

April 2021

# Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton upon Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



*Local Teenager Fundraising for the Midlands Air Ambulance*

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[www.temetriangle.net](http://www.temetriangle.net)

Free to Residents



*Jack Whittenbury and Mike Snelling perform the special task of winding the Clifton Church clock. Read the full article later in this edition.*

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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 teenager Henry Carpenter fundraising for the Midlands Air Ambulance.  
Read his full story in this edition of the Teme Triangle.*

A VERY WARM WELCOME to the April 2021 edition of the Teme Triangle.

I cannot quite believe that it is a year ago since I wrote the first 'lockdown' edition of the Teme Triangle. What a year it has been. Whoever thought we would still be in this position now.

But...despite the terrible happenings of the past year, which have personally affected far too many of us, surely we must dare to believe that there is now light at the end of the tunnel. In fact we must believe it.

As always, we have some great articles this month – thank you to all those who have contributed. They remind us that there is still so much goodness around us, so much to be grateful for.

I particularly enjoyed the 'Teme Valley Wildlife' article this month – it truly warmed my heart to imagine those fruit pickers from the past and the descriptions of the blossoms reminded me of the beauty of this world that we inhabit. We should remember that whatever happens, nature will always astound us and carry on regardless, as indeed so must we.

***“You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream.”***  
**C.S.Lewis**

**AN EASTER MESSAGE** - With Rev Canon David Sherwin, Team Rector.

Life will never be the same again. I am sure that would have been the conversation of the disciples after that first Easter. They had seen life changing events with the trial and crucifixion of their leader, Jesus. Now they had seen him risen from the dead, a cataclysmic world changing occurrence. Life would never be the same again. The resurrection would give them the confidence in their beliefs that would be fully realised when the Holy Spirit was given to them at Pentecost. But for now they could contemplate the significance of what they had seen and heard and realise what it meant for their lives.

Maybe we have said that very same phrase, 'life will never be the same again', in light of having lived through a year like no other, a year when a viral pandemic changed the world and changed our lives. But maybe unlike the disciples of Jesus we are not sure where the hope is coming from. For the disciples whatever they faced, and times ahead were not easy, they had seen that Jesus had conquered death and so what had they to fear? That fact did not take away life's difficulties but it did mean that their risen Lord would be with them, and as he said, "I am with you always", was to be their strength and comfort.

Where do we find strength and comfort? It's been hard being away from our loved ones, not having those hugs and kisses we are used to having and just being with them. Yet the Christian message of Easter means that there is one who is always there to reach out to, our risen Lord Jesus. I recall an old Gospel song I used to sing that sums this up:

***Because He lives I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives, all fear is gone  
Because I know I know who holds the future  
And life is worth a living just because He lives.***

None of us knows quite how this time in our history will pan out, but having been a follower of Jesus since I was a child, I do know that the reality of knowing that

he is by my side whatever I face, has been a reality for me and so it is that I trust him now to lead me on and continue to give me hope. As Paul would say to Timothy, may those same words encourage us:

***‘For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Saviour of all people, especially of those who believe.’***

***1 Timothy chapter 4 verse 10.***

I finish with the Easter acclamation that has rung through the centuries and still rings true for us today:

**‘Alleluia Christ is risen, He is risen indeed, Alleluia’**

God Bless and Happy Easter,  
David.

## **HENRY CARPENTER FUNDRAISES FOR MIDLANDS AIR AMBULANCE**

15-year-old Henry Carpenter from Upper Sapey, wanted to give back to the lifesaving service, Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, which airlifted him to Birmingham Children’s Hospital following a horrific farming incident.

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2020, three weeks into the first national lockdown, Henry, who was 14 at the time, was on his family’s farm. A freak accident left him in vital need of advanced pre-hospital emergency care.

Henry was taking a tractor out to get sheep in during lambing season. After climbing down from the tractor to close a gate behind him, Henry accidentally knocked the gearstick. This resulted in him being knocked and run over by the tractor. He then got trapped between the back wheel and a box on the back of the tractor used for transporting ewes and lambs. Eventually, having been dragged some way, the heavy metal box scraped over the top of his pelvis and whole upper body.

The tractor continued to roam the field circling back towards Henry, panicking him to try and remove himself from the tractors direct line. However, unknown to Henry at the time, he had dislocated his left hip by 3 inches, resulting in him collapsing to the ground on each attempt to stand and get himself out of danger. Henry was left lying injured until he was found, and emergency help was called.

