

July/August 2023

Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton upon Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



Wedding Gowns and Renewed Vows in the Teme Valley

In this edition

- Clifton School Coronation Art Celebration
- Shelsleys Coffee Mornings & Map Viewing
- Wedding Dress Exhibition in the Teme Valley
- Lower Sapey News

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www.temetriangle.net

FREE to Residents



Alison Francis, Jill Smith, Hilly Tulloch, Marion Dipple & James Dipple at the Big Breakfast for Christian Aid in Clifton

YOUR TEME TRIANGLE TEAM

MAIN EDITORIAL MAILBOX
EDITOR THIS ISSUE

editortemetriangle@gmail.com
Jerry Johns

CLIFTON NEWS / WEBSITE

Jerry Johns: 01886 812304
crown.house@polperropress.co.uk

SHELSLEYS NEWS

Michelle Whitefoot: 01886 812779
michelle@whitefootpr.co.uk

Louise Hutton: 01299 896126
louise@stroyd-hutton.com

LOWER SAPEY NEWS

Marion West: 01886 853249
marionjeanwest@googlemail.com

ADVERTISING/SPONSORSHIP Andrew and Anna Brazier: 01886 887898
teme.triangle@thebraziers.co.uk

Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editorial team. Teme Triangle is not responsible for goods and services advertised. Contributions may be edited at the discretion of the editor.

Front cover picture: (Left to right) Sean & Vanya Hinton, Tracey & Paul Brooks, celebrate renewing their wedding vows with Rev Jen Denniston (see page 20)

CLIFTON SCHOOL CORONATION ART CELEBRATION



As part of their celebrations during the week of King Charles' Coronation, Clifton Primary School welcomed Sarah Edwards from Spare Room Arts. All the children across the school thoroughly enjoyed their time working with Sarah to create a stunning piece of artwork which celebrates King Charles' commitment to helping protect our beautiful world. Afterwards Sarah commented on how engaged the children were: "I was really impressed with how every single child was willing to participate and take an active part not only in making the artwork, but also learning about protecting the world we live in."

Head Karen Crawford said, "As a school, we are passionate about all things 'eco' and we were thrilled to be able to help spread the important message: Working together for a cleaner, greener, better future."



GRANTS AVAILABLE FROM THE SHELSLEYS' EDUCATIONAL CHARITY

Are you, or is one of your children, planning to start a new stage of education this autumn, and do you live within the civil parish of the Shelsleys? If so you may be interested in this local charity. The income of the charity is used to support the education (e.g. to assist in the purchase of uniforms, books and sports equipment) of children and young people under the age of 25 who live (or whose parents/guardians live) within the parish of the Shelsleys.

The Trustees will be meeting in August to consider making small grants to eligible pupils or students. These are those either attending primary school for the first time or those starting secondary school/college or university in autumn 2023. Applications for grants should be made as soon as possible in writing, and in any event before the end of the summer term. All enquiries and applications should be sent by email to the Clerk to the Trustees, Jude Damerell, at judith_damerell@hotmail.com or by post to Jude Damerell, Somer Barns, Camp Lane, Shelsley Beauchamp WR6 6JQ.

STAMFORD HISTORY GROUP

A warm welcome awaits you at the Stamford History Group which meets on Monday evenings for two hours in autumn at Sapey Village Hall. WR6 6EU. We are a diverse group with an interest in understanding the past, to better appreciate today and how we got here! Our lectures have been very well attended- last year we averaged over 45 people attending across the ten lectures, but there's plenty of parking!

We have another interesting program of ten lectures, in five subject areas - you can come for any one or all. This year we have expert lecturers from Birmingham and Worcester Universities.

