

Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton upon Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



Local Shelsley resident goes for a ride with the 'Biking Bishop'

In this edition

- Harvest services and suppers galore to look forward to
 - Local village hall activities
 - Opera, films and dancing - all in the Teme Valley
 - Clifton recreation ground update
 - Parish Council minutes and Church Services
-

Visit the website

www.temetriangle.net

FREE to Residents



Local Harpley resident Sean Hinton, with his family, at his recent book launch in Harpley Church.

YOUR TEME TRIANGLE TEAM

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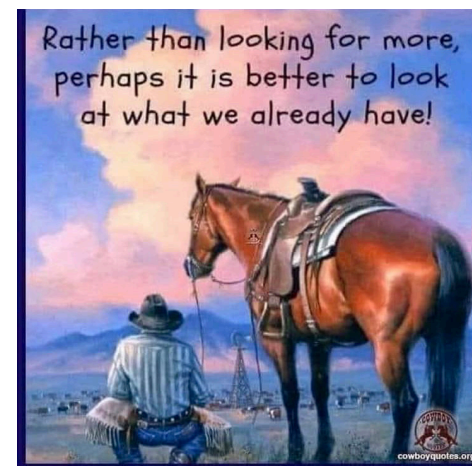
Front cover picture: Jude Damerell and Richard Jackson (Bishop of Hereford). See P3 for article.

A VERY WARM WELCOME to the October 2023 edition of the Teme Triangle

Well it would appear that summer (what little summer we had!) is definitely over and so onwards we move towards the wonderful season of autumn. This is truly my favourite season, with her stunning colours and crisp, cool air.

Autumn is said to be a time of plenty, ripening, harvest and abundance. Yet at the same time, a symbol of decline, decay and old age. To accept both allows us to look forward and be at peace with not only ourselves but also our surroundings.

To read through this edition, as with any other edition, reminds us of how lucky we are to live in this beautiful, community-minded valley. There is indeed much to look forward to. Thank you as always for sharing your activities with other readers.



THE BIKING BISHOP

Shelsley resident Jude Damerell spent a very enjoyable afternoon recently riding around Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Shropshire on the back of the Bishop of Hereford (Richard Jackson)'s Harley Davidson (see photo on front cover).

This was the prize at a Remembrance Day charity auction last year. The Bishop picked Jude up at home in Shelsley and headed off towards Clee Hill. It made a great impression on Jude, who thought it was absolutely fantastic - so much so that she is now actively looking for a Harley to buy! Watch out Teme Valley!

A NEW ACTIVITY COMES TO CLIFTON - PICKLEBALL

Pickleball looks a bit like scaled-down tennis. It is played on a badminton size court with racquets like large table tennis bats and balls like oversized golf airflows. As the court is smaller and the balls slower than tennis, it is suitable for all ages and abilities. Intrigued? Need a bit more exercise?



There are now two groups playing regularly at Clifton Village Hall, one on Thursday 2.15pm and one on Monday evening, 7.15pm. New players are welcome. Why not come along, give it a go and see if it is for you?

If you want more information contact John and Ros Wain at jcandrwin@yahoo.co.uk or on 07368 395501.

CLIFTON UPON TEME WI UPDATE

The Clifton WI had their summer outing in August with a trip to Stourbridge Glass Museum where we were shown round the exhibits and learnt about the history of glass making in the area. The industry was established in the area at the beginning of the 17th Century by French glass makers who found that the area had the necessary coal, for fuel, and fireclay for making furnaces and melting pots. Stourbridge continued to be an important area for the development of high-quality innovative glassware for the next 400 years. The tour was followed by a stop at The Garden Tea Rooms at Great Witley where we enjoyed a tasty lunch.

In September, Meriet Duncan gave a very entertaining talk about honeybees. She became a passionate beekeeper after being given a box of bees unexpectedly by a friend. Meriet explained how hard each bee works for the good of the hive.

Some fun facts about bees are:

- Honeybees have been on the planet longer than dinosaurs
- A honeybee makes one twelfth of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime
- To make a single jar of honey, the honeybees will have visited about two million flowers

- Honeybees prefer to forage from the blossom on trees and shrubs rather than single wildflowers
- They fly for up to 5 miles and visit between fifty to one hundred flowers on each collection trip

Meriet has also written several children's books and gives talks in schools. The evening was well attended with several visitors and new members.

October 20 is the WI Health and Wellbeing evening on the topic of Osteoporosis. We are looking forward to the speaker from the Royal Osteoporosis Society. This is an important topic that affects both men and women, so all are welcome. This is a free event with refreshments, stalls, an introduction to useful Pilates exercises and a raffle.

