

Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton upon Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



Locals raising money for Acorns Children's Hospice

In this edition

- * Shelsley Superfast Broadband project update
- * Locals raise money for Acorns
- * Martley young farmers
- * 'Tis litter picking season
- * Church news
- * Parish Council minutes

Visit the website

www.temetriangle.net

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Members of the 'Sustainable Church Flowers' group at their advent wreath workshop.

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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:

'Crème de la Teme' organisers Michael Timmis and Caspar Tiarks, plus local gamekeeper Nick Cant, handing over the fundraising cheque to Acorns Chief Executive, Toby Porter.

A VERY WARM WELCOME to the February 2022 edition of the Teme Triangle.

In this edition we have an update on the Shelsley's PC Broadband project, general updates from both Parish Council's, as well as a mammoth fundraising success story and other local events for your diary.

There are also a few requests for litter picking volunteers. With hedges being cut back, before new growth starts, this is the perfect time of year to go litter picking – so do step forward and volunteer to help....

Once again, thank you to all those who have contributed.

THE SHELSLEY'S PARISH COUNCIL SUPERFAST BROADBAND PROJECT

The Teme Triangle has received several updates regarding this project, from the various parties involved. For reader information purposes, these updates are provided below:

The Shelsley's Parish Council have provided the following update:

Over the last 2 years the Parish Council has been in communication with Worcestershire County Council and Openreach with the objective to achieve superfast broadband access for everyone in the parish.

A Government-backed scheme has been created to help fund the expensive infrastructure involved in reaching rural areas. Five projects have been proposed in The Shelsleys.

Full funding has been achieved for three of those projects: Stanford Road/Kingswood, Lower Kingswood, and Camp Lane/Manor Lane.

Negotiations for the Pudford Lane/Fetterlocks scheme are on-going. A recent meeting was held between Parish Councillor Karen Metcalfe, Harriett Baldwin MP and stakeholders to discuss the most cost effective route.

The Stanford Bridge project is very close to achieving its target. Only two more households are needed to join the scheme before the project can receive the go ahead. Parish Councillor Jean Hammond, would like to encourage any people who have not yet agreed to join to please contact the Parish Council.

The introduction of superfast broadband will have many benefits for the area. The monthly charges for this type of broadband are similar to those of the regular broadband that we receive. Many people now work from home, or would like to, and this will only increase in the future. School children are regularly required to access the internet to complete homework projects. Over the last two years the use of video calls to contact family and friends has boomed. Access to superfast broadband is becoming more important to homebuyers and will improve the local house market.

Government funding ranges from £1,500-3,500 per household, which is then matched by WCC. This means that every household can contribute up to

£7,000's worth of funding towards placing underground cables to their property. The only commitment is to sign up to 12 months worth of broadband once the lines are in place.

The Shelsley's Parish Council would like to thank the on-going hard work of those involved in the project. These people have spent hours walking from house-to-house, calling neighbours, communicating with WCC, and asking landowners for permission to have cables on their land. Sara Harris, Karen Metcalfe, Jan Speyer, Brian Meddings, Anthony Champion, Andy Griffee, and Jean Hammond. Another special thank you to Robert Stepniewski in the Broadband & Connectivity Team at WCC for guiding us through the process with such patience and enthusiasm.

If you have any questions about the local projects, please contact The Shelsley's Parish Council shelsleyspc@gmail.com.

Robert Stepniewski, Project Manager at Worcestershire County Council hailed the go-ahead as very good news for the community:

"The only requirement now is for residents to upgrade to a full fibre package when the infrastructure is built in approximately 12 months time."

He estimates costs will be £22-£25 per month for a 50 megabits per second package including line rental - although people will be able to shop around for higher speeds at different prices. In the meantime, he urges homeowners who have signed up for the project to avoid getting locked into contracts with non FTTP providers.

However, Martley Web Mesh, an existing broadband supplier to the area has complained that the new rollout of FTTP schemes will cherry-pick some of its customers and is based on unfair subsidies:

Chairman, Richard Jackman sets out his arguments below:

"Martley Web Mesh has been a limited company for over 16 years and is a supplier of broadband, often as a last resort for people desperate for a useable broadband. At present we have nearly 200 customers. These are spread over an area from Broadwas to Orleton, Clifton to Wichenford.

The company is run by volunteers (who all have their own areas of expertise) and initially our own money was used - such was our conviction for the need for broadband.

As a local company we support local needs and at present we supply three churches and three parish halls where our service is free. Income is used for updating equipment and facilities for a faster more reliable service

Obviously, we do incur overheads such as insurance and membership of the wireless internet providers' trade body UKWISPA.

We do supply what is defined as superfast broadband (over 30Mbps) [we can supply up to 35Mbps at present and maybe more in the future with the latest

equipment. This is recognised by the government as ‘fixed wireless connections (usually delivered by smaller regional providers)’.

Some time ago we enquired about the support for broadband being supplied by the government. The principal reason for refusal was our inability to supply a 100Mbps connection to our customers via Wireless. Emerging technologies might make this a possibility but probably not over the distances we have to cover.