- The development of Modern Medicine over 250 years
- Modern Egypt 1850- 2023
- German Unification and history 1870- 1945
- Modern Turkey 1880- 2023
- History of Terrorism 1850 to 2023

Do come and join us – there's coffee, biscuits and discussion too! We start on October 2nd at 7.30pm, £60 the ten lecture course or £10 per lecture all payable at the door. Simon Marriott simon@adamswoodfarm.co.uk
01886 853412

CROQUET RETURNS TO BROADWAS

There's nothing sadder than the sight of a forlorn, redundant, croquet mallet. So, it was joyous to witness them all come out of their enforced, prolonged hibernation at Broadwas Croquet Club recently. Hot-on-the-heels of the exuberant mallets were equally enthusiastic players, keen to take advantage of the glorious sunshine that followed the protracted spell of wet weather that kept them off Stoney Ley's resplendent croquet lawns.



The new season at Broadwas Croquet Club has been eagerly embraced by club members and visitors alike, with an impressive number of players attending the relaxed Tuesday and Friday afternoon roll-up sessions held on the club's five hilltop lawns. The Club embraces players from all skill levels and all ages. Club members are always keen to encourage players brand new to the game, whilst club captain John Guy and Jeff Faulkner offer coaching sessions to those who wish to improve their game, maybe to even a competitive standard.

Broadwas Croquet Club is keen to welcome new members of all ages fresh to the game and offers introductory Taster Sessions. Anyone interested should email club captain John Guy at johnkeithguy@aol.com, or give him a call on 07941 787742 or 01905 748192.

ALL THE QUEEN'S HORSES

Heather Edwards will be giving a talk about her time at Windsor as groom to Queen Elizabeth II's horses on Friday 8th September at 7.30pm in Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall. Tickets £10.00 including a glass of wine or juice. All proceeds to St Michael's Hospice in memory of Liz Tomkins. To book, contact Tina Edwards on 01886 853130 or email tina@wolferlow.plus.com or Jill Smith 01886 853311. Cash/cheque only please

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LOWER SAPEY NEWS

The late spring, or early summer, has arrived quite suddenly, with high temperatures and occasional thunderstorms. However, it has been very welcome and the gardens have sprung to life at last, especially the weeds! It still seems to be about 3-4 weeks behind the normal though. It is wonderful to sit outside, enjoying the sun, with an ice cream or cold drink, listening to the birds. Still no sign of the cuckoo in Lower Sapey. Has anyone actually heard one this year?

The King's Coronation was a wonderful service with beautiful and emotional music, but now we go forward and hope that his reign will bring better years for the country and for him. Time passes so quickly and now we are into the season of sports, Ashes cricket and Wimbledon, but I suppose it won't be too long before football starts again - does it ever end!

Our annual Plant Sale was well attended as usual and we made over £600, which was shared between Christian Aid and St Bartholomew's Church. Incidentally, our Church is now holding Evensong services instead of Morning Prayer and these will last until October. A special service will be the Pimms and Hymns Evensong on August 6th at 6pm when we may be able to use the new firepit for sausages afterwards.

Prayers are needed especially now as we seem to be going through unhappy times, with the recent stabbings and no sign of the war in Ukraine ending. The world seems a sad place often now.

The churchyard at St Bartholomew's has been mown at last and looks neat and we will be dedicating the Coronation hedge and the new firepit soon. This will create a peaceful, green area, which could be used for meditation or a gathering place for future events. All this helps create a community space around the Church. There is actually going to be a survey of the church's wildlife this week and it will be interesting to see the results. We hope to hold a Midsummer Festival at the end of this month and a report should appear next time.

Note for your diaries, the Big Breakfast will be held on Saturday 9th September, between 10 and 12noon. in St Bartholomew's churchyard.

We send our good wishes to Dot Millward for her forthcoming hip operation.

NOTICES

Calling all singers!

On Wednesday August 2nd, Archdeacon Robert Jones is joining our regular

choir rehearsal at St Bartholomew's. to introduce us to chanting, both Taize and Gregorian. We thank him for giving us his time and advice. This will be between 5.30 and about 6.30pm and we welcome anyone who enjoys singing.

