

December 2023 / January 2024

Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton-upon-Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



The new Teme Valley South team.

In this edition

- Clifton Scouts and Guides appeal and award
- Shelsleys Cowboy Christmas Hoe Down
- View From The Farm
- Plus... all your December & January diary dates

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YOUR TEME TRIANGLE TEAM

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Front cover picture: Members of the Teme Valley South team at the licensing of the Rev Julia Curtis as Curate-in-Charge at St Kenelm's Church. Pictured (left to right) are Jill Smith, Pat Snelling, Jen Jones, Rev Sally Jones, Rev Julia Curtis, Rob Little, Rev Sallie Butcher, Venerable Robert Jones - Archdeacon of Worcester and Rev Alison Maddocks.

CLIFTON SCOUTS AND GUIDES HUT APPEAL



Clifton 3 Scout troop showcasing bird boxes they made in the Scout Hut.

The Scouts, Guides, Cubs, Brownies, Beavers and Rainbows in Clifton have been busy fundraising to help fund essential repairs to the Scout and Guide hut in the village. The hut was donated to the group more than 40 years ago and subsequent wear and tear has meant that urgent remedial and longer term work is now needed to ensure that future generations of Scouts and Guides can use it as a meeting place.

The Scouting and Guiding community in Clifton have already held a number of fundraising events locally as well as benefitting from generous donations. Meanwhile, the Scouts and Guides groups have been working with local builders to ascertain the cost of essential repairs to the hut. A Just Giving webpage has been set up for anyone willing to donate to the appeal:
<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/cliftonontemescouts>

Last month, the proceeds of the monthly quiz in the Lion Inn, amounting to £150, were donated to the appeal. And another quiz evening in the village hall, organised by the 1st Clifton-upon-Teme Scout Group and Clifton Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, raised a further £1,554, to be followed by the Guides and Brownies Christmas Fayre on 3 December.

CLIFTON SCOUT AWARD

A member of the Clifton-upon-Teme Cub Scout group, William Evans, has achieved the Chief Scout's Silver award, the highest possible award in Cub Scouts. William, aged ten, from Whitbourne is the first Cub in recent years in Clifton to achieve the award.

Nick Rowe (*pictured, right, presenting William with his award*), one of the Clifton-on-Teme Cub Scout Leaders, said: "This award is the result of William's incredible dedication and hard work and goes to show what a talented and capable young man he is."

William's achievements in Cubs over the past two and a half years include gaining all seven Challenge badges (Skills, Adventure, World etc.), 17 Activity badges (Chef, DIY, Sports etc.) and 12 staged badges (Hikes, Navigation, Swimming, Nights-Away, Camping etc.).



WORK STARTS ON CLIFTON'S RECREATION GROUND

Work has at last started on the Four Acre Field project in Clifton to redevelop the village's recreation area nearly four years since the Parish Council was first allocated £250,000 of S106 money as a result of new housing development.



TREFOIL GUILD SUPPORTING THAILAND GUIDES

Clifton's Sue Barnes, meanwhile, is on a visit to Thailand this month with seven other members of Trefoil Guilds to support the Girl Guide Association of Thailand. Sue is Chair of Knightwick and District Trefoil Guild, the adult part of Girl Guiding that meets regularly to further the ethos of Girl Guiding and support local units such as the Clifton Guides and Brownies.

"We will be staying in Guide centres and talking to the leaders about Trefoil Guild, exchange programme ideas and in particular we will be helping with fence construction, painting a training centre, working with the children on team activities and English language skills, playing games, singing campfire songs, exchanging recycling ideas and activities and much, much more," says Sue. "It was an honour to be chosen to participate in this project. Over the last ten months, we have been busy fundraising and planning for this wonderful opportunity to share our knowledge and expertise."

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Shelsley Village Hall, located in Shelsley Beauchamp within the heart of the Teme Valley, is available for booking special events with family, friends or business colleagues. The hall boasts stunning views across the Teme Valley, offering a warm and welcoming atmosphere, with the added attraction of a fully equipped kitchen - everything needed to cater for up to 160 guests. The hall is adjacent to 'StepToes' Bar, fully licensed with a great selection of draught beers, wines and spirits to enhance the experience.

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VIEW FROM THE FARM

October and November are the quietest time for us with the sheep as we've sold most of the lambs by now. The rams are in with the ewes from early October until the beginning of December, when we take them out. The gestation period for sheep is roughly five months, so by the end of April I've had enough of getting up in the night to check the ones left to lamb! We also need to get back on the social scene in the valley, although Fi is more interested in getting me out fencing again to earn some money, she's worried I may get too used to being at home all the time.



