

February 2023

Teme TRIANGLE

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Local Dance Studio Students

In this edition

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-

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The Christingle service held at St Bartholomew's Church Harpley

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Front Cover Picture

Kara Soper (left, back row) with a group of her dance students at the Attitude Dance Studios at Stanford Bridge (see page 21).

UKRANIAN REFUGEE'S WOODWORKING SKILLS WIN PRAISE

A Ukranian furniture maker, Victor Antonov, has been winning praise from local customers in the Teme Valley with his craftsmanship since arriving from Kyiv with his wife Valentina last July.

Victor (64), a retired ceramics technologist, has impressed local residents in the area with his wood-working and carpentry skills, having already carried out a number of furniture repairs, making fitted bedroom wardrobes and a range of kitchen cupboards as well as installing bespoke window frames as secondary glazing in listed buildings.

The couple have been hosted by Beverley and Dan Drew who have also provided Victor with a workshop and several local people have kindly donated equipment to him. Valentina, a former make-up artist and beautician, has meanwhile been turning her artistic talents to the making of Christmas wreaths and other decorations.

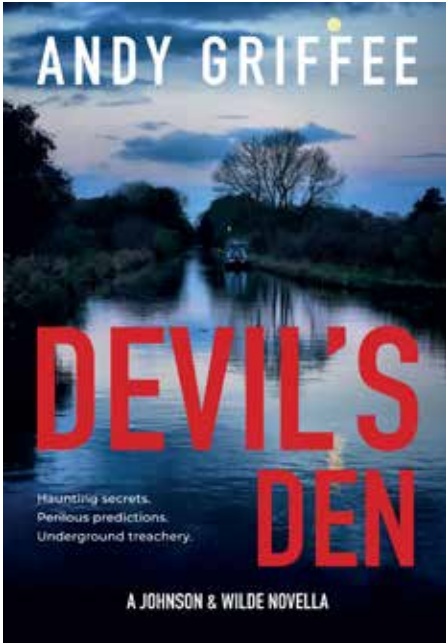


Victor and Valentina Antonov by one of the doors he has made.

Victor and his wife arrived from Kyiv in their car so transport is not a problem while they are here, although he has found the narrow lanes in the area difficult to negotiate. According to Victor, no job is too small for him to undertake and he will gladly provide a free estimate on request. To contact him, e-mail victorantonov0412@gmail.com or telephone 01886 821275.

TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE GROUP

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will take place at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall (WR15 8RR) on Thursday February 9th at 7:30pm, when Jonty Pearce will talk on 'Sailing around St Kilda'. . Contact by email at twwg@outlook.com



LOCAL AUTHOR'S LATEST BOOK

Teme Valley-based author Andy Griffiee will have the fourth book in his Johnson & Wilde crime mystery series published this month (February). *Devil's Den* is a novella which continues to follow the adventures of Jack Johnson and Nina Wilde as they tour the UK's canals and rivers on their narrowboat. The latest story is set on the Staffs & Worcs Canal at Kinver and features ghostly goings-on in underground tunnels near the couple's mooring.

"I was exploring the area with my border terrier Eddie, when I came across a fascinating little wooden door set into a sandstone cliff on the canal," explains Andy. "I discovered it was called the Devil's Den and had previously been a boat-house for the Foley family. It set my imagination racing." The *Devil's Den* will be published on Kindle only and follows Andy's three other published novels, *Canal Pushers*, *River Rats* and *Oxford Blues*.

LITTLE WITLEY FILM

On Saturday 18th February Little Witley Village Hall will be screening *The Man Who Knew Infinity*. It's a true, incredible tale about a poor, but brilliant, self taught Indian mathematician, Ramanujan, who was invited to Cambridge in the 1930s. He has to battle all the issues of class, politics and race. It includes striking acting performances from Dev Patel and Jeremy Irons



Doors open as usual 7.30pm Glass of wine and choc ice included in ticket price of £6.50 but bring your own snacks if you would like to. Bar will stay open till half an hour after the end of show. Everyone welcome.

Jean Latham

CLIFTON NURSERY OFSTED INSPECTION

In December the Clifton upon Teme Nursery and Forest School had an Ofsted inspection and received a 'Good' rating in all areas and a 'Good' rating overall.

The report stated: '*Children's individual learning styles and preferences are recognised by staff, who have high expectations for all the children.*'

'Children's Communication and language are extremely well supported. Staff are enthusiastic in their interactions with children.'

