

# Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton-upon-Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



*Harvesting for the Charity Pumpkin Pile at Pitlands Farm in Clifton*

## In this edition

- Clifton, Shelsleys and Lower Sapey latest updates
- Harvest celebrations and fundraising
- Local history feature: Homme Castle
- Plus... all your November and December diary dates

*Visit the website*

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

FREE to Residents



**TRAVELLING NATIVITY:** This beautifully crafted, colourful travelling Nativity scene will be wending its way around our parishes in December, including local schools, clubs, pubs and village halls. The stable was kindly built by Ray Taylor of Harpley, and figures knitted by Pat Bradley of Clifton. Let Rev Jen Denniston know during November if there are any particular dates when you would like it to visit you! Contact her on 07783 432017 or email [jendenniston@gmail.com](mailto:jendenniston@gmail.com).

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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:** Helena Mann of Pitlands Farm near Clifton, looks after the farm's spectacular pumpkin harvest ready for a special Charity Pumpkin Pile. (See page 18.)

### A WARM WELCOME to the November 2023 edition of Teme Triangle

Our shock and sadness as world atrocities have unfolded in recent weeks have once again made many of us even more grateful for the comparative peace of our beautiful Worcestershire surroundings and the harmony of our communities. This month's edition of *Teme Triangle* reinforces that, with plenty of welcome harvest cheer and news of various local events, fundraisers and community activities to look forward to in the pre-Christmas season. We hope you enjoy the month ahead.

Meanwhile, don't forget to send us your local news and photos for our joint December/January edition (out early December) by Friday 10 November to [editortemetriangle@gmail.com](mailto:editortemetriangle@gmail.com).

### CLIFTON FOOTPATH SIGNS AND GATES VANDALISED

An outbreak of vandalism of footpath signs on the approach to Hill Farm in Clifton has puzzled local parish councillors. At last month's meeting of the Parish Council, Ray Neave reported that several signs had been daubed with blue and green paint and others had been torn down. The police have been informed.

Landowner Sally Lidsey said that she had been visited by the police who were investigating the incident. "They gave us some signs which we put up, but then those signs have now been torn down and broken. I don't know if whoever has done this is anti-farming or anti-footpaths, but it's very tiresome as we've had to put up more signs."

Clifton Parish Council chairman John Boden said the parish council would support any action taken to prevent further vandalism.

Anyone with information to assist the identification of the person(s) responsible for the vandalism should contact Mick Simpson, Rural & Business Crime Officer at West Mercia Police on [michael.simpson@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:michael.simpson@westmercia.police.uk).

**Right:** Ray Neave with one of the blue and green-painted footpath signs in Clifton



## LOCAL AUTHOR VISITS CLIFTON-UPON-TEME FRIENDSHIP CLUB



Local Teme Valley author and crime writer Andy Griffiee entertained the Clifton Friendship Club in October with a talk about his career with the BBC and also about the different genres of crime novels.

Dot Millward, pictured with Andy, said, "I was inspired by his talk to read one of his novels. I could not put it down, so read it in a few days and I will read more. I loved Jack, Nina and 'Jumping Jack Flash'."

The Friendship Club will be showing a film on Wednesday 1 November. On Saturday 4 November a coffee morning will also be held at Clifton Village Hall from 10.30am to raise funds for the Club (entrance £4). On Wednesday 15 November there will be a return visit from the Harpley pop up choir.

Visitors and new members always welcome. Contact [dotmillward@brinternet.com](mailto:dotmillward@brinternet.com) for more information.

## SHELSLEYS MAP MAKES A PERFECT CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Residents interested in owning a unique piece of local artwork for their homes are invited to order their copy of the Shelsleys Platinum Jubilee Parish Map.

Meticulously painted in ink and watercolour by artist Diana Winsor, the map was commissioned by the Shelsleys Parish Council in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and unveiled earlier this year. It features every house in Shelsley Beauchamp, Shelsley Walsh and Shelsley Kings, individually drawn.

Giclee quality prints in different sizes, depicting all or part of the map, framed or unframed, can be ordered starting from £20.50. To order contact Ian Carmichael, Giclee Fine Art Ltd, tel 07515 722091 or email [ian@gicleefineart.ltd.uk](mailto:ian@gicleefineart.ltd.uk).



## CHANCE TO JOIN CLIFTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Two, exciting opportunities have arisen to contribute to the future of Clifton-upon-Teme Primary School.