Allan & Fiona Jeffries

This autumn has been the best grass growing time I've ever known, a lot is due to it being such a mild season, but I think one of the main reasons is that the ground has been so dry for the last two or three years due to a lack of normal rainfall. If you dig down six inches, there is very little moisture there and we all know from our gardens that nothing grows if it's lacking water. We start feeding hay at the beginning of December as there is not only less grass, but it is not so nutritious.

The main tractor we use in the winter is a Ford 4000 which is 58 years old; I think there is no tractor of that era to beat it, but I'm sure Brian Wickens would disagree and say a Massey Ferguson 135 is the best! We've got a front-end loader on the Ford and a transport box on the back in which we can transport the food, troughs, hurdles, a couple of ewes... In fact, practically anything. I almost forgot the dog, it might be a bit bumpy, but in Bryn's mind a second class ride is better than a first class run behind it. This tractor has never had power steering (Kevin Wickens does our baling) and Fi complains that it is too difficult to steer with one of Kevin's big bales on the front-end loader, so I hope she'll be pleased with her Christmas present, I've bought her a power steering kit for it! Usually she goes shopping, chooses her present, buys it and wraps it up, I do write the tag though!

Happy Christmas and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Allan Jeffries

STANFORD HISTORY GROUP SPRING LECTURES

The Stanford History Group is planning a new lecture programme, the Spring Cultural Series, starting on Monday 5 February. It will include a mix of Music, Antarctic Expeditions and Art presented by high quality lecturers in their field. The six lectures will all take place on Monday evenings at Upper Sapey Village Hall (WR6 6EU). The cost is £10 per lecture, payable at the door, or £40 for the six lecture course.

Date	Subject	Presenter
5 February	Das Land Ohne Musik? Britain – A land without Music?	Dr Paul Rodmell, Senior Lecturer, University of Birmingham
12 February	How Does Musical Theatre work	Dr Paul Rodmell,
19 February	NO LECTURE	
26 February	Human History of the Antarctic <i>The 1959 Antarctic Treaty</i>	Seb Coultard, Fellow Royal Geographic Society
4 March	The Imperial Trans Antarctic Expedition 1914-17 Seb's experience of the 'James Caird' re-enactment	Seb Coultard,
11 March	Outside the Avant-Garde? British Art of the Early 20th Century	Dr Rebecca Savage, Teaching Fellow, University of Birmingham
18 March	The Art Galleries of the General Public Art & British Advertising	Birmingham Art History

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Simon Marriott	01886 853412	simon@adamswoodfarm.co.uk

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Minutes of the meeting of Clifton Parish Council held November 2

Present: Councillors J. Bowden (Chairman), P. Brooks, L. Merrick, Cllr S. Haywood.
Also present: Three members of the public and District Cllrs Paul & Pam Cumming.
Apologies for absence: County Cllr D. Chambers, Cllr B. Gilbert (V/Chairman), Cllr R. Neave.

Declarations of Interests and applications for Councillor dispensations: None.

To agree the Minutes of the meetings held 5th October 2023 – Minutes were proposed by Cllr Brooks, seconded Cllr Haywood. All agreed. The Council is still awaiting a response from STW. Democratic Public Time: No matters raised by the public.

District & County Councillor Reports: Any written reports received will be circulated and uploaded to the website. There is very little from MHDC currently, but an announcement is awaited regarding the new Head of Planning. Planning and environmental matters remain busy. A meeting was held at Gt Witley last week re the proposed large scale development to the rear of The Glebe – the lack of the SWDPR continues to raise serious issues. DCllr Jones-Williams wing walk has been postponed to April but any funds collected are going directly to the Air Ambulance. DCllr funding is available to support local projects (£500.00 per DCllr). The BP Hut may be a possibility for funding and contact details were given.

Financial & Governance Matters: Payments approved as per the schedule- proposed Cllr Brooks, seconded Cllr Merrick. All agreed. The invoice received from Kompan for £79,812.00 for the S106 project will be queried by Cllr Bowden directly but was approved subject to Cllr Bowden being satisfied with the explanation given. S106 interest – the Clerk has asked MHDC whether interest will be available on the s106 funding received. Carols on the Green 15th Dec 2023 – it was agreed to allocate £150.00 budget to the event.

