

June 2020

Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton upon Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



Celebrating VE Day

In this edition

- ✳ **VE Day Celebrations in the Parishes**
 - ✳ **Christian Aid Creative Challenges**
 - ✳ **Cathedral Bells Repaired in Clifton**
-

Visit the website



www.temetriangle.net

Free to Residents



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

Front Cover Picture

Marion Dipple and daughter Isobel delivering roast turkey lunches to Clifton residents on VE Day (see page 14)

CREATIVE CHALLENGES FOR CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

With most planned events for Christian Aid week in Clifton cancelled, the organisers devised a number of creative challenges resulting in a grand total of nearly £2,000 being raised for the world's poorest communities, including the fight against coronavirus.



Three fantastic Zoom quizzes were held on successive evenings, each with about a dozen teams taking part, including participants as far afield as Slovakia, Dorset and Cheshire. When the cumulative total of correct answers was added up, the overall winners were judged to be Russ and Mandy Henry who were promptly presented with the annual Christian Aid Quiz cup by organiser Marion Dipple.

In addition, residents were invited to submit a painting, drawing or photograph based on the theme of 'Nature in Lockdown' seen in their local area. Entries closed at the end of May and those judged to be the best will be displayed in Clifton and Martley stores and on the *Teme Triangle* website.

All participants were invited to make a donation to Christian Aid on the Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/temevalleychristianaid> (or post a cheque payable to Christian Aid, to Rev Becky Elliott, The Rectory, Clifton Upon Teme, WR6 6DJ).

"In spite of the Covid crisis here, our community has once again demonstrated tremendous generosity, compassion and kindness towards those in need internationally," said Marion.

CATHEDRAL BELLS MAINTAINED BY CLIFTON ENGINEERS

Worcester Cathedral's bells are being kept in tip-top tune and repair thanks to the team at Clifton's NDS Engineering at Steps Farm.



Boss Neil Sparey (*left*) and 83-year-old Jim Wheeler regularly find their engineering skills called upon to maintain the Cathedral's tower of 15 bells, repairing various parts from the ancient belfry in their workshop back in Clifton.

"When the tenor clapper broke in 2004, I made a wooden shaft for it which has proved very successful," said Jim. "I also made the eight special training dumb-bells for the Cathedral's purpose-built teaching centre where we teach new recruits." He has been working with Neil since 1991 and is also a regular member of the bell-ringing team in the Cathedral. His wife Lyn rings at Martley where they live.

"It makes a pleasant change from the agricultural engineering work we do here most of the time such as building a maintaining hop farming equipment," says Neil.



CLIFTON BOY'S CHALLENGE FOR THE NHS

Seven-year-old Charlie Stevens wanted to raise some money for the NHS so decided to do some virtual challenges via the Conquer 2020 website. First he set himself a target of £50 and decided to cycle the 26.2 mile Inca Trail in Peru, 'virtually' ending up at Machu Pichu. Next he then decided to walk the 21 mile English Channel 'virtually' and walked it in a week. And finally he set out to walk and cycle the length of Hadrian's Wall, raising a total of nearly £200 in the process.

"He completed the Inca Trail challenge in 13 days, falling off his bicycle and hurting his knee in the process," said proud Dad, Mark Stevens. "But he smashed his original target of £50."



THE SHELSLEYS' EDUCATIONAL CHARITY

Are you, or is one of your children planning to start a new stage in your education this autumn, and do you live within the civil parish of the Shelsleys? If so, then you may be interested in this local charity. The income of the charity is used to support the education (e.g. to assist in the purchase of uniforms, books and sports equipment) of children and young people under the age of 25 who live (or whose parents/ guardians live) within the parish of the Shelsleys. The Trustees will be meeting in August to consider making small grants to eligible pupils or students. These are those either attending primary school for the first time or those starting secondary school/college/ or university in autumn 2020.

