

February 2024

Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton-upon-Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



Andy Arnold's Winter Challenge

- Local fundraising efforts
- Litter picking month
- All your Church news and Parish Council minutes
- Plus... all your February & March diary dates

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SAM HACKMAN'S HALF MARATHON CHALLENGE

A 22-year-old Clifton man, Sam Hackman, has been training hard for the 2024 Bath Half Marathon next month (March), raising money for the Alzheimer's Society.

"I work in the tool hire industry based in Bromyard," says Sam, "Along with one of my best mates, Christian Goodall, I have decided to take part in the Bath Half Marathon which is a 'big city' race, starting and finishing in Bath city centre. This cause is very close to me as dementia is an ongoing condition in my family. I have several members of my family diagnosed with dementia, my grandmother being the most recent."



YOUR TEME TRIANGLE TEAM

MAIN EDITORIAL MAILBOX
EDITOR THIS ISSUE

editortemetriangle@gmail.com
Louise Hutton

CLIFTON NEWS / WEBSITE

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

SHELSLEYS NEWS

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

Louise Hutton: 07803 614078
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

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Front cover picture: Andy Arnold, after competing in the 270 mile 'Montane Winter Spine Race'.





A VERY WARM WELCOME to the February 2024 edition of Teme Triangle...

It seems like a lifetime ago now, but we do hope that everyone had a happy, relaxing Christmas time. The centre pages of this edition show some of the festive activities that happened in our Churches - we hope you enjoy them.

After a very wet start to 2024 we have enjoyed a week or so of cold but sunny days, although as I finish writing this today I fear that bubble may have burst and the rain is due once again.

We do however keep our fingers crossed that spring is finally on its way - there is definitely evidence of this in our gardens and on the verges - bulbs are starting to show themselves.

We hope you enjoy this edition - thank you once again to all the

ANDY ARNOLD'S WINTER CHALLENGE

Clifton's Andy Arnold competed in the Montane Winter Spine Race last month (January). This is a non-stop 270 mile race along the entire length of one of the most demanding national trails in Britain, the Pennine Way.

The Montane Winter Spine is widely regarded as Britain's most brutal endurance race. It is a truly epic challenge that tests competitors' physical resilience and mental fortitude. Andy experienced the full intensity and ferocity of the British winter including snow and storm force winds.

Beginning at Edale in Derbyshire, runners have a time limit of 168 hours to reach the village of Kirk Yetholm in the Scottish Borders. They climb over 10,000 metres as the route crosses some of the most beautiful but difficult terrain found in England, including the Peak District, Yorkshire Dales, Northumberland National Park, Hadrian's Wall and the Cheviots.

Andy took part in the gruelling challenge in order to raise money for charity. "I have chosen the Alzheimer's Society as I have experienced how cruel this disease is, not only to those diagnosed, but also for those family members who devote their time to support and care for their nearest and dearest," he said.

See the front cover for a photo of Andy.





LENT - THE PILGRIM COURSE

This Lent we are following 'The Pilgrim Course', based around the Creeds - the short summaries of the Christian faith. There are 2 times and venues to choose from:

- Tuesday from 2-4pm at the home of Pat Savage, starting Tuesday 20 February.
- Wednesday from 7-9pm at Nick and Jen Denniston's, starting Wednesday 21 February.

For more information, please contact Jill Smith on: jill.together@gmail.com or Jen Denniston on 07783 432017.

THE AUTUMN ALPHA COURSE

We enjoyed exploring the Christian faith over delicious meals at Pitlands, with videos and lots of good, deep and lively discussions. Comments from guests included, "I loved the fellowship and friendship", "It's restarted me on my Christian journey", "It is rare to find an environment where you could discuss deep matters of faith and life", "it transformed my life", "I can't wait for the next course".

Other courses and events will be advertised in the Teme Triangle.

The photo shows participants at the Autumn Alpha Course, hosted by the 'Churches



CLIFTON BENEFICE AND TEME VALLEY SOUTH QUIET DAY

The Annual Team Quiet Day is taking place on Wednesday 20th March at Holland House, Cropthorne and will be led by the Revd Julia Curtis. It begins at 10am and finishes at 4pm. Coffee on arrival, lunch and afternoon tea is provided.