Parish Matters / Updates: Village Maintenance Plan – Cllr Bowden reported that the MHDC sweeper had been in the village and had also cleaned around the Conker tree. The bell mouth at Saxon Close has been completed. The tactile tiles have been replaced on the south side of Manor Rd and appears a better solution this time. The footpath to the rear of the village green has been confirmed as ours by WCC and Cllr Bowden is now sourcing a contractor quote for the surfacing works. The 30mph signs in Pound Lane remain ongoing. The painting has been completed in the pavilion showers.

Section 106 Matters: Four Acre Field (CFAF) Project – Cllr Bowden reported that works have started, and funds have been received from MHDC. A contractors meeting was held last week, and it is very good to see contractors on site. The heras fencing is around the tennis courts and some work has been started on that section. Some old chain link fencing is available to anyone who can use it. A full work programme is to be drafted asap. Some closures may be needed for H&S reasons, but it is hoped to keep the area open for usage throughout the works. Cllr Bowden summarised the works planned and confirmed that the rocker-horse will be retained and refurbished. An opening ceremony is planned at the end of the project. Cllr Merrick has produced a plan for the Garden and all costs have now been confirmed. Wildflower turf is to be used as this is much more successful than seed. It is hoped to encourage ecological improvements in neighbouring villages. Garden funding is to be sourced separately to the main s106 project and Cllr Bowden summarized the funding history re s106 original plans and current plans. Cllr Merrick was asked for an invoice for the garden project work completed to date. Drawings of the recreation field plans are now on the pavilion windows. Sadly, the planned eco-

project for the Church has fallen through but Cllr Merrick has retained the details. It was noted that a 'faculty' would have to be applied for to progress this in the future. It was queried whether s106 funds from the Hope Lane could be used for the BP Hut required works but it was noted that historically this has not been the case. To be monitored.

Planning Matters: Planning applications considered or to be considered: M/23/01404/LB – Ham Farm House, Clifton upon Teme WR6 6DU – urgent repairs to roof members, deteriorated stonework and brickwork (part retrospective) – No objections.

Planning notifications: M/23/00952/FUL – Clifton upon Teme Primary School, Pound Lane, Clifton upon Teme WR6 6DE – approval for the erection of a flat roof extension to the rear of the building. Enforcement Updates as received: None.

Other planning matters – it was noted that there are rumours re extending the Hope Lane development site. Cllr Bowden is looking into this as it would be well outside the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Gilbert to be asked to draft a letter to Harriet Baldwin MP asking what is happening re these decisions as clarification is urgently needed.

Electric Vehicle charging points – DCllr Paul Cumming was asked to look into options with MHDC and liaise with Cllr Bowden.

Strategic Planning Matters: SWDPR matters remain ongoing with the Planning Inspector.

Highways & Facilities Matters: Lengthsman work continuing as agreed. Hedge at Manor Rd is blocking the footpath – Lengthsman to be asked to speak to residents. Road and footpath notices as circulated – none.

Cllr Bowden has contacted WCC re Shelsley Walsh footpath closures and the Clerk will now receive notices from 2024 onwards.

Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agendas: Ham Bridge / Shelsley junction overhanging trees and signage matters are ongoing with WCC. It was noted that PC meeting minutes are shown on the PC website, in Teme Triangle and on the parish notice board.

Next meeting: Thurs 7th December 2023 at 7:40pm. *M. Alexander, Clerk*

TURKEY TIME IN THE TEME VALLEY

Christmas turkeys can still be ordered from David Moore at Baldwins Farm in Shelsley Beauchamp where the family have been producing turkeys since 1967. To order, ring 07980 271703.



DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS

Clifton Village Hall is hosting a traditional Dickensian Christmas evening on Saturday 9 December at 7pm. The event will include songs, stories and pictures summoning up yuletide logs, mistletoe and wine, merry gentlemen, spooky stories and all that's needed for a truly traditional Dickensian Christmas with plenty of audience participation. Tickets £5, under 16s free; bar and refreshments available.



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WEST MERCIA SEARCH & RESCUE

The recent floods in the Teme Valley and elsewhere in Hereford and Worcestershire may well have involved the services of a little-known group of volunteers, the official Lowland Rescue unit for the West Mercia Police area, operating as part of the UK's rescue structure alongside Mountain Rescue, the Coastguard, RNLI and Lifeguards.

The West Mercia Search & Rescue team are normal people doing quietly heroic, dedicated and professional work in the community for those in crisis. They are also a registered DEFRA Flood Rescue Boat team and can be called to respond anywhere in the county when flooding occurs.

"We find missing people, we save lives in floods and we respond to emergencies alongside our partner agencies," says Al Cropp (*right*) from Upper Sapey, one of the West Mercia team.