The Midlands Air Ambulance was despatched from RAF Cosford in Shropshire. After arriving on scene, the crew on-board started treating Henry for his injuries, which included a fractured pelvis and dislocated hip. Henry had also torn blood vessels in his hip as he had attempted to free himself.

Critical care paramedic for MAAC, Karen Baker, who tended to Henry on scene, said: “We found Henry in a very poorly condition. He had life threatening injuries, especially as a broken pelvis can lead to a catastrophic internal bleed. He was in terrible pain and this would be difficult for an adult to cope with, but for a child it’s even more distressing. However, he showed such bravery and we knew there was something special about him.”

After a week in hospital, due to the changing landscape of healthcare provision following the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent enforcement of lockdown measures, Henry was discharged home to continue his 12 week recovery downstairs in bed. Despite making good progress, the vessels did not reconnect

to the top of his femur (thigh bone) resulting in compression and immense pain within the joint. He has now just received the good news that an awaited hip replacement will take place in June this year.

Despite still relying on the aid of crutches to mobilise, Henry has taken on the charity's Air30 Airbase fundraising challenge and walked a massive 54 miles within 30 days. He built the miles up gradually with his first walk being just under a mile and his last being six miles long. No easy task when we not only experienced snow and ice regularly, but long periods of time in bitter cold, a mile taking at least ½ hour to achieve on a good day. Henry's determination and dedication to fund future lifesaving missions to help others in need, has been his motivation to keep going.

Henry said: "I knew I could use this challenge as a way to raise much needed funds for the amazing crew at Midlands Air Ambulance Charity that helped save my life.

"It's difficult to put into words how amazing the crew and charity are."

"As a family we have been so touched by the support Henry has received far and wide" said his mother Emma. "The Community have been amazing, and people have donated so generously. This was a huge boost to Henry who has also been suffering with Post Traumatic Stress since the accident. He has had friends, as well as a teacher, Mr BT from his previous school who have joined him on some of his walks to offer him support, which has been so special. Locals also have offered support in other ways too. Louise Knight who owns Clifton's 'Happy Brownie' company, made him some amazing Malteser Brownies, delivered to our home for when he returned from his last walk, which, after an arduous 6 miles, he was able to share with his loyal friends. And Amanda Stephenson, who owns 'Physio in the Sticks', also from Clifton, has treated Henry free of charge to help him recover and get ready for his operation. Such thoughtful gestures.

With his latest challenge, Henry has inspired so many people around him, including the team at MAAC.

Karen continued: "Henry's commitment to his challenge, no matter how hard, has given everyone a real heart-warming boost at the charity, after what has been an extremely difficult year."

Henry has now completed his challenge and fundraised in excess of £8,761 in donations for the charity. This amount will help fund 13 lifesaving missions – two via air ambulance and 11 in the charity's critical care cars.

If you would like to donate and have not done so already, you can either send a cheque, payable to Richard Carpenter, who will then transfer the funds to Henry's Justgiving Account. The cheque can be sent to Yearston Court, Upper Sapey, WR6 6EU. Alternatively you can go to Henry's fundraising page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/henry-carpenter2>



*Henry walking into Clifton on his final walk, accompanied by friends and family.*

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## SHOP LOCAL WITH NEW 'WORCESTER VIRTUAL HIGH STREET' GROUP

Shoppers, businesses and retailers across Worcestershire are being invited to join a new online group designed to boost local trade, after what has been one of the most challenging commercial years in modern memory.

The 'Worcester Virtual High Street' Facebook group, set up by Shelsley Beauchamp businessman and photographer Michael Whitefoot, is free to join and allows independent shops, services, tradespeople, crafters, e-sellers and entrepreneurs from across the County to promote their wares and services to customers free of charge. Shoppers in turn have the chance to discover hundreds of exciting products, service providers, special offers and one-off buys at the click of a mouse.

The group already has around 500 members and is attracting scores of new providers and shoppers every day.

"Worcester Virtual High Street provides the perfect hub to bring together businesses and consumers at zero cost" confirms Michael. "It's a great way for local providers to showcase their products or services to a bigger audience, cost-free, whether or not they have a physical shop or their own Facebook page. Meanwhile, consumers can find a huge range of Worcestershire artisans, retailers, tradespeople, professional services and more, from the comfort of home. Together it creates a virtual High Street that makes it easy to source and shop local!"