Services:

Sunday July 2nd Evensong at 6pm

Tuesday July 4th Soup and Silence from 12noon until 1pm. Soup is provided

Sunday July 16th Methodist Communion . 10.30am

Sunday Jul 23rd Circle service at 10.30

Tuesday August 1st Soup and Silence. 12 noon

Sunday August 6th Pimms and Hymns evensong 6pm.

Sunday August 13th Methodist morning service. 10.30

Sunday August 27th Special annual service at Old St Bartholomew's at 3pm. This may well be the last such service as Pat Prosser is unable to arrange this in the future. Thanks go to Pat and Mike for their care and promotion of this fine old church.

Sunday September 3rd Evensong at 6pm

Sunday September 17th Methodist Holy Communion at 10.30

Sunday September 24th Circle service at 10.30

Work on planning for improvements to St Bartholomew's is still ongoing, but progress is slow as it always is when planning committees and the diocese are involved. We still seek charitable donations to help us in the future.

The Ladies Bible group will not now meet until Tuesday October 10th because of hospitalisations, illnesses and holidays. We are all getting older!

The Mobile Library will call on Friday July 21st, Friday August 18th and Friday September 15th at 10.20. and 10.40am.

Housekeeping for the Church is in the hands of Sue Everitt for July and Candy Connolly for August. Thanks to both ladies. Margaret Griffiths will take over in September.

This edition is a double (July & August) one of course, so please check all timings nearer the dates. Many good wishes for a wonderful summer and for any holidays you may be taking. Next edition, in the Autumn. Stay well.

Margaret Griffiths

CLIFTON ON TEME FRIENDSHIP CLUB

In June we had a return visit from garden photographer Adrian James who showed us some beautiful gardens in Cornwall and gave us a very entertaining talk and some fabulous pictures. As I write this we are looking forward to a trip out on the mini bus to Whitlence Garden and tea room in Hartlebury.

July 5th we are visiting A garden called Highways which is the home of Kevin and Ann Baxter meet at the Village Hall at 2:15pm.

July 19th We will be going to Harpley House the home of Nick and Jen Denniston, this will include afternoon tea and fizz to celebrate a significant birthday of a committee member, and we are hoping for some music from the Denniston trio.

August 2nd Clifton gardens then tea in Angie Griffiths' garden.

August 16th we will have a summer celebration before our break in September

Visitors and new members always welcome: e.mail dotmillward@btinternet.com for more information.

Dot Milward

THE GARDENS OF WICHENFORD

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our big weekend and helped us raise over £10,000 for local charities and community groups - a great result! After months of hard work, we were glad to welcome hundreds of visitors, many from Worcestershire but others from much further afield. They enjoyed seeing the variety of gardens and chatting to garden owners, the scenery, the Art Exhibition, listening to the harpist and the clarinet choirs and of course eating lunches, snacks, cakes and ice creams. Our Plant Sales were as popular as ever too.

Considering how hot and heavy the weather was, we had a very high attendance on the Saturday followed by lower numbers on Sunday. The big storm late on Saturday was a real challenge – in all the gardens, people rushed to take down (or tie down) gazebos, tables and the like and then to hide indoors while the rain lashed down (and sideways!). Trees came crashing down in several gardens and some of our signs disappeared off to distant fields. Luckily no-one was hurt although some of us got very wet! After an early start on Sunday to repair the damage, we were ready once again for our next set of visitors at 11am.

Sandra Kelley

ANNUAL SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND THANKSGIVING AT OLD ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S - SUNDAY 27TH AUGUST 2023.

The Annual Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for the life of Old St. Bartholomew's Church, Hope Lane, Lower Sapey, WR6 6HE, followed by a picnic in the churchyard and gardens of Old Church House, takes place for the last time on August Bank Holiday Sunday, 27th August, starting at 3pm. For this last event, our lay reader, Pat Snelling, will take the service. She has over many years helped us out so often, either taking a service or enabling a minister from another Faith to take part and we're delighted that she has agreed to officiate. We are also pleased that Vital Spark (West Gallery Musicians) will once again provide their joyful music and they will also play before the service and after it, as they have done in the past.