We are now upset to find that Worcestershire Council is promoting the new subsidised 100 Mbps fibre service with a cut down speed in areas we have been supplying for a number of years. We cannot compete with this subsidised service.”

He finishes by saying:

“Please note that Worcestershire/Openreach are cherry picking customers, they are not offering to supply all our customers, so eventually we will have a much cut down customer base and be unable to service our outgoings.

We only started supplying broadband in the area as a result of the long-term failure of Openreach to supply useable broadband speeds out in the countryside.”

Worcestershire County Council issued this statement in response:

For hard-to-reach areas where broadband is more costly to build, the government is investing £5 billion to ensure places are not left behind, via Project Gigabit.

The Rural Gigabit Voucher scheme is part of the Project Gigabit and the Government made up to £230m worth of voucher funding available as immediate help for people experiencing slow broadband speeds in rural areas.

Vouchers worth up to £1,500 for homes and £3,500 for businesses, help to cover the costs of installing gigabit broadband to people’s doorsteps. In the latest iteration of the Voucher scheme, rural premises identified by Ofcom can apply for UK Gigabit Vouchers.

Hundreds of suppliers have joined the voucher scheme and are delivering community schemes. More information for suppliers is available at <https://gigabitvoucher.culture.gov.uk/for-suppliers/tcs/>.

Shelsley Beauchamp and many other nearby communities have worked tirelessly to take advantage of this offer, as one of the poorest served communities. Worcestershire County Council’s Connectivity Team has already supported over 70 community schemes (worth just under £5m) with approximately a further fifty currently underway and will work with any community wanting to improve connectivity in their area.

That said, there are, and will likely remain, at least for some time, premises, where getting fibre will be more challenging and these premises may benefit from an alternative solution, including, for example wireless, mobile or satellite connectivity.

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TEME VALLEY MEMORIES

Who doesn't love hearing stories of the past? In the 16 years that we have lived in the Teme Valley, I am still fascinated by the stories and life-experiences that people remember and are so keen to share with others. I think it is important to keep those memories alive and record them, for future generations to understand how life in the past was, especially in the area that we all know so well. If anyone has any particular memories of the Teme Valley in days gone by, then please do contact me and maybe we can start a regular monthly slot in the Teme Triangle. Thank you.

Louise Hutton, louise@stroyd-hutton.com.

MARTLEY YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

It's been another difficult year of not being able to meet for us at Martley Young Farmers. At the beginning of the year we weren't able to meet at all. Then we were allowed to meet, but unfortunately only in groups of under 18's and over 18's. Finally, towards the end of the year, we were able to meet together as a whole club again. This year again, we haven't been able to hold the fundraising events as we usually would, and our annual County Show was also cancelled.

However, as a club, we are looking to the future with fingers crossed. We are meeting together again and have been doing a range of activities from clay making at the Apple Tree Kitchen at Pitlands Farm, Ice Skating in Malvern, Escape Rooms at Top Barn and much more. We are planning ahead with our fundraising events too, our Big Breakfast is booked for the 6th March 2021 - please see further details below. We are also planning Easter Bingo at Martley Village Hall on the 8th April 2021 - more details to follow. We hope you can support us with both of these upcoming events.

If you are aged between 10 and 28 and are interested in joining us, please pop along to one of our meetings. We usually meet on a Wednesday evening. You don't have to be a farmer to be a young farmer. If you would like some more information or are interested in joining us, please contact our Chairman, Zoe Wickens, on 07772 202 840 or our secretary, Amy Wickens, on 07975 636 122.

Big Breakfast

Sunday 6th March at Martley Memorial Hall, we will be doing two sittings, the first sitting will be at 9am and the second sitting will be at 11am. The breakfast will be a Full English, including cereals, fruit juice, tea and coffee. The breakfast will be £10 per person and children (up to 12 years old) will be £6. Tickets will be available from Martley Shop or you can order them by calling Zoe on 07772 202 840 or Amy on 07975 636 122. Please buy or order your tickets by Tuesday 1st March.



CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL UPDATE

Clifton Parish Council has three new parish councillors. Paul Brookes, Nathan Campsall and Lyn Merrick have all been co-opted, bringing the total number on the Council to seven.



For contact details of all parish councillors, as well as agendas and minutes of meetings and other relevant documents, please see the Parish Council's website: <https://clifton-upon-teme-pc.org.uk>.

To contact the Parish Clerk, Michelle Alexander: clerk@clifton-upon-teme-pc.org.uk.

PEGGY PARSLEY AND THE BUZZY BUMBLES

Local resident and debut author W J Bixby's 'Peggy Parsley and the Buzzy Bumbles of Honeycomb Cottage' is nothing short of a delight.

Aimed at 4 to 10 year olds, the author's love of nature and passion for encouraging children to appreciate the vital role bees play is evident throughout this captivating tale. With its educational messaging wrapped up in a magical storyline, Peggy Parsley and Blue Bell are destined to become firm bedtime favourites.

Synopsis: Peggy Parsley is about a little girl who spends the summer holidays with her grandparents in the country.