To join the group, Worcestershire-based businesses, and consumers from anywhere in the UK, should visit: [www.facebook.com/groups/worcester.virtual.high.street](http://www.facebook.com/groups/worcester.virtual.high.street)



*Photo: Aerial shot of Worcester. © Michael Whitefoot.*

## LIFE AFTER LOCKDOWN.....send us your news and calendar events

Is your local business about to reopen after lockdown, with something special planned to welcome back customers?

Are you planning to run a club, event or meeting in May, June or July that you'd like *Teme Triangle* to mention?

If so, please send details and any photos to [editortemetriangle@gmail.com](mailto:editortemetriangle@gmail.com) by 9<sup>th</sup> April, for consideration in the May issue.



## **SHELSELY WALSH HILLCLIMB LATEST**

(As taken from the March newsletter)

Social events planed at Shelsley Walsh between 12th April and 17th May (with their anticipated restrictions) are:

15<sup>th</sup> April - Cars in the Valley

18<sup>th</sup> April - Breakfast Club

6<sup>th</sup> May - Cars in the valley

All will be for MAC Members only and limited to 125 cars.

For our first competitive event of the year on 1st/2nd May, we are planning to open for members only and with a restricted capacity.

Signage reminding attendees to wash their hands, wear face coverings and maintain social distancing will be placed throughout the site to maintain the venue as Covid secure. As last year, spectating members will not be allowed to enter the motorsport bubble.

From the 17th May, Shelsley Walsh will be able to re-open to the general public but will have a restricted capacity increased to 5,000. Restrictions on entry to the motorsport bubble are expected to remain, as will the reminders on Covid security.

The government are not intending to review the guidance of the wearing of face coverings and social distance until the 21st June.

For all events, everyone in attendance has to be registered on-line in order to comply with track and trace. Tickets for the general public are only available on-line, in advance.

## **LOOKING FOR NEW LOCAL WALKS?**

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks?

Then 'Walking in Worcestershire' ([www.walkinginengland.co.uk/worcestershire](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/worcestershire)) is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, all free of charge, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the County and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own, or with a group, all the information is there in one place.

John Harris, creator of the website says: "There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Worcestershire (part of the Walking in England suite of websites ([www.walkinginengland.co.uk](http://www.walkinginengland.co.uk)) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you".

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the website and get walking!

John Harris

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## **SHELSELEY PARISH COUNCIL COVID-19 DONATIONS**

In response to the recent announcement in the Teme Triangle asking for suggestions to either support local causes which have suffered due to Covid-19, or to enhance the locality, the Shelsley Parish Council agreed to the following donations at the March meeting:

1. £500 to The Nora Parsons Day Centre.
2. £500 towards the cost of maintaining the grounds at All Saints Church.
3. £150 towards the cost of erecting dispensers for the Teme Triangle, to be placed at strategic locations within the parish of the Shelsleys.

A suggestion to place a bench in Shelsley Kings where a view of the valley could be enjoyed was deferred until costs and permissions could be sought.

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## **CAN YOU HELP OUR CHURCHES?**

At our recent Parochial Church Council meetings for the parishes of this area, St. Kenelm's Clifton, All Saints Shelsley Beauchamp, and St Bartholomew's Harpley, concerns were raised about the lack of income that the parishes have received over the last 12 months. This is no surprise in that we had to close our buildings for both private prayer and public worship. Since then we have had services online and limited worship in our buildings with restrictions on numbers and singing. This of course has had an effect upon the income and will affect both the maintenance and ministry of the Church in your area.

The Diocese of Worcester, to which we belong, has already had to make some administrative staff redundant and is looking to lose up to 15 clergy posts over the next couple of years due to this shortfall in income, so it is very serious.

The local Church does not have any financial help from any central funds, nor from Government and relies upon its faithful congregations offerings. On their behalf, and as your team Rector, I am asking for your help. I know that times are difficult, but if there is any financial help you can give, however small, it will be gratefully received and will enable the work of the Church to continue unhindered.

If you would like to know more or can in anyway offer help, please let me know.  
Rev Canon David Sherwin, Team Rector, 01886 888 664, davidwin56@aol.com.

