

April 2023

Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton upon Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



A beautiful Spring day at All Saints Church.

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 - * King Charles III Coronation Celebrations
 - * Teme Valley Sporting Activities
 - * Church News and Events
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-

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www.temetriangle.net

Free to Residents



Harpley Pancake Making

From left to right: Liz Younge, Dorothy Verry, Rev Jen Denniston, Candy Connolly (Church Warden). Liz Younge was chief organiser and pancake maker / flipper.

YOUR TEME TRIANGLE TEAM

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Front Cover Picture

Local Shelsley residents enjoying the 'Daffodil service' at All Saints Church, celebrating Spring and Mother's Day. See Page 17 for further details.

A VERY WARM WELCOME to the April 2023 edition of the Teme Triangle.

Wow – life in the Teme Valley is certainly getting busier now that the days are getting longer. There are so many activities and events to look forward to – which ones are you going to participate in? Whatever you do this month, do write and tell us about it and send us some photos too.....

In the meantime, I do hope that you enjoy this month's edition – there is so much to update everyone on. Happy Easter to you all.

A MESSAGE FROM REV ANNE



Music to every Christian's ears. After six weeks of Lent, we move into the most important week in the Christian calendar, Holy Week. The week that started with the Triumphant Entry of Jesus into Jerusalem with people lining the streets to welcome their celebrity, their Messiah. The week of the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples, leaving followers down the centuries with the perpetual memory of his broken body and his shed blood. The week that witnessed the horrific death of the 'King' on the cross, the ultimate sacrifice for the salvation of humankind. The week in which the disciples felt

complete desolation. Yet, the week ended with the joy of the Son's resurrection and the fulfilment of the Father's promise of eternal life.

Helen Steiner Rice, an American writer of both inspirational and Christian poetry who lived from 1900-1981 wrote a beautiful poem called The Legend of the Raindrop. The poem describes how a raindrop wavers about falling to the earth below, as it is so beautiful shimmering like a diamond in the sky. However, the raindrop is persuaded to fall, as by doing so, it sinks below the soil and hence contributes to the cycle of nature – the growth of plants, which in turn wilt and wither, making the soil more fertile in readiness for the birth of further plants. Through the raindrop, who has a lesson for us all, Helen Steiner Rice describes death and the beauty of new life, along with a special message of hope, as summarised in the final four lines of her poem:

*For there is nothing ever lost, or eternally neglected,
for everything God ever made is always resurrected.
So trust God's all wise-wisdom and doubt the father never,
for in his heavenly kingdom nothing is lost forever.*

Easter is the time we Christians celebrate the joy of the resurrection and the fulfilment of God's eternal kingdom. We fill our churches with flowers after the austerity of Lent. We celebrate in the sharing of eggs, more often than not chocolate, reminding us of birth and new life, the new life we are continually promised in Jesus Christ.

When we get to April 9th, may I wish all our readers a joyous and blessed Easter.

Rev Anne

A NEW RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY COMES TO CLIFTON

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

There are now two groups playing regularly at Clifton Village Hall, one on Thursday afternoon and one on Monday evening. New players will be welcome and if neither of those times suits, there are other slots when the Village Hall could be booked for other groups.

For more information contact John and Ros Wain via message on Nextdoor or on 07368 395 501.

SHELSLEY SPEEDING CONCERNS

There are concerns of vehicles speeding through Shelsley Beauchamp, which is currently a 30mph zone. With an increase in the number of children and senior residents within the Parish, consideration is being sought from local residents to respect other road users by reducing their speed.

West Mercia Police attended a Shelsley Parish Council meeting where it was agreed to support this issue, including plans for more robust action for persistent offenders.

This is an on-going issue that needs your attention and your co-operation would be greatly appreciated.

Let's make a difference and make our community a 'Safer place to live'.

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

The Shelsleys tennis tournament finals will be played on Saturday 24th June, on local courts.

There will be Pimms as well as strawberries and cream to jolly along the proceedings!

It will take the form of mixed doubles and you can enter either as a pair already, or as an individual and you will then be paired with another player.

Further details regarding preliminary rounds will be issued once numbers are confirmed.

It is set to be a fun event and if you would like to join in, please contact either Peter Hughes on 07701 380 926, or Karen Metcalfe on 07976 252 977.

GOOD FRIDAY



Several Shelsley residents took part acting in the Worcester Passion Play in 2022 and will be again in 2023 including Des and Beryl Robson, Kate Hurst, Cassian Roberts, Flavian Roberts and Haw Jones. Please support in any way you can! Come along on Good Friday! Pray for the performance! Pray for the tech! Pray for good weather! Please donate!



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CLIFTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REVIEW

Clifton Parish Council has reviewed its Neighbourhood Development Plan (2017-2030) and believes that the plan remains appropriate for the village. When it was originally approved, the Plan included four sites for housing development: Blue Shot, Hope Lane, Steps Farm and Church Farm and any sympathetic infill development within the village development boundary to a maximum of five dwellings.

The Church Farm site remains to be developed with its allocation of 17 dwellings, but the Parish Council remains of the view that the development of the village as set out in the plan remains viable and that any further extension would be inappropriate and has expressed these views to the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review.