Applications for grants should be made as soon as possible in writing, and before the end of the summer term. All enquiries and applications should be sent by email please to the clerk to the Trustees bridgetf@martley.org or otherwise addressed to Mrs B Francis, Westmill Cottage, Shelsley Walsh, WR6 6RR

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

My husband and I were very surprised and disappointed to see that the churchyard at St Bartholomew's Church in Harpley looked very neglected when we visited in May to tend our family graves. My husband did some strimming while we were there to try and tidy it up. We know the church is closed at the moment but we think the grass should be kept cut and tidy.

Terry & Hazel Jones

Editor's note: The Harpley PCC churchyard management policy is to leave it uncut until the end of June in order to leave the wildflowers, and just maintain the paths and edges in accordance with guidelines from Natural Networks Biodiversity Enhancement.



HARPLEY CHURCHYARD SEAT

St Bartholomew's Church has been given a seat by parishioners Howard and Sue Rigby, members of the churchyard maintenance team. "We thank them on behalf of the Harpley community for their generous gift that can be enjoyed by visitors to our churchyard," said Churchwarden Candy Connolly.

SEVERN TRENT COMMUNITY FUND

Back in March I announced that we were creating a £1m Emergency Fund in response to the Covid-19 outbreak and to ask for any recommendations you'd like to make to help us identify charities most in need of support – all of the immediate response donations have now been given out and thank you again for all of your help with this. In order to focus on this response we temporarily closed our Community Fund to new applications, and I can now share the good news that from 1st June 2020 we will be reopening our fund to new applications!

The aims of our Community Fund are still the same, especially since improving community wellbeing is arguably now more important than ever. Our eligibility criteria remains the same too; we're looking to fund new projects, rather than general organisation running costs.

So, from 1st June any organisation who wants to apply can check that they're eligible via the following link: <https://www.stwater.co.uk/about-us/severn-trent-community-fund/> and begin an application, and those who have already started an application will be able to log in and pick up from where they left off. Please share this message with any charities or organisations who may be interested in applying to the fund and if anyone would like to find out more or has any questions, please get in touch with me: *Jade Gough*, Community Fund Officer, Severn Trent: 07703718140 Jade.Gough@severntrent.co.uk

MORE TASTY TAKEAWAY OPTIONS FROM CLIFTON'S NEW INN

As summer approaches, the New Inn at Clifton has further expanded its recently launched takeaway and home delivery service. Wendy and Alan Moore are now making its menu available at lunchtimes (12noon - 2.30pm) and evenings (5pm - 8.30pm), from Tuesday through to Saturday. The change means that hot pub favourites such as battered cod, chicken curry, chilli-con-carne and vegetable lasagne, plus a wide choice of sandwiches, paninis, baguettes, jacket potatoes, children's meals and desserts will now be available at both times of day.

Traditional Sunday lunch with all the trimmings is then offered on Sundays (12-4pm). Orders can be collected or delivered free of charge to Clifton residents in self-isolation. Social distancing measures will be in place. Find the menu on the New Inn's Facebook page: [@thenewinnclifton](https://www.facebook.com/thenewinnclifton). Intolerances and allergies can also be catered for. To order (min.£10; slots subject to availability) call 01886 812226 early same day or the day before and pay by card or cash in an envelope.

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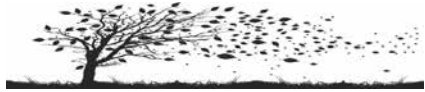


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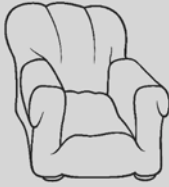
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VE DAY CELEBRATIONS....

More than 50 Clifton households were treated to roast turkey lunches on VE Day, thanks to the generous donation of two 20lb turkeys by David Moore of Baldwins in Shelsley Beauchamp (*see photos opposite*).