Headteacher Karen Crawford confirmed: "Two opportunities have arisen at our lovely school. We currently have a lunchtime supervisor and a 1:1 Teaching Assistant position available. She continued: "Ours is a small, friendly, rural school with 82 pupils, set in the beautiful Teme Valley. The established staff team here at Clifton is highly collaborative, and we support each other to deliver a high-quality educational experience to our children and their families. Our families are very supportive of our work, and our pupils are a delight to work with! There is a wealth of information on our website, but we also warmly welcome visits to school."

Email the school on [office@clifton-upon-teme.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:office@clifton-upon-teme.worcs.sch.uk) to make an appointment, or visit [www.cliftonupontemeprimary.org.uk/Job-Vacancies](http://www.cliftonupontemeprimary.org.uk/Job-Vacancies).

## NURSERY'S BID FOR TESCO FUNDS

Clifton Nursery and Forest School is asking local residents to support its bid for a share of supermarket Tesco's 'Stronger Starts' fund for which it has been shortlisted. The Nursery is bidding for a cash boost from the Tesco initiative which works with community charity Groundwork to run its community funding scheme. Grants of up to £1,500 may be awarded to local community projects, with a particular focus on children and young people. Three groups in every community are shortlisted each time; this time including Clifton Nursery.



Nursery manager, Abi Pethybridge-Court, said, "Our project is 'Better Starts for Babies'. We are bidding to develop our baby room and to provide great opportunities and experiences for our under-twos. Focusing on the three prime areas of learning, we want to create spaces that will encourage social interaction, physical development and sensory experiences."

To vote, shoppers should visit the Tesco store in Tenbury before mid-January, using the token provided at the check-out after they shop. Tesco's Stronger Starts (previously Tesco Bags of Help and Tesco Community Grants) has already provided over £100 million to more than 50,000 projects across Britain.

## SHELSLEY EMERGENCY BLEED CONTROL KIT NOW IN PLACE

The Defibrillator box mounted on the wall outside Shelsleys Village Hall now also contains an Emergency Bleed Control Kit, purchased by the Parish Council.

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## LOWER SAPEY NEWS

We are, as I write, enjoying a mini heatwave, which is thoroughly confusing for the birds, plants and humans. Should we eat salads or stews, should the winter duvet/blanket go on now, or next month? This weather is very welcome though, after the recent spell of damp, windy weather. Are people really thinking yet of Christmas in this weather? It is only about eleven weeks away and the shops are already full of cards and offers for the Festive Season. A sad farewell here to one shop, Wilko, where my husband spent many a happy hour browsing. It will not be a very Festive Season for thousands of the former staff.

It has been quite a summer, with weird and often disastrous weather around the world, the continuing struggle in Ukraine and now, the outbreak of war in Israel. We can only continue to hope and pray that there will very soon be an end to both these conflicts as the loss of life on all sides has been horrendous. Next month, we will be holding the annual Remembrance Service at St Bartholomew's on Sunday 12 November and although our lives here seem remote from these conflicts, we will be praying for them, as well as for the victims of the two World Wars.

On Saturday 7 October, Lower Sapey/Harpley held their second Harvest Supper in St Bartholomew's Church and it was a most enjoyable occasion, with great food and excellent entertainment. The food, prepared by Claire Edwards and her team, was delicious and there was plenty of it! The entertainment was provided by Polly, who has such a beautiful voice. Thanks to all of them and to everyone who helped to make the evening go with a swing. Over £1,000 was raised for our Church.

Our PCC is already thinking of future events, so watch this space. Don't forget that should the good weather continue, you could always make use of the outdoor space in the churchyard, as the Brownies and Cubs have already done.

### Services in St Bartholomew's

For the dates and timings of these, please see list included in this magazine (see page 33), as at the time of writing these had not yet been finalised.

Housekeeping in St Bartholomew's for November is in the hands of Beryl Dunley. Thank you Beryl.

The November meeting of the Ladies Bible Group will be on 14 November at 2pm in the home of Margaret Griffiths. We had a great opening meeting at Jill Smith's and thanks to her for inviting us. Our texts for study for the future are 'Women of the New Testament' and 'God and the Climate'.

The Mobile Library will be calling on Friday 17 November at 10.20am and 10.40am. Once again, a mention of their excellent website which lists exhibitions, speakers and courses at The Hive in Worcester, [www.thehiveworcester.org](http://www.thehiveworcester.org). Do enjoy this month, keep warm and let us hope there will soon be peace in the world!

*Margaret Griffiths*

## CHRISTMAS FAYRE

**10AM SUNDAY 3rd DECEMBER**

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## LOCAL HISTORY: THE 17<sup>th</sup> CENTURY HOMME CASTLE MONEYLENDER

In this first of an occasional series, Shelsley resident Bridget Francis explores the fascinating life of Joyce Jeffreys, a 17<sup>th</sup> century resident of the former Homme Castle house, sited between Clifton and the Shelsleys.