There, Peggy befriends Blue Bell who happens to be a Bumblebee and they embark on a magical journey.

The aim of the story is to engage young minds into the importance of our bees and our wildlife but to add that dust of magic along the way.

About the author: I have always had a passion for writing, but life has a habit of getting in the way of our dreams and aspirations.... But then lockdown happened and like many I found myself redundant and with more time on my hands than I could have ever had foreseen.

We were all fortunate during the first lockdown to at least be blessed with wonderful weather and I know I spent most of my time outside and enjoying the garden and the constant sunshine.

As I sat there pondering and anxious over what the future may hold I noticed the wildlife around me.

The bumblebees enjoying the abundance of wildflowers was a joy to observe and made me realise how we miss all this wonderful nature that carries on as we go about our busy lives.

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Having a garden was a godsend, as I know many do not have that pleasure. Being able to just sit outside and watch the wildlife go about their daily chores was blissful.

It took me to a place where my financial and future concerns did not seem as important – I was on a journey of what the world and all its beauty is really all about.

All the above is what inspired me to write this children's book in 2020.

Lockdown has been an experience we won't forget in a hurry but for me personally, it has given me the time to reflect, to at last to have the time to follow my dream to write and see what is important to keep our world revolving.

SHELSLEY PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Shelsley Parish Council are looking at possible ideas to help celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (weekend of 2nd-5th June).

Ideas so far include planting a Parish tree, a Parish celebratory drinks party and customised Jubilee mugs for each household.

Any other suggestions are most welcome. Please contact the Parish Clerk, Jan Speyer, shelsleyspc@gmail.com.

AIMING HIGH FOR ACORNS, by Michael Timmis

A recent series of fundraising events based around a day's shooting in the Teme Valley raised a massive £60,485 for Acorns Childrens Hospice. This amount will climb even higher with Gift Aid.

The shooting took place over four different shoots in the Shelsley Beauchamp area and was christened 'La Crème de la Teme'. There was also a fund raising dinner, kindly hosted at the White Pheasant by Tom and Amber Spilsbury and an online silent auction.



Many Teme valley residents participated in the events and on the day's shooting all gamekeepers, beaters and picker uppers gave their services without charge.

The organisers had aimed for a total of £30k to be raised by the event, but this figure was exceeded by a very considerable amount thanks to the enthusiastic support of many in the field sports community and the desire to help the outstanding care that is given by the local Acorns Hospice in Worcester.

CLIFTON LITTER PICKING, by Candy Connolly

A local litter picking day is planned for Saturday 19th February. Local residents are invited to join any of several groups setting out along the lanes from Clifton and Harpley.

The first group will set out from Clifton village green at 10.30am and make their way down Hope Lane and Hollybush Lane as far as the pumping station at the bottom, where a car will collect them and any litter collected to return to the village.

A second optional party will begin from the main B4203 Bromyard road at its junction with Hollybush Lane. A third party will begin from Harpley church car park, walking west to the B4203. The fourth party will set out from Harpley church car park, walking east towards Hollybush Lane.

Clifton residents are also invited to take on additional roads (Pound Lane and the main B4204 road heading east and west).

Contact Candy if you would like any equipment: cconnolly111@gmail.com or phone 07854 359 391. A WhatsApp group has also been formed: TT Litter pick group.

SHELSLEY LITTER PICKING, by Val Jones

An early start by one of our litter picking volunteers, resulted in quite a collection, particularly in the lane between Stanford Bridge and Furnace Farm.

If you volunteered last year, or would like to help in 2022, then please contact Val Jones, 01886 812 222.

Val has a supply of grabbing poles, gloves and blue bags, which you can borrow. Sections of our lanes are then allocated to volunteers. Collecting 2 or 3 times a year makes a big difference to our environment and of course our beautiful valley.



SHELSLEY HILL CLIMB EVENT DATES

7/8 May – Speed into Spring
21/22 May – Rally Legends/ St. Andrew's Challenge
4/5 June – Best of British
25/26 June – Summer Spree
2/3 July – Piston Power / Vintage Meeting
16/17 July – Classic Nostalgia
13/14 August – Championship Challenge
17/18 September – Harvest Festival

**SHELSLEY WALSH**
speed history : future records



Noggin & Natter

An informal gathering in the Courtyard Bar to talk about all things Shelsley...

The event is open to all – so whether you're an official, a marshal, a MAC member, a competitor, a spectator or a local resident who's never been to Shelsley before, come along, enjoy a drink, and catch up with old and new friends.

The first Noggin & Natter of the season will take place on Thursday 4th November from 5.00pm and then the first Thursday of every month thereafter.

shelsleywalsh.com :: 01886 812211 :: info@mac1901.co.uk

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WWRT QUIET DAY

The Annual WWRT 'Quiet Day' is taking place on 10th March at Holland House, Crothorne. The day will be led by The Revd Canon Ruth Wintle.

The day will begin at 10am and finish with tea at 4pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to have some quiet spiritual refreshment during the Lenten period. Ruth will be leading us on the theme 'Sound and Silence.'