“David Moore very kindly donated a couple of to the Clifton Hill Helpers group and some skilful cooks among us worked together to produce over 50 meals on VE Day for distribution to the elderly and isolated in and around Clifton,” said Lisa Adams. “We delivered roast turkey, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes and Yorkshire puddings at lunchtime by car with the help of several volunteers.”

The turkeys were cooked at Lisa’s house by local chef Stephen Link, with additional ingredients added by other volunteers before the specially prepared meals were distributed around the parish, everyone taking care to observe social distancing.

...WORCESTER FOODBANK DONATIONS

As a ‘thank you’ for the turkey lunches, several grateful recipients have offered donations. Prompted by Rev Becky Elliott, the Clifton Hill Helpers team decided to encourage local residents to contribute non-perishable food items for the Worcester Foodbank. Anyone willing to donate is asked to leave their contribution outside their house after the 8pm Clap for the NHS on Thursday evenings.

“The response so far has been wonderful,” says Lisa Adams. “Anyone who would like to donate should place their items in a carrier bag and leave at the end of their driveway, where a Clifton Hill Helper will collect it and take it to the Rectory where they will be forwarded to the foodbank.”



For further information about items needed by the Worcester Foodbank, visit: <https://worcester.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/>



(Left to right) Louise Knight, Steve Link, Rachel Austin and Lisa Adams preparing VE Day turkey lunches.

(Below) Gay Jackson, Rachel Austin, Steve Link and Emma Husselbee





Marie Thompson celebrating VE Day outside her home in Clifton



*Janet Brooks receives her turkey lunch from Mandy Henry (left)
Rev. Jen Denniston outside Clifton Villages Stores (right)*



Tony Dipple shares his family's VE Day tea with socially isolated nextdoor neighbour Ann Gaydon in Clifton.

Sally and Paul Wakefield enjoying a socially distanced VE Day tea party with neighbours Ian and Jane Watson





Shelsley residents Belinda and Mark Skipp put on a special spread for their family's VE Day celebrations



Bunting along Kingswood Lane outside the home of Bernard and Rosemary Hart, one of many houses in Shelsley Kings celebrating VE Day

Church Matters

by Pat Snelling



Never Let Go Of Hope. A story of four candles (not the Two Ronnie's version)

Four candles were lit and burning in a room, the ambience was soft you could hear them talking. The first one said, I AM PEACE, however no one can keep me burning, I believe I will go out, and its flame rapidly diminished and went out completely.

The second candle said, I AM FAITH, but I am no longer indispensable, so it does not make any sense that I should keep burning, and when it had finished talking a soft breeze blew it out.

Sadly, the third candle spoke, I AM LOVE, and I do not have the strength to stay alight. People put me aside and do not understand my importance. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them and waiting no longer the candle went out.

Suddenly a child entered the room and saw that three candles were not burning. Why are you not burning, you are supposed to stay alight to the end?

Then the fourth candle said, do not be afraid, while I am still burning we can relight the other candles, because I AM THE CANDLE HOPE. With shining eyes, the child took the candle of HOPE and lit the other candles.

You see the flame of hope should never go out of our lives, because, during difficult times, hope helps to sustain us to never give up. In our current crisis we see hope all around us, demonstrated every day by people supporting the NHS, and their local communities, rainbows in the windows, people like Capt Tom, and many, many others. Signs of hope are all around us in our own village, the care of our doctors' surgeries, our shops, bin men, postmen, church services streamed into our homes by the WWRT, and of course, our wonderful milk lady.

Hope is a Christian virtue, and it is as important as faith and love - even when life is at its darkest. We need Hope. We can find comfort in knowing God is at work to bring light and hope back --- to all people. God is there with us when hope may waver - God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble, words from psalm 46. No, we are not alone, keep the candle of hope burning, may its constant flame bring warmth into our hearts. In the words of that great hymn: 'All our hope on God is founded.'