'Staff engage well with parents in order to involve them in their child's learning.'

"This is just an extract of the amazing things that the Ofsted inspector reported on. The changes we have made over the last ten months have been so positive and it was so clear to see," said Rachel Cartwright, Deputy Manager. "We are so proud of the staff who continue to plan great opportunities and learning experience for the children and of course the children and their families who continue to support the local charity."

The Nursery celebrated Christmas by entering the Stanford Christmas Tree competition, the St Kenelm's church event and a Christmas party which the children enjoyed with delicious food donated by the parents. Please address any enquiries to manager@cliftoneyc.co.uk

SHELSLEYS SUPERFAST BROADBAND LATEST

Another broadband Fibre To The Property (FTTP) scheme has gone live to a community in the Teme Valley. Thirty properties in Camp Lane, Kingswood Lane and Stanford Road have now been told that the infrastructure work by Openreach engineers has been completed. The project, which is co-funded by Worcestershire County Council and the Government, has taken just over a year to complete. Community organiser Brian Meddings has now advised all of the homeowners who signed up for the scheme that they now need to choose a new fibre broadband supplier. It is anticipated that much faster download and upload broadband speeds will now be possible for homeowners and home-business people.

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LOWER SAPEY NEWS

Firstly, a very Happy New Year to everyone, bringing good health, happiness and peace. So far it has been a dark and dreary winter and we so look forward to the Spring. Secondly, I would like to say that this article will be a 'Harry' free zone!

Christmas came and went very quickly and the decorations are down for another year. Our carol service in Harpley was, I can say, rather different from the usual as we had no organist, no choir leader, no soloists, no preacher - all due to illness - and very cold weather. However, everyone made the best of this and we are particularly indebted to Jill Smith, who took the service at very short notice, Suzanna Everitt with her recorder and Dot Millward for her warming hot punch. Our Ukrainian friends sang a beautiful rendition of their Bells Carol, which was in contrast to our effort, and they also provided some delicious, sweet sticky Christmas bake. Many thanks to them. We all feel so very sorry that they are here, away from their families and homes at this supposed festive time. We all pray the war may end soon. Anyway, thanks to all. The Christmas Day service was very well attended and the Church full.

As to events in St Bartholomew's and Harpley, we hope to have much more to look forward to soon. A Snowdrop/Art Workshop is taking place in Harpley church on Saturday, 11th February from 2pm led by local art teacher Mel Williams. It will include collage making, painting modelling and poetry illustrating. All ages will be welcome

Friendship Club

Dot Millward reports that the Friendship Club had a lovely Christmas lunch in Clifton village Hall, well attended as usual. Then later in the month, we saw the film Downton Abbey, a new era, which was a trip into the past. Thanks go to Chris and Heather Hurley for making this possible. Now, in February we can look forward to a talk by Phil Collins (not the drummer) on the 'History of Punch and Judy' on 1st February and later in the month on February 15th, we have a fascinating talk by Penny Bowden on her travels. On March 1st, yet more travel talk, this time with Chris House. This will certainly bring some sunshine into our winter. If you wish to join, please come along on one of these dates. As a member, I would particularly like to thank Dot and all the committee for all their work, especially for the enjoyable Christmas lunch. (MG)

Church Services in St Bartholomew's for February

Thursday February 2nd Morning prayers at 9.30am

Sunday February 5th 1662 Morning service at 10.30am

Sunday February 19th Methodist morning service at 10.30am

Sunday February 26th Circle service at 10.30am

* Please check these times and dates nearer the date as they are sometimes subject to change. *

Housekeeping for February will be looked after by Pat Savage and Margaret Griffiths. NB This is in the absence of Marion West, who has been in hospital following a bad fall.. Marion is one of the mainstays of the Church and we hope she will soon have recovered and be back with us. Good luck Marion.

The Ladies Bible Group hopes to start again on Tuesday March 14th, hopefully at the home of Margaret Griffiths. We did get together before Christmas and enjoyed our Christmas lunch at the Appletree Kitchen. The Mobile Library will call on Friday 17th February at 10.30 and 10.40am Good wishes to everyone and for the coming Spring. Stay healthy.