Please do come and experience the delightful and uplifting setting of Holland House, you will be most welcome.

For further details please contact Pat Snelling: 01886 812 443 or email patricia.snelling@btinternet.com.

RAY BAILEY

We are sad to announce that Ray died on December 15th, aged 90.

Ray and Diana lived at Silver Birches, opposite the Village Hall for 50 years. They had the house built to their design. Ray was a senior sound engineer for the BBC and commuted to Pebble Mill for many years before retiring.

His leisure time was largely spent playing golf at Sapey Golf Club, where he was a founder member. He also loved cricket.

Our thoughts are with Diana and their daughter Lisa.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN LOCAL PARISHES, by Ruth Wilson

Activ-i-teas February 20th 3.30pm – 4.30pm: This month St Kenelm's with Harpley and Shelsley churches, are starting a new service based in Clifton village hall on the third Sunday of the month from 3.30 – 4.30pm. It will be an informal worship and social time for all ages, families and those on their own. A combination of craft activities and refreshments, hence the name Activ-i-teas. This month's theme is 'Living Water'. Future sessions being planned include a range of activities such as outdoor activities and a bluebell walk.

Recycling: St Kenelm's has started a recycling collection point in the church porch for any brand of crisp packets including the multipack outer packaging. When enough are collected they are sent off to TerraCycle who melt and reform the plastic into pellets etc. and then reformed into products including outdoor furniture, flooring tiles, watering cans and many other items. Please support this by putting your empty crisp packets in the box in the church porch.

Blister packs from tablets can also be recycled and are being collected in a different container in the porch. Please support these initiatives and suggest other items that you are struggling to recycle.

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Fairtrade Fortnight 21st February – 6th March: Look out for events to support and raise awareness of the issues from climate change facing the livelihoods of millions of farmers and agricultural workers in low-income countries worldwide.

'TEME VALLEY SINGS' IS BACK! by Rachel Austin

Teme Valley Sings is a community choir, held in Clifton Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays in the month from 7.45pm. After a great start in February 2020, with 40 people coming along, Teme Valley Sings has struggled to get back to full strength. There has been a jolly band of enthusiastic members who have turned up fortnightly and we have all had a great time, singing together, learning new songs and enjoying the chatter and friendships that we have developed.

Due to Covid restrictions and not really being able to sing confidently in closed spaces, as well as the cold, dark nights, we have decided to have a break until the Spring when we hopefully will be back in full force, enjoying making music together.

If you would like to be kept informed about when we start back again, then please drop me a text or email so that I can put you down on the list. Anyone is welcome to come along - no one judges you or your voice - so if you enjoy a sing in the shower, around the house or in the car, then I'm sure you will enjoy Teme Valley Sings! Thank you and hopefully see you all in the Spring!

Contact Rachel Austin: rachelm.austin@gmail.com 07742 977 027.

ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP

Candy Connolly and Kate Hurst, founding members of Sustainable Church Flowers, designed this attractive Advent Wreath, and Neil Sparey at Clifton NDF Engineering Works created it using 'up-cycled' pipes.



Kate Hurst led the workshop at The Hope, using greenery from local gardens and hedgerows. Flower arrangers from the Teme Valley, the WWRT, Herefordshire, and London, enjoyed Kate's creative ideas. She shared her top tips for decorating with locally sourced foliage and berries.

Participants also appreciated Candy's mulled wine and mince pies, while getting ready for Christmas in an Eco way: hardly any waste, very low carbon footprint, no air miles, no plastic and no damage to the planet! Who could want more!

"Wreath making is easy and fun," says Candy. "We plan to include 'Flower Crown-making for Everyone' at the Harpley Plant Sale on



May 28th. and 'Garland Making for Children' as an activity at the Harpley Big Breakfast in September. Come and enjoy the craft opportunities at Activ-I-teas (every third Sunday of the month) beginning in Clifton on Sunday 20th February at 3.30pm in Clifton village hall. It will be an all-age informal worship and social time with refreshments on the theme of Living Water.

PLEASE NOTE that the first session of Activ-i-teas run by the St Kenelm's Church Family Team has been postponed due to concerns about COVID. The craft-based activity service will now start on February 20th.

CLIFTON UPON TEME WI, by Ruth Wilson



January's meeting was a presentation regarding litter and recycling from Ian Dipple. The approach to stopping littering is based around the 3E's - Engage, Educate and Enforce. 'Little Litter Warriors' is an education programme run by Wychavon to educate primary children about littering and the effects on the environment, which includes a litter picking session in the school grounds. Did you know that if you have dashcam video of someone littering from a car this can be used to prosecute the person littering or the driver if no one will admit to it. The general rubbish in the black bins is sorted and 90% incinerated to produce electricity, powering 32,000 homes in Wychavon. Only 10% ends up in landfill sites. It is illegal to place electrical items in the black bin as they may catch fire in the processing plant or leak harmful chemicals if in landfill.