## SHELSELEY'S LITTER PICKING EFFORTS

A huge well done and thank you to Val Jones and her team of 'litter pickers' for starting the Shelsley initiative to tidy up and rid our beautiful country lanes of litter. So far, the Shelsley Kings team, including Val, Ellie and her mum Helen, and Brian and Barbara Meddings, have litter picked down to Stirt Farm layby, Birds Green lane, Kingswood Lane to the village hall and Pard House Lane. Thank you all for your efforts and kindness in doing this for our community.

Other lanes that will be covered over the next month (before the verges and hedges start to grow up) include Camp Lane, Birch Berrow, Fetterlocks Lane, Manor Lane, Birch Hill and through the village from the village hall to Shelsley Walsh.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help with any of these litter pick areas, please contact Louise Hutton on 01299 896 126 within the next week or so. Thank you.



## ALTERNATIVE 'LOCKDOWN' DAYS OF THE WEEK.....

By Margaret Burrows

According to when the ancients lived, where they lived and who they worshipped, they would have named the days of the week differently. They might also have had a different start day, Sunday or Monday, or were a different length, like the Romans who at one time had an eight day week.

Below is a modern twist on those days, as experienced through lockdown, when we find ourselves confused as to which day of the week it is. Can you add your own?

MONDAY <i>(O.E. Moon's day)</i>	Mm..Oneday, Moanday
TUESDAY <i>(O.E. Tiw/ Norse Tyr)</i>	Chewsday, Chooseday
WEDNESDAY <i>(Germanic god Woden)</i>	Whensday, Winsday
THURSDAY <i>(O.E. Thunder/Norse Thor)</i>	Slursday, Thingday
FRIDAY <i>(O.E. Frig)</i>	Fryday, Flyday
SATURDAY <i>(Roman Saturn)</i>	Satisfactday, Sambaday
SUNDAY <i>(O.E Sun's Day)</i>	Sundae, Funday, Soulday,

### Churches Together in the Teme Valley - 4 Talks about Grace

- ◊ “How does God’s Grace affect my everyday life ?”
- ◊ **Wednesday 21st April** - Huw Jones, local resident and international film producer talks live on zoom about filming The Gospels.
- ◊ **Wednesday 28th April** - We see a YouTube video of the inspirational preacher Bijan Mirtolooi about God, the Bringer of Joy.
- ◊ **Wednesday 5th May** - Bijan continues his talk about Grace as illustrated through the Miracle at the Marriage Feast at Cana.
- ◊ **Wednesday 12th May** - We watch videos of two people’s amazing testimonies of overcoming severe physical adversity in life and living with joy - Joni Erickson Tada & Nick Vujicic.

The evenings will be run on Zoom, starting at 7.30pm and finishing at 9pm

PLEASE JOIN US by emailing Jill Smith on [jill.together@gmail.com](mailto:jill.together@gmail.com) for a link to each evening session or if you have any concerns about using zoom.



‘For it is by Grace you have been saved, through faith’

Ephesians 2:8



### **CLIFTON CHURCH CLOCK WINDERS**

Every Thursday morning, two Clifton residents ascend a wooden ladder in St Kenelm’s church bell tower into the lower belfry. Once up there, they set about winding the 115-year- old church clock, using an ancient crank handle similar to that once used to start vintage lorries and cars.



The clock, installed in St Kenelm’s church tower in 1897 to mark Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee, is wound once a week in the time-honoured manner that has kept it ticking since the days it provided a reliable timekeeper for the folk toiling in the fields around the village. It takes 86 turns of the crank handle to bring the heavy weights up to the bell tower, rather like the mechanism of an old cuckoo clock. Today, as seen in the photo below, the ritual task is carried out by Jack Whittenbury and Mike Snelling.

There are plans to replace the manual winding of the clock with an electric motor, possibly by the end of this year.

### **NORA PARSONS DAY CENTRE UPDATE**

Nora Parsons volunteers and helpers have been active all through this awful pandemic, keeping contact with regular members by whatever means available, doing shopping and generally alleviating isolation and loneliness where possible. Now, at last, there are signs that we may return to a ‘new normal’.

We have also been caretaking our premises, installing Wifi and bringing them up to date to provide a Covid free environment.

Please contact us if you would like to find an end to loneliness and isolation, or if you would like to help those who do. We welcome any interest from the community in our centre – just get in touch.

Secretaries: Pam Morgan 01299 896 656 and Pat Owen 01886 888 406.