Joyce Jeffreys is buried in the chancel of St Kenelm's Church in Clifton. Without a stone to mark her grave, some two hundred years after her death, a kinsman was sufficiently moved to place a brass memorial in the chancel to commemorate her extraordinary life (see wording right).

Joyce (c1570-1650) was born in Homme Castle (in an earlier version of the buiding we see today). She was an only child of the second marriage of both her parents (Henry Jeffreys and Anne Coningsby, née Barnaby) although she had eight older half brothers and sisters. She was still a child when her father died and she moved to Neen Sollars with her mother

*"Hom Castle gave her birth, Clifton a grave  
The simple records of her life attest  
Her faith, her hope, her charity. From her home  
In Hereford she fled while Civil War  
Her lands sequestered and her dwelling razed  
And here she found repose – yet not a stone  
Nor farewell line to mark her resting place  
Or tell the story of her chequered days  
One who a kinsman felt such honour due  
Pays the last tribute and scribes her tomb"*

and her two Coningsby half siblings, later moving to live with another Coningsby relative at Hampton Court in Herefordshire after her mother married for the third time. We know a lot about her life, thanks to several volumes containing her detailed records of her household and business accounts. These give a fascinating insight into not only her daily life as a successful businesswoman, but those of others she was related to or acquainted with.

Joyce never married, she had inheritances which provided an annual income of around £500. Clearly well-educated, she invested in, and let out, property, both rural and urban mostly within 15 miles of her base in Hereford. As well as developing her property portfolio, Joyce used her not inconsiderable income to make loans. Private money lenders were an important part of local and regional economies in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Joyce lent significant amounts of money. In 1639 her accounts suggest that this may have amounted to £4,800 – nearly a million pounds in today's money (Bank of England inflation calculator). The bulk of her lending consisted of formal debts secured on bills, bonds, and mortgages (at a rate of 8% in 1638); the accounts also mention two examples of pawn. She lent her capital to members of the rural aristocracy and the gentry, urban officials (including mayors and aldermen), individuals from the professional and clerical sector, and a range of craftsmen and tradesmen. Only eight of the 145 debtors listed in her accounts were female, most of her loans were under £50 and she received interest payments every few days. As a benefactor, she was extremely generous to her relatives, her servants and those in need, often giving gifts of sugar: *"Oct 29. For a pound of shugger to send to Mrs Eaton when her son Fitz Wm lay on his death bed. 20d"*

She gave her companion and goddaughter Elizabeth Acton £800 and a fat lamb as a dowry, and gave frequent small gifts to her many other godchildren:

*"May 1. Tankard at 5s. 6d. an oze. for a silver tankard to give my god-daughter litle Joyce Walsh, le. 19 oz. and 4 penny wth. £5 5s 6d"*

*"July 1. At Heriford faier for blue silk riband and taffetay and silver lace for skarfs for my godson Harbert Westfaling and Joyce Graven my god-daugle. 8s."*

A Royalist, her income and capital were severely damaged by years of Civil War, but she remained generous with her personal gifts and also supported the defence of the city:

*"Sept 4. Paid to Mr Mailard, mercer in heryford by a lowne laid upon ye Citty of heryford towards ye biinge of Armor and weapons and artillery to streinthen the citty against the parliament. 20s."*

*"May 1644. Paid for work donn in making bull-warks to defend the Citty of heriford fro invasion 20d."*

When things became increasingly dangerous in Hereford in 1644 her nephew William persuaded her to leave her house in Widemarsh St and return to her birthplace, Homme Castle, to live with him and his family in relative safety. She fled Hereford with her bailiff, maid, coachmen and footmen with *"3 trunks, a great box and a leathern chest"*. She had some of these buried for safety upon arrival at Homme Castle – but the treasure is no longer there, as in the following year she records:

*"Jan 17. Gave David Williams ye Bailiff at Homcastle for helping me get my trunks out of ye ground 6d"*

Joyce, now in her mid seventies, paid £7 10s a quarter to her nephew for herself and her maid to live in Homme Castle. She also purchased wines and other delicacies and occasionally *"an ounce of very good tobacco"* for her pipe. She was clearly quite a character and spent a lot of money on her clothes (twenty-three yards of *"blak silk calimanko"* cost almost £12). She usually dressed in black, but she liked to have her stockings dyed *"grass green"* and owned hats made of beaver fur. While at Homme Castle she employed tradesmen in Clifton – a tailor by the name of Sevall, a shoemaker who made her a pair of Spanish shoes and a glover who made her four pairs of gloves. She observed the Valentine's Day custom of taking the first man she encountered on the day as her Valentine, and recorded this in her account book:

*"Feb 14 I gave Timothy Pickering, of Clifton, that was my Valentine at Homcastle 4d."*

The exact date of Joyce's death is unknown, but it is between April (when she added a codicil to her will) and November 1650. Her will gives more evidence of family commitments: she left the bulk of her estate to her nephew William Jeffreys, but no fewer than 26 relatives – mostly female cousins – were given legacies. Her *"beloved neece"* Anne Nott had five daughters, who each received £20 *"and to every of them a silver spoone, being sorry that my fortune hath beene so broken that I cannott enlarge these bequests as I would."*



A 17<sup>th</sup> century English gentlewoman



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Hundreds of twinkling lights will be lit in memory and celebration of loved ones this November, as part of the annual St Richard's Hospice 'Lights of Love' campaign.

A choice of two services will be held at Worcester Cathedral on Friday 17 November, starting at 2.30pm and 6.30pm for 7pm.



Communications manager and Shelsley Kings resident Helen Griffie told *Teme Triangle*: "Lights of Love events are a special time as we remember loved ones in the Cathedral and afterwards at the beautiful Christmas tree at St Andrew's Spire, Worcester, with further lights in memory and celebration. Dedicate a light to someone special and reflect on the wonderful people who have touched our lives, particularly those who are no longer with us. We invite you to take part and make a donation to support our care, dedicate a Light of Love and let your memories shine this Christmas."

Donations can be made online at [www.strichards.org.uk/lights-of-love](http://www.strichards.org.uk/lights-of-love), by calling 01905 958262 or email [appeals@strichards.org.uk](mailto:appeals@strichards.org.uk).

## FILM NIGHT AT LITTLE WITLEY

The next film night at Little Witley Village Hall is *'The Quiet Girl'* on Saturday 11 November. Set in Ireland in the 1980s, the story follows a young girl, sent away from dysfunctional parents, to middle-aged relatives. Slowly she blossoms out, given a new start in life. A gentle and moving film. Doors open at 7.30pm.

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## SHELSELEY HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

Sunday 8 October saw the Shelsleys celebrate Harvest in style. Des Robson led a lovely service at All Saints, full of joyous singing and meaningful readings and prayers. The Church looked beautiful with Harvest flower and vegetable displays and the congregation excelled themselves with their very generous donations for Worcester Foodbank. There were even Harvest-related activities for the children to enjoy whilst the service echoed peacefully around them.

The congregation then moved down the road to the Village Hall, where more parishioners joined in for the Harvest lunch.

The village hall looked splendid and much fun was had by all, chatting and enjoying each others company - it was a true Harvest get-together. Many thanks to the PCC for organising the day.



*Louise Hutton*

*Local children doing Harvest crafts during the service*



*Shelsley parishioners enjoying the Harvest lunch in the Village Hall*

## PITLANDS FARM PUMPKINS RAISE FUNDS FOR MND

Pitlands Farm Holidays, nestled between Shelsley and Clifton, held a special pumpkin fundraiser in aid of the Motor Neurone Disease Association during October.

Owner Alice Mann told *Teme Triangle*: "We home-grow lots of different varieties (all shapes and sizes) of pumpkins, squashes and gourds at the farm. Then in the autumn, we pick them, put them in a big display to create a 'Pumpkin Pile'. Then, instead of selling them, we ask people to make a donation to our chosen charity. We then donate 100% of the money raised to the charity. It's the third year we have done this and it's proven quite popular!"



*Helena and Claudia Mann with some of the pumpkins picked ready for the event*

This year's Pumpkin Pile aimed to raise money for the Motor Neurone Disease Association and Scott Morris, originally a Martley resident who is well known in the local community and was recently diagnosed with MND.

The total funds raised for MNDA by the initiative will be announced in *Teme Triangle's* December issue. To donate after the event, email [info@pitlandsfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@pitlandsfarm.co.uk).

## GUIDES, BROWNIES AND RAINBOWS

Clifton-upon-Teme's three Girlguiding group are inviting new members. Leader Angie Griffiths said: "We have Rainbows who are 4 to 7 years old, Brownies 7 to 10 and Guides who are 10 to 15. There's space for more girls to join in the fun, especially at Guides!" The groups meet at the hut in Clifton's play park: Guides on Mondays 6.15 to 7.45pm, and Rainbows and Brownies on Wednesdays 5.30pm to 7pm. To find out more, call Angie on 07957 462519 or email [angiegriffiths@aol.com](mailto:angiegriffiths@aol.com).