Ian stressed the importance of recycling less by firstly thinking about Prevention and Reuse before recycling and composting materials. Prevention is based on thinking about lifestyle changes such as not using cling film, reusing plastic bags, planning meals and shopping lists to reduce food waste. The average family in Worcestershire throws away £700 of food annually. Reuse includes repurposing items, selling or giving away unwanted items through a range of online apps or charity shops. The recycling facility based at Norton can sort and sell on paper, glass and plastic, which is all sold to UK based firms and strenuous efforts are made to ensure it is not sent abroad. Only glass bottles or jars, and no other forms of glass such as drinking glasses can be recycled. Aluminium can be recycled repeatedly whereas plastic bottles can be recycled many times but steadily degrade. It is therefore better to buy a can, rather than a plastic bottle.

Ian was passionate about reducing waste and shared his week's waste audit, where he had recorded what had been thrown out in his household for a week under the headings of; Waste – food waste and other waste, and Recycling. He recommended this exercise to assess what changes a household can make, in order to reduce the rubbish being processed.

The February meeting will be on 8th February 7.30pm, where members will take part in a pot luck supper and the national WI Resolutions for 2022 will be discussed and voted on.

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DOG CONTROL CONSULTATION

A consultation to gather responses on a proposed Dog Control Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) has been launched by Malvern Hills District Council.

Reports concerning dog fouling continue to be received by MHDC, which plans to extend the PSPO that was previously in place to address this issue. If approved, it will allow the council to deal with dog control offences by issuing fixed penalty notices. The proposed PSPO could make the following an offence:

- Failure to pick up dog faeces when in control of a dog.
- Failure to carry a poop bag or other means to clean up after a dog.
- Failure to keep a dog on a lead in a designated area.
- Failure to exclude dogs from fenced off or enclosed children's playgrounds.

The consultation ended last month. For more information, contact Rob Rich on 01684 862 290 or rob.rich@malvern hills.gov.uk.

Abbreviated Draft Minutes

The Shelsleys Parish Council Meeting held on January 11th 2022

Present: I Dr Laura Taylor, Mrs Jean Hammond, Mrs Val Jones, Mr Dave Bates, Mr John Stinton, Mr David Styles and Mr Rob Pound and three members of the public and the Clerk.

Apologies: Mrs Karen Metcalfe, Mrs Louise Hutton. County Councillor David Chambers and District Councillor Caroline Palethorpe.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Minutes: The minutes of November 16th 2021 were agreed as a true record.

Public Question Time: None.

Midland Automobile Club: The Chairman of the MAC explained that this year's competition events will be on the MAC website and agreed that they should also be in the Teme Triangle. The Residents' Liaison Group was being coordinated by Toby Moody.

The Noggin and Natter evenings were proving popular and it was reiterated that these are open to residents. They are held on the first Thursday of the month.

Broadband: The updates from the various projects will be collated and sent for publication in the Teme Triangle.

Progress Reports: Update on recycling bins at the Village Hall. There is ongoing discussion with Malvern Hills District Council.

Update on proposed defibrillator at the Village Hall. The VHMC will obtain quotations for the cost before any decision on purchase is made, the cost of installation by an electrician would be free.

To receive relevant information on the proposed play area. It was agreed that due to the cost and difficulties of installation this would entail for the benefit of relatively few children, the matter will be put on long term hold.

Highways: There was no Lengthsman's report or worksheets to inspect. Mr Wilks will be asked to inspect the drain gratings between the church and New Mill Bridge and if necessary top up the green salt bins on Kingswood Lane.

Roadside bench on Kingswood Lane. There has been no communication from either the legal department or the highways liaison engineer on how to obtain permission for a bench

to be placed in order for people to enjoy the view. County Councillor Chambers will be asked for advice and assistance.

Hedge at Fetterlocks bend. The hedge has been trimmed but its size is still causing visibility problems.

Planning: 21/02182/LB Old Post Office Shelsley Walsh. Proposed repairs and internal amendments. There was support for this application.

21/02338/AGR Rudge House Farm Camp Lane. Prior notification for proposed extension to Agricultural building. Supported.

MHDC planning decisions.

21/02047/HP Old Post Office Shelsley Walsh. Permanent access gates and entrance driveway. Approved. 21/02048/LB Approved.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee: A working Group reporting to the Parish Council was agreed,

Tree planting was discussed. Possible sites and species will be identified after advice from Frank L Matthews from Tenbury Wells. Other appropriate Jubilee items will be reviewed by the working group and reported to the March meeting.

Waste bin at Stirt lay bye: A larger replacement will be considered, the clerk to circulate by email details of products to the councilors before the next meeting.

Finance: All requests for payment were agreed.

Date of the next meeting: March 8th 2022 at 7pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at 20:25.

To view the full 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 the meeting of the Parish Council held Thursday 6th January 2022 in the Village Hall,

commencing at 7.40pm.

Present: Councillors J. Bowden (Chairman), A. Henry (Vice-Chairman), R. Henry, B. Gilbert, P. Brookes and N. Campsall. Also present: 4 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: County Cllr D. Chambers and District Cllr C. Palethorpe.

Declarations of Interests and applications for Councillor dispensations: None.