This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some spiritual refreshments in the uplifting and peaceful setting of Holland House, where the gardens wind gently down to the banks of the River Avon.

For further details please contact Pat Snelling on 01886 812 443, or email patricia.snelling@btinternet.com. You will be most welcome.





REPORTING LOCAL HIGHWAY ISSUES

At a recent Shelsley PC meeting, it was noted that all parshioners should be encouraged to report any highways issues themselves to the relevant body. The idea behind this being that the more complaints received by Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) or Worcestershire County Council (WCC), the more likely improvements will be made. To this end, please find below some useful contact details:

Bins, litter and street cleaning - please contact MHDC on 01386 565000. Alternatively you can report issues via their website:
www.malvernhills.gov.uk

Dog fouling complaints - not picking up after your dog is punishable with a fine. Please report any issues to:
www.malvernhills.org.uk/dog-fouling

Public footpaths - footpaths are maintained by WCC via the Countryside Centre and issues should be reported to the WCC Hub at:
www.worcestershire.gov.uk

Travel and highways - please report all issues to:
<https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/report-road-or-path-issue>

This is a very intuitive website and the map goes into great detail, zooming in on individual properties. It covers all travel and highways issues including bridges, car parking, drainage and flooding, grit bins, road spillages, fallen trees, overgrown shrubbery, pothole or other road damage, traffic lights and public rights of way.

Jan Speyer (Clerk to the Shelsleys Parish Council) has also requested that if you log any issues to WCC, please could you also keep her informed, so that she can collate records of the sorts of issues being raised locally and hence chase them further up the chain if needed. Her email is:
shelsleyspc@gmail.com





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Church Matters

by Reverend Julia Curtis



It has been a couple of months since I last wrote for Teme Triangle and now we are way past 'Happy New Year'. We are well and truly into 2024 and it has been such a joy to meet, and start to get to know, some people in these parishes. I have been struck by the enthusiasm there is serving for these communities. There is a real desire to share God's love in practical ways as well as words and worship in and around our church buildings.

At this time of year, in the Church calendar we have recently celebrated Christmas and the season of Epiphany, as God reveals who the babe in the manger is to become. Candlemas, at the beginning of February draws this focus to a close and we enter the time of Lent early this year with Ash Wednesday on 14 February.

Being in such a rural area we are blessed not only by ancient places of worship, and a church rhythm to guide us, but also an immediacy of connection with God through the natural world all around. Candlemas bells or snowdrops, offer us just such a connection as they flower at this time, through their white heads bobbling in the breeze – attracting our vision as we are out and about. They offer signs of hope, new life, new beginnings and are among the first signs that spring really is just around the corner.

So, as our hedgerows, woods and gardens are sprinkled with these humble, tiny flowers, I pray that this February you are blessed with a time of hope as our countryside wakes up and new life starts to stir.

Snowdrop Time, by Mary Webb

*Ah, hush! Tread softly through the rime,
For there will be a blackbird singing, or a thrush.*

Like coloured beads the elm-buds flush:

*All the trees dream of leaves and flowers and light. And see! The northern
bank is much more white than frosty grass, for now is snowdrop time.*

Note: Mary was born in Leighton, Shropshire in 1881. She began writing at the age of 10, writing fairy stories, later educated in Southport. Various English and American publications carried her work. She moved to London in 1921 as a book reviewer.

Mary is well known for her novels, centred on the borders between Wales and England. She was awarded the Femina Vie Heuresse Prize for her novel 'Precious Bane' in 1925.





Prayer Pilgrimage led by the Archbishop of Canterbury Saturday 3 February 2024

All welcome - join us as we pray for our diocese as well as peace and justice throughout the world in 2024 and beyond.

10am: Top Church, Dudley

An interview with the Archbishop followed by worship and prayer.

12.30pm: Pershore Abbey

Prayer lunch - bring your own picnic lunch

2.15pm: Worcester Cathedral

An interview with the Archbishop followed by worship and prayer in various prayer stations.





Minutes of the meeting of Clifton Parish Council held 11 January

Present: J. Bowden (Chair); B. Gilbert (Vice-Chair); R. Neave; L. Merrick; P. Brooks; S. Haywood.

Also present: x5 members of the public, District Councillors Paul & Pam Cumming.

Apologies: M. Alexander (Clerk).

