

September 2021

# Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton upon Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



*Harpley Choral Masterclass*

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## In this edition

- ✳ Masterclass for Harpley Singers
- ✳ Toffee Apple Machine made in Clifton
- ✳ Warning after Local Family Fire
- ✳ Clifton Church Clock Electrified

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*Local author Andy Griffie having a stab at his book launch in Oxford. Oxford Blues is his third crime novel.*

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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.*

### **Front Cover Picture**

*Members of Harpley Church choir performing during the masterclass provided by international operatic star Nicole Taylor.*

## MASTERCLASS FOR HARPLEY CHOIR

Members of St Bartholomew's Church choir at Harpley were treated to a special masterclass led by international operatic diva Nicole Taylor.



Nicole, from California, is currently working in Paris as a cultural envoy of the United States Department of State. She has travelled through Europe and the Middle East, offering concerts, masterclasses and educational outreach programmes with the aim of promoting understanding and building intercultural bridges.

Originally from Los Angeles, soprano soloist Nicole is a graduate of the Masters programme at the Juilliard School in New York. Since her Carnegie Hall recital debut in 2006, Nicole has won awards in international and American competitions. She currently resides in France, where she is a soprano soloist and cantor at the American Church in Paris. Her extraordinary talent as a teaching artist has made her a world-class performer, having toured from Lithuania to India, Germany, Jerusalem, and home again.

'The last thing I expected to do when I arrived in Clifton upon Teme was to teach a choral masterclass,' said Nicole, 'but it was absolutely one of the highlights of my trip to England. After more than a full year teaching my singing classes exclusively online, it was a wonderful (and unexpected!) surprise to hear real voices again, in person. The singers from the Harpley 'pick-up choir' were attentive and sensitive in their musical skills. They were able to apply the vocal teachings almost immediately. They were curious and flexible, and willing to try new things without fear. Within a few hours their sound was transformed - simply by listening more carefully, breathing together, applying some basic vocal techniques, and infusing the meaning of the text into the sound.'

## **CANDY'S SKY DIVE FOR CHARITY**

Clifton's Candy Connolly will be leaping out of an aeroplane on Saturday, 18th September, in a bid to raise money for the Worcester Breast Unit Haven.

Candy, who celebrated her 60th birthday last month, said: 'Without the wonderful care I received to get over that hurdle twelve years ago I would not have been celebrating this birthday'.

To donate, go to: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/highsheriffstandemskydiveteam>



## **HARPLEY BIG BREAKFAST**

The Harpley Big Breakfast takes place on Saturday 11th September at Harpley Church from 10am onwards. Tickets £5 to be purchased on the day. To express interest please contact Candy Connolly at [Cconnolly111@gmail.com](mailto:Cconnolly111@gmail.com) or 01886 853248

## **HELP AVAILABLE WITH WINTER FUEL COSTS**

There is still time for Worcestershire residents to apply for fuel vouchers, help with boiler repairs and replacement and fuel debts (subject to availability). Funding is available for the following measures:

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- Focus is on families but those who are vulnerable to fuel poverty or have health conditions exacerbated by the cold.
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- Residents who have seen a drop in income due to COVID-19 and an income of less than 30K and no substantial savings
- Redundancy
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- Any referral from a Foodbank, Local Council or health professional

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## **SUNSET FIRE TO CLIFTON FAMILY HOME**

Sun streaming through a bedroom window and reflected off a small mirror was enough to set fire to one Clifton family's home recently. The resulting blaze severely damaged part of the house, saved only by the prompt arrival of the fire brigade. Charles Moyle takes up the story:

'Who would ever think that a tepid, watery setting sun over the Tedstone hills could cause the damage and chaos we experienced. I was in my sitting room when I heard the smoke alarm.

Halfway up the stairs I was greeted by black smoke cascading through our floors; crawling along the floorboards to our daughter's bedroom I was met with flames roaring through the beams, wooden floor and walls. The curtains were burning fiercely and I honestly felt the roof might come down any moment.

Thanks to the two small powder fire extinguishers I had luckily bought - and my brilliant wife recalled where they were hidden - they bought us enough time to douse the flames until the arrival of the amazing and simply fabulous teams of firefighters from Tenbury, Bromyard and Worcester who made our house safe. We could only thank our lucky stars we still had a home...