If you would like to know more or are thinking of joining the WI please do come

MARTLEY YOUNG FARMERS UPDATE, by Amy Wickens

We have had a successful start to the new year. Our new members evening was well attended with lots of new members, who all thoroughly enjoyed the evening!

Martley YFC have got lots of exciting activities booked, such as a feed mill tour, bonfire night, escape rooms and much more. If you didn't manage to attend the new members evening and are still interested in joining, please drop us a message or give us a call for more details.

Our first charity event of the year is the Quiz Evening which will be held at Martley Village Hall on Saturday 21 October, doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start. It will be £10 per person, which will include food. Teams can be up to 6 people. There will also be a bar and tuck shop available.

For more information or to enter your team, please call or text Zoe on 07772 202840. Please pre-book by Wednesday 18 October.

CLIFTON HARVEST TEA

Friday 6 October, 5 - 7pm

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LOWER SAPEY NEWS, by Margaret Griffiths

So it's goodbye brief summer, hello autumn, with its glorious sunsets, harvesting, World Cup competitions and Christmas advertising already. I hope everyone had a good summer and enjoyed the heat wave, which must have supplemented our Vitamin D!

At the end of August we celebrated the annual service in Old St Bartholomew's Church. Pat and Mike Prosser retired as honorary guardians and many thanks go to them both. Pat will continue to hold the key. Another Pat, Pat Snelling and her husband Mike are hoping to take over the guardianship and this tradition.

St Bartholomew's, Harpley, had a busy month with visits from the Clifton Brownies and Cubs; they enjoyed gatherings round the fire pit, with toasted marshmallows and it proved a popular visit for them.

The weather was also brilliant for our annual Big Breakfast on 9 September. This was actually the tenth anniversary and turned out to be one of the best. Everyone seemed to cope with the heat and enjoy a full English breakfast. We raised about £400 for our Church. Thanks go particularly to Liz and Steve Younge, the main organisers, and to all who helped out. This money will go towards the church and we continue with our plans, despite setbacks. We will get there eventually and hope it will benefit the community in many more ways and stay as our lovely church.

Another first for Harpley church is a book launch. Sean Hinton of Hollybush Lane is having his children's book published in the autumn and is having a book launch on 16 September. We hope he will become our own Roald Dahl.

CHURCH WARDEN

Our much loved and valued churchwarden, Candy Connolly, has resigned from this post after almost 12 years as she feels exhausted with all her efforts to move forward with improvements to benefit the church and the community. It has been a struggle at times and she feels it is time for a new person to take over. We have made many changes during Candy's term of office, and I would like to thank her personally for all her work. I think we would all agree that she has helped to make a huge difference to the church. It is quite likely that without some of her work, the church would have been closed by the Diocese some years ago. Thank you very much Candy and although you are staying on the PCC, we hope you can now enjoy a more leisurely life, less stressful and more free home time.

After voting, the new churchwardens will be Liz Younge and David Richards, who we feel will do a wonderful job and carry on Candy's work. We wish them both good luck.

NOTICES:

HARVEST SUPPER will be in the church on Saturday 7 October at 7pm. The price, £20 per adult and £10 for children over 12; £15 for senior citizens. It will include two courses and a fine cheese board, also a free glass of wine. For details see posters and for tickets apply to Claire Edwards or Liz Younge.

SERVICES

Sunday 1 October, Morning service at 10.30am.

Thursday 5 October, Morning prayers at 9.30am.

Sunday 15 October, Methodist Communion at 10.30am.

There will be no Circle service this month because of the service at St Kenelm's on 22 September to celebrate the licensing of Rev. Julia Curtis by Archdeacon Robert Jones. All welcome.

The Remembrance service will be on Sunday 12 November at 10.45am.

Housekeeping for October is in the hands of Dot Millward.

The Ladies Bible Group will definitely re-start on Tuesday 10 October at 2pm at the home of Jill Smith. We have new texts and can discuss which one to start using.

Have a wonderful Autumn and stay well.

MOBILE LIBRARY IN CLIFTON

For anyone in search of good bookshelves to browse along, did you know that Worcester County Council Mobile Library Service visits our area once a month? It comes on the morning of the third Friday from 09:45 - 10:15 and parks conveniently in Clifton Village Hall car park in Hope Lane. After this (in case you are late) it drives down the lane to Harpley. There is a good selection of fiction, non-fiction and large print books. The librarian is very happy to help and will look things up and order books for you to pick up the following month. Added to which, it provides an opportunity for a chat with fellow readers. This month the library will be available on Friday 20 October at 09:45. Online details www.worcestershire.gov.uk/libraries.