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CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT - May 2020

I hope all residents of Clifton are keeping safe and well during these very trying and unique circumstances. It is indicative of the 'community spirit' within the village that the help support system – Clifton Hill Helpers – was set up prior to the suggestions from the County Council. A large 'Well done' from all on the Parish Council.

A new Parish Council was formed in May 2019 following the resignation of four out of the five councillors and the Parish Clerk. We then had to start afresh, with only one councillor with any experience and a new Parish Clerk, provided by the Local Government CALC. This proved to be a great addition to Clifton and Michelle Alexander was formally employed in July last year. She has and continues to do a grand job, guiding the new Council with her very extensive knowledge of how to work a Parish Council!

When we commenced working for the village, we basically had to start from scratch and we were surprised to find quite a few things which had not been made clear to the village, due to the many private meetings which had been held 'in camera' and no trace of any minutes could be found.

As a result, it was decided to hold the monthly meeting as a more open meeting, thus allowing any villager the option and time to speak on any relevant issue they wish to raise. This has worked reasonably well, even though some villagers continue to interrupt! However, this is felt to be a much more accountable forum. We have also encouraged Teme Triangle to publish the minutes in draft form as soon as they are available so that villagers who do not attend the meetings, have the information. I would stress that the way to raise any concerns or issues is to attend the monthly meetings, which will allow villagers to understand how and why decisions are taken.

Despite the slow start to the Council's year, many issues and items have been resolved during this period. A new container has been purchased for storage for the Bowls and Football Club and will also be used by the 'uniformed organisations'. The industrial bins were removed from the Recreation Ground as they were not being used. However, as a result of 'unintended consequences', it became apparent that this was where the Guides disposed of their weekly rubbish – I can confirm that replacement bins have been ordered and that the overall cost will be less than it was previously.

Chris and Sid Hayward have completed work on the new notice board which has needed replacing for some time – an excellent job! Allowance has also been made for non-Parish Council items to be displayed on the reverse side. There was a certain amount of disquiet in the village when it was proposed that some sort of barrier was to be provided around the village Green to prevent parking of vehicles on the green. The issue was raised following some parents parking their cars on the Green to drop off their children at the school; when challenged, they became abusive and used foul language in response. The worry is that

in this situation, a child could be injured, so measures have been considered in an attempt to prevent this. Doing nothing and ignoring the problem until an accident happens is not an option. This issue is still under review, but the use of 'No Parking' cartoon signs local to the school and the re-installment of the original 'No Parking' sign on the Green seems to have alleviated this problem, at least temporarily.

Villagers have expressed concerns about vehicles speeding into the village from all four directions. A check was recently made by the 'Police Speed Survey', which gave the surprising result that it was not as big a problem as villagers thought. We have, however, with the support of County Councillor Ken Pollock, agreed to install 'white gates' and speed monitors on each of the approach roads, with the exception of Pound Lane, where the verges are too narrow to allow the positioning of white gates. It is hoped that when this work has been completed, motorists will reduce their speeds further when driving through the village.

The heaters and lights in the Pavilion have been refurbished and the required annual 'Testing Certificate' obtained, as no certificate could be found within the documents provided by the previous council or at the Pavilion.

We welcome new residents to the village now that The Meadows development is almost complete and about 90% occupied. As a result of the new housing, 'S106' money is available to the village. It should be noted that the proposed development at Church House Farm, currently consisting of footings for two houses, does not provide any S106 funding, which is very surprising. A working party has been set up under the leadership of Chris Hurley to accept and process ideas as to how these funds should be used to the benefit of the village, within the strict rules set out by the S106 regulations. Suggestions include improving the facilities at the Recreation Ground for the benefit all ages; improving the sound and comfort within the Village Hall; a Sensory Garden at the Recreation Ground and also a Peace Garden behind the church. The funding is on a 'use it or lose basis and we have some ten years to commence any agreed projects. If anyone has any other ideas, please contact Chris Hurley, or any member of the Council.