87.23 The Minutes of the Meeting held 07.12.23 were approved and agreed.

88.23 Matters arising: The following tasks had not been completed by the Lengthsman: Hedge at 10 Manor Road needs to be cut back, as it is partially obstructing the footpath; the Gully outside 3 Hope Lane needs to be cleaned out; the Holly above the Litter Bin in Manor Road needs to be trimmed back. Clerk/Chair to inform R. Wilks.

It was also mentioned that the new bin at the end of the Hill Farm drive has not been emptied – Clerk to contact Malvern Hills.

Councillor Bowden proposed a 'Vote of Thanks' to Mandy Henry for another successful organisation of 'Carols on the Green' & Councillor Brooks suggested we send Mandy a bunch of flowers to show our appreciation. All agreed.

The footpath to the rear of the Village Green has been tarmacked & a member of the public congratulated the Stories on a job efficiently & well done. They will be considered when the tarmac to the Recreation Ground is programmed. The works revealed a gully towards the south end of the footpath, which will need some work to replace the cover. Chair to liaise with R. Wilks.

Jerry Johns relayed the sad news that Ken Pollock, former District Councillor & keen supporter of the Council had passed away. It was agreed to send a condolence card to his family.

89.23 County & District Councillor Reports: The County Councillors Report was read out & Paul Cummings elaborated on his report for December. There was a discussion regarding the interest on the S106 monies & it was agreed that this would be discussed when the S106 Sub-Committee meets the Malvern Hills Representative. Paul Cummings also stated that it had been agreed that Neighbourhood Plans are now valid for a period of 5 years.

90.23 Finance & Governance Matters:

90.23.01 As the Clerk could not attend due to illness, it was proposed by B. Gilbert & Seconded by P. Brooks that £25k from the S106 funding be approved, to Pay Grimshaw's outstanding invoice which is dated 31.12.23.

90.23.02 The funding for the Nursery entrance ramp was discussed & a grant of £1k was approved by all parties, the proposal was from J. Bowden, Seconded by B. Gilbert. D Cllrs Pam & Paul Cummings confirmed that their contribution had been increased to £750.

90.23.03 The issues of the Precept; Hanging Baskets & Mowing were all deferred to the next meeting.

91.23 Parish Matters /Updates:

91.23.01 Ownership of the strip of land between Manor Road & Kenelm Close was discussed, together with the land outside of 14, The Village. Clerk to investigate & following the conclusion, a map of the landowner by the PC will be produced.

91.23.02 The allocation of the 'Social Housing' was discussed & Councillor Gilbert confirmed he had contacted the developer of the Hope Lane site, Jeff Guest of Guild Holmes, but had yet to receive a reply.

91.23.03 The Sign showing the history of Clifton-upon-Teme has been removed, for re-





erection at the rear of the Village Green, but unfortunately, the Oak Framing collapsed during the removal. J Bowden/Clerk to arrange for a new framing & subsequent re-erection.

91.23.04 A query was raised regarding the land slip in the River Teme by Ham Bridge – Clerk to check with Worcestershire/ River Trust.

91.23.05 The Registration of the Defibrillators was discussed, Clerk to confirm that they are registered. P Brooks confirmed that weekly checks are being carried out & there was not currently a need for any new parts.

92.23 S106 Project (CFAF) updates:

92.23.01 The applications for funding for the proposed garden at the Recreation Ground was discussed & Lynn & Racheal Merrick were thanked for their great work on this project. It was proposed by B. Gilbert & seconded by J. Bowden that the PC agree for both applications, for funding from National Networks & Malvern Hills s106, to proceed. A meeting has been arranged on Monday 15 January to agree final details & to complete both applications. All agreed.

92.23.02 J. Bowden provided an update on the progress of the S106 Works at the Recreation Ground. He confirmed that the drainage works have been completed; the Boules Court is 90% complete, Ductwork to the MUGA & Tennis Court has also been completed. Grimshaw's works are expected to be complete by the end of January, with the exception of the coloured lines to the MUGA & Tennis Courts. The works to the new play area is due to commence on 29.01.24 & notices have been posted in the Pavilion, on the PC notice board & also on the tables in the play area. The date for the re-surfacing of the bowling green will be agreed when Ade of ARC returns from holiday on 17.01.24. The picnic tables at the Recreation Ground need to be replaced – J Bowden will research a price for these.