Margaret Griffiths

LOCAL LITTER COLLECTING

Litter picking becomes centre stage in the spring months as the hedges and verges are cut and the new flowers - snowdrops and daffodils - begin to bloom and the eyesore of carelessly discarded debris is visible. Whilst there is never a start to the litter picking time (it should be a throughout the year activity) this is a moment to remind everyone that if you need kit - grabbers, circle for the bag or a hi viz jacket to help you with your litter picking just email Candy Connolly at cconnolly111@gmail.com

If you are already doing it - as I know some of the team are - well done. If not, have a look and see what you can find. Saturday February 18th at 6pm for a drink at the Lion is our annual Harpley - Clifton - Shelsley litter picking celebration for the team. Please join us if you are new to this leisure pursuit; if you are a regular helper, I look forward to seeing you there. First round on me!

Candy Connolly

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WARM WELCOME SPACE

The Warm Welcome Space in the village hall in Clifton has gone from strength to strength. There have been approximately 25 to 30 people each week, most of whom have stayed for soup and a roll for lunch. The atmosphere in the hall has continued to be warm and welcoming with a lovely buzz of conversation offering the chance to meet up with friends and neighbours. The pre-Christmas lunch consisted of ham, baked potatoes and salad accompanied by wine to celebrate. This was a fantastic morning with fabulous support and approximately 40 people taking part.

A Warm Welcome Toddler group is also growing as part of this initiative. It has been many years since there has been a place for parents/grandparents/carers with babies and toddlers to meet. Please do come and meet other parents or grandparents to help this become more established.

It has been an amazing start to the Warm Welcome with so much support from the local community through those helping and those using the space. Offers of soup, cake and biscuits have made this a really positive community event. More financial support has also come from donations during the morning and the quiz held in The Lion. More recently generous donations of pastries have also been received from Vandemoortele based in Lower Broadheath.

I would like to thank all those who have regularly volunteered either making food or working hard in the kitchen again making this a successful morning. Please do pop in if you haven't taken part yet. It will continue to run from 10.30-1.00 every Thursday at least until Easter.

Ruth Wilson



Pictured (left to right) Tracey Lowes, Louisa Grizzell and Lisa Adams (Warm Welcome Toddlers). Also part of the team is organiser Ruth Wilson and Tabatha Hedges.

CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL LATEST

Clifton parish councillors have written to the Worcestershire Area Health Authority to protest at the decision by the Knightwick Surgery to close the weekly surgery in the village hall in Clifton, following complaints by local residents that they now have to travel to Knightwick to collect 'controlled and temperature sensitive drugs'. In the letter, copied to Harriet Baldwin MP, the parish council suggests 'one solution would be a refrigerated van, under the control of a medically qualified person, could visit Clifton at an agreed weekly time and date, to enable parishioners to collect their prescriptions'.

Clifton Parish Council has also written to Malvern Hills District Council objecting to a bid by the developer of the Blue Shot site in Pound Lane, Clifton, to add a further three houses to the five already proposed for the site. The Parish Council has also objected to a proposal to add further housing on the site currently being developed in Hope Lane.

In a letter to MHDC, the Council says: 'Despite two completed developments and the development in progress at Hope Lane, nothing has been done to provide extra facilities to service the increase in population within the parish. Worse than that, Malvern Hills D.C's strange policy of not allowing S106 funds to be spent on Parish Council owned land has seriously devalued the value of this funding. This issue is still outstanding, the full details having been with the Land Registry for over a year. Building any housing in the area of Hope Lane shown in plan will be subject to the constant noise emanating from the sewage works, making them potentially unsalable.'

[See Clifton Parish Council minutes - pages 16-19]

SNOWDROP ART WORKSHOP

Local artist and art teacher Mel Williams will be leading a Snowdrop Art Workshop in Harpley Church on Saturday, 11th February, between 2pm and 4pm. All ages are welcome to attend the workshop which will include collage making, painting, junk modelling, poetry illustrating and jar decorating. Refreshments will be provided and those attending are advised to wear old and warm clothing.

Contact Jen Denniston on 07783432017 for more information.

Minutes of Clifton Parish Council held Thursday 5th January 2023

Present: Councillors J. Bowden (Chairman), A. Henry (Vice-Chairman), R. Henry, B. Gilbert, N. Campsall, L. Merrick and P. Brooks.

Also present: County Cllr D. Chambers, District Councillor Paul Cummings and 9 members of the public. Apologies for absence: District Cllr C. Palethorpe.

Democratic Public Time: Members of the public raised the following issues –

Forge Meadows – trip hazards are being caused by Severn Trent Water raised water meters which are proud of the pavements which have sunk. STW have already been made aware of the issue and the meters have been spray painted blue, but the PC was asked to also report which was agreed.