"When someone vulnerable goes missing it's an emergency and we have to be ready to respond in any weather, at any time. It can be complex and challenging work, and we therefore need to ensure that our operational members have the best training and the right equipment to ensure that they stay safe and maximise the success of our work."

Search and rescue teams are called out by the emergency services when someone is in dire need of specialist help. More often than not that need is for a vulnerable adult (dementia, suicidal or self-harm intentions, learning difficulties etc.) or a child, meaning that the person is at much higher risk than normal.

The service costs tens of thousands of pounds every year. Volunteers give their time, money and dedication to help save lives and support people in some of the most difficult moments of their lives. For more information on the charity or to make a donation, please visit: <https://westmerciasar.org.uk/>

Church Matters

by Jane Roberts



Eight hundred years ago in 1223 St Francis of Assisi created the first ever 'live' Christmas crib scene in the tiny village of Greccio in central Italy – a favourite resting place for St Francis on his journeys. The local farmers were in despair as their land was often ravaged by man-eating wolves (!) and by violent hailstorms which decimated their crops. When St Francis started being there it is said that 'their calamities ceased' so they loved him for saving them.

In 1223 while he was in Greccio just a few days before Christmas he was reminded so much of his recent visit to Bethlehem that he had the idea of recreating the nativity scene with real people to bring to life the Christmas story. He wanted the local people to be able to see and experience the incredible reality of the birth of the infant Jesus 'lain in a manger with the ox and ass standing by' and so encourage people to understand its meaning and bring their faith to life.

Contemporary biographers of St Francis say that the scene was so beautiful and moving in its simplicity that 'everyone went home filled with joy'. So began the tradition of having local actors playing Mary, Joseph and the baby lying in the straw-filled manger with the ox and the donkey standing by. The manger was the altar for the Christmas Eucharist where the service was held. Every year actors recreate the nativity scene on the evening of 24 December in Greccio. And this year St Peter's Square in Rome will have a nativity scene with life-size terracotta figures representing St Francis carrying Baby Jesus with Joseph and Mary, a donkey and an ox in order to commemorate 800 years since the first 'Live Nativity'.

The artist Giotto, considered to be the father of Renaissance art, painted in the early 1300s. His frescoes in the Basilica of St Francis in Assisi are an incredible depiction of the life of St Francis and did much to spread the news about the great Saint who is well-known for his love of animals and nature.



In a quick weekend trip to Assisi you could take in Greccio nativity scenes, the Basilica of St Francis in Assisi and shop in its Christmas markets also!

CLIFTON'S SCHOLAR'S ACHIEVEMENT

Clifton resident Beth Whittenbury has achieved a goal that has taken her six years to complete.



In November, at Birmingham's Symphony Hall, she graduated from The Open University with an Upper Second-Class Honours degree, becoming a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in English Literature and Creative Writing. Encouraged and supported by her family, in 2017 Beth took on the challenge to fulfil a long-held wish to study further.

"I found the whole course an interesting, exciting and fulfilling experience," says Beth. "Not only have I learned so much, but the work has provided me with a focus, firstly during lockdown and then through a series of health issues." She has always written as a hobby and has had some of her work published in *Reach Poetry* magazine, so it was an easy decision to concentrate on poetry for the creative writing aspect of her degree.

Beth has produced a small book of her poems and their relationship to the course. Copies of *A Late Scholar* will be available in return for a donation of £5 to the Worcestershire Breast Unit Haven which has provided valuable support, not only to Beth over the last year but also recently, to a significant number of other local women. *A Late Scholar* can be obtained at Thursday morning's Warm Space in Clifton Village Hall in December or from Beth on 01886 812464.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Wednesday 6 December is the Friendship Club's annual Christmas Lunch at 12.30pm in Clifton Village Hall. There is another birthday celebration for our oldest member on 20 December. Our coffee morning last month raised £250 for the Club.



The Harpley Pop-Up Choir entertaining members of the Friendship Club

Recent meetings included a talk by Nick Martin about his fabulous wildlife photography when we were shown photos of wildlife that came to Nick's garden. This was a return visit and I'm sure we will invite Nick again as not only is he an amazing photographer but a very entertaining speaker. This meeting was also a birthday celebration for Jean Dennis and some of her friends celebrated in normal Friendship Club style with lots of cake and fizz. New members and visitors always welcome. Contact dotmillward@btinternet.com for more information.
Dot Millward

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE IN CLIFTON

This year's Christmas Craft Fayre in Clifton Village Hall on Sunday 3 December, includes a photoshoot offer by Tabitha Sparey. Individual or family photos (pets welcome too) with a Christmas backdrop - £40 including multiple photos and dressing up and choice of digital backdrop for an extra £10. To book, contact 07852 809195.

TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE GROUP

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall, WR15 8RR, on Thursday 11 January at 7:30pm. The speaker is Mike Metcalf whose talk is called "Ravens breeding in Worcestershire – how many?". Everyone is most welcome, and it is just £2 on the door.

Christmas Message from Harriett Baldwin MP

As Christmas approaches, I hope that many of you will be able to look forward to a little time relaxing with friends and family. I am sure you will share my sadness that the global news headlines have been dominated by violent conflict – both in the Middle East and the continuing war in Ukraine. I want to take the time to thank all those who serve in our armed forces at home and abroad keeping us and our families safe. We should never take peace for granted.



I also want to take time to thank the many people whose working routines will go on as normal through the festive period – the doctors, nurses, firefighters, police, the shop staff, waiters and waitresses who will be working harder than ever. We live in an increasingly busy 365 days a week 24 hours a day world so it may be that many of us will have to work to make sure the country keeps running. I also spare a thought for those who have lost loved ones. Christmas is a time to celebrate but also remember and I encourage you to take the time to keep an eye on your elderly or infirm neighbours who may be on their own at this time of year. It's a time for giving as well as receiving.

Finally, I hope you all tuck into our amazing local produce and shop in local stores when you prepare for the Christmas break. Our local food producers work tirelessly all year round to make sure you can enjoy the best quality goods. I hope you all have a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

CLIFTON-UPON-TEME WI

Worcestershire WI are taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival in the cloister of the Cathedral. This year we are making fish, to highlight the WI clean rivers campaign. Clifton WI will have a fish or two as part of the decorations on the tree. If you have not seen the Christmas trees at the Cathedral (7 December to 14 January) it is well worth a visit as many local organisations, schools and charities have trees there.



Next year we have a range of activities planned including talks on the Worcester Porcelain factory, textiles, Costa Rica and Thailand as well as garden visits, practical sessions and as always plenty of tea (or prosecco) and cake. The Health and Wellbeing evening on the topic of Osteoporosis, postponed because of the floods in October, is planned for early in 2024. It is an important subject, please look out for a new date. The WI is continuing to grow with several more new members. The last few months have seen the start of our attempt to play skittles and conquer the Worcestershire WI teams, though enthusiasm is currently higher than skill. Our first match, which was great fun at Hallow Social Club, resulted in a defeat for Clifton by a few points; a good start as no one had played before! Hopefully by the time you read this we may have won a match!!

If you would like to know more or are thinking of joining the WI please do come along at 7.30pm in Clifton Village Hall, second Tuesday of the month or email Ruth Wilson, cliftonontemepres@wfedwi.org.uk for more information.

Ruth Wilson

COWBOY CHRISTMAS HOE DOWN IN THE SHELSLEYS

StepToe's Bar in the village hall at Shelsley Beauchamp is hosting a Cowboy Christmas Hoe Down on Saturday 16 December, from 7pm. The event will include live country music, line dancing lessons and Christmas food. Tickets £8. To prebook, message or call 07738 399750.



JAZZ COMES TO CLIFTON

Ian Millar and Dominic Spencer, a saxophone and piano duo from Scotland, will be performing at Clifton Village Hall on Saturday 20 January, at 8pm. Ian and Dominic are unique in the British jazz community, taking their blend of melodic jazz standards and original compositions to rural communities all over the UK. They use programmable lighting and table lights to create a wonderful intimate atmosphere for the music, telling stories of their travels in their Tour Bus - an old converted Yorkshire Ambulance, in an entertaining evening of creative music and enthusiastic joy.

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Draft Minutes of Shelsleys Parish Council Meeting held on 7 November 2023

Present: Val Jones (Chair), Louise Hutton (Vice-Chair), Karen Metcalfe, John Stinton, Dave Bates, David Belfield, Laura Taylor and Jean Hammond. In attendance: In attendance: District Councillors Pam and Paul Cumming, two members of the public and the clerk. Apologies: Carole Warren.

Minutes: The Minutes of 5 September 2023 were accepted and agreed as a true record after two amendments were made. Public Question Time: None. District and County Councillor Reports: Circulated before the meeting and available on the parish website (address below).