## ADULTS ENJOY EVENING WITH ATTITUDE

Attitude Dance Studios, based at Mill Farm Country Retail in Stanford Bridge, opened its doors to adults in a special Open Evening held in October.

More than a dozen adults interested in experiencing different forms of dance and exercise enjoyed a varied evening of workshops on the evening, plus a glass of bubbly. Attendees were able to get a taster of Pilates, HIIT and running with Enhanced Movement Studios, yoga with Laura Jayne, ballet barre with Molly Speed and Bollywood dancing with Pippa Hughes.

Kara Soper, Principal, said: "Thank you to everyone who came and supported us, taking part in workshops or popping in for a chat. It was a busy evening with a great atmosphere! Also a massive thank you to the dance teaching faculty and our regular hirers for such brilliant workshops. We're so lucky to have such incredible teachers at the studio."

To explore Attitude's range of classes visit [www.attitudedance.co.uk](http://www.attitudedance.co.uk) .



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10th December  
5pm

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## CLIFTON-UPON-TEME PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held Thursday 5th October 2023 in the Village Hall commencing at 7:40pm

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

Also present: x10 members of the public and District Cllrs Paul & Pam Cumming.

**Apologies for absence:** County Cllr D. Chambers.

**Declarations of Interests and applications for Councillor dispensations:** None.

**To agree the Minutes of the meetings held 7th September 2023** – Minutes for were proposed by Cllr Gilbert, seconded Cllr Brooks. Cllr Gilbert clarified the situation regarding Severn Trent Water. The Clerk confirmed that STW have been contacted and have been asked to explain what happened and future plans to maintain the water supply. The Clerk will chase up a response.

**Democratic Public Time:** Members of the public raised the following issues – a query was raised regarding the stones around the base of the Conker Tree in the village. The Chair referred to the decision taken at the last meeting (60.23).

**District & County Councillor Reports:** Any written reports received will be circulated and uploaded to the website. The SWDPR is now at independent examination stage and adoption planned for late 2024. The meeting noted the pressure on schools from increasing development and the fact that the developer must give WCC funds to increase local educational facilities.

**Financial & Governance Matters:** Payments approved as per the schedule- proposed Cllr Gilbert, seconded Cllr Bowden. All agreed. Lloyds banking transfer to Unity Trust Bank is now completed. The outstanding tax and NI for Q1&2 has now been paid in full. It was noted that it was due to the transfer from Lloyds to Unity Trust Bank together with the fact that HMRC had incorrect contact details – this has now been rectified. It was also noted that despite Cllrs Bowden and Gilbert having been contacted by the previous Clerk, the current Clerk had not received any correspondence or telephone calls and that her contact details are shown on the PC website.

**Parish Matters / Updates:** Village Maintenance Plan – hanging baskets have almost finished and have been beautiful. Large planters still look lovely though. Community Speed Watch / speed data – no further update.

Village Green ownership – WCC have confirmed ownership belongs to the PC, but the Clerk will confirm if this also includes the pathway. If the pathway is our responsibility, the PC will obtain a quote for resurfacing.

BP Hut – the meeting noted recent structural concerns. Meetings have now been relocated to the Village Hall (Scouts) and the pavilion (Guides). It was agreed that the Clerk should ask A. Griffiths if a cleaning rota could be set up to ensure that the pavilion is cleaned thoroughly after meetings, and responsibility shared with other users. Cllr Bowden will also obtain a cleaning quote just in case it is required. It was noted that the PC owns the land that the BP Hut is built on, but not the actual building itself. Litter bins are overflowing on the recreation field – Clerk to ask R. Wilks to empty asap.

**Section 106 Matters:** Four Acre Field (CFAF) Project – The contract for s106 funding has now been signed and returned to MHDC. Contractors are ready to start as soon as s106 money is paid to the PC by MHDC.

Garden proposals have been received from Cllr Merrick for display locally with main plans. It is hoped to keep the recreation field open to the public during works but closures cannot be ruled out for H&S if required by contractors. Cllr Bowden confirmed that the Bowls Club will be invited to liaise with contractors re the works for the green and future maintenance. In the meanwhile, the Bowls Club will be required to continue with green maintenance until a start date is known. Cllr Bowden will keep the Club informed.

**Planning Matters:** Planning applications considered or to be considered: M/23/00938/HP – The Firs, Clifton-upon-Teme WR6 6EW – two storey rear extension incorporating first floor balcony. No Objections.