93.23 Planning Matters: DCllr Paul Cumming confirmed that the queries on the SWDPR had been resolved, but they were waiting for a date when the policy would be adopted.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:20hrs. Date of next meeting: Thursday 1 February, 7.40pm, Clifton village hall.

CLIFTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

In December we had a lovely Christmas lunch which was very well attended. Later in December we had a party for our oldest member, fondly known as “little Dot”. Dot has now gone to live in a nursing home in Worcester and has said that she would love visitors.

For our February meetings we have two local speakers. On February 7 Andy Arnold will present “A Walking Adventure” and on February 21 Sean Hinton, our local electrician, is coming to talk about his very interesting careers and his recent book.

We meet in Clifton Village Hall on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 2:30pm. There is always tea and cake, also time to chat and make new friends. For more information email dotmillward@btinternet.com.





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FEBRUARY - LOCAL LITTER PICKING AWARENESS MONTH

Candy Connolly, who has spearheaded local litter-picking drives for the past 15 years, has designated February as the Teme Triangle litter picking awareness month. This is in response to the growing awareness of unsightly litter in the verges of local roads and lanes in this part of the Teme Valley.

This year Candy and her team of volunteers are planning another clean-up in the lanes from Harpley to Clifton area on Saturday 10 February. The session will include Clifton Hill, shared between volunteers from Clifton and the Shelsleys.

Two groups of local volunteers will set out at 10.45am, Clifton volunteers from the village green in Clifton and Shelsley volunteers from Pitlands Farm, for one hour. All are invited to meet up at Pitlands afterwards at midday for a bacon butty.

“Everyone is welcome to take part in the event,” says Candy. “At this time of year we need to look after our lanes as no-one else will”.

The Harpley Community WhatsApp group have a list of areas for litter picking which are shared. These are done in their own time before the end of February. This might also apply for Clifton village and the Shelsleys.



Volunteers undertake litter picking at their own risk as there is no insurance cover, but the volunteers will be issued with warning signs to slow the traffic. Please provide your own gloves and collecting bin bags. High-visibility vests and litter grabbers can be obtained from Candy.

Please email her on: cconnolly111@gmail.com

If you would like to help, please contact the following in advance, to agree timings and kit etc:

Clifton: Richard Newman - richard@bpnarchitects.co.uk

Shelsley: Kate Hurst - kathrynshurst@btopenworld.com

Harpley: Candy – cconnolly111@gmail.com





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Sat 10th Feb - 4.00 pm

Clifton On Teme Village Hall

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Please note the earlier start time to allow families to attend.
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The highly anticipated new film focusing on a young Willy Wonka, prior to the events of Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. WONKA tells the wondrous story of how the world's greatest inventor, magician and chocolate-maker became the beloved Willy Wonka we know today.

CLIFTON FLICKS IN THE STICKS DOUBLE BILL

There will be a special double bill featuring two films in Clifton village hall on Saturday 10 February. At 4pm, there will be a screening of Wonka for a younger audience (adults £5, under-16s £2.50), followed at 7pm by Amelie, a French romantic comedy film. Entry is by donation and there will be a French themed buffet in the interval. Contact Mandy Henry on 01886 812238 for further details.

www.temetriangle.net

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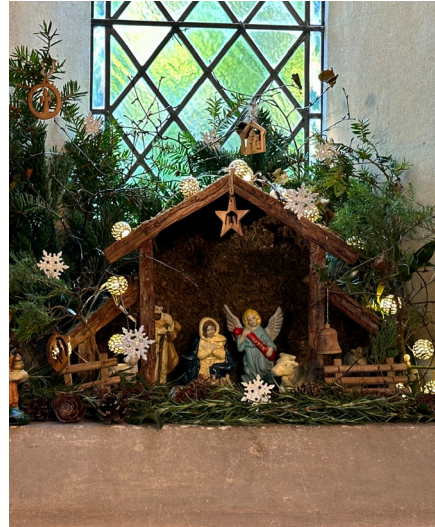




SOME DISTANT MEMORIES OF OUR CHRISTMAS SERVICES....

St. Bartholomew, Harpley

Parishioners decorated the Church windows with Christmas greenery and lights.