DINING AT SHELSLEY HILLCLIMB

DELICIOUS FOOD AT SHELSLEY...

The racing season might be coming to an end but there will still be a chance to meet up with friends and family at Shelsley Walsh for a Sunday Carvery or Festive lunch...

SUNDAY CARVERY - Sunday 22 October

Book The Courtyard Restaurant for a delicious Sunday Carvery. Choose from beef, turkey or pork with all the trimmings! Two courses £20 or three courses £25. Veggie and GF options available. The bar will be open too. Bookings essential.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH - Sunday 10 December

Join us at Shelsley Walsh for a fun festive lunch. A beautiful 3 course meal, warm mince pies and a glass of mulled wine, along with a classic game of bingo and a Christmas quiz. £30 per person and booking essential. The bar will be open too.



CLIFTON RECREATION GROUND LATEST

Clifton Parish Council is at last in a position to go ahead with its Four Acre Field project to redevelop the village recreation area after a delay of two years, occasioned by the need to prove that the Council owned all the land, a task which required the assistance of a specialist lawyer. The delay combined with spiralling costs has meant that the original proposal has had to be modified, but nevertheless it is still an exciting project.

In a message to residents, Parish Councillor Chairman John Bowden confirmed, "We have at last had approval for the funding which will allow us to improve the drainage of the field and to repair part of the bowling green structure. We plan to refurbish the tennis court and provide a multi-use games area (MUGA) which will provide a pitch to be used for football, tennis, netball and basketball and we intend to install new playground equipment for infant and junior children. We are also preparing a further bid for the provision of a natural garden and seating, to enhance the appearance of the recreation area and the possible addition of a petanque court".

It has not been possible to incorporate all the suggested improvements and facilities, but the Parish Council is confident that the final result will provide a wonderful facility for the village. It is inevitable that there will be some disruption and partial closure of parts of the recreation area at times as the work progresses, but the Steering Group is working with the contractors to minimise the problem. John Bowden added "We look forward to these improved facilities for the village and hope many people will enjoy using them".

CLIFTON PLOUGHING MATCH

Neil Sparey, joint organiser of the annual ploughing match held in Clifton in September, pictured with contestant Zoe Kenwick of Upper Sapey, a member of the Baiting House Tractor Club. Proceeds from the event, in a field belonging to Phil Richards, were donated to the Air Ambulance.





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IN PRAISE OF VILLAGE HALLS AND OTHER LOCAL FRIENDLY VENUES

By Val Jones, Shelsley resident and PC Chair

When I first moved to the valley 12 years ago, I was keen to discover what might be happening locally in the arts, particularly music and theatre. I was not disappointed!

Christmas carols and then Burns Night Ceilidhs at Great Witley VH; many suppers with wonderful music at the Gallery (now The Den); film nights and joyous singing days at Clifton VH; The Roving Crows at Martley VH; comedy at Shrawley VH; and an unforgettable theatre piece on the First World War at Heightington VH. Plus, our first visit to Clows Top VH to see our local amazing guitarist, Remi Harris perform gypsy jazz, was also accompanied with cheese and ham baps in the interval! Shelsley VH also has regular bingo and pizza nights, and this month has seen its first live tribute band too!

I have seen a Silent film at St Peter's in Malvern, folk at Hartlebury and Feckenham, and all events are always met with a friendly voice when booking tickets, and a welcome when we arrive.

So where did I find many of these? Live and Local (liveandlocal.org.uk) is funded by Arts Council England / local authorities / Lottery and works in rural areas to allow communities to enjoy affordable live theatre, music and family shows. They do this by working with voluntary promoter groups, often at our larger village halls.

So, if you are still suffering from post-lockdown inertia, have a look on the website and try it out. Some venues have bars, but people do take their own refreshments, and some an interval feast!

And finally, if you have never been to see our very own Remi Harris (gypsy jazz / blues / rock) you really are missing out. He is at Huntington Hall in Worcester on 20 October and at the Regal Theatre in Tenbury on 24 February, performing the 'Music Of Peter Green'. Enjoy!!

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ST KENELM'S ANNUAL PET SERVICE

On Sunday 10 September St Kenelm's held the annual Pet Service. Luckily there was a break in the rain and it was held outside the church. The service was well attended with a variety of pets including dogs, rabbits, ferrets, a chicken and a pony. It was a time to reflect on and celebrate the special relationship with our pets, to thank God for them and to pray that they are loved and cared for, as well as to be mindful of the need to protect the environment around us.