And the cause of this great excitement? A tepid, watery setting sun over the Tedstone hills, which bizarrely had enough strength to flood through a tiny window, bounce off a child's make-up mirror and laser beam onto the curtains.



Please keep any glass objects and mirrors away from your windows (including glass knobs on cupboards apparently!); invest in smoke alarms and buy two decent sized powder extinguishers - they saved our house!

## **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL IN CLIFTON**

After a lean year when collecting was severely restricted by Covid, the Royal British Legion is resuming house to house and static collections for much-needed funds. If you would like to spare a couple of hours helping this wonderful organisation, please contact Ian Chell on 01584-819983 or 07977 508881.

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## STANFORD HISTORY GROUP IS BACK IN OCTOBER

After a compulsory rest last year, the Stanford History Group will be restarting its autumn history course on October 4th at 7.30pm in Stanford Village Hall. This year's programme, covering subjects from around the world, is entitled 'Some World Troublespots'.

It starts with a history of the diplomacy between all the European powers in the aftermath of WW1, and leading up to the outbreak of WW2. Who said what to whom? Next is a history of 'The Balkans'. Those former countries of the Ottoman Empire, who each followed their own path through WW1 & 2, and into their wars of Independence in the 1990s. Then Japan to understand their changes and turmoil from an enclosed state up to 1850, right up to the early 1950s - from the Japanese viewpoint. Followed by a history of political thought and ideas - how did our key values develop - is there an ideal system?

Just £10 per lecture, or £65 for the 10 lecture course

Contact Simon Marriott: [simon@adamswoodfarm.co.uk](mailto:simon@adamswoodfarm.co.uk) 01886 853412

### Stanford History Group 2021 Programme

Mondays at 7.30pm, Stanford Village Hall, Stanford Bridge, WR6 6ST

4th October	Diplomacy 1918-35: Peace-making and the road to war Dr Dan Whittingham, University of Birmingham
11th October	Diplomacy 1935-40: Appeasement and war Dr Dan Whittingham
18th October	Imperial Legacies and Nation-Building: The Balkans to 1939 Dr Anca Mandru, University of Birmingham
25th October	Blocs, Wars and Transitions: The Balkans since World War II Dr Anca Mandru
1st November	Japan and the Nineteenth Century World Dr Wendy Toon, University of Worcester
8th November	Japan and the Early Twentieth Century World Dr Wendy Toon
15th November	Does History show us an ideal system in politics? Dr Sotirios Zartaloudis, University of Birmingham
22nd November	The role and evolution of ideas in politics Dr. Sotirios Zartaloudis
29th November	The First 70 years of the P R China, Post Mao- An Overview Asst. Professor Weiqun Wang, University of Nottingham
6th December	The First 70 years of the PRC- the people's view Asst. Professor Weiqun Wang
13th December	End of Term Party: Discussion Evening



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As a further side line, Jordan runs the wood-fired pizza oven at the newly-opened Spilsbury & Jones Brewery Tap at Orleton Court

## FREE LATERAL FLOW TESTS FROM CLIFTON SHOP

The Village Stores in Clifton has been chosen by Worcestershire County Council as a Community Collection Point for the distribution of free Lateral Flow tests. The packs are for self-testing at home and contain seven tests. They are available to any members of the public without any need for ID; just ask any member of staff for a free lateral flow test.

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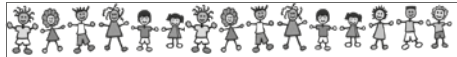


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## Draft Minutes of the Meeting of Clifton Parish Council held on Thursday 1st July 2021 at the Village Hall at 7.30pm



**Present:** Councillors J. Bowden (Chairman), A. Henry (Vice-Chairman), R. Henry and B. Gilbert. Also present: County Cllr David Chambers and four members of the public.

**Apologies for absence:** Cllrs C. Haywood, J. Collins. District Cllr C. Palethorpe.

**Declarations of Interests:** Cllrs A & R Henry – matter regarding MHDC proposed funding contract with the PC re land at Walnut Lodge.