Nevertheless the Parish Council would be pleased to hear from parishioners who wish to express any view on all aspects of the Plan and can do so by emailing the planning lead, Bruce Gilbert, on gilbertb@clifton-upon-teme-pc.org.uk. The Plan itself can be viewed on the Parish Council Website clifton-upon-teme-pc.org.uk under the Planning Tab.

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SPRING CRAFT FAIR

Stacey Brown is organising another Spring Craft Fair
in Clifton village hall
on Saturday 13th May, between 11am and 3pm

to raise funds for the Worcester Animal Rescue Shelter.

There will be 17 different stalls selling a variety of produce and products,
as well as refreshments including tea, coffee and homemade cakes.

DOG NOTICES

DOG FAECES

There have been a number of concerns raised in relation to roaming dogs in and around Shelsley Beauchamp and canine faeces being left on the grass verges and along the footpaths at the side of the banks of the River Teme.

Dog faeces can lead to issues such as Sarcocytosis in sheep and Neosporosis in cattle. Sarcocytosis causes neurological problems leading ultimately to the death of the animal. Neosporosis causes abortion, and for the farmer, the loss of a calf. Bearing in mind there is only one breeding season for sheep and cattle, losing an animal will have a significant financial impact on the farmer.

Your attention is drawn to the Malvern Hills District Council 'Dog Control Public Space Protection Order' (as previously documented in the May 2022 TT).

<https://www.gov.uk/control-dog-public/public-spaces-protection-orders>

Let's try and keep the countryside a lovely place for all to visit and enjoy.

DOGS DURING LAMBING

Dog owners in the Teme Valley area are asked to keep dogs on a lead when walking through fields containing sheep, and to be especially vigilant during the lambing season.

"It is vital that you keep your dog on the lead around livestock, even if you can usually trust it to come to call," says the National Sheep Association. "If you live in or near a farming area, you must make sure that your dog cannot escape from your property, as it may find its way onto land containing sheep."

It is an offence to allow a dog to worry sheep. Worrying includes attacking or chasing sheep and, in some circumstances, farmers are legally entitled to shoot dogs if they are endangering their sheep.

Please be responsible, considerate dog owners whilst around livestock. Thank you.



St Kenelm's Church, Clifton-upon-Teme

YOUR local church desperately needs a Treasurer. Can you help?
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You don't have to be a member of the Parochial Church Council (PCC), just need to pop into the beginning of the bi-monthly meeting or send a report.

If you feel you could offer some of your time to help YOUR parish church, please contact Mike Snelling on 01886 812 443 or Rev Anne Potter on 01886 832 355.

SHELSLEY DEFIBRILLATOR

As previously reported in the TT, thanks to an extremely generous donation, Shelsley Parish Council was able to purchase a defibrillator for the 3 Shelsley Parishes. This has been installed in a secure box outside Shelsley Village Hall.

Huge thanks must go again to our wonderful, local first-responder, Martin Bennett, who not only provided all the expertise and advice in helping the PC purchase the defibrillator, but has also now provided 3 successful training courses at Shelsley village hall.



I know that we are all extremely grateful to Martin for providing such amazing support to us all, and would therefore like to share his fundraising page with you. Martin does his first-responder role completely voluntarily and receives no funding at all towards any of the advice or training courses that he offers locally. He even has to purchase his own equipment – equipment that could help save any of our lives!

If you are able to show your thanks and appreciation at all, then please do so at:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/martin-bennett23

Martin is now also advising the Parish Council on a 'bleed control kit', which we hope to purchase in the near future....watch this space!

Louise Hutton

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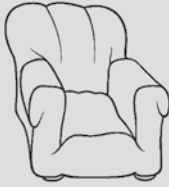
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BEATLES FEST TENBURY: BEFORE ABBEY ROAD THERE WAS TEME STREET...

THE REGAL IS PROUD TO LEAD ON A WEEKEND FESTIVAL CELEBRATING 60 YEARS SINCE THE BEATLES PLAYED IN TENBURY.

60 years ago, on Monday 15th April 1963, fresh from releasing their third hit single 'From Me To You' the previous Thursday, the Fab Four arrived in Tenbury Wells to play the Riverside Dancing Club at the Bridge Inn. This epic concert went straight into local legend the moment that last chord was played.

The Regal, Tenbury Wells are working together with local partners including Tenbury Town Council, Malvern Hills District Council and The Bridge public house to present Beatles Fest Tenbury on 14th, 15th and 16th April 2023.

Friday 14th April:

- Liverpool Poet Roger McGough headlines the festival with his show 'Alive and Gigging'.
- We are joined for a talk by the world's leading authority on the Beatles, the writer Mark Lewisohn titled 'A Twist & Shout In Tenbury Wells'.

Saturday 15th April:

- Saturday 15th April - The world's best-loved, Liverpool-born, Beatles tribute band 'The Mersey Beatles' perform two shows: playing at 4pm and a sold-out evening performance at 7.30pm.
- Tenbury Wells born writer Andrew Lowe to talk about his new book 'Before Abbey Road there was Teme Street'.
- There will be performances by the Regal Community Theatre and the students of the Regal School of Creative Arts in the Regal auditorium.