COUNCILLOR BARBARA JONES-WILLIAMS TAKES TO THE AIR



The Midlands Air Ambulance Charity funds 3 helicopters and two critical care cars which serve six counties across the Midlands. Funded entirely by the public, it receives no Government or Lottery funding. In excess of £10 million is needed each year to keep it operational.

“I have the privilege of being three times chairman of Malvern Hills District Council and have chosen ‘Midland Air Ambulance Charity’ as one of my charities. To support this cause I have decided to take on a wing walk, to raise much needed donations for vital lifesaving missions across our district.



The picture I have used is of Critical Care Paramedic, Colin Apps. This is from the last time I was Chairman in 2015/16. I drove my 1962 Massey Ferguson 35 tractor the length of the Malvern Hills District, raising £4k for ‘Midland Air Ambulance Charity’.

Malvern Hills District is predominantly a rural district, with hundreds of miles of roads and lanes, hard to reach farming areas, rural industrial sites and villages. Like myself, many of you reading this will know of someone who has benefitted from this important service, and would want it to continue in the efficient way that it has done for so many years.

If you would like to support me, I can be found on the Justgiving page... type in ‘Midlands Air Ambulance Charity Wing Walk’ or telephone me on 01886 853 377 as I also have a sponsor form. Many thanks, Barbara.”

CLIFTON CUB PACK EVENING FUN

On a lovely September evening, Clifton Cub Pack walked across country, from the village Scout Hut, via The Hill and Church Farms to Harpley Church.

There they all had roasted marshmallows on sticks in the newly constructed outdoor seating & firepit area, next to the churchyard. Despite some very charred grub, everyone had a great time and the weather was perfect.

All of this was made possible by the Cub Pack leaders Nick Rowe and Chris Lewis, and Harpley Church Warden David Richards. Our local Revd Jen Deniston also joined in on the fun.

If any other local groups would like to make use of the outdoor seating area or any part of Harpley Church, please contact David or any of the Harpley PCC.



SHELSLEY OUTDOOR SERVICE

September saw a fun new 'picnic service' held at Shelsley Beauchamp, outside the Church.

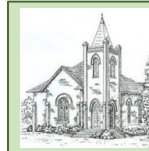
The service consisted of a mini Celtic Communion and was themed around the feeding of the 5,000 with two fish and five loaves. Attendees made beautiful hop crowns, a sea-worthy cardboard ship and decorated yummy fish biscuits. Much fun was had by all.



Above left: *The Perks family building the cardboard ship.*

Above right: *Kate Hurst and Irene Hodgetts wearing their hop crowns.*

OLD ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S ANNUAL SERVICE



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

October 2023

Sunday 1st October

10.30am Morning Prayer, St Kenelm's, Clifton

10.30am Harvest Service, St Bartholomew, Harpley

6.30pm Evensong, St Andrews, Shelsley Walsh

Friday 6th October: St Kenelm's Harvest Tea @ Clifton Village Hall

Saturday 7th October Harvest Supper, St Bartholomew's, Harpley

Sunday 8th October

11.30am Harvest Service, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

1.00pm Harvest Lunch, Shelsley Beauchamp Village Hall

6.00pm Harvest Service and Supper, St Kenelm's, Clifton

Sunday 15th October

10.30am Methodist Holy Communion, St Bartholomew, Harpley

6.30pm Evensong, St Kenelm's, Clifton

Sunday 22nd October

10.30am Licensing Service of Rev Julia Curtis as Curate in charge of Clifton, Shelsley and Harpley

Pop-In Parish Prayers

Thursday 5th 9.30am, St Bartholomew, Harpley

Wednesday 18th 9.00am, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

Monday 23rd 9.30am, St Kenelm's, 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 – [wrtlive1](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwrtlive1)

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

CONTACTS FOR ST KENELM'S CHURCH, CLIFTON

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AN EVENING OF OPERA AND WINE IN CLIFTON

An exclusive evening of talented musicians performing some of opera's greatest arias, combined with an exhibition of work by some of Worcestershire's finest artists will take place in Clifton Village Hall on Saturday 21 October.

Ukrainian soprano Valeria Sherlock and her husband bass-baritone Kieran Sherlock, accompanied by David Arthur at the piano, will perform a variety of popular and famous operatic arias.