Democratic Public Time: A request was received from a resident to clear the grass that is encroaching on to the pathway from Hope Lane to the BT kiosk. The Clerk agreed to ask the Lengthsman to action this.

To agree the Minutes of the meeting held 2nd December 2021 – minute 95.21 was amended regarding the Horse Chestnut tree works. Proposed Cllr Gilbert, seconded Cllr Campsall. All agreed.

Applications for Councillor Co-option / Councillor resignations: The Clerk had received permission from MHDC to co-opt a further Parish Councillor at this meeting. Further to an application being received by the Clerk, it was proposed by Cllr Bowden, seconded Cllr Brookes, that L. Merrick be co-opted. All agreed. Clerk to inform MHDC.

District & County Councillor Reports: Reports were read to the meeting and will be uploaded to the website.

Financial & Governance Matters: Payments were agreed as per the schedule circulated. Proposed Cllr A. Henry, seconded Cllr R. Henry. All agreed. Precept and budget 2022-23 – the draft budget and precept had been circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr R. Henry to retain the precept at £30k for the next financial year. Seconded A. Henry, all agreed. It was further proposed by Cllr Gilbert, to increase the grounds maintenance budget from £3k to £5k and that this money should be taken from the reserves/projects budget line so as not to increase overall expenditure. Seconded Cllr

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Brookes, all agreed. It was further proposed by Cllr A. Henry to reduce the litter picking budget from £540 to £40 as all equipment had been purchased now. The £500 should be moved into the reserves/project budget. Seconded Cllr Brookes, all agreed. Clerk to amend the budget, recirculate and upload to the website.

Parish Matters / Updates: Village Maintenance Plan – Cllr Gilbert reported to the meeting that the sign outside the school has been repaired, Worcs emblems are to be added on to village signs, County Cllr funding may be required to undertake footway works, the grass verge outside Blueshot is to be monitored for vehicle damage but R. Wilks will be asked to quote for maintenance works subject to WCC Highways permission being granted. An order has been raised to resurface the bell mouth at Saxon Close. Winter Pansies have been planted in containers which will be replaced in the spring by R. Wilks. Speed limit 20mph through the village – Cllr Bowden asked the Clerk to forward WCC Highways correspondence for information. The Clerk reiterated that 20mph speed limits remain unsupported by WCC Highways and that it would be difficult to achieve in the village. Archives refurbishment – Cllr Gilbert reported that electrical works are underway, the filing cabinet is in place and an A3 printer has been obtained locally via J. Johns. Some other works are to be progressed asap. Other office equipment is to be sought by Cllrs Bowden and Gilbert shortly. Cllr A. Henry suggested that the community could be asked initially to see what might be donated. Pavilion CCTV – Cllrs Bowden and Gilbert are to see what exists currently and liaise with the Clerk. New defibrillator – the Clerk confirmed that this should shortly be delivered. Parish Council website – it was agreed that J. Johns should publish an article about the website in the next Teme Triangle to raise awareness.

Section 106 Matters: Four Acre Field (CFAF) Project – the Clerk updated the meeting regarding the Land Registry application to be made which is now almost complete – another legal statement is to be sought regarding playing field maintenance and the surveyor drawing requires minor amendment. A review of costs and project management is to be arranged asap – Cllrs Bowden, Gilbert and Campsall to attend with the Clerk. It was agreed that as the MHDC Surveyor could no longer act as Project Manager, that Cllr Campsall should take the role going forward. The Clerk will share documents etc asap and confirm updates with the MHDC Officer.

Planning Matters: 21/02244/CLE – Mr Lee Morley, New Inn Farm, Old Rd, Clifton upon Teme WR6 6DR – Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of the mobile home known as 'The Bungalow' as a permanent residential dwelling. No objections raised.

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

Highways & Facilities Matters: Lengthsman tasks – VAS by the Garage isn't working – Clerk to report.

Road closure notices – road closures at Ham Bridge and Harpley were noted. It was agreed that future notices should be posted to the website and shared via social media sites, noticeboards and the shop.

Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agendas: Cllr A. Henry reported that the Christmas Carols on the Green event went very well, with approx. 200 people attending. Thanks to everyone who helped organise and thanks also to District Cllr C. Palethorpe for a personal donation of £50.00 towards the event.

Cllr A. Henry suggested that the village hold a Platinum Jubilee event over the Bank Holiday on 2nd & 3rd June. Suggestions are welcome and volunteers will be needed but it will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to host such an event. The PC agreed that this seemed a good idea and that Cllr A. Henry should start to look at options. A new 'tent' may be needed.

Correspondence received: The Public Space Protection Order consultation by MHDC regarding dog control was noted as circulated by the Clerk. J. Johns agreed to place an article on the Teme Triangle website.

Next meeting to be held on Thursday 3rd February 2022 at 7.40pm at the Village Hall. Meeting closed 20:50.

M Alexander, Clerk.