**Democratic Public Time:** Matters considered – The Council heard a report regarding 'Accommodation for later life in Clifton' from J. Wain. It was noted that huge community support will be needed to achieve the aims and objectives and lots of initial questions need to be answered, so a plan is now being formed to do this. Community support will then be evaluated, and a decision taken as to whether to proceed or not with the project. It will also need support from a Registered Provider, prospective sites identified, and access approval via WCC Highways. MHDC funding is available for initial consultation work and the PC is to consider this proposal later this evening. Parish Defibrillator – concerns were heard that the current defib may not be well known about and that some residents may not know how to use it in an emergency. The Chairman confirmed regular checks are undertaken of the equipment. It was suggested that an article in the Teme Triangle might be useful and also some refresher training for residents. May be also a second machine in a different location.

**To agree the Minutes of a virtual meeting held 3rd & 24th June 2021** – The minutes of both meetings were agreed as a true record. Proposed Cllr Bowden, seconded Cllr Gilbert. All agreed. No matters arising.

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

**Financial & Governance Matters:** Payments were approved as per the schedule circulated. Proposed Cllr Bowden, seconded Cllr Gilbert. All agreed. Proposed funding agreement with MHDC re land at Walnut Lodge – a draft agreement had been circulated which was between MHDC and the PC. The PC had been asked to hold funds and release funds as required for the consultation process of looking at options for land at Walnut Lodge to be used for Accommodation for Later Life in Clifton. No unused funds would be retained by the PC. There was discussion as to whether the PC should and could do this, and concern was raised by Cllr R. Henry that this could set a precedent for the PC undertaking this role in the future for different projects. It was also suggested by Cllr R. Henry that the Neighbourhood Plan should be reviewed and amended as required if the project progresses. Cllr Gilbert explained the work undertaken to date by the project group and that there is a need for a formal organisation to take receipt of the funding and pay invoices as required, so that funding is receipted and allocated properly. The Clerk confirmed that it is possible for the PC to undertake this role for MHDC with PC approval, however this is a significant decision and although quorate, the PC may wish to defer until other Cllrs are present as well. Cllr Bowden proposed the matter be deferred, but the spokesperson for the group (J. Wain) suggested that the matter be withdrawn, and the group explore other options re fund holding. All agreed. Friendship

Club funding request – the Clerk read out the request letter and the Chairman read out additional information received. It was proposed by Cllr Bowden, seconded Cllr Gilbert that the PC donate £500.00 towards an anniversary event. The Council considered this amount too much for this type of event which was also restricted to certain residents and not open to all to attend. (The Club represents approx. 10% of residents.) Cllr Bowden then proposed a revised amount of £100.00, seconded Cllr Gilbert. (Voted carried 3:1).

**Parish Matters / Updates:** Village Maintenance Plan – Cllr Gilbert updated re recent completed tasks including hanging baskets and planters. Some tasks still remain outstanding but are being followed up with R. Wilks. Thanks to the W.I. for work done to Derek's Garden. The Highways meeting is to be rescheduled due to ill health. R. Wilks to quote for additional mowing and replanting village green planters / repairs. Tree Survey – Cllr Gilbert reported that the cost has been approved and work awaited. Village Archives refurbishment – Cllr Gilbert reported that the repainting is complete, carpentry underway, and a filing cabinet has been obtained free of charge by J. Johns. New pedestrian drop kerbs – the WCC notice re work at the end of Hope Lane was noted. R. Wilks also to lightly trim the Conker tree. WCC sign beneath the tree also to be relocated if possible and village hall sign to be moved as well – Cllr Bowden to progress with Highways. Parish defibrillator – see democratic time. Clerk asked to look at training options and 2nd defib costs. West Mercia Police Charter – the Clerk was asked to sign and return, identifying local priorities as 1. Speeding and road safety, 2. Local traffic management, 3. Rural crime.

**Section 106 Matters:** Four Acre Field Project – land ownership matters are still to be resolved with MHDC and the Clerk is working with the Solicitor to progress this for the Council. All works currently on hold.

**Planning Matters:** Applications for consideration: none received. Notifications: 21/00861/AGR – Mr P Richards, Highfield House, Hope Lane, Clifton WR6 6HE – prior approval not required for purpose built grain store. 21/00354/FUL – New Inn, Old Road, Clifton WR6 6DR – approval for external canopy to provide covered seating area for customers.

**Strategic Planning Matters:** Cllr Gilbert will monitor and notify the Council of any matters which require attention.

**Highways & Facilities Matters:** Lengthsman tasks – a new gate on the recreation field footpath has been arranged. Road closures as circulated – current closure for Western Power in Hope Lane noted.