An Academy-trained operatic soprano, Valeria began her musical path in her native Ukraine where she graduated from the Odessa Music Academy Opera vocal programme. Her repertoire includes arias from operas by Mozart, Verdi, Puccini, Bizet and Tchaikovsky. She came to the UK from Ukraine two years ago. Last year, she and her husband organised a charity opera concert in Worcester Guildhall to help Ukrainian children affected by the current conflict there.

Kieran Sherlock, a field archaeologist from Martley, began singing in 2018 receiving operatic vocal tuition from South African tenor Wilhelm Theunissen and made his performance debut in 2019 at Huntingdon Hall. He is honoured to share the same voice type bass-baritone as Welsh Opera great Bryn Terfel.

David Arthur auditioned for Birmingham Conservatoire, where he spent five years accompanying instrumentalists and singers for their exams, recitals and competitions. Since then he has been involved in local amateur dramatic societies, trying his hand as musical director. He has arranged an entire opera score into notation for reduced orchestra, conducted a small orchestra and is a regular rehearsal pianist for Worcester opera societies.

The performance will begin at 6pm. Tickets (£15) are available on the door and include a glass of champagne. (See poster on P25).

LITTLE WITLEY FILMS

Welcome back everyone to our new season! On Saturday 21 October at Little Witley Village Hall, we are showing a gripping Stalinesque thriller 'Mr Jones'. It tells the true but hardly known story of a Welsh journalist who manages to travel to Ukraine in 1933. A stunning performance by James Norton. Doors open at 7.15pm, film starts at 8pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

AUTUMN OPERA
Extravaganza
Art-Opera-Wine

Valeria Sherlock
(Soprano)

David Arthur
(Piano)

Kieran Sherlock
(Bass-baritone)

An exclusive event with talented musicians performing some of Opera's greatest arias. The evening will also include an art exhibition of the works of some of Worcestershire's finest artists as well a glass of sparkling champagne.

October
SATURDAY | 21 | At 6 p.m
Clifton upon Teme Village Hall
2023

£10
(Tickets available on the door)

Abbreviated Draft Minutes of the Shelsleys Parish Council Meeting, September 5th 2023

Present: Val Jones (Chair), John Stinton, Dave Bates, Carole Warren and David Belfield.
In attendance: District Councillors Pam and Paul Cumming, Helen Evans (MAC) PCSO Deb Abbott and the clerk.

Apologies: Laura Taylor, Jean Hammond, Louise Hutton.

Minutes: The Minutes of July 11th 2023 were accepted and agreed as a true record.

Public Question Time: None. District and County Councillor Reports:

PCSO Deb Abbott from Martley and Tenbury Safer Neighbourhoods Team.

Two areas were discussed, traffic associated with the hill climb & speeding through the villages.

PCSO Abbott had spoken with the administration team at the hill climb when it was suggested reminders regarding speed were put on tickets, leaflets and the website as local speed signs were still being ignored.

There could be a police presence on event days but enforcement is impractical because of the national speed limit of 60mph on local lanes. Speeding vehicles could be stopped but no enforcement action would be taken because this requires specialised equipment and a safe place to monitor traffic. It is considered that a police presence at events is the best course of action.

A possible lower speed limit was discussed but it is unlikely to be approved.

The representative from the MAC agreed that the temporary signs placed before and during events appear to make little difference as vehicle drivers speed everywhere, but hoped that placing more signs might make a difference. Speeding through villages occurs everywhere, people simply ignore the limits.

Midland Automobile Club: Helen Evans reported that there was just one hill climb event left this year. Next year completion days will be at the same level as this year and there will be no Retro Rides.

There had been a serious incident at Classic Nostalgia involving a member of the public, when the surrounding roads had been blocked by ambulances. The result of the emergency services intervention resulted in a good outcome. Satnav takes drivers through the village, it was requested that the MAC ask drivers to follow their signs and not satnav.

Big Help Out: An article has been placed in the Teme Triangle asking parishioners for suggestions, which will be relayed to the clerk.

Highways: Pard House Lane. The work started in July is still ongoing. Another road closure is in place.

Urgent Decisions: Planning: Planning M/23/00484/FUL Holloway Barn, PC supported the application. The Bleed Out Kit. This has been ordered.

VHMC: The audited accounts have been received by the VHMC and will be sent to the Parish Council after the VHMC AGM. Fire and safety equipment including fire alarm, fire extinguishers and fire blankets are in need of updating. New smoke and heat detectors are also required. It was agreed to grant a payment of £300 towards these costs.

District Councillor Paul Cumming also said he may be able to contribute some of his ward grant towards the costs.