Apple Orchard at Shelsley Walsh: The current landscaping and tree removal at land leased by the Midland Automobile Club at Shelsley Walsh was discussed. MHDC was asked by the Parish Council to attend the site to ascertain whether planning permission was required for tree removal and track laying by heavy machinery. The Enforcement Officer concluded that retrospective permission will be required for the works. The Tree Warden reported the removal of one dead tree and nine live apple trees. The Landscape Officer at MHDC Chris Lewis-Farley and the Green Space Officer at WCC Wade Muggleton both confirmed that there was no preservation order on the trees. There are concerns that the old trees are home to a specific beetle and when the new orchard was planted in 2012 it was hoped that the species would be rehomed in the new trees. This has not been confirmed. A fruit tree expert who also works as a volunteer at the water mill grafted some of the old trees in order to perpetuate the varieties. He was not consulted before the trees were removed. A letter will be sent to the MAC expressing concern at the tree removal with the hope and expectation that some reparation will be made and that the MAC will replant with similar old tree species.

Highways: Lengthsman's no report, invoice or worksheets were received. Pard House Lane. The work has been completed. Road sweeping. A request for mud clearance between New Mill Bridge and All Saints has been submitted to MHDC. New Mill Bridge. The debris against the bridge has been reported. The road flooding by the bridge caused by a stream flowing onto the Shelsley Walsh road will be reported with some urgency to WCC. The District Councillor will also report the problem. Flooding due to surface water and blocked gullies at Pard House bungalows has been reported. B4203 Bromyard Road. The road surfacing works on the highway have been completed.

VHMC: The balance sheet for the Village Hall accounts was submitted. The Parish Council was expecting to be supplied with audited accounts and members were concerned regarding the incomplete submission. The perilous state of the finances was a concern to all. The Village Hall like many others is suffering from a lack of use and so revenue is affected. There was discussion on the reasons for the limited use, which included ageing population, the wide spread of homes within the parishes, the increased trend of home entertainment and little interest in planned events. In spite of many attempts to involve the local community there has been little or no support for recent events in the Village Hall. No conclusion was made as to how to improve the situation at this point but Councillor Belfield is arranging a number of events for December which he hoped would be supported.

Planning: M/23/00616/FUL Cockshot Cottage. Approved by MHDC.

Biodiversity: Councillors Metcalfe and Hammond will produce an outline for an action plan with regard to the draft Policy at the next meeting. The District Councillor commented

that The Shelsleys are already surrounded by biodiversity here in the Teme Valley.

Progress Reports: Big Help Out: No replies to the article in the Teme Triangle. Superfast Broadband: No update. Chairman Board: The board is now with Pigsty Studios with an estimated cost of £50 for the new lettering. Bleed out Kit and Defibrillator: The bleed out kit has now been registered and this and the defibrillator details are now held by Councillor Belfield.

Budget: There will be a full discussion of the budget at the next meeting.

Finance: The following payment was agreed - Information Commissioner £40.00. Bank balance as at 6 November £6,011.10.

Councillors' Reports and items for future agenda: Village Fete. Parish Website. Precept and budget. Flooding at New Mill Bridge. Biodiversity. Village Hall.

Next meeting: 9 January 2024, 7pm at the Village Hall.

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 812444.

SHELSLEY REMEMBERS....

In cold and wet conditions, the Shelsley residents turned out in strong force to attend the Remembrance service at All Saints. The service was led by Des Robson, who gave a very moving sermon, reminding us all how important this act of remembrance is. Mark Skipp led the wreath laying, along with Sir Anthony Winnington and Colin Francis. Many thanks also to all those many Parishioners involved in this service - the Churchwardens, the Church cleaners, the organist, volunteers for the Bible readings and prayers and also to Holly Perks for providing the after-service refreshments, which were enjoyed by all. *See also photo on page 35.*



Karen Webber, Alyson Cox, Jill Whittaker and Hannah Scott

LOWER SAPEY NEWS (*Written on Armistice Day, November 11*)

When I last wrote, we were experiencing a welcome warm spell, now back to floods and winds, which are after all, more normal for November. In this country, we experience weather rather than climate, never knowing what to expect from day to day. In a month's time we will be well into winter, but the grass still needs mowing and the trees are only just turning. However, the nights are certainly darker and colder with a ground frost this morning. Let's hope this winter will be a mild one and that we can come through it safely as fuel and food costs are still high. The warm hubs in the area are popular again and will continue thanks to the many volunteers. I hope that everyone who is able to do so has had their flu and/or covid jabs, which are available from their GPs or through NHS Direct.