Hope Lane – development commenced and concern that there appear to be no Banksmen on the road. Cllr Bowden to notify the Developer of concerns. Also to ask not to use Manor Rd if possible for site traffic and also no site traffic during school drop off / pick up times. Village bus stop – current problems with parking in the village blocking the bus stop, which may need better marking. Cllr Bowden to liaise with Highways.

**Correspondence received:** a letter of thanks was read out by the Clerk from St Kenelms PCC for the funding received from the PC.

**Next meeting to be held on Thursday 2nd September 2021 at the Village Hall.**

## TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE

This month's topic is ash dieback, a disease that is currently affecting our native ash tree, *Fraxinus excelsior*. Like Dutch elm disease before it, it is expected to change the appearance of the English landscape and much research is under way on how to manage it and mitigate its effects. The disease is caused by a fungus, originally called *Chalara* although now known as *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*, which originated in East Asia. It has spread to affect ash trees across Europe, Great Britain and Ireland.

The disease is particularly deadly to young and coppiced trees, which die quickly. Older trees have more resistance and some trees are totally resistant to it. The first signs in an affected tree are blackening and wilting of the shoots and leaves, which are most easily spotted between July and September. Dark patches appear on the bark and typically are elongated diamond shapes of dark brown or black. If occurring near the base of the tree it is at risk of falling. The disease spreads via wind-blown spores.

Managing the disease depends on the age of the trees, their use and situation. There is no obligation to report or to act if you own a diseased tree, but public safety is of primary importance and any tree with a potential to cause harm, such as one alongside a road, footpath or building should be carefully inspected for signs that limbs or the whole tree might fall. Public bodies are currently felling many trees that fit this category. In woodland, a number of strategies may be undertaken, including doing nothing, depending on the diversity of species and tree-age on the site. Felling living trees is not recommended but taking out stands of young trees where the majority are infected may allow beneficial regeneration by more resistant types of the tree. However there must be nearby healthy trees over thirty years old for there to be enough ash seeds to achieve this.

Stopping spore spread is time consuming. Gathering and burning leaves or composting them with plenty of soil on top may interrupt the fungus life-cycle but is not practicable in most situations. Visitors to woods are advised to brush plant material off their shoes and wheels, eg bicycles, prams etc before leaving the site and to wash them at home before entering another wood, but again this is a cumbersome task.

The good news is that as some ash is totally resistant to the fungus, these strains should out-compete and eventually replace the susceptible types. Opening up woodland and allowing in more light to aid natural regeneration is a sensible strategy to promote this and, sad though it is to see trees dying, it can be rewarding to see traditional wood-management in action. Two such traditional wood-workers are seen in the accompanying photograph, Woody





and Twink are their names. Horse-logging is an ancient skill in tune with the woodland environment, we're lucky to have some practitioners of the art living here in the Teme Valley.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group is on Thursday September 9th, when Wade Muggleton has kindly stepped in at short notice to give a talk about orchards over Zoom. 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 01568 750413 or by email at [twwg@outlook.com](mailto:twwg@outlook.com)

*Stephanie Mocroft*

## **CLIFTON CRAFTERS GROUP**

The Clifton Craft Group is now back meeting in Clifton village hall every Thursday (1.30pm to 4pm), after meeting at Pitlands through the earlier months. Following interest in machine sewing, the group also has additional space for anyone who would like to complete machine sewing projects or learn the basics of sewing. It is a sociable group with people knitting, sewing, crochet and other small crafts they are working on. In the future it plans to run some workshops but at the moment members are able to help each other with projects. There is a small charge of £2.50 per session to cover hire of hall, tea and cake.

If you would like more information, please contact me [ruth.wilson38@btinternet.com](mailto:ruth.wilson38@btinternet.com) or 01886 853574

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## LOWER SAPEY NEWS

Welcome to the Autumn, my favourite season, but what a pity it isn't following a wonderful summer as the weather has been so topsy-turvy this year. Everything grew like mad, then shrivelled in the brief heat wave. Maybe you have enjoyed a staycation, or a wonderful break in a Heathrow hotel, or just binged on TV sport at home like me. It's difficult to imagine going through another long, dark winter, but maybe climate change will give us a break this year. It is also difficult to imagine what the country will be like in 20, or 50 years, given the dire predictions. Only our children and grandchildren will know. For now though, things are slowly getting back to normal, the mobile library is running again, as is the Friendship Group, pubs and restaurants are open fully. The Friendship Group is making up for lost time with some visits to a few stunning gardens before the winter sets in.