Planning: M/23/00616/FUL Cockshot Cottage. The change of use from agricultural to garden to include construction of a building ancillary to the main house was supported by the Parish Council.

Correspondence & Consultations: Relevant mail was either circulated by email or was available and discussed at the meeting including thanks from Worcester Foodbank.
Finance: MHDC Election Expenses £150.00. Clerk expenses. £76.17. Bank balance £3566.91.

Chairman Board: There was discussion on the suggestion from the chairwoman that the wording on the board should be changed to recognise both men and women.

Most councillors were of the opinion that the board should remain as it is but the clerk will investigate the costings for various wordings. Councillor Jones also suggested that all members should be recognised and produced a framed example of how this could be done.

Councillors' Reports and items for future agenda: Fete, Village Hall fundraising.

Councillors Warren and Belfield will attend via Zoom the Area Meeting on September 21st. The clerk to forward information when received.

Next meeting: November 7th 7pm 2023 at the Village Hall. The meeting concluded at 20.15.

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.

BOB WHITEFOOT of Hollybush Lane

After speaking to Bob's friends and family, Candy Connolly would like to make this tribute to Bob, who sadly passed away recently, on his 91st birthday.

"Bob was a super-able man of many talents, shearing sheep, laying miles of beautiful hedges and climbing and cutting trees like Tarzan ... and these are just a few of his many talents. When young, Bob worked with horses, which he loved. He was always hard working and full of fun, never short of a story (whether it was true or not!).

His family came from Clee Hill, though during the war he had lived in Sussex, where he saw the German planes of the Blitz flying overhead. He worked for eleven years driving lorries and then moved to work in agriculture at Burton Court. He then became self-employed as a sheep shearer and hedge layer.

He also enjoyed shooting and country pursuits. He once disguised his foraging activities by wearing size 12 boots on his small feet. He brought light into Harpley church, clearing self-sown sycamores and bush trees. This gave us new energy for ideas on how the building and space could be used beyond a wildlife conservation area. Mainly thanks to Bob, the churchyard has become a welcoming open space, with branches and ivy removed and the walls drying out. We will always be grateful for the encouragement to the church community that came from his longstanding voluntary work there. He will be fondly remembered and much missed by so many."

Minutes of Clifton Parish Council meeting Thursday 7th September 2023

Present: Councillors J. Bowden (Chairman), B. Gilbert (Vice-Chairman), P. Brooks, R. Neave, L. Merrick.

Also present: 4 members of the public and District Cllrs Paul & Pam Cumming.

Apologies for absence: County Cllr D. Chambers, Cllr S. Haywood.

Declarations of interests and applications for councillor dispensations: None.

To agree the Minutes of the meetings held 7th July 2023 – Minutes for were proposed by Cllr Neave, seconded Cllr Gilbert. No matters arising.

Democratic Public Time: Members of the public raised the following issues – none.

District & County Councillor Reports: Any written reports received will be circulated and uploaded to the website. Thanks to County Cllr Chambers for arranging footpath works on the north side of the village.

Cllr Paul Cumming reported on MHDC matters including a change to the Head of Planning and grant funding assistance for local businesses (see MHDC website). SWDPR remains outstanding and the 5 year land supply remains uncertain – both are affecting local planning decisions and appeals. Martley has now been allocated 150+ new houses due to this impact. It was noted that NDP's should be revised every two years to remain a consideration for planning development. Cllr Pam Cumming reported that MHDC Environmental Group discussed grass cutting across the district and wildflower planting. Options for the disposal of food waste are also being considered for the district. Cllr Barbara Jones-Williams is doing a wing walk to raise funds for Midlands Air Ambulance and donations are very welcome!

Financial & Governance Matters: Payments approved as per the schedule- proposed Cllr Bowden, seconded Cllr Gilbert. All agreed. Lloyds Bank banking transfer is still ongoing although all documents have been submitted. Clerk and Cllr Bowden are progressing asap. Clifton Rovers FC pitch hire – it was noted that a new football team is ready to use the field again. They incurred costs for maintenance of £125.00. It was proposed by Cllr Bowden, seconded Cllr Brooks that an annual fee of £250.00 should be charged for the use minus the £125.00 costs incurred = £125.00 to be invoiced by the Clerk. Vehicle Activated Signage (speed reduction measure) – costs are £3k for the unit + £650 for the solar panel via Westcotec. Purchase proposed by Cllr Bowden, seconded Cllr Gilbert, to be located at the Martley end of the village. All agreed. Clerk to purchase. Parish Matters / Updates: Village Maintenance Plan – hanging baskets are in place and look beautiful currently.