There are still some issues outstanding, such as provision of a new Tourist Information board, refurbishment of the old Footpaths board and providing a 20mph speed limit on Pound Lane, these issues being detailed within the Neighbourhood Plan, and were not addressed by the previous council.

On examining the Accounts from the previous council, it was decided that there was no necessity to increase the precept this year as we are currently running a surplus and this surplus will be preserved to cover anticipated maintenance costs for whatever project(s) the S106 funding is used for.

John Bowden

Chairman, Clifton-upon-Teme Parish Council

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CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL Draft Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council held Thursday 7th May 2020

Present: Councillors J. Bowden (Chairman), A. Henry, R. Henry, C. Haywood, and J. Collins. Also present: County Cllr K. Pollock, M. Alexander (Clerk).

Apologies: Councillors J. Dawson and S. Haywood, & Ward Cllr C. Palethorpe.

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

Declarations of Prejudicial & Pecuniary Interests: None.

Democratic Public Time: Matters raised by Residents to be considered at the meeting – no matters received.

To note actions approved via email by the Council during April when no meeting was held due to CV-19 restrictions: Minutes of a meeting held 5th March 2020 were agreed as a true record. District & County Councillor Reports - to be uploaded to the website as received. Payments as per the schedule circulated, were approved. Clerk to action. Waste bins for the playing field were approved as quoted by MHDC (£119.74 per quarter for fortnightly collection) and will be installed once CV-19 restrictions are lifted. Community Transport s.106 funding survey – to be considered once CV-19 restrictions are lifted. Great British Spring Clean – postponed to 19th Sept (to be confirmed). S.106 Committee update – report from C. Hurley was noted. Planning – there were no applications or decision notices received. Lengthsman Scheme – currently suspended due to CV-19 restrictions. Correspondence & Cllr Reports – none received.

District & County Councillor Reports: To be uploaded to the website. Other updates as circulated to Councillors. County Cllr Pollock highlighted the following matters: CV-19 business support schemes, recycling centres to reopen, care home & hospital admissions / PPE supplies, WCC Highways grass cutting policies.

Financial & Governance Matters: In line with recent NALC guidelines and Government legal amendments, the meeting approved Council roles until May 2021. Chairman J. Bowden, Vice Chairman A. Henry, Planning Lead S. Haywood. The meeting noted that Cllr J. Dawson no longer wished to be Vice Chairman. Roles proposed by Cllr J. Collins, seconded Cllr C. Haywood. All agreed. Payments were approved as per the schedule, proposed by Cllr Bowden, seconded Cllr A. Henry. All agreed. S.106 funding – The Council noted the budget paper as circulated by the s.106 Committee, which had shown £30k of PC funds included. It was agreed that any s.106 funding should remain separate from PC funds, although PC funds can be applied for to fund initial groundworks or surveys that cannot be s.106 funded. Proposed Cllr J. Bowden, seconded Cllr R. Henry. All agreed. Waste bin outside Hill Farm Drive – the meeting discussed whether a new bin should be located between the notice board and the finger post to accommodate general and dog waste. The Clerk

will check with MHDC re cost and collections. Also, to consider one by The Meadows. Annual Report of the Parish Council – to be published on the notice board, website and in TVT. Bank account signatories – it was agreed that Cllr C. Haywood be added as a bank account signatory. Cllr J. Dawson to be removed. Clerk to action.

Parish Matters: Community Transport S.106 Funding Survey – Clerk to discuss distribution with WCC and District Cllr Palethorpe. Tourist Information Noticeboard / Footpaths Noticeboard – It was agreed that these would benefit residents and visitors to the area and that Cllr C. Haywood should undertake to progress these with Cllr J. Bowden.

Section 106 Committee update: C. Hurley's report had been circulated by email.