We are also setting a date for the resumption of the Harpley/Lower Sapey Ladies Bible Group. We are starting on Tuesday October 12th, at 2pm at the Hatt House, courtesy of Pat Savage. Pat runs the group and thought this would be the best date given the current high rate of infections. We all hope this will soon fall. If anyone has an idea of a new topic, please let Pat or Marion know. We all look forward to these get-togethers and the varied discussions we have, plus the tea, cake and biscuits of course. No pressure there!

The news of repairs to St Bartholomew's is still not good, despite Candy's valiant efforts. Changes in the hierarchy at the Diocese have meant a further delay in granting our faculty for the work. You could say that God only knows when this will happen! We are starting to hold small services in the Church, with plenty of ventilation and masks if necessary. We have also started rehearsals of our small choir and are concentrating on Evensong services at present. We have an excellent conductor in Michael Oakley, who comes with his wife who is a lovely soprano. Michael leads the Ludlow Church choir. All of us really enjoy this singing, but won't be becoming professional just yet!

We have a date for the Harvest Festival service, which will be on September 19th at 10.30am and the last time David Sherwin will officiate for us. We wish him and his wife a long and happy retirement in their cottage and hope they will visit us regularly.

On Saturday, September 11th, we are holding our regular Big Breakfast (Bap) at 10am, in St Bartholomew's churchyard. The cost will be £5 per head for adults and this is payable on the day, or to Candy. There will be the usual generous portions of sausage, eggs, beans and loads of tea and coffee. Steve and Liz Younge will be in charge of the cooking as usual. Thanks to both of them.

We are also looking forward to a talk by 'a local activist' on Cop 26, which will be later in August, so a report will follow next month.

We hope you all have a wonderful September, with excellent crops, lovely sunsets, sunny weather and good health. So many of us have suffered loss or sadness in the last year that we hope better times are to come.

## NOTICES

Service times are not available as yet, but are listed elsewhere in the magazine. Our Harvest Festival is on Sunday September 19th at 10.30am with David Our Circle Service will be on Sunday September 26th at 10.30am

The mobile library will call on Friday September 17th at 10.30 and 10.40am. Please look at their web-site for all the great courses and classes they organise in the area.

*Margaret Griffiths*

## ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AT CRUMPLEBURY

The English Symphony Orchestra will be performing Vivaldi's Four Seasons in the Grand Hall at Crumplebury Farm near Whitbourne on Saturday, September 4, the first of a new series of concerts there by the ESO under their leader and director Zoe Beyers.

There will be two performances, the first at 3pm and a second at 5pm, followed by a tasting menu in the Grand Hall or an alfresco meal in a field at Crumplebury Farm with freshly-baked breads, salads and meat from the home farm.



Performance-only tickets can be purchased from £25 via [www.eso.co.uk/crumplebury](http://www.eso.co.uk/crumplebury). Dining packages from £80 and overnight packages from £200 per person, including VIP tickets

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# Church Matters

by Rev Canon David Sherwin



Climate Change is very much on the lips of us all for one reason or another, it is highlighted this month on the 5th September in the churches of our Worcestershire West Rural team (WWRT) when we shall consider our Christian responsibility on what is being called 'Climate Sunday'.

It is important as Christians that we take seriously the role given to us by our Creator in the early chapters of Genesis, to have dominion, subdue, and replenish the earth. This is not to ravage the earth of its resources in a selfish uncaring way, nor to exploit the earth but to exert a wise caring stewardship of all that God has given to us for the benefit of all humanity, not just a few, and to treat the earth with respect.

Genesis 1:28, ESV: "And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.""

We are told by St. Paul in his letter to the Roman church that the 'sin' of humankind affects the Creation and it is groaning under that weight and awaits its own redemption.

Obviously not everything that we have done has been a deliberate attempt to damage the creation. We would not have the technological and medical advances that we enjoy without the industrial revolution, yet we have learned along the way that as we progress we need to use cleaner and more eco friendly sources of power and energy to continue to move forward.

