send them to me at the address below. I am more than happy to deliver them to those identified on our 'CV Helpline' or to the Nora Parsons Day Centre. We could even publish some pictures in the next *Teme Triangle*, to brighten everyone's day! Remember – lots of positivity and bright colours! Thank you and keep safe,

*Louise Hutton*, Camp Farm, Camp Lane, Shelsley Beauchamp, WR6 6JQ.

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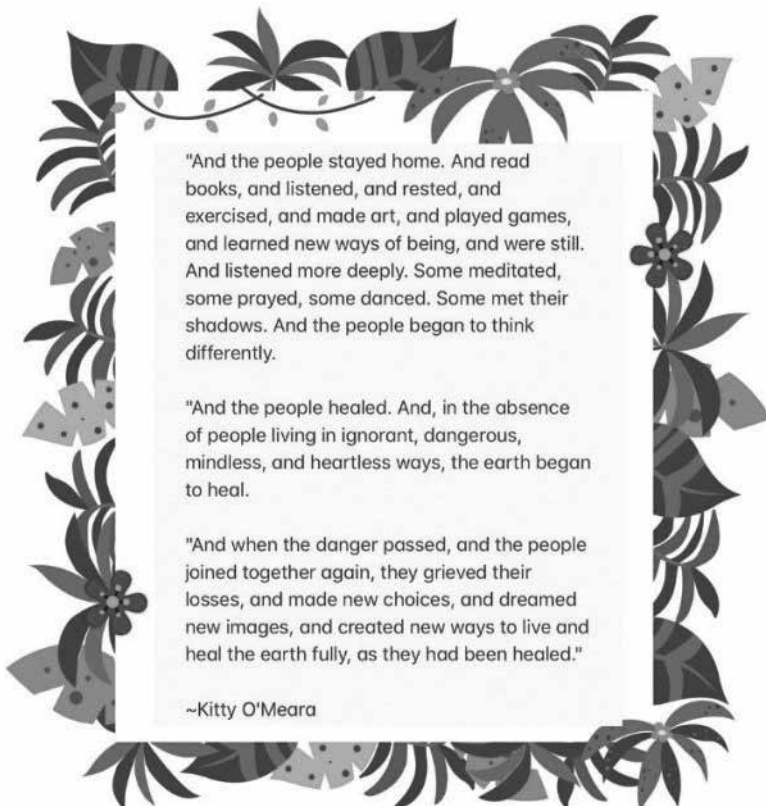
## KITTY O'MEARA POEM

Thank you to everyone who has emailed me to say how much you enjoyed the poem on the front of the April TT. Huge apologies for not including the author – it is in fact Kitty O'Meara – a retired American teacher. (I unfortunately gave a few of you the wrong information originally – just goes to show you shouldn't believe everything you read on the internet!).

O'Meara wrote the poem in March this year, turning to writing in an effort to curb her own anxiety during the Covid-19 global pandemic. It has resonated deeply across the world – I suppose like me, people wanting to believe, that even in this unprecedented time of social distancing and unnecessary, heartbreaking death, some good will come, both for humanity and also our planet.

*Louise Hutton*

Here is the poem again, in full, for your enjoyment.



## **SHELSLEYS GIRLS HELP WITH LAMBING**

Since the end of March, two young girls, Mia and Emilia Preece from Shelsley Beauchamp have been helping farmer Robin Smith, of Stanford Bridge with lambing. Robin's ewes have all been reared on fields in Shelsley Beauchamp and as they had all been in isolation, the girls were keen to have the opportunity to help and have been at Robin's farm every day since the end of March.

The girls have undertaken some challenging tasks including pulling lambs out of the ewes, preparing about 30 areas in pens with straw bedding, feeding and watering any of the lambs needing manual feeding with colostrum and cleaning the feeding machines very carefully, and vaccinating them with pastorela. If anything needs doing they are keen to be shown and take it on.

The family have known Robin for five years since stopping to buy eggs at his farm. Having been living in an urban environment previously, they fell in love with the area and moved into the Teme Valley in 2018. Mia attends the Chantry School and Emilia (*pictured opposite*) attends Clifton Primary School.

Their father says they feel very fortunate to have been able to move into Shelsley in August 2019. Both girls love helping Robin on the farm and many new skills have been learned. With a total of approximately 450 lambs expected, they are going to be very busy.

## **CLIFTON VILLAGE HALL CHIC (100 club)**

The Trustees of the hall would like to reassure contributors to the monthly prize drawer that it remains active. Due to the timing of the current lockdown, we were unable to finalise collection from some members. The money we collect is vital for the finances of the hall, even more so at this present time.

If we did not manage to collect from you, and you would still like to participate, please ring either Jack (812464) or Mandy (812238) and we will arrange safe collection/drop off of your subscription.

Alternatively, if you would like to join (£12 per year), we can allocate a number to you. There are three monthly prizes - £30, £20 and £10.

Our plan is to hold the backdated draws as soon as we can in a safe and fair way. This may well mean that three month's worth of draws take place at the same time but also guarantees that none of our members miss out.

Thank you for your continued support. *The Trustees*



*Emilia with one of the new-born lambs. Emilia attends Clifton Primary School.  
(See story opposite)*



*Karen Metcalfe delivering vital supplies to neighbours in the the Shelsleys,  
accompanied by Skipper and Rafa (see report on page 7)*

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