Planning notifications: M/23/00584/HP – The Old Vicarage, Church Road, Clifton-upon-Teme WR6 6DJ – approval for reorientation of existing mower store and erection of detached triple garage (variation of cond. 2 ref M/22/00980/HP). Enforcement Updates as received: none.

**Strategic Planning Matters:** No further SWDPR updates (see District Councillor report 66.23).

Cllr Gilbert has written to the Planning Inspector regarding the Neighbourhood Development Plan and the weight that this actually carries in planning decisions v the SWDPR. The response was read out to the meeting. Cllr Gilbert will continue to pursue this matter to clarify exactly what development has been allocated to the village and how much weight our NDP carries in terms of future development. Cllr Gilbert was thanked for his work on this matter. District Cllr Paul Cumming explained the current position of MHDC regarding the SWDPR and the 5-year land supply.

**Highways & Facilities Matters:** Correspondence has been received from a resident involved in an accident on Clifton Hill. The request was for improved signage, which Cllr Haywood has reviewed in line with highway requirements. The Clerk will forward the request and Cllr Haywood's findings to WCC Highways for their consideration. The residents involved will also be informed. Road and Footpath Closure Notices – none received. Cllr Paul Cumming will forward any received to the Clerk and ask MHDC to ensure that the Clerk is informed. VAS – on order as agreed. The 30mph sign from Martley direction has been turned around – Clerk to inform WCC Highways.

**Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agendas:** Cllr Bowden reported that the pavilion water leak has been repaired and re-painting arranged. WCC Highways have contacted the landowner at Ham Bridge regarding the trees as reported to the last meeting. Kenelm Close road surface has been repaired and looks much better – white lining to be done. New litter bin at the entrance to Hill Farm, Pound Lane was approved – approx. £250.00 cost. Clerk to arrange with R. Wilks and MHDC. Cllr Merrick reported that the new garden plan has been completed together with a scope of works for the project and soft landscaping works. Quotes obtained for all work required.

Cllr Neave gave an update regarding vandalism at Hill Farm and it was agreed that he should place an article in the next Teme Triangle on behalf of the PC. Cllr Bowden is also in touch with the Police regarding the matter.

It was agreed that the Lengthsman be asked to sweep up the conkers below the village tree before they go in to the drains – Cllr Bowden to action.

**Next meeting:** Thurs 2nd November 2023 at 7:40pm

Meeting closed at 8:55 pm

M. Alexander, Clerk

## GUEST COLUMN BY HARRIETT BALDWIN MP

My husband is a train enthusiast, so I declare an interest in travelling by rail. Just as pioneers like Stephenson and Brunel had the vision to build the early railways we must also have the vision to recognise that linking the UK's great towns and cities with modern rail services will be a key part of low-emission transport for this next century and the next.



The former county MP, Sir Peter Luff, supported by Worcestershire County Council, had the vision to improve rail connections for the county. This led to the creation of Worcestershire Parkway Station which had its official opening last month. It is now operating well ahead of expectations with over half a million passengers already having used the new facility. It is ideal for people travelling to Birmingham – getting you into New Street in half an hour and there are great connections to Nottingham, Cardiff and, of course, the trains to London.

The station's popularity has been acknowledged by Cross Country Trains, which is looking to add extra services and I am asking for a Bristol to Manchester service to be added soon and, one day, Plymouth to Newcastle.

But I have also been keen to continue to make the case for simple and cost-effective improvements which could bring faster, more frequent and more reliable services for local rail users travelling to London and the South East. There are sections of the Cotswold Line track that should be dualled to make that service better, and I continue to make the case for this investment.

There has been a recent, passionate national debate about transport, and I am sure that we will hear more about the future of the new high speed rail service planned between Birmingham and Manchester in due course. I have always supported the new rail capacity for the jobs and growth that it will bring to the Midlands.

This country needs a rail vision that will help us to deliver economic growth and a lower carbon transport infrastructure that the Victorians could be proud of.

### USEFUL PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

#### Shelsley Parish Council Secretary

Jan Speyer shelsleyspc@gmail.com 01886 812444

#### Clifton Parish Council Secretary

Michelle Alexander macebearer69@gmail.com 01886 884195

#### District Councillor

Paul Cumming paul.cumming@malvernhillssdc.net 01886 888832

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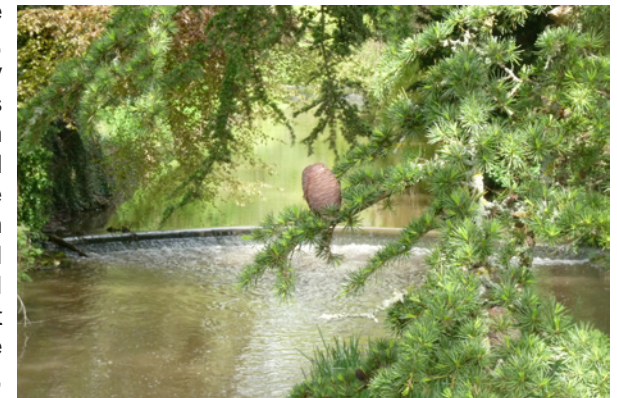
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## TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE

Visiting parks and gardens is a great way to get some fresh air, enjoy open spaces and look out for wildlife. The National Open Garden Scheme promotes lots of local gardens, many of which also offer tea and cake, always a winning combination. I make sure to drop in at Tenbury Tourist Information Centre early each year and pick up brochures for our local counties. Some communities operate outside the scheme and do their own advertising, so I keep an eye out for those too.

This year so far I have visited a Neen Sollars garden showcasing an arboretum planted up a vertiginous slope, a formal garden along the Ledwyche Brook hosting carpets of bluebells and gorgeous cherry blossom, and an organic garden in Stoke Lacy decked in an extravaganza of autumn colour. All the gardens worked with nature, all embraced water, either in ponds or streams, and all were home to insects and birds who busied themselves amongst the flowers and trees. I also went to two larger sites, the National Trust's Croome Park and privately-owned Spetchley Park. At Croome, the landscape of a formal estate is slowly being brought back to life after decades of neglect. Capability Brown spent years advising on the huge groundworks that gave the Earl of Coventry rolling acres, a serpentine lake and eye-catching follies on distant hills. But what caught my eye was a host of dragonflies making the most of a sunny day on the water. It was particularly exciting to spot red-eyed damselflies, a species I hadn't seen before, and a huge number of ruddy darters. The latter are bright red and highly conspicuous against green vegetation. Also on the wing were azure damselflies and emperor and brown hawk dragonflies.

Spetchley Gardens were different again. Here, a design enhanced by Ellen Willmott, a famous Edwardian designer, has an abundance of rare plants and trees. A deer park and large lake flank the formal garden with its greenhouses, walled garden and vine house. I was surprised to see a great variety of waterbirds on the lake. Geese, grebes, coots, ducks, swans and swooping swallows all seemed to be getting along famously, ducking and diving into the calm expanse of water. I shall certainly visit these gardens again, especially since learning that it is home to a unique plant, the Spetchley daffodil.



The next Teme Valley Wildlife Group meeting is at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall, WR15 8RR, Thursday 10 November at 7:30pm. Speakers are Suzanne and Jake Tumnus on "Mistletoe, the Facts and the Folklore". All welcome, £2 on the door.

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**Contact Toni Woolley**  
Independent Consultant Social Worker  
Social Work England – SW71420  
Member of British Association of Social Workers 11339/105682  
Mobile | 07904 277092  
Email | [toni.woolley@btinternet.com](mailto:toni.woolley@btinternet.com)  
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# Church Matters

by Revd Julia Curtis

Hello, My name is Revd Julia Curtis and I have been asked to say a few words by way of introduction, because on 22 October I was licenced to work as a curate alongside the parishes of Clifton, the Shelsleys and Lower Sapey (Harpley). So here goes....

I am a priest living and ministering in the neighbouring benefice of Teme Valley South (TVS), combining a part-time role serving the 7 churches and parishioners of TVS with doctoral studies with the University of Birmingham.



Revd Julia Curtis on pilgrimage with Teme Valley South Churches to Iona

My husband John and I moved to the area 5 years ago and very much enjoy exploring its hills and valleys and meeting people from the diverse communities. We have migrated West, as we originate from Norfolk and still have family connections with the area. I trained for ordination at Westcott House in Cambridge and served my curacy in Taunton.

Last winter Archdeacon Robert approached me to ask if I could minister in these parishes, supporting and enabling existing ministers and PCCs. Welcoming the opportunity to work with Clifton, the Shelsleys and Lower Sapey, my involvement will be in an oversight capacity. This is in addition to my existing role with TVS and continuing study. My hours remain part-time, so I look forward to finding a pattern of ministry which enables us all to flourish and share in the joys and challenges of living as Christians in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in this glorious part of the country.

I enjoy finding God through the creative arts and nature and so thought I would share a poem we used at my licensing service here in Teme Triangle.

May we seek and find those bright fields across the Teme Valley in the coming months.