We in the Churches of the WWRT are using a survey from an organisation called 'Arocha', to assess our buildings and ways of working so that we can work towards being more ecologically friendly and show our care for the earth and one another. The survey leads to churches being given Gold, Silver or Bronze awards. We already have St. Bartholomew's In Harpley with a Silver award and St. Peter's Martley with Bronze. One of our Team Priests, Rev Jen Denniston is heading a group of 'eco champions', a member from each of our churches, who have responsibility for questions surrounding environment and ecology that help us in our progress. These awards are not an end in themselves but to help us to be aware of how we can all play our part in caring for the earth.



There is much more on the website that can help us all if you would like to view it. (<https://www.arochoa.org/en/projects/>)

We are also blessed to have within our area Shane and Candy Connelly who have been offering help with approaches to floristry that avoids the use of 'oasis', which contain microplastics, and encourages the use of indigenous flowers in our displays. Shane himself will be 'in conversation' with the Bishop of Dudley addressing such issues, when the video is available, we will let you know so you can view it.

In the meantime, as COP26 meets in Glasgow we may feel that is something beyond us, that's for governments and others, yet even their reports highlight that we can all play our part. We all know that every little helps and there are plenty of things we can do, for each of us those challenges will be different, but as we work together, we can fulfil our duty as 'stewards of the earth' and in doing so show great care and love for one another, and the generations to come. God bless you all

## **CHURCH CLOCK ELECTRIFIED**

Hopefully, some of you, if not all, will have noticed that the Church Clock on the St Kenelm's church tower is now fully electrified thanks to the Cumbrian Clock Company engineer who did all the necessary work to put the electrification in place.

We at St Kenelm's are really grateful, that having 'ploughed through' Church 'Red Tape' and Faculties, not least in that their Admin System lost our application for six months, despite continued phone calls and a refusal to be 'put off', we have arrived at a clock that does not require two chaps to go up into the bell tower every week to wind it up! A situation that was getting more hazardous as time went on.

Our sincere thanks and, I think that of the Parish, should go to Bob Davis, who until a few years ago helped with the winding, and particularly Jack Whittenbury and Mike Snelling (pictured right), who wound it for many years and through the lockdown. Not an easy task at the best of times. Many thanks Jack and Mike from St Kenelm's PCC.



*Barbara Seeley*

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## HISTORY OF HOP PICKING IN THE TEME VALLEY

Mr Ray Morris of Tenbury Wells is giving a talk on 'The History of Hop Picking in the Teme Valley' at St Kenelm's church in Clifton on Friday, 1st October, at 7pm for 7.30pm.

Organised by the Friends of St Kenelm's, it is an opportunity to hear how hops, especially local to this area, were picked and harvested in the not-too-distant past. Refreshments will be served. More details to follow, see posters and social media later on during September.

## 'TIME OUT' AT ST KENELM'S

Our monthly half hour Service of Quiet will begin again in September. We have decided that it would be best to change the time to 4pm in the afternoon, and so the first one will be on Wednesday 15th September, at 4pm.

The Service is to give anyone who would just like to sit in peace and quiet for a short time, to relax or to read. We start with a short prayer and end with a Blessing. You would be most welcome to come along and enjoy the wonderful peace of St Kenelm's.

*Barbara Seeley*

## CLIFTON WI AUTUMN PLANS

Clifton WI is looking forward to holding their regular monthly 7.30 Tuesday meetings in the Village Hall at Clifton following months of meeting via Zoom. Paul Spelman will be speaking about the Conquest Theatre at Bromyard on 14th September in the village hall. If you are interested in joining feel free to come along and listen to what should be an interesting insight into a local theatre. We also have two special events planned this autumn:

- **Coffee Morning Saturday 11th September** 10.00 – 12.00 at the village hall. Tea, coffee and cakes will be on sale as well as a range of stalls including cakes and produce, books, bring and buy, handmade crafts, jewellery and of course a raffle.
- **Women's Well Being Evening 19th November** 7.00. Save the date for an evening starting with prosecco and nibbles. Plans are still being made to provide a range of stalls, short talks and activities to promote women's health and well-being.

The WI continues to grow in Clifton with new members joining. The aim of the WI is to provide events that are interesting and often educational whilst developing social contacts, support and friendships with neighbours. For more information, please drop into an event or email [cliftonontemesec@wfedwi.org.uk](mailto:cliftonontemesec@wfedwi.org.uk) .