56.23.02 Community Speed Watch – data cable survey has been requested via WCC. Police survey data does not meet the criteria for a CSW scheme locally. The meeting noted that the '20 is Plenty' scheme remains ongoing and worth monitoring. Village Green ownership – awaiting WCC confirmation. WCC works – footpath of north side of village completed. Kenelm Close / Saxon Close works to commence 12/9. Vehicle access may need to be restricted during work.

Section 106 Matters: Four Acre Field (CFAF) Project – a draft funding agreement has now been received and was signed. A Contractors meeting was held recently with positive outcomes. Program dates tbc. An article will be drafted for Teme Triangle by Cllr Bowden. A meeting has also been held with J. Delahay to agree ditch ownership and future maintenance as Land Registry plans were unclear. It was confirmed that J. Delahay owns the ditch. Cllr Merrick requested conservation of the old rocking horse seat as part of the project subject to H&S requirements – options to be considered but agreed in principle. Cllr Merrick reported on the ongoing species survey and the new

community garden scheme. An external funding bid will be required as s106 will not cover the costs of the scheme, and also a small working group will need to be set up to progress this project. It was agreed that a budget of £500.00 will be allocated for cost of preliminary work. Proposed Cllr Bowden, seconded Cllr Brooks. All agreed.

Planning Matters: Planning applications considered or to be considered:

M/23/01682/FUL – Blue Shot Meadow, Pound Lane, Clifton upon Teme – amended plans submitted for site boundary – Objection submitted as previous plus reminder of recently reviewed NDP which should be considered as no SWDP in place currently. Application currently deferred by WCC Highways.

M/23/00952/FUL – Clifton upon Teme Primary School – erection of flat roof extension to the existing school library – no objections.

M/23/00821/LB – The Oak House, 21 The Village, Clifton upon Teme – removal of metal gates and replacement of bay window and door – no objections.

Planning notifications: M/23/01078/AGR – prior notification not required for steel framed barn to replace pole barn at Ham Farm House, Clifton upon Teme

Highways & Facilities Matters: R. Wilks has looked at the Conker Tree base 'tidying up' but as the current stone base was suggested by the Tree Surgeon, and there has been no vandalism reported, it was agreed to take no further action on this. Road closures as notified. Saxon Close, Kenelm Close and the main road have all received closure notices for future work.

Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agendas: Cllr Brooks – a letter is still to be drafted to the Developer regarding the exposed pipework as previously reported. R. Wilks has been asked to tidy the area where possible as it looks very bad for the village currently. It is believed that MHDC Planning Enforcement have attended site recently – Cllr Brooks to confirm. Future maintenance will need to be monitored.

The Clerk has spoken to WCC Highways and reported the trees and vegetation at Ham Bridge. R. Wilks asked to cut back the vegetation.

Cllr Bowden – the 30mph speed limit sign in Pound Lane remains with WCC for relocation further down the lane.

The church has asked to place a banner on the village green for the Alpha scheme, but it was not considered appropriate as the church is able to advertise on its own land.

There is a leaking toilet issue at the pavilion which Cllr Bowden is trying to resolve, but it is proving difficult to locate the actual leak.

Cllr Gilbert raised concern regarding another recent loss of water supply by STW. It was noted that STW were in attendance and were trying to maintain a supply, but it appears it didn't reach everyone. The Clerk was asked to write and ask for their reasons and future work plans.

Next meeting: Thurs 5th October 2023, 7:40pm. Meeting closed 9pm.M. Alexander, Clerk.

USEFUL PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Shelsley Parish Council Secretary

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Clifton Parish Council Secretary

Michelle Alexander clerk@clifton-upon-teme-pc.org.uk 01886 884195

District Councillor

Paul Cumming paul.cumming@malvernhillscd.net 01886 888832

County Councillor

David Chambers dchambers2@worcestershires.gov.uk 07400 590711

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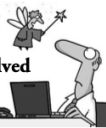
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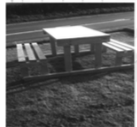
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If you set off on a ramble this month don't forget to look out for fungi, because late summer and early autumn are the times of year when many fungi send fruiting bodies up from their vast networks of unseen underground mycelia. Most of us are familiar with field mushrooms and with their larger parasol cousins. We may even have had our attention drawn to more brightly coloured grassland waxcaps, but what about the curiously named earth star? Described as rare but widespread, these striking fungi can pop up in soil or sand dunes across Britain.