As I am now in my seventies and not in the best of health, I have sadly decided that I can no longer continue organizing the annual service. The amount of work involved also takes most of the summer and overall, I have simply become unequal to the task. It has been a joyful time over the last thirty years and more and, with others in the beginning, but eventually by myself, that organization continued. I have met so very many lovely people down those years because of the service, both those officiating and those attending. Many have become friends and it has been an endless delight to welcome those of other faiths in mutual respect and friendship. I hope then that you will be able to join us for our last service celebrating this most wonderful of ancient churches.

As usual, do please bring a picnic chair to sit on during the service (some chairs will be available for those without one) and your picnic for after the Service in the churchyard and gardens of Old Church House. Parking will be as directed on the day and thanks to Dr Sue Everitt for this. Toilet facilities are available, though no wheelchair access, sadly. Disabled parking will be available in our yard - please arrange beforehand, details below. We look forward, as always, to welcoming you all to the dear Old Church's special day. Any queries to: Pat Prosser on 01886 886 465 or patprosser@hotmail.co.uk.

I still continue to be the Churches Conservation Trust's Key Holder for the Old Church, to which organization it belongs, and so if anyone needs information or details then I am still the person to contact going forward for anything to do with the Old Church - details above.

Pat Prosser



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CLIFTON SCHOOL GOVERNORS WANTED

Have you considered being a school governor?

- Would you like to shape the future for the next generation?
- Do you have valuable / professional skills you could offer?
- Are you committed to contributing to your local community?

Clifton-upon-Teme Primary School is looking for co-opted governors to join our positive and pro-active governing body. As a governor you will be a volunteer who makes a vital contribution to the success of the school. The governor role is strategic rather than operational. Governors don't get involved with the day to day running of a school, instead supporting and challenging the school's leadership team to drive school improvement. They champion the work the school does.

School governors have three main roles:

- Governors ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction. The governing body helps to set long-term plans for the school, decide where improvements need to be made and how to make them.
- Governors hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and the effective and efficient performance management of staff.

The governing body looks at the quality of education being offered and ensures the head is doing everything possible to improve results.

- Governors oversee the financial performance of the school and make sure its money is well spent.

Governors examine budgets and spending proposals to monitor whether the school is getting value for money and ensure the money is spent in the right areas.

The governors come from the local community and in their role they:

- get to know the school, including visiting the school occasionally during school hours and in agreement with the headteacher, and gaining a good understanding of the school's strengths and weaknesses.
- attend induction training and regular relevant training and development events.
- attend meetings (approximately four full governing board meetings and three committee meetings a year) and read all the papers before the meeting.
- act in the best interests of all the pupils of the school.
- behave in a professional manner, as set down in the governing board's code of conduct, including acting in strict confidence.

You must be 18 or over to apply and all governors must have Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. If you would like to find out more, please email office@clifton-upon-teme.worcs.sch.uk for further details.



COFFEE MORNINGS AT SHELSLEYS VH

Come and meet friends and neighbours old and new at the monthly Coffee Mornings at Shelsleys Village Hall!

**Every third Saturday in the month - 10.30am til 12noon:
Saturday 15 July / Saturday 19 August**

Refreshments, bring & buy (eg craft work, flowers, garden produce, unwanted items recycled). Plus activity for children

Enquiries to Dave Bates 07436 110793

SHELSLEY COFFEE MORNINGS AND MAP VIEWINGS

Following the huge success of the Shelsley Jubilee Parish map unveiling, there have been many enquiries regarding how to view the map again. There is such a wealth of information on the map that it certainly is not possible to take it all in in just one viewing – especially on Coronation Day when there were more than 100 people all trying to get a look at it!