Sunday 16th April:

- George Harrison's favourite guitarist Robin Nolan headlines with his show 'Robin Nolan Presents: The Music of George Harrison'.
- The Regal will be screening three of the iconic Beatles movies A Hard Days Night (U), Help! (U) and Yellow Submarine (U) in the Regal Studio with free entry and hosting an 'I was there' Party, as a chance for the original gig goes to reminisce.

The Bridge will be hosting live sets by Steve Roberts and as well as a 60's and 70's disco (with optional fancy dress) on the Saturday 15th April and open mic night on Sunday 16th April.

This townwide festival will see involvement from many other businesses within Tenbury Wells, and we will be adding more events to the line-up throughout the build-up.

See www.regaltenbury.co.uk for more information!

TEME VALLEY CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS IN CLIFTON

Clifton Parish Council have agreed to provide funding for the Coronation celebrations in the village on Saturday 6th May from 3pm until 5pm. There will be a disco and barbeque on the village green prepared and cooked by the Lion Inn. Drinks will be available from the Lion Inn, served in plastic glasses.

Bring a chair or a picnic rug and get together on the village green to celebrate the Coronation of our new King. Strawberries and cream, cream teas, tea and coffee will be available in the Church.

CORONATION CELEBRATIONS IN SHELSLEY

Further details to follow in the April edition of the Teme Triangle.....

- Friday 5th May – Shelsley Coronation Ball, Shelsley Village Hall, 7.30pm. Tickets available from David Moore (Tel: 07980 271 703). £25 per person, in aid of All Saints Church. Adults only.
- Sunday 7th May – All Saints Church service, 11.30am. Followed by a family-friendly village drinks and canapés party at the Village Hall, from 12 noon. There will be a Parish photograph, games for the children and the bar will be open for additional drinks.

The Shelsley Parish Council will also be unveiling the Parish map, which was commissioned in 2022 for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We would love as many people as possible to be present for this very special occasion. As a sneaky preview.....



- Monday 8th May – Steam train rides, by kind permission of Michael and Helen Whitehouse of Wilderness Cottage, Shelsley Kings. Donations welcome, with all proceeds going towards All Saints Church, Shelsley Beauchamp. Refreshments will be available. The event will be held between 2-4pm. Parking is along the top of the Shelsley Kings road (Stanford Road end) and entrance to the rail track is through the wooden gate.

If you would like to attend, please contact Louise Hutton on 07803 614 078 or louise@stroyd-hutton.com - just so that we can cater accordingly! Thank you.



SHELSLEY CORONATION DRINKS PARTY

WILLING COOKS NEEDED – CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for 20 cooks to bring a tray of canapes to the party on Sunday 7th May.

We can supply scrumptious recipes from a local chef, or you can let us know what you are happy to make.

We have funds available to cover your costs.
Please contact Val Jones on 07742 561 500 if you can help. Many thanks.

SHELSLEY DAFFODIL SERVICE

The Revd Mike Gardner led the worship at the Shelsley Daffodil Service at All Saints Church, Shelsley Beauchamp, on Sunday 12th March. The service preceded Mothering Sunday, so mothers and mothering were also celebrated. Kate Hurst led the planting of spring bulbs in the churchyard before the service, and also supervised the congregation during the service, in making native English daffodil Kokedama (a ball of soil, covered with moss, holding the daffodil bulb). Afterwards delicious refreshments were served, enjoyed by all. Many thanks to all who contributed to this lovely morning.

Jude Bettinson, Churchwarden



Daffodil Service at All Saints Church

From left to right: Irene Hodgetts, Jamie Stewart, Ralph Perks, Des Robson and Kate Hurst.

CLIFTON SCHOOL GETS 'GOOD' OFSTED REPORT

Clifton Primary School has been awarded another 'Good' rating following a recent Ofsted inspection.

In a letter to parents, Headteacher Karen Crawford, said the report 'confirms that the school continues to be a good school' and was a fair reflection of the school. 'It is unremittingly positive and praiseworthy about all aspects of school life'.

Among the highlights of the report:

- Pupils are happy to attend school. They behave very well and are respectful of adults and each other. Pupils enjoy learning and spending time with their friends. They model the school's 'Clifton Way' values, including teamwork and perseverance in all they do.
- Staff have high expectations of all pupils, including those who have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), to achieve well. Pupils experience a broad and interesting curriculum. They are academically, socially and emotionally well prepared for the next steps in their education.
- Pupils feel safe and are confident that staff would help them with any problems or worries they may have. Pupils know what bullying is and say it is rare at the school. They are sure that if it did happen, an adult would deal with it quickly.
- Leaders ensure that pupils' personal development is a priority. They aim to ensure that pupils are well prepared for life in modern Britain.
- Leaders have designed a balanced curriculum that sets out what pupils should learn in each subject. Subject plans are ambitious and include a focus on the subject-specific vocabulary that pupils should understand and use.
- Reading is at the heart of the curriculum. Children begin learning to read as soon as they start in Reception and make strong progress. Staff have excellent subject knowledge.
- Pupils have positive attitudes and behave well during lessons and at breaktimes. They are considerate of the needs and feelings of each other. Older pupils are keen to support the youngest pupils, both out on the playground and as reading buddies.
- Parents and carers are highly positive about the school. Most agree that their children are happy and achieve well.