## 20 FABULOUS YEARS OF THE TEME TRIANGLE!

We can't quite believe it, but the May 2021 *Teme Triangle* will mark 20 years since we began circulating local news around the parishes of the Shelsleys, Clifton and Lower Sapey! To celebrate, join us for a stroll down memory lane in next month's issue, as we round up some of the news and photo highlights from over the decades.

Editor Michelle Whitefoot will be in charge of this super special edition, so please do send in anything that you feel should be included.

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## **Abbreviated Draft Minutes of The Virtual Shelsleys Parish Council Meeting held on Zoom on March 16th 2021**

**Present:** Dr Laura Taylor (Chairman), Mrs Karen Metcalfe (Vice- Chairman) Mrs Val Jones, Mrs Jean Hammond, Mr David Styles and Mrs Louise Hutton.

**In Attendance:** County Councillor Dr Ken Pollock, District Councillor Paethorpe, 2 members of the public and the Clerk.

**Apologies:** Mr David Bates, Mr J Stinton, **Declarations of Interest:** None.

**Minutes:** The minutes of February 12<sup>th</sup> 2021 were agreed as a true record.

**Public Question Time:** None.

**Co-option of Councillor for Shelsley Beauchamp:** Mr Robert Pound was co-opted onto the Council as a member for Shelsley Beauchamp. The Acceptance of Office and Register of Interests will be emailed to him. Mr Pound introduced himself and was invited to speak at the meeting.

**County Councillor and District Councillor's reports:** These will be displayed on the website.

**Highways:** The Lengthsman's time sheets for December, January and February all were agreed.

**Salt Bins Kingswood Lane:** A request for a further bin was received, it was agreed to move one of the existing bins to a more suitable location after consultation with the authorities.

**Pudford Lane:** One of the salt bins is in bad repair and will be reported to WCC.

**Litter bin emptying.** The clerk had contacted MHDC who will for no extra charge empty full litter bins on request. The clerk to ensure that the litter bin by the church is emptied regularly.

**Water Issues** in Blakes Lane/Old Lane. The surface water problem has been reported to WCC and the lane has been swept by MHDC.

**Temporary Footpath Closures:** Shelsley Walsh and Clifton. The Parish Council was supplied with details of footpath closures when events are taking place at the Hill Climb.

**Planning:** The application for 21/00207/LB The Cottage Fetterlocks. Conversion of the existing garage into an annexe with sitting room and bedroom together with associated application 21/00398/HP was discussed and approval recommended.

**Finance:** The following requests for payment were received and agreed.

Lengthsman's invoice for £752.40. Clerk's salary and expenses for Q4 £524.65. HMRC PAYE £144.

Two further signatories will be added to the Lloyds Bank Mandate.

**Midland Automobile Club:** Report from Mr Simon Durling. It is hoped that the season will start on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> possibly for members only but by July spectators should be able to attend Classic Nostalgia on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

Retro Rides will take place on August 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> when there will be enhanced security. Councillors were concerned about traffic, noise and litter pollution but this will be discussed at a meeting nearer the time.

**Broadband:** The working group recently formed had not met but individual projects made reports.

The **Pudford Lane** project is waiting for an evaluation for an alternative route. The **Stanford Bridge** project has reached the target and is now waiting to appoint a Legal Entity and are awaiting a decision by MHDC (see above 8.5). The area around

**The Grange** is understood to have achieved matched funding. An alternative to either the Parish Council or MHDC acting as the Legal Entity is to form a limited company with no assets.

**Covid-19:** The applications for grants to local organisations were considered and the following were approved. Nora Parsons Day Centre £500. All Saints Church grounds maintenance support £500.

Temple Triangle dispensers £150.

The suggestion of placing a bench in Shelsley Kings was deferred until costs and permissions were ascertained.

**Councillors' Reports and items for future agenda.** Litter picking. Kingswood bench.

**Future Meeting Dates:** May 4<sup>th</sup> 2021. July 13<sup>th</sup> 2021. September 14<sup>th</sup> 2021

**The meeting concluded at 20.40.**

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 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021, commencing at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Councillors J. Bowden (Chairman), A. Henry (Vice-Chairman), R. Henry and B. Gilbert. Also present: County Cllr K. Pollock, District Cllr C. Palethorpe and J. Johns.

**Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the Clifton Hill Helpers for their continued support to the community. Thanks also to those who delivered Roses for Valentine's Day.

**Apologies:** Councillors C. Haywood, J. Collins.

**Declarations of Prejudicial & Pecuniary Interests / Councillor Dispensations:** Cllr B. Gilbert on matters relating to the Primary School and Village Archives.

**Democratic Public Time:** No matters for consideration.

To agree the Minutes of a virtual meeting held 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – The minutes were agreed as a true record. Proposed Cllr Gilbert, seconded Cllr Bowden. All agreed.

**District & County Councillor Reports:** Reports to be uploaded to the website as circulated. Cllr Palethorpe reported on the following matters – Litter Picking Scheme award, Census 2021, Natural Networks webinar 17<sup>th</sup> March, SpaceHive – Crowd Fund Worcs, Worcs CC – new Children & Young People Plan to get involved with. Cllr Pollock reported on the following matters – Covid 19 update for the county, Council Tax update for Worcs CC & draft budget figs, Worcs CC Highways report on spending, local matters – Tenbury flooding, Divisional Funding, Highways matters.

**Financial & Governance Matters:** Payments were approved as per the schedule circulated plus an additional £6.85 for postage. Parish website – the Clerk continues to progress this with B. Higgins next week and will circulate a further demonstration link shortly for feedback. It is hoped to go live during March. Village Maintenance Plan – a proposal had been circulated by Cllr Gilbert for consideration. It was proposed by Cllr Bowden, seconded Cllr A. Henry that £5000.00 p.a. should be set aside as a village maintenance budget (excluding the Lengthsman Scheme

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**Friday 6th December Big Sister**

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work). A Maintenance Working Group to be set up with Cllrs Bowden, Gilbert & the Clerk, to have delegated authority to spend up to £250.00 per month within this budget. All spend to be reported to the following PC meeting. The maintenance budget to be reviewed after 6 months. The Clerk to ensure that all works are carried out with permission of or by the appropriate authority as required. The proposed floral decoration works to be progressed by the Working Group as per the current Maintenance Plan. All agreed. Football / Bowls Club Agreements – Cllr Bowden reported that a previous Bowls Club agreement had been found but new versions would be needed going forward before the s.106 project completion. Clerk to set up meetings with both Clubs as soon as possible.

**Parish Matters:** Village Archives – Cllr Gilbert had circulated a draft proposal for consideration. A redecoration quote has now been received but the meeting noted that Councillors need to see the proposed agreement with the School before agreeing to progress matters further. Cllr Gilbert agreed to circulate a draft agreement shortly and it was agreed that Cllrs Bowden and Gilbert progress negotiations accordingly, including the length of term for the agreement as the proposed 5 years seems too short a period – 10 years would be more appropriate? The meeting agreed £5000.00 budget expenditure on the project in principal subject to the agreement with the school being approved. Women’s Institute Open Meeting to be held 13<sup>th</sup> March with a topic of ‘Re-Wilding’. Footpath Notice Board – Cllr Bowden has taken delivery of the new notice board but will need R. Wilks to help erect it. The existing notice board will remain as a public board for village notices.

**Section 106 Matters:** Four Acre Field Project – a site meeting with MHDC Project Officer has been agreed for 11<sup>th</sup> March. Cllrs Bowden & Gilbert, the Clerk and C. Hurley to attend. Proof of site ownership is being progressed by the Clerk in line with the funding offer by MHDC. A report on the Sensory Garden had been circulated by Cllr Gilbert and was noted by the meeting. Letters of thanks have now been delivered to the CFAF Team as agreed. Village bus shelter – the land ownership query is being progressed by the Clerk. We also need to establish whether there is a need for a shelter, but there is money allocated within the s.106 agreement.

**Planning Matters:** Cllr Gilbert had circulated a report on the SWDP meeting attended which was noted by the meeting.

**Highways Matters:** Parish Lengthsman – the Lengthsman has replaced x3 litter bins on the recreation field and x1 in Manor Rd as requested. The hedge opposite the school has now been cut back off the footpath. Lovells development – the grass verges / tarmac pathway idea is with Highways for consideration. The option to link footways within the village (Hope Lane to Pound Lane) – Cllr Bowden to progress. Road closure notices - noted as circulated. Footpath closure notices – Cllr Bowden has contacted Worcs CC Countryside Service re local issues, including permitted diversions across farmland.

**Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agendas:** Cllr Bowden thanked Cllr A. Henry for doing the planters for the village which look lovely. The planter opposite ‘Enderby’ may also need replacing now? Cllr Gilbert to arrange water for planters via the school. The W.I have also offered to help with local planting and maintenance. Thanks to everyone who took part in litter picking, especially Cllrs A. & R. Henry. There are now 15 Volunteers including some doing their Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme.

Next virtual meeting to be held Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 by Zoom invitation.

Meeting closed 20:35.

M Alexander, Clerk.

## LOWER SAPEY NEWS

With Margaret Griffiths

Another month has gone by and why does the time pass so quickly when many of us are doing the same thing, day in, day out because of the Covid restrictions? It seems that our lives are rushing by at a great pace. The restrictions may well have been lifted by mid April and we must hope that there will not be another surge of infections as a result. At least the weather is slowly improving, but it is still colder than average and I am afraid I still have achieved very little in the garden. However, the Spring flowers are out now and our churchyard is looking particularly lovely.

Our PCC has now submitted a request to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for a grant for St Bartholomew's, based on our ideas for developing the community, which would of course include repairs to the Church. It is entitled 'Unlocking our hidden heritage'. Some of the ideas being submitted are quite exciting, for example, a Heritage Trail or Walk through the area and a Heritage Centre. Wheels move very slowly though, especially in these times. However, we are going ahead with tentative plans for the coming year and are definitely going to hold outdoor events and zoom services when possible.

Dot is planning to hold a plant swap and sale in Christian Aid Week (May) and there will be the usual Big Breakfast in early September. Our Palm Sunday service will be a gathering in the church car park, for the distribution of palms. There will be Easter services or zoom meetings during April, but please see the list in this magazine as the information is not available at the time of writing.

The Lent Services have proved very popular with excellent speakers and thanks to all for arranging them. Thanks again to Candy for working so hard on all our plans for St Bartholomew's.

Sadly, we lost our dear friend David Dallow at the end of February, after bravely fighting cancer, kidney and heart problems for 10 years. David died in Bromyard Hospital after being there for only a few days. The Dallow family have been part of this community for over 100 years, mainly as farmers. David lived most of his early life at Landimore Farm, then at The Heath Farm. After marrying Jane in 1967, they eventually settled at The Wheelleys, with daughters Lisa and Sophie, only moving to Bromyard two years ago. David was an active member of the community and Church and he also helped found the Sapey Cricket Club. He loved sport and we had some memorable days watching Worcestershire at New Road. He was also a keen gardener and cyclist and for many years, after his glaucoma diagnosis, cycled the four miles to work in Bromyard, day and night in all weathers. He is being buried in St Bartholomew's on March 22nd and we send our love and sympathy to Jane, Lisa and Chris, Sophie and Ben and all the family. We shall miss him very much.

However, we can welcome a new member of the village, the baby daughter of Natalie and Richard Smith, who was born in early March. Good luck to her always.

Continued love to Jen. now on her final session of chemotherapy.

## NOTICES

The Church services for St Bartholomew's for April are listed in this edition.

The Worcestershire Libraries continue to offer many different services and classes on-line for anyone interested. They are listed on their website.

When lockdown finally finishes, we may re-start our Ladies Bible Group, even though there are only a few of us left standing now!

I hope everyone has a very happy Easter time. Do take care and stay safe.

## TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE

*"If you ever visit Tenbury, take any road that comes,  
When April turns to beauty, the cherries and the plums."*

Last April was a quiet time in the Teme valley. As our everyday hustle-bustle came to a stop, a landscape opening into Spring gave succour to all stay-at-home residents, fearful as they were for family, neighbours and friends. David Hockney, famous for trying to capture its wonder in paint, was reported as saying, "nothing can stop the Spring" and how right he was. By wonderful chance, a lengthy spell of dry and sunny weather came along and the valley's glory, its fruit blossom, put on the best display that I can remember. Wild cherries in woodland and hedgerow, then orchard trees of damson, plum, pear and apple contributed to the show. Although the sight must be vastly less than in its heyday, there's still enough blossom in the valley to admire and in 2020 it was particularly welcome. Let's hope for a repeat show in 2021.