The map is proudly displayed in the Shelsley Village Hall, so can be viewed at any events in which the Village Hall is open. Two such events coming up over the summer, which would be ideal times to view the map, are the Shelsley coffee



mornings on Saturday 15th July and Saturday 19th August, both 10:30 – 12:00 noon (as per the advert above).

www.temetriangle.net

So DO come along, with friends, to the coffee mornings and enjoy a coffee, slice of cake and a natter and also peruse the local stands on offer and spend time looking at the intricate details on the map.



Don't forget also that you can order your own copies of the map, in various sizes, all at cost prices, thanks to generous donations from local Parishioners, enabling the prints to be produced without the need for commission. Order forms will be available in the Village Hall, or by emailing louise@stroyd-hutton.com.

WEDDING GOWNS AND RENEWED VOWS IN THE TEME VALLEY

Silks and satins, trains and tulle were all on display at an impressive exhibition of vintage bridalwear held at Shelsley Beauchamp's All Saints Church on Saturday 10 June. More than 30 wedding gowns dating from 1921 to today were showcased in aid of Church funds, all owned by brides who were either married in the Shelsleys, or who have lived in the parish.

Almost 100 people from local villages and further afield flocked to see the gowns. A printed guide containing details of each dress, when it was worn, by whom, and wedding anecdotes both funny and touching, gave visitors an insight into the memories behind each gown.

The idea for the exhibition came from Holly Perks, following a similar event previously held at Claines Church. It was curated and staged by Rebecca Perry – herself a professional dressmaker who had sewn several of the elegant



Dress organiser Rebecca Perry with her 1966 gown and daughter Georgina's dress, both made by Rebecca

dresses on display. Floral displays by Kate Hurst of Camomile & Cornflowers, a music recital by cellist Corinne Frost, and a display of vintage wedding cars, added to the romantic atmosphere. Visitors also enjoyed homemade cakes, sandwiches and refreshments in marquees outside, coordinated by Shelsley Beauchamp's Beryl and Des Robson with serving helpers.

Rebecca Perry said: "Putting it all together was hugely hard work, but great fun. It's been fantastic! Thank you to the many kind people who loaned their beautiful gowns, helped to set up the dresses and church, and ran all the extra activities."

To conclude the day, Rev Jen Denniston led a Renewal of Marriage Vows service. Eleven couples renewed their vows, including Shelsley residents Holly and James Perks, Sue and Nick Thompson, Beryl and Des Robson, Rosemary and Bernard Hart, Kate and John Hurst, and Bridget and Colin Francis; as well as Rachel and Clive Austin from Clifton; Jen and Nick Denniston from Harpley; and Jill and Stuart Smith from Wolferlow. Two additional couples who married during the pandemic also renewed their vows and had their marriages blessed: Vanya and Sean Hinton from Harpley, and Clifton's Tracey and Paul Brooks. A six-strong team of bellringers then pealed the All Saints bells in fitting celebration.

HYMNS & PIMMS AT ALL SAINTS



*(Left to right) Joan Philips, Barry & Irene Hodgetts, Rosemary & Bernard Hart
(photo: Beryl Robson)*

STAMFORD HISTORY GROUP

A warm welcome awaits you at the Stamford History Group which meets on Monday evenings for two hours in autumn at Sapey Village Hall. WR6 6EU. We are a diverse group with an interest in understanding the past, to better appreciate today and how we got here! Our lectures have been very well attended- last year we averaged over 45 people attending across the ten lectures, but there's plenty of parking!

We have another interesting program of ten lectures, in five subject areas - you can come for any one or all. This year we have expert lecturers from Birmingham and Worcester Universities.

- The development of Modern Medicine over 250 years
- Modern Egypt 1850- 2023
- German Unification and history 1870- 1945
- Modern Turkey 1880- 2023
- History of Terrorism 1850 to 2023

Do come and join us – there's coffee, biscuits and discussion too! We start on October 2nd at 7.30pm, £60 the ten lecture course or £10 per lecture all payable at the door.

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CLIFTON CHRISTIAN AID TOTAL TOPS £2,000

Christian Aid fund raising events in Clifton this year raised more than £2,000.