'These findings are no surprise to us and agree with our own school self-evaluations,' said Karen Crawford. 'We never 'do things for Ofsted'; we do things because they fit with our values and vision and we believe they are right for the children in our care, to help them flourish academically, socially and emotionally. Nevertheless, it is always pleasing to have our practice endorsed by external, independent auditors'.

Two areas for development identified in the report:

- In some foundation subjects, pupils have not had enough opportunities to revisit what they have been taught, and some do not remember what they have learned well enough. This means that some pupils are not able to build on what they already know and can do. Leaders should ensure that there are opportunities for teachers to check how well pupils have learned, and act upon this information, before moving on to new learning.



- Some teachers are new to subject leadership. They are not yet confident in evaluating how well the curriculum is being implemented or leading improvements in the quality of education pupils receive. The headteacher should continue with her plans to provide support and training to further strengthen leadership at the school.

'These areas for development are already part of this year's School Development Plan: we continue to work on these as we are passionate about ensuring the very best education for all of our children,' said Karen. 'I would like to thank all of the staff team who demonstrate their dedication to making our school the best it can be each and every day. Many thanks also to our excellent team of Governors and to the parent community for your ongoing support: your views and feedback shared with the inspection team are really valuable. The final thanks must go to our wonderful children who absolutely shone when discussing their learning with the inspectors and impress us daily with their attitudes towards school life.'

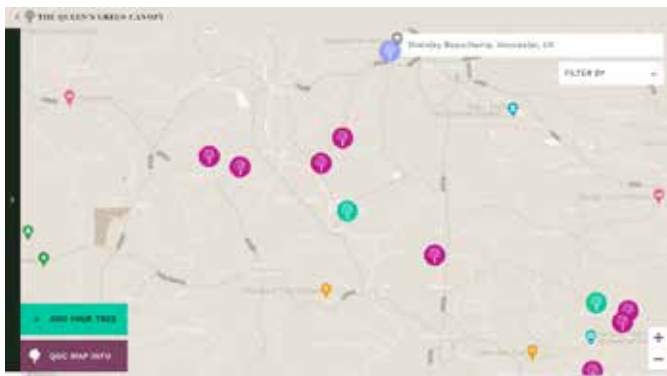
THE QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY WEBSITE

As readers and Shelsley parishioners will remember, as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, Shelsley Parish Council planted 7 trees in the field opposite the Shelsley village hall.

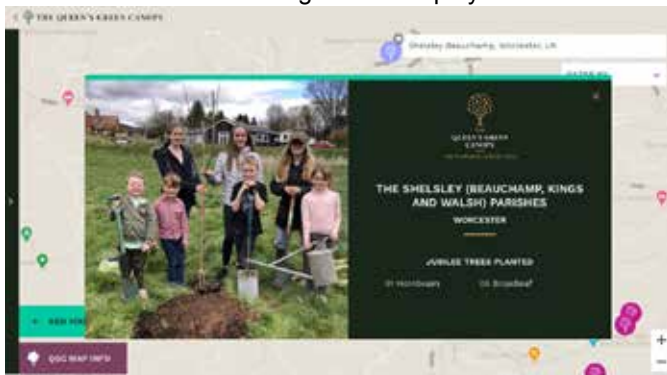
The Parish Council are pleased to report that this planting has now been formally recorded on the 'Queen's Green Canopy' website, for all to see. If you are interested in viewing it, please go to:

- <https://queensgreencanopy.org/>
- Select 'QGC map & education'
- Select 'Explore the map'
- Select 'Search location'
- Start typing 'Shelsley' and then select 'Shelsley Beauchamp'

The following map is then displayed, showing 'pink' trees (trees planted by individuals) and 'green' trees (trees planted by groups).



The following is then displayed:



Unfortunately there appears to be limited wording displayed for the public to see, but please rest assured that full details of the tree species, Parish Council funding and landowner's permission and generosity is also recorded 'in the background' of the system.

CLIFTON FOUR ACRE FIELD PROJECT GETS GO AHEAD

After a frustrating and long delay of nearly two years the transformation of the Four Acre Field project is now set to go ahead in Clifton. The Land Registry Department has finally confirmed that the Parish Council is now registered as the owner of the land and the last obstacle has thus been removed.

Sadly, the escalating costs due to the pandemic and the Ukrainian war has meant that the £245k available to the Parish will no longer allow it to fulfil all the original plans. After much deliberation, the Parish Council has decided it must cut the trim track around the field and the provision of a sensory garden from the programme. The rewilding project will have to be modified as the Natural Networks grant is no longer available.

Nevertheless, the Parish Council is pleased that it can press ahead with much of the original programme, which includes:

- Improved land drainage of the field including the football pitch.
- The refurbishment of the existing bowling green.
- A redesign of the overall play area and the replacement of the existing play equipment.
- A refurbishment of the existing tennis courts to provide an additional netball option, and a new multi-purpose facility (MUGA) for various options including 5-a-side soccer, basketball, tennis, plus mini sports – cricket and tennis.
- The installation of a bike rack.
- The resurfacing of the car park area.

MARGARET LISSEMAN

It is with sad regret to announce the passing of Margaret Rose Lisseman, a local born and bred legend, who sadly passed on Wednesday 15th March 2023.