Photos by PCC member Howard Rigby

Christingle at All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp





Christmas Eve Crib Service at All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp





TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE GROUP

One of Great Britain's unique features is the wide scatter of common land found across its nations. Such land is special because it is open to all. Although most lies within National Parks or areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, common land can be found anywhere, even in cities, perhaps most notably on Hampstead Heath in London. Today it covers 4.8% of Britain's land area, with 546,000 acres registered in England



alone. This may sound a lot, but back in 1550 50% of England's acreage had been subject to common rights. This had long been vital to the rural economy and Rights of Common were first enshrined in law in 1215 by the Magna Carta.

Owners of common land such as the National Trust, utility companies, National Parks or Commoners' Associations are each obliged to uphold commoners' rights, which may include the right to graze livestock, gather wood or bracken, cut peat, dig for coals, sand or gravel or to fish in ponds and streams. Longstanding grazing rights have allowed the creation and survival of locally distinct livestock breeds such as Swaledale, Herdwick and Shetland sheep and Exmoor ponies.

Due to the traditional ways in which the land has been managed over many centuries, commons support a greater diversity of wildlife than any other category of farmland. It is therefore no surprise that 21% of England's Sites of Special Scientific Interest are to be found on them, a testament to the wild plants, butterflies, birds and animals who make their homes there.

I have mentioned common land in these articles before, covering meadow saffron on Ewyas Harold Common in Herefordshire, hay meadow plants on Oldwood Common in Worcestershire and golden-ringed dragonflies on Catherston Common in Shropshire. What I hadn't been so aware of, was their importance as sites of archaeological interest. Some 3,000 scheduled ancient monuments receive protection on British commons. These range from Mesolithic flint works, Stone Age henges, circles and standing stones, Bronze Age barrows, dykes, roundhouses and pounds and Roman camps, to more modern, industrial and military relics. The Clee Hill memorial to those airmen, both British and German, who lost their lives in World War II when their aeroplanes crashed into the hill, is a local example of the latter.

Twenty-first century concerns make commons important for biodiversity, maintaining fragile upland ecosystems, absorbing carbon, mitigating floods,





promoting cultural heritage and enhancing personal wellbeing through access to nature. That's a tall order, but 88% of English common land is already nationally or internationally important for its wildlife, landscape or archaeology, so there's no doubt that these semi-wild spaces can rise to meet those expectations.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be on Thursday 8 February at 7:30pm, at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall, WR15 8RR. We will be welcoming back husband and wife team Russell and Audrey Price, who will be presenting a talk called 'African Adventures – a photographic journey'. Everyone is most welcome and it is just £3 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 twwg@outlook.com

LITTLE WITLEY FILMS

On February 17 we are showing 'A Man called Otto' - Tom Hanks at his best, as a grumpy widower whose life is turned upside down by the arrival of new, lively neighbours! A comic and heartwarming tale for a winter night! More details can be found on Little Witley Village Hall website.

Doors open 7.15pm, film starts at 8pm. We look forward to seeing you there!

MARTLEY YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

Martley YFC have had a busy start to the year, we have welcomed lots of new members to the club and have enjoyed meeting fortnightly and taking part in varied activities. So far this year we have been bowling, Mr Mulligans golf, stock judging and we also enjoyed a talk from the Air Ambulance, seeing the work that they do. We also presented our cheque from the fundraising we did last year.

After the success of previous years we have been busy organising our Big Breakfast and we are looking forward to hosting this event again. It will be held on Sunday 18 February at Martley Memorial Hall. We will be doing two sittings, the first sitting will be at 9am and the second sitting will be at 11am. The breakfast will be a Full English, including cereals, fruit juice, tea and coffee. It will be £10 per person and children (up to 12 years old) will be £6. You can order your tickets by calling Zoe on 07772 202840 or Amy on 07975 636122. Please order your tickets by 10 February. We look forward to seeing you, and thank you for supporting us.





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Abbreviated Draft Minutes of The Shelsleys Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 9 January 2024

Present: Val Jones (Chair), Louise Hutton (Vice-Chair), Karen Metcalfe, John Stinton, Dave Bates, Laura Taylor, Carole Warren and Jean Hammond.

In attendance: Two members of the public and the clerk.

Apologies: David Belfield. District Councillors Pam and Paul Cumming.