Doctors' surgery provision – the meeting heard concerns about the lack of local provision for the village. Patients now have to go to Knightwick Surgery or elsewhere, although some non-restricted items may be collected from the village stores. Knightwick Surgery has confirmed that this new arrangement is not going to change, and Cllr A. Henry confirmed that the Village Hall Committee had no choice in this decision and have tried really hard to retain the local facility previously offered. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Knightwick Surgery, Harriet Baldwin MP and the Care Commission Group to request that local services be reinstated as the village is expanding and there is also a growing number of elderly residents. The letter will also raise concern about fridge items which now have to be transported by patients back to their homes and may risk deterioration. The question was also raised about the availability of a prescription delivery service to patient's homes which appears to be available in Tenbury Wells – could this not be expanded? County Cllr Chambers will also raise these matters at the WCC Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee to see the county overview of similar rural issues.

Concerns were raised regarding the **South Worcs Development Plan** and proposed development for the village as included in the SWDP review and Reg 19 consultation. Cllr Gilbert responded and confirmed that the PC have checked the SWDP thoroughly and confirmed that Hope Lane site wouldn't be able to more than the agreed 30 dwellings as defined within the Neighbourhood Development Plan, which is valid until 2030 and has been agreed and validated by MHDC. There has

been no formal planning application submitted for the site to date, but Cllrs Bowden and Gilbert agreed to monitor this closely. District Cllr Cummings clarified the current position with the review of the SWDP and Neighbourhood Development Plan. The meeting noted the need to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan is reviewed appropriately. District Cllr Cummings agreed to provide more data to the next meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting held 1st December 2022 were agreed by all. No further matters arising.

District & County Councillor Reports: Any reports received will be circulated and uploaded to the website. Cllr R. Henry asked County Cllr Chambers to provide data on tree planting across the county and what the after care package is for them? Concerns have been raised that many are dying for lack of care or have been inappropriately planted. Cllr Chambers also reported on county health matters, including a new referral unit at Worcs Royal Hospital. The new A&E dept is due to open in May this year. Cllr Bowden is to liaise with Cllr Chambers on outstanding County Highways matters.

The Clerk is to chase up road sweeping with MHDC. It was agreed by the PC to progress the residents survey regarding bus stops/shelters whilst Worcs CC are reviewing all elements of bus provision across the county. Cllr Bowden will draft the survey and circulate to the PC for review.

Cllr Brooks reported to the meeting about footpath matters and the open trench at The View – all matters are being actively progressed. Cllr Brooks has arranged a site visit later this month with Cllr Chambers.

Financial & Governance Matters: Payments and receipts – the schedule was as circulated and was proposed by Cllr Gilbert, seconded Cllr A. Henry. All agreed. Clerk to arrange payments. Budget & Precept 2023/24 – the draft budget had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Bowden, seconded by Cllr R. Henry to retain the precept at £30k p.a. and to make no increase as sufficient reserves were already in place. All agreed. Clerk to notify MHDC. Quotes for spring/summer hanging baskets and grass mowing had been received from R. Wilks. The quotes were proposed for acceptance by Cllr A. Henry, seconded Cllr Gilbert, all agreed. Clerk to notify. The Clerk's resignation had been withdrawn and the Clerk is to remain as contracted. Cllr Bowden proposed that the quote from Rewired for electrical works at the pavilion should be accepted and works progressed. Seconded Cllr Gilbert. All agreed. Cllr Bowden to arrange works. It was agreed that the Clerk should order three new dark green waste bins to replace the remaining old bins.

Parish Matters/Updates: Village Maintenance Plan – no further updates. Community Speed Watch – Worcs CC survey data is awaited. Village Nursery & Preschool Community Funding – they group hope to attend the next PC meeting – defer to the next agenda. Street & gutter cleaning – Worcs CC has confirmed that a second Lengthsman may be appointed by the PC, subject to training. Cllr Bowden asked that the matter be deferred currently – agreed. Parish defibrillators – Cllr Brooks has checked them all and confirmed that they are all working properly. Spare defib pads are also available and info will be sent to Councillors. Cllr A. Henry is progressing the ‘on call’ rota scheme for defibs via West Mids Ambulance Service / Community First Responders.