Margaret's funeral will be held on Monday 24th April 2023, at All Saints Church, Shelsley Beauchamp, 4.30pm.

SHELSLEY HILLCLIMB DATES

1st April	Working party day	4th May	Roadsweeper
2nd April	Marshal's Training	6-7th May	Speed into Spring
13th April	Roadsweeper	12th May	Members day
15th April	Practice day	16th May	Driving school
16th April	Shelsley season opener	18th May	Cars in the valley (evening)
18th April	Driving school	20th May	Wedding
21st April	Car club visit	27-28th May	Hagerty hill climb
23rd April	Breakfast club		

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LOCALS WORK TOGETHER TO SAVE THEIR LOCAL PUB

Residents of Pensax and the surrounding area have formed a working group to save their local pub, The Bell at Pensax, from permanent closure. The traditional country inn closed its doors in October 2022 having served the local community for over 180 years. Pensax has lost its primary school and village hall in recent years, leaving the pub as the only community venue.

Having achieved Asset of Community Value status for the pub in December 2022, the group now plans to sell shares and purchase The Bell through a Community Benefit Society. Anyone aged 16 or over can go to www.savethebellatpensax.co.uk and pledge their intention to invest between £250 and £25,000.

Johnny Crabbe writes:

“There was a short article in the daily Telegraph on Tuesday 7th March saying that, in the UK, more than 500 pubs had closed permanently in 2022 with ‘deleterious consequences’ to community life. It continued that a new academic study of over 28,000 Chinese ‘oldies’ found that socialising prolongs life. Over a five year period the time to death was prolonged by 110% if you fraternised once a week, and if you did so pretty well every day, your goodbye could be delayed by 204%.

What better reason do we have to “Save the Bell at Pensax”? Provided that the atmosphere, the beer, and the comestibles are good, and the administration sensible, then let’s fraternise like fun, enjoy ourselves, and prolong the inevitable!!

The Committee, by their showing at the Meeting on 1st March (with over 150 attendees!), have made an excellent start along the route to preservation, so let’s all support them to our utmost, use it regularly, make new friends, and SAVE THE BELL AT PENSAX.

At your next visit to The Bell you may well be drinking to your own good health! I, for one, will certainly be contributing towards the cost of buying the pub, which has been in existence for over 150 years. It would be a great shame to lose it, so if you can help, look it up on the net at....info@savethebellatpensax.co.uk.”



LOWER SAPEY NEWS

By the time you read this, I hope we have actually seen some Spring weather to cheer us up. I also hope that everyone has managed to survive the freezing temperatures without mishaps. I believe that the hard pressed NHS staff have been working even harder dealing with broken and strained limbs due to falls over the past few weeks. They are all in our thoughts.

My garden is a mess and I am usually thinking of a Spring clean, but everything is now so damp and soggy, the snowdrops are over and the daffodils have given up for the moment. Quite often, it follows that after a hard winter, we get a hot summer, so maybe that is what is to come! We are certainly experiencing the extremes of climate change that we were promised. Perhaps many of you have enjoyed seeing the usual wonderful display of snowdrops in St Bartholomew's churchyard.

The grass will be cut as before in pathways until 'No Mow May' is over. We hope you have also noticed a slight improvement in the Church's temperature recently, now that the heaters have been adjusted.

Because of the inclement weather, March has been a quiet month and of course, it is Lent. I am pleased to report that our Pop-Up choir has started rehearsing again, ready for events such as Easter and the King's Coronation. We would welcome more singers, of any standard and usually practice on a Monday at 16:00 in the church. Do come along.

Naturally, the Coronation of King Charles III is an important date to look forward to (May 6th) and we are starting to plan celebrations. Watch out for announcements in next month's Teme Triangle. Perhaps the weather will be kind this time, as I recall that it was a dark, grey day in June 1953 when Queen Elizabeth was crowned. Litter picking has been underway, controlled by the weather and thanks to all the volunteers. I still can't understand why people choose to throw their rubbish out of car windows, rather than take it home for their bins.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Dot Millward reports that on April 5th, Mac is teaching us all self-defence. This should be interesting! On April 19th, Adrian Maxwell will be coming to talk to us about antiques, so please bring one, or two items for him to look at. This is also at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. New members and visitors are very welcome. There is always plenty of tea and cake!

There will be a Coffee Morning on Saturday April 22nd at 10.30am in the Village Hall, in aid of the Friendship Club. There will be a tombola, produce for sale and once again, plenty of tea and cake.

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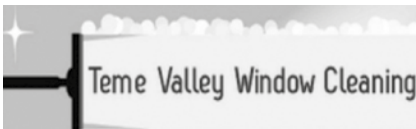
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SERVICES FOR ST BARTHOLOMEW'S FOR APRIL

Sunday April 2nd is Palm Sunday and there will be the usual service at Laylock's Garden Centre in the morning.

Thursday April 6th, Parish prayers, 9am.

There will be no Good Friday service in St Bartholomew's, but you may like to go to the passion service in the Cathedral. This is on Friday April 7th.

Sunday April 9th, Easter Sunday, Holy Communion at 9.30am.

Sunday April 16th, Methodist Communion at 10.30am.