There are ten varieties of British earth star and I was lucky enough to find one of them here in the valley late in August. Under the deep shade of conifer trees lining a lane adjacent to woodland, I spotted a group of small fungi which I knew I had never seen before. They formed a small colony, each in a different stage of development, and from their shape and size I suspected them to be earth stars. Being related to puffballs, it was easy to see that their round central bodies possessed an opening through which spores could be released. Each central body was held on a star of five or more spreading rays. They looked like miniature sputniks and their ball-like centres have the capacity to shoot out clouds of smoke-like spores when triggered by falling raindrops or passing animals.

The variety I came across proved to be the fringed earth star, *Geastrum sessile*, sometimes called *G. fimbriatus*. At a few centimetres in diameter, its buff colour reminded the late great botanist Geoffrey Grigson of "a medlar lying rooted in

the leafmould". He wrote that earth stars possessed an "oddly artificial look, they are not very common, and they are entirely useless." But he also said that to find them was "one of the rarest pleasures of searching woods in the autumn".

Although I had not encountered any type of earth star before, I had once seen a picture of one when my cousin, who is the groundsman of a municipal cemetery, found one growing in his patch. With the help of Smartphone technology and the Internet he had managed to identify and record this rarity. He enjoyed many fungi growing in his jurisdiction and was dismayed to find commercial gatherers stripping his grass of mushrooms. Top-end restaurants, who pay good money for such things, were, I thought, unlikely to advertise the fact that they had been "sustainably handpicked in your local graveyard" on their eco-friendly menus.

Actually, earth stars are not edible, but their cousins, the giant puffballs, certainly are. Eaten at an early stage of development, well before reaching a potential 20 kg in weight, they are a healthy addition to a fried breakfast. Turn a slice in bacon fat and serve with bacon and fried eggs – delicious. But you'll have to give some to friends, they're too big to eat all by yourself.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall, WR15 8RR, on Thursday 12 October at 7:30pm. Our speaker is Shropshire Bat Group's excellent Phil Playford whose talk will, unsurprisingly, be about bats. Everyone is most welcome, and 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 email at twwg@outlook.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

- 6 St. Kenelm's Harvest Tea, Clifton VH, 5-7pm
- 8 Shelsley Harvest Service, All Saints, 11.30am
- 8 Shelsley Harvest Lunch, Shelsley VH, 1pm
- 8 St. Kenelm's Harvest Service and Supper, 6pm
- 10 Ladies Bible Group, Jill Smith's home, 2pm
- 10 Clifton WI, Clifton VH, 7.30pm
- 12 Teme Valley Wildlife Group, Stoke Bliss VH, 7.30pm
- 14 Film night, Clifton VH, 7pm
- 14 The Severn Voices, St. Kenelm's, 7.30pm
- 20 Mobile library, Clifton VH car park, 9.45-10.15am
- 20 Osteoporosis Information evening, Clifton VH, 7pm
- 20 Remi Harris at Huntington Hall, Worcester
- 21 Opera evening with Valeria & Kieron Sherlock, Clifton VH, 6pm
- 21 Martley Youngs Farmers Club, Charity quiz night, Martley VH, 7pm
- 21 Little Witley Film night, Little Witley VH, 7.15pm
- 22 Licensing service for Rev Julia Curtis, St. Kenelm's, 10.30am
- 22 Sunday Carvery at The Courtyard Restaurant, Shelsley Hillclimb

November

- 4 Live music with Connor & Petra Brookes, Clifton VH
- 5 Clifton Parish Council meeting, Clifton VH, 7.40pm
- 7 Shelsley Parish Council meeting, Shelsley VH, 7pm
- 11 Film night, Clifton VH, 7pm
- 12 Teme Valley Wildlife Group, Stoke Bliss VH, 7.30pm
- 17 Mobile library, Clifton VH car park, 9.45-10.15am

December

- 9 Dickensian Christmas evening, Clifton VH
- 11 Christmas lunch at The Courtyard Restaurant, Shelsley Hillclimb
- 15 Mobile library, Clifton VH car park, 9.45-10.15am

**Do keep sending us your articles - we love to share them.
Copy for the next edition (November 2023) by
Friday 13 October please.**

FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE IN THE SHELSLEYS

A fantastic evening was had by all at the Shelsleys Village Hall on Saturday 16 September when the 'Stevie Mac Tribute Band' came to the village.

Over 100 people attended and enjoyed the music and dancing. The social club did a roaring trade and provided food as well. Dave Belfield commented "It was great to see both the local and wider communities come together to support this event."

Well done to all involved in the organisation of the event. We all look forward to more musical events in the valley.



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