Church Matters

with Revd Anne Potter



Whilst we are waiting to fill the vacant post created by David Sherwin's retirement, Rev Anne Potter, Team Vicar for Worcestershire West Rural Team

(Leigh & Bransford, Alfrick & Lulsley, Suckley and Crown East & Rushwick) will be contributing articles to the Teme Triangle. We thank her for fulfilling this role for us.

Rev Anne writes:

When I was thinking about this month's contribution, it struck me that before Christmas many of us were rushing around getting ready with the fear of not being able to celebrate with family and friends again this year. The Omicron virus was looming, and with that, the associated worries of where this variant was taking us. Since Christmas the news has been full of emotive stories around Boris and his model of leadership with particular reference to 'partygate'. Novak Djokovic not being vaccinated and the ensuing legal battles as to whether he would be allowed to play in the Australian Open. The death of South Africa's spiritual father, and my hero, Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

At the time of writing, the tsunami in Tonga, with its loss of life, and the potential of Russia invading Ukraine and hence the fear of a war, were the headlines of the day plus a decrease in the number of Covid cases. The news comes at us through many medias – my laptop, for example, constantly flashes up the latest headlines, TV and radio and other social media.

As we go into 2022 we are moving into another year of uncertainty and yet things have moved on so much since January 2020. We've been through lockdowns and restrictions, which for some have been really tough bringing sorrow and suffering, others have enjoyed and gained new insights. We are blessed to live in a rural area with beautiful walks and scenery, through which we can gaze upon God's amazing creation.

I am reminded of the poem 'What is this life if, full of care, we have no time to stand and stare' like sheep and cows standing beneath the boughs or to watch the squirrels hiding their nuts, or to see the streams full of stars like skies at night (when it's not cloudy!).

We are in the depths of winter with its long dark nights, the days and days of grey cloud, the biting winds and cold rain. The joy of the Christmas lights is behind us and the days are gloomy – the weather and the news – but we have so much to look forward to as the dark nights get shorter, the weather warmer and the bursting out of spring with all its new life.

Yet through all this, God is with us. God is there in the chaos of the world of politics. God is there with each of us when we feel the pressures of everyday

life. We find God is there when we take time to stop and stare - like a light shining out through the gloom.

And so, we move from celebrating the birth of Jesus, the light that came into the world which the darkness could not overcome, through the dark days of winter, towards Easter and the promise of new life in the knowledge that God is always with us. What a joy - something to really hold onto when the going gets tough and something to be thankful for in the good times.

With blessings.....Rev Anne.

CLIFTON GUIDES CHRISTMAS FAYRE TOTAL

The Christmas Fayre held in aid of the Clifton Guides raised a total of £743.05 in December. The proceeds will be divided between the Guides, Brownies, Rainbows and St Michael's Hospice.

"Thanks to all who attended, helped and donated," said organiser Angie Griffiths. "I think that's the best we've ever done."

LOWER SAPEY NEWS

With Margaret Griffiths

So here we are in February (Fill Dyke) and hoping this won't be so in 2022! A belated Happy New Year to everyone and may it be a healthy one for us all. The older one gets, it seems that our health is the main topic of conversation. Just now, life seems to be regular lateral flow tests, bad news and dark damp days, but as I write this, the sun has come out and sparkles on the frosty grass. A real winter's day at last! Some people locally have reported daffodils already showing, so in a matter of about five or six weeks Spring should be well on the way.

We have so enjoyed the two wonderful Christmas services in our resuscitated St Bartholomew's Church. The ceiling netting is in place, the heating working (sort of) and the church thoroughly cleaned. The carol service was a great success and the congregation on Christmas Day was one of the best for some time. We are still working hard on plans for the church, for repairs and looking towards its future use. As usual, all we need is a flow of positive faculties and money. This will happen eventually and we are all positive. Has everyone seen the notices about changes in the churchyard? One is posted on our notice board, and if anyone wishes to comment, could they do so before the end of the month, thank you.

Our pop-up choir appreciated being asked to sing at Shelsley All Saints in December and at the Shelsley Walsh Hill climb service. Both were very happy and, we hope, tuneful occasions. We were joined by singers from other parishes and by a magnificent orchestra, complete with harpist.

Open Reach is now busy erecting poles along the Harpley Lane to support the new broadband fibre cables, which have been promised for so long. This will bring great benefit at last to Harpley residents and we hope to have a connection as well to the church. However, during this work, the lane from Hollybush Lane to Harpley will be closed several times and villagers and others will have to exit Harpley onto the busy B4203 at a very dangerous point. The Parish meeting is continually trying to get warnings erected near here and also where Hollybush Lane joins the B4203. We hope something positive will be achieved soon. This is a very dangerous road without the added danger, so please take extra care.

Once again, very best wishes for 2022. Roll on Spring!

NOTICES

The mobile library will call on Friday 18th February at 10.20am and 10.40am. We have decided to postpone the Ladies Bible Group meetings until better weather, when we can meet out of doors. Hopefully this will only be a couple of months.