Section 106 Matters: Four Acre Field (CFAF) Project – Land Registry matters are ongoing via the Solicitors – Clerk to request a further update. Cllr Gilbert has chased the matter up formally with Harriet Baldwin MP but is awaiting a full response. Cllr Campsall is progressing the project in the meantime and gave an update re the scope of the works and negotiations with contractors. S106 funding remains allocated via MHDC. District Cllr Cummings agreed to look in to s106 matters with MHDC and will liaise with the Clerk.

Planning Matters: Applications for consideration -

M/22/01711/HP – 4 Manor Rd, Clifton upon Teme WR6 6EA – erection of a single storey rear and side extension. No objections raised.

M/22/01679/HP – Honey Bee Cottage, 42 The Village, Clifton upon Teme WR6 6DH – proposed demolition of fire damaged lean to and provision of rear elevation single storey kitchen extension with associated internal space planning. No objections raised.

M/22/01682/FUL – Blue Shot Meadow, Pound Lane, Clifton upon Teme WR6 6DE – proposed residential development of 3 dwellings. Residents raised significant concerns regarding development on this site. Cllr Bowden confirmed the Parish Council position on development at Blue Shot to date and the response submitted to MHDC previously. Residents raised a number of concerns to the meeting re this application, which were noted, and they were asked to respond to MHDC individually to make a larger impact / response. Further to significant discussion, it was agreed that Cllrs Bowden and Gilbert should draft a full objection which once agreed by the PC, can be submitted by the Clerk. District Cllr Cummings also offered to look at current enforcement issues on site on behalf of residents and advised residents on how to monitor their concerns formally.

Strategic Planning Matters: Cllr Gilbert will monitor the SWDPR and notify the Council of any matters to be considered.

Highways & Facilities Matters: Lengthsman matters are all progressing well. County Matters – Cllr Bowden is to liaise with County Cllr Chambers re a list of outstanding works and requested updates. Road closures – none received recently.

Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agendas: Cllr A. Henry suggested the village should celebrate the Coronation, as Carols on the Green and Jubilee celebrations had been very successful. Those involved with Carols on the Green recently, were thanked for their help. Cllr Henry agreed to progress matters.

Cllr Bowden is to arrange a Coronation plaque for the Church through a local stonemason. Quotes to be obtained for consideration. R. Wilks has cut back the hedge and tree in Pound Lane as requested.

Michelle Alexander Clerk (01886 884195)

Abbreviated Draft Minutes of the Shelsleys Parish Council Meeting held on January 10th 2023

Present: Dr Laura Taylor (Chairman), Mrs Karen Metcalfe, Mr David Styles, Mrs Jean Hammond, Mrs Val Jones, Mrs Louise Hutton and Mr Dave Bates. 3 members of the public and the clerk.

Apologies: Mr Rob Pound & Mr John Stinton accepted. District Councillor Palethorpe and County Councillor Chambers sent their apologies. Councillors Mrs P Cumming (Balwin) and Mr P Cumming (Woodbury) introduced themselves and explained the changes in the local ward boundaries.

District and County Councillor Reports: The emailed County report is available on the website.

Midland Automobile Club: A representative of the Midland Automobile Club attended. A leaflet with dates for events in 2023 was given to Councillors. The Parish Council was asked if it requires more signage before Hill Climb events and if so where such signs should be placed. Shelsley Walsh website <https://www.shelsleywalsh.com/events>

Broadband: Camp Lane/Manor Lane now has received enough funding to install superfast broadband. The Parish Council is acting as the Legal Entity. No progress has been made on the either of the Pudford Lane or Stanford Bridge projects.

Defibrillator: This has been purchased and installed in the Village Hall

porch. An anonymous donation was received for the purchase of the equipment for which the Parish Council is extremely grateful.

Grit Bins: A green grit bin has been placed in Pudford Lane. This will be maintained by the Parish Council which has been purchased with a donation from a local resident.

Speeding: The clerk had circulated information to the Councillors. Estimates will be obtained for various speed monitoring devices. A reply from WCC with reference to speeding on rural lanes was read out. It would appear that there is currently little expectation of implementing speed limits on local rural roads.

There were no other highways matters to report.

The Lengthsman submitted worksheets for November and December which were agreed.

Coronation: It was agreed that any celebration would be held in the Village Hall, date to be confirmed.

Planning: The following outstanding planning application was discussed. M/22/01824/CU The Old Post Office Stanford Bridge change of use of residential annexe to holiday let. Councillors supported the application. MHDC decisions: M/2200832/LB The Green. Approved. M/22/00332/HP The Hop Barn The Green. Approved.