With blessings, Revd Julia

## The Bright Field by R.S. Thomas

*I have seen the sun break through  
to illuminate a small field  
for a while, and gone my way  
and forgotten it. But that was the  
pearl of great price, the one field that had  
treasure in it. I realise now  
that I must give all that I have  
to possess it. Life is not hurrying  
on to a receding future, nor hankering after  
an imagined past. It is the turning  
aside like Moses to the miracle  
of the lit bush, to a brightness  
that seemed as transitory as your youth  
once, but is the eternity that awaits you.*



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

## November 2023

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November

10.30am Holy Communion, St Kenelm's, Clifton  
10.30am Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew, Harpley

### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November

11.00am Act of Remembrance,  
Two Minutes Silence, St Kenelm's, Clifton

### 12<sup>th</sup> November Remembrance Sunday

10.45am: Remembrance Service, All Saints,  
Shelsley Beauchamp  
10.45am: Remembrance Service, St Kenelm's, Clifton  
10.45am: Remembrance Service, St Bartholomew, Harpley

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November

10.30am Methodist Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew, Harpley  
6.30pm Evensong, St Kenelm's, Clifton

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> November

10.30am Circle Service, St Bartholomew, Harpley

### Pop-In Parish Prayers

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 9.00am, St Bartholomew, Harpley  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> 9.00am, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> 9.30am, St Kenelm's, Clifton

Holy Communion at Heaton House, Martley every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 10.15am  
and every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday via our YouTube channel – [wvrtlive1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvrtlive1)

All services and timings are subject to review and amendment – please check the website  
for updates: [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

## CHURCH CONTACTS

### Priest-in-charge of Teme Valley South

Revd Julia Curtis 01886 853286 / [revjuliacurtis@gmail.com](mailto:revjuliacurtis@gmail.com)

### All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

Christenings, weddings, funerals:

Jill Smith 07513 298782

Church Wardens: Kate Hurst 01886 812184 / [kathrynshurst@btoopenworld.com](mailto:kathrynshurst@btoopenworld.com)

Holly Perks 01886 812369 / [hollyperks@me.com](mailto:hollyperks@me.com)

### St Kenelm's, Clifton

Pat Snelling 01886 812443 / [patricia.snelling@btinternet.com](mailto:patricia.snelling@btinternet.com)

### St Bartholomew's, Lower Sapey

Pat Prosser 01886 886465 / [patprosser@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:patprosser@hotmail.co.uk)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### November

- 1 Clifton Friendship Club: Film night
- 2 Clifton Parish Council Meeting, Clifton VH, 7.40pm
- 4 Clifton Friendship Club: Coffee Morning, Clifton Village Hall, from 10.30am
- 4 Live music with Connor & Petra Brookes, Clifton VH
- 7 Shelsleys Parish Council Meeting, Shelsleys VH, 7pm
- 10 Teme Valley Wildlife Group talk on Mistletoe, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 7.30pm
- 11 Film Night, Clifton VH, 7pm
- 11 Film Night, Little Witley VH, 7.30pm
- 15 Clifton Friendship Club: Harpley pop-up choir
- 17 Mobile library, Clifton VH car park, 9.45-10.15am
- 25 Nora Parsons Day Centre, Wichenford: Christmas Fair & raffle, 1-4pm
- 25 Mill Farm Country Retail, Stanford Bridge: Christmas Market, 9am-5pm

### December

- 3 Clifton Guides & Brownies Christmas Fayre, Clifton VH, 10am-1pm
- 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



*Food and flowers on display at the All Saints Harvest Service on 8 October.*

## SHELSELY PHOTOGRAPHER'S CATHEDRAL EXHIBITION

A free exhibition of scenic landscape images by Shelsley professional photographer Michael Whitefoot will be taking place in Worcester Cathedral's historic Chapter House throughout November, with canvases available to purchase in time for Christmas.

More than 35 large-scale photos will be on display, including stunning aerial and land-based shots of local landmarks such as Worcester Cathedral and the Malvern Hills, as well as impressive vistas of other popular locations such as the Scottish Highlands, Pembrokeshire, Cornwall, Bath and Oxford.

Visitors will be able to buy any of the canvases on display, or order other sizes, from the Cathedral shop, which will receive a 20% commission from every purchase.



Michael confirmed: "I specialise in taking photos of popular visitor destinations for use on items such as postcards, gifts, tea towels and jigsaw puzzles. I've also collated many of them into four, published photographic books covering Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Cotswolds and Wales. So it's exciting to see some of them at full size in an art gallery context!"

The photographic exhibition is on at Worcester Cathedral's Chapter House from 29 October to 3 December. Or visit [www.michaelwhitefoot.co.uk](http://www.michaelwhitefoot.co.uk) to see more of Michael's images and gift ranges.

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