Starting soon, Valerie Edwards and I are going to help Jerry Johns cataloguing and sorting the many photographs, newspaper cuttings and maps that are in the History Room above the school in Clifton. The area has a long and fascinating history from early times as I am sure many of you know and we are looking forward to helping in this project. I am an 'outsider', having been brought up in Hanley Swan, but Valerie has a wealth of local knowledge. If anyone has something interesting for example, old photos or memorabilia that they would like to contribute, please let me know.

The Harpley Pop-Up Choir continues and gave a little concert at the Friendship Club in November. This year's music is certainly more challenging than last time, especially for the altos! New members are very welcome, especially male singers and altos. Please contact Candy if you would like to join.

So, we look forward to the Christmas Season, to the carols and celebrations in the area and then to what may be a peaceful 2024 for us all in this troubled world. We all pray that the terrible suffering in Israel and Gaza and the Ukraine will be ended peacefully soon. Surely this is not too much to hope for in a civilised world and has gone on long enough. Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the children of God. Now, these peacemakers, whoever and wherever they are, are badly needed.

NOTICES

Services in St Bartholomew's, Harpley

Sunday 3 December Morning prayer at 10.30am

Sunday 17 December Carol service at 3pm

Monday 25 December Holy Communion at 10.30am

Sunday 31 December Reflections and Hopes for the future in the churchyard.

Sunday 7 January Morning prayer at 10.30am

Sunday 21 January Methodist Holy Communion at 10.30am

Sunday 28 January Circle Service at 10.30am

(Please check all times with the list elsewhere in this issue).

There may be early morning prayers on a Thursday/Tuesday to be added. Housekeeping in our Church is for December, Steve and Liz Younge and for January, Sue Rigby, helped by Dot Millward. Thank you all.

Ladies Bible Group will be on Tuesday 12 December (venue to be arranged).

On Tuesday 11 January it will be in the home of Margaret Griffiths at 2pm. Thank you Pat for standing in for me in November. The Mobile Library will hopefully call on Friday 15 December and on Friday 19 January at 10.20 and 10.40am.

Please have a look at the library website for their Christmas celebrations (www.thehiveworcester.org).

A very Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year to everyone.

Margaret Griffiths

OLD ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHRISTMAS MEMORY TREE

The Churches Conservation Trust have provided a Christmas Memory Tree to be placed in Old St. Bartholomew's Church, Hope Lane, Lower Sapey from 1 December until Twelfth Night, 5 January. For reasons of joy, sickness or sorrow, there are card baubles to write the name of a loved one on, to hang on the tree.

The CCT hopes that a donation might also be made - thus aiding the continuing work of the CCT which preserved this ancient church. Further information: Pat Prosser: 01886 886465; patprosser@hotmail.co.uk.



PITLANDS FARM PUMPKINS FUND RESULT

This year's Pumpkin Pile at Pitlands Farm Holidays in Clifton raised a total of £1,230 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.

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

December 2023

Sunday 3rd December
10.30am: Advent Carol Service, St Kenelm's, Clifton
10.30am: Morning Prayer (BCP), St Bartholomew, Harpley
11.00am: Advent and Christingle Service, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

Sunday 10th December
5.00pm: Hill Climb Carols with a candle lit procession from St Andrew's, Shelsley Walsh

Sunday 17th December
3.00pm: Carol Service, St Bartholomew, Harpley
6.30pm: Carol Service, St Kenelm's, Clifton

Sunday 24th December
3.00pm: Crib Service, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp
4.00pm: Christingle Service, St Kenelm's, Clifton
9.00pm: Christmas Communion, St Kenelm's, Clifton

Monday 25th December Christmas Day
10.00am: Christmas Half Hour, St Kenelm's, Clifton
10.30am: Christmas Half Hour All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp
10.30am: Holy Communion Service, St Bartholomew, Harpley

Sunday 31st December
10.30am: Reflections and Hopes for the Future
 St Bartholomew Churchyard, Harpley



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

January 2024

Sunday 7th January
10.30am: Holy Communion, St Kenelm's, Clifton
10.30am: Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew, Harpley

Sunday 14th January
Epiphany
10.30am: Holy Communion, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

Sunday 21st January
10.30am: Methodist Holy Communion, St Bartholomew, Harpley
6.30pm: Evensong, St Kenelm's, Clifton

Sunday 28th January
10.30am: Circle Service, St Bartholomew, Harpley

Pop-in Parish Prayers
 All Welcome
Tuesday 3rd 9.00am: St Bartholomew, Harpley
Wednesday 17th 9.00am All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp
Monday 22nd 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 – wvrtlive1