“As always I am delighted and surprised by the generosity of the people of Clifton and the Teme Valley, especially given the current high cost of living,” said Marion Dipple. “People continue to be willing to provide financial aid for people across the world who they are never going to meet.”

Pictured right are Big Breakfast chefs Penny Bowden and Nick Denniston





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

July 2023

Sunday 2nd July

10.30am Holy Communion, St Kenelm's, Clifton

6.00pm Evensong, St Bartholomew, Harpley

Sunday 9th July

10.30am Holy Communion, Bugs and Beasies in the Churchyard
All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

Sunday 16th July

10.30am Methodist Holy Communion, St Bartholomew, Harpley

3.00pm Saints and Sausages, St Kenelms' Celebration, Clifton

6.30pm Evensong, St Kenelm's, Clifton

Sunday 23rd July

10.30am, Circle Service, St Bartholomew, Harpley

6.30pm, Evensong, St Andrews Shelsley Walsh

Sunday 30th July - No services

Pop-In Parish Prayers

All Welcome

Tuesday 4th 12.00 -1.00 Soup and Silence, St Bartholomew, Harpley

Wednesday 19th 9.00am All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

Monday 24th 9.30am, St Kenelm, 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 – wwrlive1*

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

CONTACTS FOR ST KENELM'S CHURCH, CLIFTON

Christenings, weddings, funerals:

Other contacts: Jackie Gilbert 01886 812471 / gmjgilbert40@gmail.com

Anne Gayden 01886 812448 / annegayden@hotmail.co.uk



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

August 2023

Wednesday 2nd August

Sing a new song to the Lord

Led by Archdeacon Robert Jones

5.30-7.30pm St Bartholomew, Harpley

Sunday 6th August

10.30am Morning Prayer, St Kenelm's, Clifton

6.00pm Hymns and Pimms, St Bartholomew, Harpley

Sunday 13th August

8.00am Mac Service St Andrews, Shelsley Walsh

10.30am Celtic Communion, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

A contemplative communion

Sunday 20th August

10.30am Methodist Morning Worship, St Bartholomew, Harpley

6.30pm Evensong, St Kenelm's, Clifton

Sunday 27th August

3.00pm Annual Service St Bartholomew's Old Church

Lower Sapey.

During August there are no weekday Pop in Prayer sessions in the parishes.

Holy Communion at Heaton House, Martley every 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 10.15am and every 1st and 3rd Wednesday via our YouTube channel – wrwtlive1

All services and timings are subject to review and amendment – please check the website

CONTACTS FOR ALL SAINTS CHURCH, SHELSLEY BEAUCHAMP

Christenings, weddings, funerals:

Rev Jen Denniston 07783 432017 / jendenniston@gmail.com

Jill Smith 07513 298782

Church Wardens: Kate Hurst 01886 812184 / kathrynhurst@btopenworld.com

Holly Perks 01886 812369 / hollyperks@me.com

Minutes of Clifton Parish Council meeting Thursday 1st June 2023

Present: Councillors J. Bowden, B. Gilbert, P. Brooks, R. Neave. Also present: 3 members of the public. Apologies for absence: County Cllr D. Chambers, District Cllrs Paul & Pam Cumming, Cllr L. Merrick.

Declarations of Interests and applications for Councillor dispensations: None.

To agree the Minutes of the meeting held 18th May 2023 – Minutes were proposed by Cllr Bowden, seconded Cllr Gilbert and agreed by all.

Democratic Public Time: No comments made.

District & County Councillor Reports: Reports will be uploaded to the website.

Financial & Governance Matters: Payments approved as per the schedule-proposed Cllr Gilbert, seconded Cllr Brooks. All agreed. Approval of the Annual Governance & Accounting Statement – deferred to a further meeting. Councillor recruitment – Clerk to arrange a Teme Triangle advert.