Sunday April 23rd, Circle Service at 10.30am, during which Pat Savage's great grandson George will be christened. It is St George's Day.

Housekeeping for April is going to be looked after by Margaret Griffiths.

The Ladies Bible Group hopes to have started in March and will hold the next meeting on Tuesday April 18th. Venue to be arranged.

The Mobile Library will call on Friday April 21st at 10.20am and 10.30am.

Do have a wonderful Easter and stay well and warm.

Margaret Griffiths

TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE

The subject for this month's article occurred to me earlier in the year, when I unexpectedly spotted several lapwings flying across the lane leading to my home. I had never seen a lapwing in the village before, but our local farmer had recently watched a flock of twenty-five or so feeding in his fields. When I was a child living in south Derbyshire, I regularly saw flocks of many thousands of birds near to my home. Our house lay on the flood-plain of the River Dove and in winter the broad, flat fields surrounding us were frequently waterlogged. The names of nearby lanes reflected this, being called Watery Lane, Miry Lane and Boggy Lane respectively. Huge flocks of lapwings arrived, turning the sky almost black and providing an amazing spectacle as they wheeled down together onto the damp ground.

Lapwings are said to be friends of the farmer because they eat pests known to damage crops. Waterlogged ground causes wireworms and leatherjackets and other insect larvae to come to the surface where they offer an easy meal. In drier conditions the birds sometimes stamp their feet to bring up their prey. I had forgotten how large lapwings are. Standing twelve inches high, their smart black and white colouring and large curving crests really stand out. Light falling on their black feathers reflects a beautiful green metallic hue. Alternative names include plover, derived from the Latin for rain, and pee-wit, suggested by their call, whilst an old Worcestershire name is "Old Maid".

Lapwings are known for a flapping style of flight and for putting on aerobic territorial and mating displays. Sometimes seeming to drop suddenly out of the sky, the male

lands in his territory and makes a scrape in the soil to encourage a female to choose a nest site. She lines the scrape with dry grass and lays four well-camouflaged eggs. Such a nest is at high risk from predators but lapwings rise up to mob crows if they feel at threat. Lapwing chicks leave the nest amazingly quickly, as soon as the last hatched chick has dried, and have been seen running along with fragments of shell still sticking to their feathers. They develop very rapidly, being covered with fine down and able to feed themselves three days from hatching. The female bird protects her chicks and leads them to safety, sometimes pretending to have a broken wing, in order to draw predators away.

Legends became attached to the birds, probably because they can make eery calls well into the night. Seven lapwings calling together were dubbed "The Seven Whistlers" and were thought to warn of misfortune. The birds themselves had the misfortune to be desirable as food. Their eggs were considered a delicacy and the adults ended up in pies. In 1926 a Lapwing Act was passed to try and protect them. Having nested from March to May in northerly locations on moorland, coastland marsh and damp, rushy fields, they begin to flock in July and head south to warmer estuaries and coastal farmlands. To see them was a real privilege, I hope they'll come again.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will take place at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall, WR15 8RR, on Thursday April 13th at 7:30pm. We welcome back local beetle expert Will Watson whose talk is about the beetles to be found in Herefordshire ponds. 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 tvwg@outlook.com.



SHELSELEYS PARISH COUNCIL

Abbreviated Draft Minutes: The Shelsleys Parish Council Meeting held on March 7th 2023

Present: Dr Laura Taylor (Chairman), Mrs Karen Metcalfe, Mrs Val Jones, Mrs Louise Hutton, Mr J Stinton, Mr Robert Pound and Mr Dave Bates, 5 members of the public and the clerk. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies: District Councillor Caroline Palethorpe and County Councillor David Chambers and Helen Evans (MAC) also sent their apologies.

Minutes: The Minutes of January 10th 2023 were accepted and agreed as a true record.

Public Question Time: Straying dogs are leaving dog mess in Shelsley Beauchamp. Owners are encouraged to clean up after their dogs.

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

Midland Automobile Club: There will be an event on the Coronation weekend.

Shelsley Walsh website <https://www.shelsleywalsh.com/events>

Elections May 4th: The Chairman outlined the election procedure. All current councillors have agreed to stand with the exception of David Styles who represents Shelsley Kings. A member of the public present expressed an interest to receive nomination papers. Clerk to provide.

Progress Reports:

Broadband: Nothing to report except surprise at the amount of cabling required to connect each property.

Defibrillator: A further training session has been arranged. A donation to express gratitude was discussed, to be discussed on the next agenda.

Speeding: Estimates for Speed Indication and Vehicle Activation signs have been obtained, figures range from £2,250 to £3,200. Councillor Metcalfe to ask Martley for advice on their equipment.

Highways will be asked by Councillor Stinton to clarify end/start of national speed limits.

Coronation 2023: A celebration drinks and canapé party will take place on Sunday 7th May in the Village Hall after an 11am church service. There will be a village photograph and the Platinum Jubilee Parish Map will be unveiled. A budget of £200 was agreed to include the tree already purchased.

Warm Space: This event held on Tuesdays has been well attended. The Councillors agreed to a donation of £35 to contribute towards the heating costs. The event will run until the end of April.