Minutes: The Minutes of Tuesday 7 November 2023 were accepted and agreed as a true record.

Public Question Time: None.

Budget: The figures produced by the clerk were agreed and the Precept kept the same at £7,000.00.

Finance: A total of £1,096.40 was agreed for invoices. These included: the lengthsman's invoice, Clerk expenses for Q2 and Q3, salt from WCC, CALC subscription and councilor training.

District and County Councillor Reports: Circulated & available on the parish website (address below).

Highways: The Lengthsman's worksheets were approved. New Mill Bridge: The nearby culvert has been reported to WCC. It requires a specialist contractor to alleviate the problem of the blockage causing flooding across the lane. WCC has been requested to jet the gullies, which have become blocked.

WCC has been advised of the debris building up against New Mill Bridge. WCC has advised that there are many similar problems within the county.

The lengthsman will be asked if he can quickly improve the mud and drainage problems at New Mill Bridge.

MHDC has been asked to sweep the mud and debris from the road between the bridge and the church.

Midland Automobile Club (MAC):

In response to a letter sent to the MAC, Mark Harrison (MAC Board member) responded with a reply in which the history of and background to the current orchard planting, together with the reasons for making new tracks in the orchard was described. Councillor Stinton reported that together with Tony Harrison they have knowledge of the original varieties of trees planted by Montague Taylor at the beginning of the twentieth century, the same number of which will be replanted in a more sensible location on the bank, thus avoiding any damage from cars. The trees will be planted so that the blossom will be visible from across the valley.

It is hoped in due course that the new trees will become hosts to the noble chafer beetle, already established in the old trees within the orchard. These older trees will only be removed when totally dead and unable to support any insect life.

The MAC had not received any information on whether a planning application for the tracks was required.

Village Hall Management Committee: Councillor Stinton, Chairman of the VHMC, gave a report of a recent VHMC meeting. He stated that there had been no resolution of the PC to send a letter to members of the VHMC (to which no reply had been received by the PC). The Chairwoman of the PC replied that the letter had been sent in order to try and gain answers to the questions that were raised at the PC meeting in November (when no answers had been provided by the VHMC).

With regard to the VH accounts, the VHMC saw no obligation to do anything other than





supply figures to the Charity Commission which they reported had been done the week before.

At the VHMC AGM, to be held in public in April or early May this year, all members of the VHMC will resign and may stand for re-election. At this time the VH accounts will be available for the public to see. These accounts are the sole responsibility of the VHMC. The VHMC AGM will be advertised at least a week before the meeting is held, displayed on the external VH noticeboard.

The chair of the VHMC submitted a document (40 from ACRE) showing that the Custodian Trustees (the PC) hold the title to the Village Hall but are not the beneficial owners. The Chairman of the VHMC requested the PC not to interfere with VH matters. After further questions from the PC councillors it transpired that the accounts previously submitted to the council and the Charity Commission were incorrect and as such are unreliable. There has been some inadvertent conflation resulting in inaccurate accounting, which is in the process of being rectified. One of the PC councillors offered to help with current but not past accounts. The VHMC is investigating ways of securing funding through patrons and friends who would contribute regularly. It was determined that the buildings insurance is up to date and due for renewal in two months' time.

The PC Chairwoman noted, after taking advice from CALC, that the PC bears no financial responsibility for the VHMC. She also stated that the PC acts on behalf of local parishioners and asked that the Parish Council be informed of the date of this year's VHMC AGM asap so that this could be suitably relayed to the parishioners.

No resolution was made.

Planning: MHDC Decisions:

M/23/00484/FUL Agricultural barn at land (OS 7355 6281). Approved.

M/23/01550/LB Cherry Cottage replacement doors and windows. Approved.

Urgent Decisions: M/23/01601/FUL Old Rectory Planning comment. PC support application.

M/23/01550/LB Cherry Cottage "The Parish Council is keen to support this application which should improve the thermal efficiency of the property."

Councillors' Reports and items for future agenda. It is believed that the culvert on the Winnington Estate is resulting in water pooling at the junction of Kingswood and Pard House lanes. Clerk to report.

Reports on the possibility of a Village Fete and the biodiversity project will be on the next agenda.

Next ordinary meeting: Tuesday 12 March 2024, 7pm, Shelsley Village Hall.

Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 14 May.