CHURCH SERVICES at St Bartholomew's will be Morning Prayer on Sunday 6th February at 10.30am and the Circle Service at 10.30am on Sunday 27th February, both in the church. The Methodist services will also resume very soon. Please check these times which are published elsewhere in the magazine as they may change. We are working on a new rota for cleaning and flowers for the Church and hope we may get a few volunteers as we are down to about four or five helpers now.

TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE

February "fill-dyke" is a good month to stay indoors and avoid the slush and soggy outdoors. The topic I have chosen for today's article can be contemplated indoors and concerns the plants and animals that feature in place names. Some can be obvious, a name such as Ferny Hill needs no explanation. This hillside area of Orleton lies just beneath Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's Hanley Dingle Nature Reserve. Known for its undisturbed protection of damp-loving ferns and fungi, this wood was once memorably described by David Bellamy as "Worcestershire's own rain-forest". Similarly, May Hill in Knighton-on-Teme takes its name from hawthorn blossom, those creamy clusters of flowers, which billow into the landscape every May.

Other names are less obvious. The village of Rock is not situated on a cliff but is named from a contraction of the old words "ther Ack", meaning the oak. Once, a great oak tree stood there, from which the settlement took its name. Other ancient oaks formerly in the vicinity were Augustine's Oak at Abberley, the Nunupton Oak at Nunupton west of Tenbury, and the most-recently demised Mawley Oak at the junction of the road from Clows Top to the Cleobury to Bewdley road. Another oak-derived name is Ockeridge, a hamlet just south of Little Witley, which means oak ridge and another ridge, this time of lime trees, is reflected in the parish name of Lindridge.

Trees are not the only plants to end up in place names. Ramsons, also known as wild garlic, feature in the name of Romsley. A ley was a woodland clearing and this parish, which I mentioned in my Clent Hills article last month, can be translated as “woodland clearing of wild garlic”. The plant loves to grow alongside stream-edges and when the stream flows through a wood the enclosed space makes the smell of the leaves very noticeable. Maybe those pilgrims trudging to St Kenelm’s church noted the smell and gave the place its name.

Animals and birds appear too. Bevere Island, the island in the Severn just north of Worcester where the city-dwellers once retreated to avoid invasion and plague, derives its name from the beaver. Beavers last lived in the wild in the sixteenth century but they have recently returned as their damming activities may prove important for flood-management. Another recent re-introduction is the crane, a bird having many place name associations. The Cornbrook, the Teme tributary that starts below the Clees and runs into the Teme near the Peacock at Boraston, takes its name from these birds. How many cranes there were historically is the subject of discussion, some people claim the term to refer to herons, but thirteenth century royal banquets certainly mentioned them. At Henry III’s Christmas dinner in 1251, 115 were apparently eaten, amongst other rich fare no doubt.

Finally, there’s my favourite – the pine marten – apparently once so common in Martley that its name has been immortalised for ever. If you want to find out more about this fascinating subject I can recommend Worcestershire author Mike Jenkins’ new book, “The History of Place Names in England and Worcestershire.”

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will take place at Stoke Bliss and Kyre village hall, WR15 8RR, on Thursday February 10th at 7:30pm. We welcome Tom Mabbett whose talk will be on the flora and fauna of South America. Everyone is most welcome, it is just £2 on the door.

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



**CHURCH SERVICES IN CLIFTON, THE SHELSLEYS
AND LOWER SAPEY (HARPLEY)**

FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday 6th February

Fourth Sunday before Lent

10.30am Morning Worship, St Bartholomew, Lower Sapey

10.30am Holy Communion, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

Sunday 13th February

Third Sunday before Lent

10.30am Holy Communion, St Kenelm, Clifton

Sunday 20th February

Second Sunday before Lent

3.30-4.30pm Activ-i-teas, Clifton Village Hall

A new craft and activity-based service

Sunday 27th February

Sunday Next before Lent

10.30am Circle Service, St Bartholomew, Lower Sapey

6.30pm Evensong, St Kenelm, Clifton

***Holy Communion at Heaton House, Martley every 2nd and 4th
Wednesday at 10.15am and every 1st and 3rd Wednesday via our
YouTube channel – wwrtlive1***

All services and timings are subject to review and amendment – please check the website
for updates: www.achurchnearyou.com

CALENDAR

February

- 8 Clifton W.I., Clifton VH, 7.30pm.
- 18 Lower Sapey mobile library, 10.20am.
- 19 Clifton litter picking day. See article for meet locations.
- 20 Activ-i-teas, Clifton VH, 3.30pm – 4.30pm.

March

- 6 Martley Young Farmers 'Big Breakfast', Martley Memorial Hall, 09:00
- 10 Annual WWRT 'Quiet Day', Holland House, Cropthorne.

AND FINALLY...

A reminder again that Teme Triangle has a Facebook page – so you can keep abreast of all the latest news on our site: www.facebook.com/TemeTriangle.

Also, our printed magazine will continue to be available in all local shops and community spaces so you can choose how and when to keep up to date.

Do keep sending us your news and photos – thank you.

CLIFTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB



Dot Millward and Ann McBryde

Marie Thompson's retirement celebration





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Contributions for the next (March 2022) edition by Friday 11th February please to:
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