Highways: Worcester County Council highways has inspected the persistent flooding between Harborough Bank and the Village Hall. CCTV analysis is required to identify the problem.

The Lengthsman submitted worksheets for January and February, which were agreed.

Urgent Decisions: Frank P Matthews. Coronation Tree £67.00.

M/23/00153/LB. Hop Barn at The Green. No objection.

Planning: MHDC decision M/01561/LB Demolition of an outbuilding at The Old Post Office Shelsley Walsh. Approved.

Correspondence & Consultations: All relevant mail was either circulated by email to members or was available at the meeting. Custodian Trustees & The Village Hall: With reference to the Conveyances of 1960 and 1992 the Chairman reported the Parish Council's role as Custodian Trustee.

1 The Parish Council holds the deeds for the Village Hall.

2 The Parish Council may appoint someone to be a member of the Village Hall Management Committee (as can the Parochial Church Council).

3 The annual accounts shall be sent each year to the Parish Council.

Finance: All invoices were agreed. Teme Triangle: After a short discussion it was agreed in principle that the Parish Council will continue to support the Teme Triangle financially.

Councillors' Reports and items for future agenda.

Date of the next meeting: May 16th 7pm 2023 at the Village Hall.

The meeting concluded at 20.20.

To view the full minutes and agenda online go to the WCC website and look at The Shelsleys.

<http://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/>

Jan Speyer, Clerk, 01886 812 444.

CLIFTON-UPON-TEME PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held Thursday 2nd March 2023 in the Village Hall commencing at 7.40 pm

Present: Councillors A. Henry (Vice-Chairman), B. Gilbert, N. Campsall.

Also present: District Councillor Paul Cumming and x10 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Parish Councillors J. Bowden (Chairman), R. Henry, P. Brooks, L. Merrick, County Cllr D. Chambers, District Cllr C. Palethorpe.

Declarations of Interests and applications for Councillor dispensations: None.

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

The Council was asked to give an update on the s106 Playing Field project. Cllr Campsall explained that this would be discussed later in the meeting, as it was an agenda item.

To agree the Minutes of the meeting held 2nd February 2023 – Minutes were proposed by Cllr Gilbert, seconded Cllr Campsall and agreed by all. (117.22.05) Bus shelter – Cllr Gilbert suggested that planning conditions would be required before anything else is done – matter to be deferred.

District & County Councillor Reports: Any reports received will be circulated and uploaded to the website. District Cllr Cumming updated the meeting regarding the Planning Working Group, which has been set up at MHDC to resolve outstanding planning issues. Cllr Cumming will be chairing this group. MHDC has approved the next years budget and Cllr Cumming explained how the budget system works re special infrastructure reserves. MHDC is to fund Town Councils for Coronation events, but will not be funding Parish Councils, which is disappointing news.

Financial & Governance Matters: Payments and receipts – the schedule was proposed by Cllr Gilbert, seconded Cllr Campsall. All agreed. Clerk to arrange payments as agreed. It was further agreed to delay payment to Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors who had invoiced for the Land Registry work undertaken for the playing field project. It was agreed that the Clerk write to them expressing disappointment in the way the matter has been handled and the unnecessary delays caused by them, through the Land Registry application having to be restarted due to documents not being submitted by them on time. A reduction in their invoice may be appropriate.

Councillor Elections May 2023 – instructions circulated by the Clerk / MHDC have been noted.

Parish Matters / Updates: Village Maintenance Plan – no further update this month. Community Speed Watch – the Clerk confirmed that there will be a speed survey in the village during March conducted by the Police. Tennis Courts – a new net has been erected and the court will also be refurbished in the near future. King Charles Coronation – the events have been added to Nextdoor and Facebook. Cllr A. Henry gave a summary of what has been organised. The plaque for the Church wall has been ordered and Cllr Bowden is liaising with the PCC re a contribution to the Parish Council towards the cost.

Section 106 Matters: Four Acre Field (CFAF) Project – Cllr Campsall had circulated an update which was also read to the meeting and will be uploaded to the website. A copy will also be placed in Teme Triangle. Title Deeds have now been obtained for the playing field and have been submitted to MHDC. New contractor quotes are being obtained and a revised project plan is being drafted in line with amended costs and the funding available. MHDC still holds £245k funding for the project. There may also be an additional amount of s106 funding available, but this has not yet been allocated to the project. It was proposed by Cllr A Henry, seconded by Cllr Gilbert, to agree in principle to the revised scope. All agreed. It was further proposed by Cllr A Henry, seconded Cllr Campsall, to delegate authority to Cllrs Campsall, Bowden and Gilbert to complete the final shape of the project as per the estimates confirmed. All agreed.

Planning Matters: Planning approval was noted for the reorientation of existing mower store and erection of a detached triple garage at The Old Vicarage, Church Road, Clifton upon Teme. Planning Enforcement are dealing with the matter lodged after the last PC meeting, regarding Blue Shot, Pound Lane, Clifton upon Teme.

Strategic Planning Matters: Cllr Gilbert will monitor the SWDPR and notify the Council of any matters to be considered. No further updates to the meeting.