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

OLD ST BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, LOWER SAPEY

The administrative position regarding Old St Bartholomew's Church in Lower Sapey is that Pat Prosser has only retired from arranging the Annual Service (which is to be continued by Pat and Mike Snelling). She will continue to represent the Churches Conservation Trust, to which the old church belongs, and is its key holder - the person responsible for the CCT's churches on the ground. If anyone has any queries or wishes to arrange talks etc. then Pat Prosser is still the person to contact for details etc. Her telephone number is: 01886 886465 or email: patprosser@hotmail.co.uk

STANFORD CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

This year's Christmas Tree Festival at Stanford Church can be enjoyed on Saturday 2 December, between 1pm and 7pm, and again on Sunday 3 December, between 11am and 4pm. There will be a service on Sunday at 8.30am and carol singing between 4pm and 5pm.

Admission is free and there will be light refreshments, music, a Christmas ambiance and an opportunity to support two local charities, the Nineveh Ridge Care Farm and St. Mary's Stanford.

CHURCH CONTACTS

Oversight Minister Rev'd Julia Curtis 01886 853286 revjuliacurtis@gmail.com

Christenings, Weddings, Funerals:

Rev Jen Denniston 07783 432017 jendenniston@gmail.com

Jill Smith 01886 853311

Pat Snelling (Clifton) 01886 812443

All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp and St Andrew, Shelsley Walsh

Church Wardens: Kate Hurst 01886 812184 kathrynhurst@bopenworld.com

Holly Perks 01886 812369 hollyperks@me.com

St Kenelm's, Clifton

Contacts: Ruth Wilson (PCC Vice Chair) ruth.wilson38@btinternet.com

Anne Gayden (PCC minutes secretary)

Jackie Gilbert

St Bartholomew's, Harpley

Church Wardens: David Richards 07765 866489

Liz Younge erckuk@hotmail.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

- 2 Bistro Night, Apple Tree Kitchen, Pitlands 6pm-8.30pm
- 3 Clifton Guides & Brownies Christmas Fayre, VH 10am-1pm
- 3 Christingle & Carols, All Saints Church, Shelsley Beauchamp 11am
- 6 Friendship Club Christmas lunch, Clifton VH 12.30pm
- 7 Clifton Parish Council meeting, VH 7.40pm
- 9 Bistro Night, Apple Tree Kitchen, Pitlands 6pm-8.30pm
- 10 Teme Valley Market, Talbot Hotel, Knightwick 11am
- 11 Christmas lunch @ The Courtyard Restaurant, Shelsley Walsh
- 15 Mobile Library, Clifton VH Car Park, 9.45 - 10.15am
- 15 Carols on the Green, Clifton 7pm
- 16 Bistro Night, Apple Tree Kitchen, Pitlands 6pm-8.30pm
- 16 Cowboy Christmas Hoe Down, Shelsleys VH 7pm
- 17 Quiz evening, Lion Inn, Clifton 7pm
- 24 Crib Service, All Saints Church, Shelsley Beauchamp 3pm
- 25 Christmas Day Half Hour, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp 10.30am

January

- 4 Clifton Parish Council meeting, VH 7.40pm
- 9 Shelsleys Parish Council meeting, VH 7pm
- 11 Teme Valley Wildlife Group meeting, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH 7.30pm
- 17 *Jeanne's War* @ Friendship Club, Clifton VH 2.30pm
- 19 Mobile Library, Clifton VH Car Park, 9.45 - 10.15am
- 20 Jazz duo performing @ Clifton VH, 8pm



John Bailey with a selection of tasty items for Christmas at the Farm Shop at the Mill Farm Retail Village at Stanford Bridge.



Pictured at the Remembrance Day service at All Saints Church in Shelsley Beauchamp (left to right): Allan Jeffries, Jude Bettinson, Richard Bettinson, Des Robson and Beryl Robson.

DOMESTIC RECYCLING AND WASTE

YOUR CHRISTMAS COLLECTION CHANGES

Scheduled Day of Collection	Actual Collection Day	Waste Type
Monday 25 December	Saturday 23 December	Recycling
Tuesday 26 December	Wednesday 27 December	Recycling
Wednesday 27 December	Thursday 28 December	Recycling
Thursday 28 December	Friday 29 December	Recycling
Friday 29 December	Saturday 30 December	Recycling
Monday 1 January	Tuesday 2 January	General Waste
Tuesday 2 January	Wednesday 3 January	General Waste
Wednesday 3 January	Thursday 4 January	General Waste
Thursday 4 January	Friday 5 January	General Waste
Friday 5 January	Saturday 6 January	General Waste
Monday 8 January	Collections return to normal	Recycling

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