Parish Matters / Updates: Village Maintenance Plan – no further from Cllr Gilbert. Cllr Bowden met with Highways and conducted a village walkabout. Detailed response to follow from Highways to include any associated costs. There may be an option for an additional vehicle activated sign but to be confirmed. The hedge has been removed at Church House Farm and a response has been received from MHDC re associated planning issues. Community Speed Watch – no further update. Tennis Courts – Cllr Bowden has responded to a recent resident enquiry regarding work needed. The paddle tennis request is being considered.

Section 106 Matters: Four Acre Field (CFAF) Project – Cllrs Bowden and Gilbert are looking at quotations and speaking with MHDC re available funds. A meeting has been arranged between Cllr Bowden, R. Wilks and Cllr Merrick re field mowing.

Strategic Planning Matters: Awaiting MHDC updates re the SWDPR.

Highways & Facilities Matters: Lengthsman – awaiting a quote from R. Wilks for the noticeboard relocation. Cllr Brooks is also to liaise regarding the play area. Shelsley Walsh footpath closures – Cllr Brooks will send Cllr Bowden and the Clerk the notices for the website and noticeboard.

Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agendas: None.

Next meeting: Thurs 6th July 2023 at 7:40pm *M. Alexander, Clerk*

USEFUL PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

Shelsley Parish Council Secretary

Jan Speyer shelsleyspc@gmail.com 01886 812444

Clifton Parish Council Secretary

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

District Councillor

Paul Cumming pau;.cumming@malvernhillsc.net 01886 888832

County Councillor

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

Guest Column by Harriett Baldwin MP

Later this year, we will celebrate two important improvements to our local health service. The Three Counties Medical School, in Worcester, will welcome its first students training the next generation of doctors. I am told that half of the intake will be domestic students and, recently, I joined a group of local MPs pressing the Health Secretary to fund more places for UK medical students as soon as possible. There's huge demand for people to study medicine locally and in the long-run, this will help us to fill more vacancies at our local hospitals and GP surgeries.



We will also celebrate the opening of the new £22 million Emergency Department which I was lucky enough to tour as work concludes. It has a separate reception areas for adults and children, and a new admission area for ambulances. I've lobbied a succession of Ministers to fund this transformation and I am extremely hopeful that this will make a huge difference to the way people access emergency care.

I have also been encouraged by reports from the local health service managers about the way people access their GP. Recent figures show that our local GPs are performing well above the national average. Waiting times for elective surgery have been significantly reduced and response time for less serious 'category 2' incidents are now down to 24 minutes. Higher proportions of people can get an appointment with their GP within two weeks and GPs are offering 17 per cent more appointments – that's 2,962 more than the equivalent month before the pandemic. The Government has just announced £645 million to help free up GP appointments by helping pharmacists to see more people.

Next month, the NHS will celebrate its 75th birthday and it is truly our most prized national asset and locally, we continue to see significant investment in buildings and staff to make sure that the NHS is able to give the best possible care for us and our loved ones and ensure the service is very much fit for the future.

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Church Matters

by Pat Snelling



For me, and maybe for you also, I find it difficult to comprehend that by the time this article is published, the longest day will have passed, spring has been left behind and hopefully we are enjoying some long warm summer days. The seasons come and go with what seems ever increasing speed. We notice this in the church, because the church uses what we call liturgical colours during the seasons.

The church uses one of four colours for its altar linen, robes and vestments. The colour reflects the seasons:

Advent, purple a colour of royalty, because we are preparing to welcome the coming of a King.

Christmas and Easter, white or gold for the times of joy and celebration Red to celebrate Pentecost, (Whit Sunday) and Saint's days through the year. Green symbolises all living things, renewal and promise of new life.

When you walk into St Kenelm's at any time of the year you will see the vestments and hangings in the appropriate colour for the season.

Now, following Trinity Sunday which was celebrated 4th June we have entered the green season, also sometimes referred to as ordinary time, and this will continue until Advent Sunday 29th November leading to Christmas.