Budget & Precept: On the basis of the agreed revised budget the precept will be raised.

Finance: All invoices were agreed totalling £2659.06.

Village Hall Status: Deferred to the next meeting. Clerk to circulate relevant information.

WhatsApp: It was agreed to set up a WhatsApp group for the Councillors and Clerk.

Councillors' Reports and items for future agenda. The old bin on the B4203 has not yet been removed. May 4th Elections.

Date of the next meeting: March 7th 2023 at 7pm at the Village Hall.

Following meeting May 16th 2023. The meeting concluded at 20.30

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

NEW DANCE STUDIOS IN THE TEME VALLEY

The latest addition to the Mill Farm Country Retail area at Stanford Bridge is Attitude Dance Studios, a local dance school offering all ages the chance to participate in a variety of dance styles. The two new dance studios include a reception/waiting area and changing facilities, and are fully equipped with Harlequin dance floor, ballet barres and mirrors.

Founded in 2016 by Kara Soper, her ballet classes at local village halls quickly proved popular and she was soon able to add more classes in a variety of styles. Now established at Stanford Bridge, Kara and dance teachers Tammy and Daryl offer 30 classes to over 100 students in styles such as Ballet, Jazz, Contemporary, Acrobatics, Street Dance, Pointe, Adult Tap and 1-1s within the new studios.

“It’s a dream come true,” says Kara who from an early age fell in love with dance and knew her ambition was to have a dance school of her own. “At the heart of Attitude Dance Studios is a purpose to inspire and create life-long memories for all the children and adults who attend the dance classes, past and present.”



Attitude Dance Studios offer opportunities for students to thrive in a creative and welcoming environment, with professional teachers who are equally passionate about dance and teaching students of all ages. Enhanced Movement Studio is a regular hirer and has multiple classes running through the week including Pilates & HITT.

For more information about dance classes or space hire contact Kara Soper via email: Kara@attitudedance.co.uk or www.attitudedance.co.uk

CLIFTON UPON TEME WI

The Clifton WI has made a positive start to the New Year with new members joining. January's meeting was via Zoom. Kate Round gave a fascinating talk on the history of glass making which moved to England in the 1600s when the French glass makers arrived as Huguenot refugees. She talked about how the industry started in Stourbridge 400 years ago where it became an important centre of glass production in England. Kate explained the roles carried out by the workers and the skill of the glass blowers and engravers. Kate works for Stourbridge Glass Museum where there are displays of the history of glass making and the opportunity to watch contemporary glass makers at work.

Over the next few months a range of talks and activities are planned, including learning about British Hedgehogs, Tai Chi, Hand Tied Posy, and an interesting talk entitled 'Why do we annoy and irritate each other?' The aim of the WI is to offer companionship, friendship and kindness to women as well as learning and developing new interests and skills, this is certainly evident in the Clifton upon Teme WI group. There are many opportunities for developing practical skills, learning about a range of topics and taking part in many different activities across the local area as well as debating and taking part in national issues. If you are interested in joining the WI email Ruth Wilson cliftonontemepres@wfedwi.org.uk or pop into a meeting or event.

The WI meet at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of every month in the Village Hall as well as the WI book club that meets monthly to discuss books chosen by the group.

TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE GROUP

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will take place at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall, WR15 8RR, on Thursday February 9th at 7:30pm. We welcome Jonty Pearce whose talk is entitled "Sailing around St Kilda". 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 twgw@outlook.com *Stephanie Mocroft*

STANFORD HISTORY GROUP SPRING LECTURE

7.30 pm Mondays March 6th & March 13th 2023

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We have enjoyed an excellent series of lectures in Autumn 2023, but unfortunately, our Birmingham University lecturer on Ukraine and Poland, Dr Anca Mandru was ill, and her lectures were postponed. They have been rescheduled as follows:

6th March Old Empires and Nationalism: The Making of Modern Poland and Ukraine (1795-1939).

13th March New Empires and Nationalism: Poland and Ukraine from the Second World War to the present.