The meeting concluded at 20:40.

To view the full and draft 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.





LOWER SAPEY NEWS, Margaret Griffiths

If it's not too late, a very Happy New Year to everyone. 2023 floated out on some of the worst floods for years, but has entered with some welcome sunny days, although the white stuff is forecast! I hope everyone enjoyed a good Christmas and is now ready to face whatever 2024 may bring. This will be the year of the Paris Olympics, European football finals in Germany and the commemorations of the D-Day Landings of 1944, 80 years ago. It will also be the 460th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth and 75 years since the founding of NATO. Over 70 countries will be holding general elections this year, including the USA in November. We will most likely be holding one, maybe May, maybe November and the bets are on. Personally, I look forward to WCCC, now promoted into cricket's First Division and Test matches between England, Pakistan, West Indies, Sri Lanka and Australia. This all depends on a good summer, not just the four terribly hot days we had in summer last year. Climate change still has many tricks to play. Today though, the sun is shining, my neighbour is lambing and spring seems almost in the air. I even noticed some daffodil shoots.

We enjoyed a fine carol service in St. Bartholomew's, Harpley, and managed to get the church quite warm! The ladies, led by Dot Millward, produced some wonderful decorations and lights. There was also a packed Christmas Day service and despite soggy conditions, a well-attended service on New Year's Eve, partly outside. Plans are going ahead for the coming year to boost our funds. These will include the now famous Pancake Day celebration on 13 February and possibly more performances by the Pop-up Choir. We are still seeking singers to join this and I can assure you that there are no auditions!

Lent starts on 14 February and there will no doubt be the usual popular Lent classes, which are advertised in this edition. When talking to someone recently, they mentioned that years ago, our lovely church was on the list for possible closure, but this will not happen! We are determined to keep it open, but need everyone's help and prayers. It is the centre of our small community. The Archbishop of Canterbury is visiting Worcester Cathedral on 3 February and maybe he will have something to say on this subject. He is a man I greatly admire and hopefully, some of us will get to see him.

All our prayers are still needed for the people of Gaza, Israel and the Ukraine, where war still rages. This is a terrible and dangerous world in many ways today and we hope that soon these problems will be solved.

SERVICES IN ST BARTHOLOMEW'S FOR FEBRUARY

*Please check all times nearer the date.

4 February, Morning Praise (check time).

18 February, Methodist Service, 10.30am.





25 February, Circle Service with a talk and discussion, 10.30am.

HOUSEKEEPING FOR FEBRUARY

As Marion is unable to help this month, we are taking it week by week, with Margaret Griffiths, then Pat Savage starting. Lent will follow of course, so no flowers then.

LADIES BIBLE GROUP

This will be on Tuesday 13 February at 2pm. Venue to be arranged. This month, it will be another discussion from the book on God and Climate.

THE MOBILE LIBRARY will hopefully call on Friday 16 February at 10.20 and 10.40. Due to mechanical and weather problems, we have missed this wonderful service a few times recently. We look forward to a return visit. Please try the library website for all the courses and events they offer (www.thehiveworchester.org).

May everyone have a pleasant and healthy month. We all look forward to the spring.

SHELSLEYS VILLAGE HALL, David Belfield

It has been a few years since the 'Teme Valley Pool League' players had the chance to play their favourite sport in local pubs and clubs. Well maybe it's time to regenerate the game and allow players to play competitively again, by forming a new Teme Valley Pool League....



If your pub or club have an interest in the game and are able to host home games in either the summer or winter pool leagues, this is your opportunity to help promote the game in your local area.

This is primarily a scoping exercise to canvas the interest in re-starting the leagues and to continue the great work previously undertaken by organisers and players.

If you are interested in playing or helping (or both!), please email: belfield.david@btinternet.com





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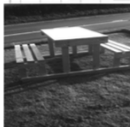
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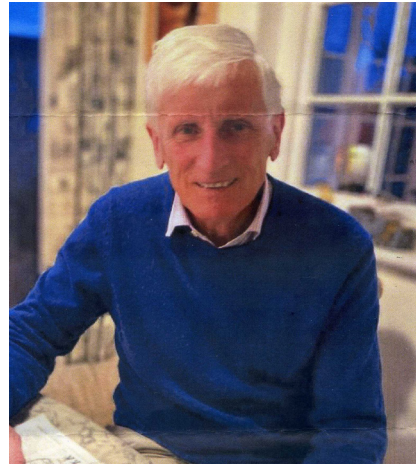
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KEN POLLOCK

Former Worcestershire County Councillor for Tenbury, Dr Ken Pollock, died in January at the age of 79 after a short illness.