Cherries are of interest because they have always done well in our area. We share with Kent the right conditions to suit them and, of course, the same is true of hops. Three cherry species are thought to have existed in Britain since the last Ice Age; *Prunus spinosa*, the sloe, *Prunus avium*, the wild cherry, also known as the gean, and *Prunus padus*, the bird cherry. This latter is less familiar and has small white blooms in spires, like tiny horse chestnut flowers.

Cherries were first cultivated by selecting wild cherries, which bore good fruit. These were grafted onto hardy stocks to plant as orchard trees. In Tudor times new varieties were brought in from France and the Low Countries, promoted by Henry VIII, who loved cherries. After the Civil War, following great destruction to all manner of crops, there was increased interest in fruit-growing. By 1665, an influential book by John Rea of Kinlet, recommended 16 different cherry varieties. Over a century later, another pioneering local horticulturalist, Andrew Thomas Knight of Elton in North Herefordshire, developed many more new varieties. Some, such as Elton and Knight's Early Black, are still in cultivation today.

Bewdley once had a cherry fair and an old charter mentions that the custom of selling cherries near the Church was already ninety years old by 1601. Cherry-growing has revived of late in Herefordshire. Plastic poly-tunnels are now used to protect the flowers from frosts and the fruit from rain and the trees are on dwarf stock for ease of picking. Gone are the days when people rose

early to start picking the crop at 4am, protecting it from birds by clanging scrap-metal and packing it into wicker baskets for the lorry to Newnham Bridge station. Some of you will remember those days though, some of you will even have climbed those ladders.



The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group, on Thursday April 8<sup>th</sup>, will be conducted via Zoom. The talk, called “Growing native orchids in meadows and gardens”, is by Suzanne Noble. For details of how to join please consult our website or Facebook page. Everyone 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 hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by telephone on 01584 881 397 or by email at [twwg@outlook.com](mailto:twwg@outlook.com).

#### **LETTER TO THE EDITOR.....**

As a resident of Clifton Upon Teme, I consider myself to be extremely thankful and lucky to be living in such a lovely village surrounded by outstanding countryside.

Being a fairly new dog owner, I have enjoyed almost daily walks in and around the village during the past year – meeting many other residents along the way, albeit at a socially acceptable distance!

However, I have been astonished at the amount of dog fouling along public pathways, roads and verges and even more shocked at seeing used plastic ‘poop bags’ hanging from bushes and laying in the roads, verges etc.

Surely any responsible dog owner would ‘scoop the poop’ and dispose of the bag in an appropriate way, instead of having little regard for other walkers, children and animals and allowing our countryside to be fouled in this way? Sadly this does not appear to be the case.

My other concern is the total disregard when it comes to obeying the rules and signs when asking dog owners to keep their animals on a lead and surely this also applies to any owner who is unable to control their dog in public. I have recently encountered a situation with dogs being unleashed along a public footpath and the owner being unable to restrain them, resulting in a potentially serious road accident and attack on both me and my dog.

A little consideration for others and also our beautiful village would surely go a long way!

## **LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES FOR APRIL 2021**

### **4<sup>th</sup> Easter Sunday**

	09.30	Clifton Holy Communion
	11:00	Shelsley Holy Communion
	16:00	Harpley Zoom Easter Service
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30	Clifton Matins
	16:00	Harpley Zoom Compline Service
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	16.00	Zoom service
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	16.00	Harpley Zoom Circle Service
	18:30	Clifton Evensong

## **CALENDAR**

### **April**

- 1 Clifton Parish Council zoom meeting.
- 8 Teme Valley Wildlife group zoom meeting. 'Growing native orchids in meadows and garden's', by Suzanne Noble.
- 15 Shelsley Hillclimb 'Cars in the Valley' social event – MAC members only.
- 18 Shelsley Hillclimb 'Breakfast Club' social event – MAC members only.

### **May**

- 1/2 Shelsley Hillclimb
- 4 Shelsley's Parish Council zoom Meeting and Annual Meeting, 19:00.
- 6 Shelsley Hillclimb 'Cars in the Valley' social event – MAC members only.
- 26 Table and plant sale, 26 The Village, Clifton, 10:00.

### **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](http://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 (May 2021) edition by Friday 9th April please.**



*Upper Sapey resident Henry Carpenter with his family, having completed his outstanding fundraising walk for the Midlands Air Ambulance.*



*A sterling effort from local Shelsley Kings resident Ellie, keeping our neighbourhood free from litter.*



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