Just come on the evening! £10 each lecture if you haven't prepaid.
Contact Simon Marriott simon@adamswoodfarm.co.uk

SHAKESPEARE EXPRESS

Michael and Helen Whitehouse opened their lovely miniature railway on Boxing Day morning to visitors to their home, Wilderness Cottage, in Shelsley Kings. Michael also looks after even larger full size express steam trains running between Birmingham and Stratford upon Avon. The *Shakespeare Express* offers a traditional Sunday lunch on the two and a half hour round trip from Stratford upon Avon on several Sundays during the year. These are run by Vintage Trains Charitable Trust, an educational charity established by Michael's father some 50 years ago to keep the skills of the steam age alive and, even today, its Tyseley workshops are manufacturing and repairing steam locomotives for heritage railways nationwide and training young apprentices in engineering skills.



If you fancy a trip with your family, the *Shakespeare Express* offers express steam train rides on Sundays: bookings at www.vintagetrains.co.uk

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Church Matters

by Rev Anne Potter



Nationally and internationally, who knows. What we do know is that the potential cost of living increases will result in many folk struggling to feed themselves and to keep warm during the long winter days; that there is a high chance that more people will lose their homes and end up living on the street; that the war in Ukraine is unlikely to come to an end this month; that there could be more strikes disrupting people's lives and adding to the stress and strain of general living, especially those requiring medical help.

Not all doom and gloom.....

There are good things about February. The days get longer giving us more daylight hours. Valentine's day on February 14th reminding us of love for one another. The next month March is spring and often during February we see the first signs as the snowdrops flower and the early lambs are seen frolicking in the fields.

In the Christian liturgical year at the beginning of February on the second we remember Jesus being taken as a young baby to the temple by his parents Mary and Joseph as part of their Jewish faith ritual. (Many churches will celebrate Candlemas/Presentation of Jesus at the temple on 29th January). It was on this occasion an old priest, Simeon, and an old prophetess, Anna, who lived in the temple fasting and praying 24 hours, knew that the young baby being presented at the temple was the promised Messiah.

Simeon took the baby Jesus into his arms and praising God says the words of the Nunc Dimittis (which is often read at funerals)

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory to your people
Israel.' (Luke 2:29-32)

The joy of meeting the new Saviour, God's son, is tinged with sorrow as Simeon tells Jesus' mother Mary that 'a sword will pierce your own soul too' (Luke 2:35).

Simeon is predicting the pain Mary will experience when her son is cruelly put to death on a cross. However, Simeon is now ready to die in peace having seen his Lord face to face in God incarnate, a tiny human baby.

February 2023 we will start our journey towards remembering that day – Good Friday – on Wednesday 22nd February, in our Ash Wednesday service at Heaton House (details elsewhere). Not forgetting, of course, Shrove Tuesday the night before when we clear our larders and eat lots of pancakes before commencing the six weeks of Lent. The annual time of fasting and penitence in the Christian calendar leading to the most important week of the Christian year, Holy week, culminating in the Easter celebration of new life – the resurrection of Jesus Christ which this year falls on April 9th.

There is a light at the end of the February dark tunnel – the light that came into the darkness at Christmas time is revealed to us through the eyes of an old man. That light which is there for all of us – even in the dark times, though we may not always see it.

Wishing you a February that is not all gloom and doom....look for those glimpses of light and celebrate times of joy and blessings.

Contacts for St Kenelm's Church, Clifton:

For christenings, weddings or funerals –
Team Vicar: Revd Anne Potter

Tel. 01886 832355 or e-mail revannepotter@gmail.com

Other contacts:
Jackie Gilbert

Tel. 01886 812471 or e-mail gmjgilbert40@gmail.com

Anne Gayden

Tel. 01886 812448 or e-mail annegayden@hotmail.co.uk

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Guest Column by Harriett Baldwin MP

The Christmas decorations are packed away for another year, and the trees and wrapping paper are off to be recycled. January is often a difficult month with many people struggling to keep their New Year resolutions – some raising money for a good cause and some just because a new year means a fresh start. Of course, the extra spending over December could mean that people have money worries and I urge anyone who has concerns to raise them early. Our local Citizens Advice Bureau is a great resource which can offer help and for those with debt problems and the Government has implemented a range of support packages, especially for those with lower incomes, to help get through the winter months as worry-free as possible.



The National Health Service is front of our minds at this time of year when staff have to deal with the extra winter pressures caused by the Christmas break and the number of extra bugs being spread around as families gather together for the festive period. I was pleased to hear that some of the new buildings have now been opened up for patients at Worcestershire Royal Hospital – part of a £15 million to give us all a new Emergency Department adding significant extra bed capacity. The full handover can't come quickly enough but I hope that this year will see significant improvement in waiting time reductions for those at A&E. Wintertime inevitably brings heavier rain and my thoughts return to all of those who are still at risk of flooding – especially the communities of Tenbury Wells and Severn Stoke. I'm keeping a close eye on both flood defence plans and hope that we will see spades in the ground very soon for both Environment Agency schemes.