Highways & Facilities Matters: Cllr Brooks had circulated an email regarding local issues, which were noted. A resident has cleared the rubbish alongside the Guest development, but the Developer has been asked by the Council to keep the area clean going forward. The stone surface along the footpath also appears unsuitable – Cllr Gilbert will check this with Cllr Brooks. The list of outstanding matters for County Cllr Chambers is being dealt with by Cllr Bowden. Cllr Bowden is also dealing with a local tree matter. There are no recent road / footpath closure notices.

Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agendas: None.

Next meeting: Thurs 6th April 2023 at 7.40 pm. Meeting closed at 8:25 pm. M. Alexander, Clerk



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

APRIL 2023

Sunday 2nd April

Palm Sunday
11.00am Team Service, Laylocks

Sunday 9th April

Easter Sunday
9.30am CW Holy Communion, St Bartholomew, Harpley
10.30am CW Holy Communion, St Kenelm, Clifton
11.00am CW Holy Communion, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

Sunday 16th April

Easter 1
10.30am Methodist HC, St Bartholomew, Harpley

Sunday 23rd April

Easter 2
10.30am Circle Service, All Saints, St Bartholomew, Harpley
3.30pm Forest Church, Almshouse Woods
6.30pm Evensong, St Kenelm, Clifton

Sunday 30th April

Easter 3
10.30am Songs of Praise, Glebe Land, Martley
Morning Prayer
Wednesday 19th – 9.00am All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

Soup and Silence
Thursday 6th – 12 noon, St Bartholomew, Harpley
Holy Communion at Heaton House, Martley every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 10.15am and every 1st and 3rd Wednesday via our YouTube channel – werrlive!

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

Contacts for St Kenelm's Church:

For christenings, weddings or funerals –

Team Vicar: Revd Anne Potter
Tel. 01886 832 355 or e-mail
revannepotter@gmail.com

Other contacts:

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

- 1 Nora Parsons Centre Easter fair, Venn Lane.
- 5 Clifton Friendship Club, 'Self-Defence', Clifton VH, 2.30pm.
- 6 Shelsley Hillclimb, Noggin & Natter, 5.30pm.
- 6 Clifton Parish Council meeting, Clifton VH, 7.40pm.
- 7 Worcester Passion Play, Cathedral Square Worcester, 10.30am.
- 9 Easter service, All Saints Shelsley Beauchamp, 11.00. Parade in a bonnet, Hunt for an Easter egg, Eat Des's simnel cake!
- 13 Spring craft fair, Clifton Village Hall, 11am – 3pm.
- 13 Teme Valley Wildlife Group, Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall (WR15 8RR), 7:30pm.
- 14 Martley Young Farmers, Easter Bingo, Martley Village Hall, time tbc.
- 14-16 Tenbury 'Beatles' Fest.
- 19 Clifton Friendship Club, 'Antiques', Clifton VH, 2.30pm.
- 22 Clifton Coffee morning, Clifton VH, 10.30am.
- 27 The Shelsleys Annual Parochial Church Meeting, All Saints Church, 6.30pm.

May

- 5 Shelsley Coronation Ball, Shelsley VH, 7.30pm.
- 6 Clifton Coronation celebrations in the village from 3-5pm.
- 7 Shelsley Coronation Church Service at All Saints, 11.30am, followed by village drinks party in the VH, from 12 noon.
- 8 Steam Train rides, Wilderness Cottage, Shelsley Kings, 2-4pm.
- 13/14 Shelsley Walsh Watermill Open weekend, 10am – 4pm
- 16 Shelsley Parish Council meeting, Shelsley VH, 7pm.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.....

I loved your March 2023 cover! What a great shot. I look forward to your November cover, which I hope will feature naked men (from behind of course) prior to a 'Movember' charity swim. Perhaps you could caption it: Cocks Against Cancer! Or: Best Balls Forward!

With all good wishes, A happy reader.

As editor of the March edition, I loved this amusing feedback from an enthusiastic reader..... I wonder if she has a point....are there any fun-loving, adventurous men out there who would be willing to partake in such an event – all in the name of Charity (of course!).....?

USEFUL PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

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Clifton Parish Council Secretary

Michelle Alexander macebearer69@gmail.com 01886 884 195

District Councillor

Caroline Palethorpe caroline.palethorpe@malvernhillssdc.net 07974 966 412

County Councillor

David Chambers dchambers2@worcestershire.gov.uk 07400 590 711

Open Weekend Shelsley Watermill

13th & 14th May 2023

10am until 4pm

Guided Tours
Demonstrations
Refreshments
Period Vehicles
Free Admission
Free Parking
Donations requested
Charity No. 1119771



The only working water powered corn mill in Worcestershire. All donations will be used in the ongoing restoration.

Shelsley Walsh Hillclimb WR6 6RP

www.shelsleywatermill.com

All Saints Church
Shelsley Beauchamp
WR6 6RA

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday 10th June 2023
10am to 4pm

Come and enjoy our
display of beautiful
wedding dresses. Some
from the early 1900's.

Music throughout the day
Flowers
Historic records
and information
Vintage Cars
Refreshments

At 4pm
there will be short service of
Renewal of Vows
Followed by a glasses of Fizz

Sunday Morning Service
Hymns & Prayers
11th June 10.30am



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Open 7am-7pm Mon-Fri 7am-6pm Saturday 9am-12 noon Sunday

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

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