Planning Matters: Applications considered – 20/00450/AGR - J E Yeomans & Son, Salford Court Farm, Clifton upon Teme – erection of 3 steel framed agricultural buildings – COMMENT: further details requested regarding building usage (21/04/2020), 20/00549/CU – Mrs J. Cormish, Hope Barn, Clifton upon Teme – outdoor riding arena with timber post and rail fencing – still to be considered. Notifications received – 20/00450/AGR - prior approval is not required and approval is granted.

Highways Matters: Lengthsman scheme is still suspended due to CV-19. Clerk to undertake a risk assessment with WCC in order to restart the scheme asap. Highways road closure notices were noted and will be placed on the notice board.

Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agendas: Next agenda items – 2019-2020 accounts to sign off / Scottish Widows account mandate changes. There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40 pm

Next meeting to be held Thursday 4th June 2020

SHELSLEY HILLCLIMB FOOTPATH CLOSURE WITHDRAWN

An application by the Midland Automobile Club to permanently close a number of footpaths on the Shelsley Walsh hillclimb site has been withdrawn. The withdrawal follows objections from both Clifton and the Shelsleys' Parish Councils.

CLIFTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

A message to all members to say I have been thinking of you all, and hope you are all well and 'Keeping Safe'. We don't know when we can restart our meetings again but hopefully it will be soon; we will keep you all informed. I am sure you are all being looked after. But if you have any problems or need anything please feel free to contact my daughter Jane on 01886 812567 and we will do our best to help you. I miss you all. *Marie Thompson.*

UPDATE FROM ST KENELM'S

Just to let you know where we are with church opening etc. We had a chat, very recently, with Archdeacon Robert Jones and we expressed our dismay and that of our parishioners, about having to lock the church. He outlined why this had been necessary, re the virus staying on hard surfaces and we would have had to thoroughly clean the pews etc, very often. Obviously, this would not have been possible. He did say that the Archbishop of Canterbury had given the directive to close and that this would be the first time that churches had been locked since around 1208!

We expressed our wishes to be able to open the church ASAP and he was very supportive, but unable to give any further details. However, if you go past church on your daily walk, or even driving, and glance across you will see that we have opened the porch doors, so that you are able to sit inside the porch and have some moments of peace and quiet. We have placed some Daily Prayer booklets in there and Nigel has put some Gideon Literature there also. This is all we are allowed to do. Don't forget that the churchyard is open for quiet walking and there are benches for sitting. Please keep the Safe Distance. Our wonderful mower man Darren has made a really good job of the grass. If you feel like placing a prayer or flowers in the porch these would be very welcome. Pat is keeping up to date the Prayer List. On a practical note Bob says that water for vases can be got from the tap at the rear of the tower.

Hopefully, we will soon be able to open our lovely village church and once again enjoy its special atmosphere. Take Care all of you and God Bless.

Alana and Barbara

OLD ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, LOWER SAPEY

We here are in self isolation and so life is even quieter than usual. The dear old church was closed on 24th March, under instruction from the Churches Conservation Trust, to abide by the Government's instructions to close places of worship. It will remain closed for the duration of those instructions and until the CCT consider it is safe to reopen its churches once again. In light of the necessary restrictions our country now faces in an effort to minimize the spread of Covid~19, and with the distinct possibility that things will continue in much the same vein for most of the year, you will not be surprised to hear I am cancelling the Annual Service in August. We have only cancelled twice before in the last thirty years, during the Foot and Mouth epidemic and the floods in 2007, and just as then we will hope to welcome you back next year. I hope and pray that your lives will remain untouched by Covid~19 and that once we are on the other side of this nightmare, we shall be able to live a better life; families and friends reunited once again. Please take care of each other, stay in as much as is humanly possible and, in so doing, keep yourselves and other people safe.

Pat Prosser



Charles and Patricia Knowles celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in Clifton at the end of April. "We were overwhelmed with all the cards and telephone calls we received," said Patricia. "We wish to thank everyone who remembered us."

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A few views of Clifton in 'lockdown' from local resident Ros Wain

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