At this time of year, I think, maybe, most of us are somewhat glad to have left the excitement of Christmas, and Easter, together with all the other beautiful Christian festivals, and are looking forward to having a peaceful summer.

So, in St Kenelm's, we now have green vestments, for green is used as the colour for growing things, plants and trees, and this is also because in the church, this is the period of steady spiritual growth, when we can reflect on what we learnt at Christmas and Easter and put it into practice by living a kind and compassionate life.

However, we all know that the ups and downs of world events, and life in general, eventually impinge on us all, so during this time of spiritual growth, we can build the firm foundations to our lives, to help to withstand the storms of life which may come our way, and the words of Jesus will help us to do this.

There is no way God can prevent us from hurting ourselves, and others, without taking away our free will. So, God holds his breath, as he watches, to see whether we shall resist the temptation to take a wrong path. But God will make sure that in the end, we are safe, as long as we have done our best to build our lives, on the firm foundations of the teachings of Jesus, the Christ.

On behalf of all at St Kenelm's we wish you a peaceful summer of long sunny days.

Jennie Holmes has had some photos done of St Kenelm's church and wants to build up a history of the monuments in the church as well as the actual building itself. She would be interested if anyone has specific information about anything to do with the church. Contact Jennie Holmes: sapey2@gmail.com

CLIFTON BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

Clifton mums Tabitha Hedges and Lisa Adams have been running a Warm Welcome Babies and Toddlers group at the village hall in Clifton on Wednesdays between 10.30am and 12noon (term time only). The group is open to anyone caring for children and offers a non-judgemental, welcoming, fun and loving network of support and friends. Every week it offers a new craft activity, a variety of toys and a story and song time to finish. It has since expanded to offer a larger safe space for toddlers to play, explore craft and there's even a quiet, cosy tent with fairy lights and cushions to read, play, enjoy conversation and refreshments.



The group runs alongside the very popular Warm Welcome Space, an open community gathering offering a chance for anyone in the village to come and meet up, have a chat and lunch. Warm Welcome Babies & Toddlers offers an opportunity for young children to have fun and mix with other children in a safe environment and provides a valuable lifeline for parents and carers to get out of the house and meet other adults.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July

- 1 Clifton Primary School Summer Fete
- 1 Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb: Bike Bonanza
- 2 Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb: Vintage Meeting
- 5 Clifton Friendship Club garden visit: VH 2.15pm
- 6 Clifton Parish Council meeting, VH 7.40pm
- 15 Shelsley Coffee Morning and bring & buy, Shelsleys VH, 10.30am-
- 13 Teme Valley Wildlife Group meeting, Kyre & Stoke Bliss VH 7.30pm
- 19 Clifton Friendship Club visit to Harpley House
- 22-23 Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb: Classic Nostalgia weekend
- 30 Charity pub quiz, Lion Inn, Clifton, 7pm

August

- 2 Clifton Friendship Club: Clifton gardens and tea
- 6 Hymns & Pimms Evensong, Harpley church 6pm
- 19 Shelsley Coffee Morning, Shelsleys VH 10.30-12 noon
- 27 Annual Service at Old St Bartholomew's, Lower Sapey 3pm

September

- 8 *All The Queen's Horses* talk by Heather Edwards, Kyre VH 7.30pm
- 9 Big Breakfast, St Bartholomew's, Harpley 10am-12 noon

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 July 13th at 7:30pm. We welcome a new speaker, Sam Devine-Turner. Her talk is on the popular subject of the hazel dormouse, so do come along.



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 twvg@outlook.com

Stephanie Mocroft



ST KENELM'S CHURCH CHOIR

The choir from St Kenelm's Church in Clifton were kindly gifted some money when they sang at a wedding recently. What better way to spend it than on tea and cake at The Apple Tree at Pitlands. It was a convivial afternoon in a delightful setting. Thank you to The Apple Tree for keeping us topped up with jugs of milk and hot water!

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Contributions for the next (September 2023) edition by Friday 11 August 2023 please
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