Parliament is now back in session and the Prime Minister has set out a five point plan to deal with the issues that you care about most – the economy, our national debt, the NHS, inflation and illegal immigration. I know these are your priorities too and our New Year's resolutions must also involve continuing to support Ukraine against invasion.

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

FEBRUARY

Sunday 5th February

Third Sunday before Lent

10.30am Morning Worship, St Bartholomew, Harpley

Sunday 12th February

Second Sunday before Lent

10.30am CW Holy Communion, St Kenelm, Clifton

10.30am Holy Communion, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

Sunday 19th February

The Sunday before Lent

10.30am Methodist Holy Communion, St Bartholomew, Harpley

Wednesday 22nd February

10.00am Ash Wednesday Holy Communion at Heaton House, Martley

Sunday 26th February

First Sunday of Lent

10.30am Circle Service, All Saints, St Bartholomew, Harpley

3.30pm Forest Church, Almshouse Woods

6.30pm Evensong, St Kenelm, Clifton

Morning Prayer

Thursday 2nd – 9.30am St Bartholomew, Lower Sapey

Monday 13th - 9.30am, St Kenelm, Clifton

Wednesday 15th – 9.00am All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

Holy Communion at Heaton House, Martley every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 10.15am and every 1st and 3rd Wednesday via our YouTube channel – wwrtlive1 - not 22nd Feb

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- 2 Clifton Parish Council meeting, VH 7.40pm
- 9 Teme Valley Wildlife Group meeting, Stoke Bliss VH 7.30pm
- 11 Snowdrop Art workshop, Harpley church 2pm-4pm
- 11 Rural Reels film: *Where The Crowdad Sings*. Clifton VH 7pm
- 15 Friendship Club: *History of Punch & Judy* Clifton VH 2.30pm
- 18 Local Litter Pick gathering, Lion Inn 6pm
- 18 *The Man Who Knew Infinity*, Little Witley Films, VH 7.30pm

March

- 1 Friendship Club: Chris House, Clifton VH 2.30pm
- 2 Clifton Parish Council meeting, VH 7.40pm
- 6 Stanford History Group Lecture, Upper Sapey VH, 7.30pm
- 7 Shelsleys Parish Council meeting VH 7pm
- 9 Teme Valley Wildlife Group meeting, Stoke Bliss VH 7.30pm
- 13 Stanford History Group Lecture, Upper Sapey VH, 7.30pm

CRIB CAPTAIN JANET STEPS DOWN

After several decades of dedication to the Lion Inn Cribbage Team, team Captain Janet Lawrence finally stepped down at a celebration at the Lion in Clifton. Janet, who has organized and captained the team as part of the Bromyard and District Cribbage League for longer than the rest of the team can remember, decided she would like to step down and, while continuing to play, leave all the organising to a new captain. The Lion Inn also hosted the first round of the doubles tournament at which Janet was presented with a



Christmas hamper and certificate of appreciation to say thank you for all her hard work. The new team captain is Laura Hughes. The team play most Wednesdays in and around some of the local pubs through the season but often meet on Sunday evenings about 9pm in the Lion Inn for practice. Anyone who's interested in a game, a friendly pint, or wishing to learn or brush up those rusty card skills is more than welcome to join.



Pictured at the Friendship Club Christmas lunch in Clifton, from left to right: Sue Palmer, Jackie Gilbert, Dot Milward, Sue Johns and Marie Thompson. The Nativity characters in the foreground were made by Pat Bradley; the stable was made by Ray Taylor from Harpley.

RURAL REELS IN CLIFTON

Next month's film screening in Clifton Village Hall will be *Where The Crawdad Sings*. Abandoned by her family at a tender age, a solitary Catherine (played by Daisy Edgar-Jones) attempts to fend for herself, much to society's dismay. Soon, she finds herself framed for her former boyfriend's death. The film will be on Saturday 11th February. Doors will open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. The bar will also be open. For further information or to reserve a seat please contact Mandy Henry: amandajhenry1970@gmail.com or (01886) 812238.



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Contributions for the next (March) edition by Friday, 10 February 2023 please
to: editortemetriangle@gmail.com