## **THE FRIENDS OF ST. KENELM'S GROUP**

You may well have seen events advertised by the Friends of St. Kenelm's, or even, perhaps attended something already! The group was set up in order to support the ongoing work of the Church as a village facility, by raising money to enhance and help maintain the structure of the building and enable it to continue to function to serve the needs of the village both spiritual and social.

If you feel you would like to be more involved in this work and receive regular updates on planned events by newsletter, please get in touch! You may wish to join as a member and join for a one off subscription of £10. The funds raised at events will always go towards projects connected with the building, but not to clergy or central Church of England Funds. Whereas it is always good when people join in the life of the church, it is often the case that members will want to play their part in keeping this ancient facility in a state of maintenance which the village can be proud of. A small group form a committee who gather to plan events and ensure funds are spent in conjunction with the recognised requirements of the P.C.C. Please contact Barbara Seeley (Church Warden) details below, who will put you in touch with a member of the group for you to make contact with: [barbarachristineseeney@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:barbarachristineseeney@yahoo.co.uk) - or leave a message in church or in the porch.

*Nigel Roberts*

### **LOCAL CHURCH SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER**

Sunday 5th September

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Holy Communion, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

10.30am Morning Worship, St Bartholomew, Lower Sapey

Sunday 12th September

The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Holy Communion, St Kenelm, Clifton

6.30pm Evensong, St Andrew, Shelsley Walsh

Sunday 19th September

The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Harvest Service, St Bartholomew, Lower Sapey

(This service will be in the churchyard)

Sunday 26th September

The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

10.30am Circle Service, St Bartholomew, Lower Sapey

6.30pm Evensong, St Kenelm, Clifton

## TOFFEE APPLE MACHINE

Neil Sparey of N. D. S. Engineering in Clifton has spent much of this year building an extraordinary machine that makes toffee apples.

The machine, based on the design of a caramel apple making machine in the USA, will be used to produce more than half a million toffee apples at the Ballard Stud Farm Fruit at Abberley this autumn. For the past twenty years the Ballards have been making toffee apples by hand, a somewhat laborious process.

Neil's bespoke machine is the first of its kind in the UK, built painstakingly after hours of trial and error. 'It's been a long time working on it', he says, 'But it makes a change from the sort of agricultural engineering work we normally do for our customers.' Only last year, Neil was featured in *Teme Triangle* after helping to repair and maintain the bells in Worcester Cathedral.

Pictured with Neil and the toffee apple machine (opposite) is Jeff Ballard, Director of Ballard Stud Farm Fruit who produce more than 300 tons of apples a year, many of which are turned into chocolate coated apples and now, thanks to Neil's machine, more than half a million toffee apples for the British market. 'We have been making toffee and chocolate apples in our family since 1995,' says Jeff Ballard. 'It's our own grown apple inside our dipped apples, well... until our toffee and chocolate apple orders exceed our crop. We currently supply three major supermarkets during the autumn season'.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### September

- 1 Friendship Club meeting, Clifton VH 2.30pm
- 2 Clifton Parish Council meeting, VH 7.30pm
- 4 English Symphony Orchestra at Crumplebury, Whitbourne 3pm
- 9 Teme Valley Wildlife Group meeting, Lindridge VH 7.30pm
- 11 Harpley Big Breakfast, St Bartholomew's Church 10am
- 11 Clifton WI Coffee Morning VH
- 12 Teme Valley Market, Talbot Hotel, Knightwick
- 14 Clifton WI Meeting: Paul Spelman, Conquest Theatre Bromyard
- 15 Friendship Club 50th Anniversary meeting, Clifton VH 1.30pm
- 22 Clifton Scouts AGM, 7.30pm

### October

- 1 Friends of St Kenelm's talk: Hop picking in the Teme Valley 7pm
- 12 Harpley/Lower Sapey Ladies Bible Group, Hatt House 2pm



*Neil Sparey (left) with his toffee apple machine and Jeff Ballard, Director of Ballard Stud Farm Fruit at Abberley.*



*Sabrina Young of SJY Crafts with some of her homemade gifts at Shelsley Village Hall*

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Contributions for the next (October) edition by Friday, 10 September 2021 please