Ken was a retired former academic and television producer who was instrumental in the success of Top Gear, working alongside Jeremy Clarkson, at BBC Pebble Mill in the 1990's.



Prior to joining Top Gear, Dr Pollock, who joined the BBC in 1977, worked on the old BBC programme Farming, which he renamed Countryfile. He joined Top Gear Motorsport in 1994, which ran until 1998.

As a Conservative County Councillor for Worcestershire and Cabinet Member for Economy and Infrastructure, he oversaw projects such as the £41 million dualling of the A4440 Southern Link Road and dualling of the Carrington Bridge in Worcester.

Before moving to Cheltenham, he and his wife Diana, lived at Great Witley.

CHURCH CONTACTS

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

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Rev Jen Denniston 07783 432017 jendenniston@gmail.com

Jill Smith 01886 853311

Pat Snelling (Clifton) 01886 812443

All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp and St Andrew, Shelsley Walsh

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

Holly Perks 01886 812369 hollyperks@me.com

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

Anne Gayden (*PCC minutes secretary*)

Jackie Gilbert

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Liz Younge erckuk@hotmail.com





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

February 2024

Sunday 4th February

10.30am: Morning Prayer, St Kenelm's, Clifton

10.30am: Morning Praise, St Bartholomew, Harpley

Sunday 11th February

10.30am: Family Communion, All Saints,
Shelsley Beauchamp

Sunday 18th February

10.30am: Methodist Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew, Harpley

6.30pm: Evensong, St Kenelm's, Clifton

Sunday 25th February

10.30am: Circle Service, 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 – wvrtlive1*

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

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

There was another generous support for the Royal British Legion Appeal in November and a total of £631.18 was raised by the good folk of Clifton. Many thanks to all concerned.

Jack Whittenbury.

WORCESTERSHIRE BREAST UNIT HAVEN

Many grateful thanks to all the people who have supported this small but important local charity by giving generous donations in return for my small book of poetry. We have already reached our goal of raising £500, with more donations promised. If there is anyone else who would like to donate in return for a copy of 'A Late Scholar', there are still a few left. Please ring 01886 812464 or email 22whittenbury@gmail.com.

Beth Whittenbury





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February

- 1 Clifton Parish Council Meeting, Clifton VH, 7.40pm
- 3 Archbishop of Canterbury at Worcester Cathedral, 2.15pm
- 4 Candelmas service at St. Andrew's, Shelsley Walsh, 4pm
- 7 Clifton Friendship Club, Clifton VH, 2.30pm
- 10 Teme Valley litter picking - see article P16 for details
- 10 'Wonka' film, Clifton VH, 4pm. Followed by 'Amelie' film, 7pm
- 13 Pancake Day celebration at St. Bartholomew's, Harpley
- 13 Ladies Bible Group, Venue tbc, 2pm
- 16 Mobile Library, Clifton VH Car Park, 9.45 - 10.15am
- 17 'A Man Called Otto' film at Little Witley VH, 7.15pm
- 18 Martley YFC 'Big Breakfast' at Martley VH, 9am
- 20 Lent Course starts at the home of Pat Savage, 2-4pm
- 21 Lent Course starts at the home of Jen Denniston, 7-9pm
- 21 Clifton Friendship Club, Clifton VH, 2.30pm

March

- 9 'The Great Escaper' film, Clifton VH, 7pm
- 12 Shelsley Parish Council Meeting, Shelsley VH, 7pm
- 20 Clifton and TVS Quiet Day, Holland House Crophorne, 10am - 4pm

CANDELMAS SERVICE AT SHELSLEY WALSH

A very special Candelmas service is coming to our very own Medieval Church - St. Andrew's, Shelsley Walsh.

On Sunday 4 February, at 4pm, this stunning little Church will be decorated with 100's of candles to enhance the Medieval service. There will also be classical music from local musicians.

It really will be a service not to be missed - all are welcome to attend.





January floods looking down onto New Mill bridge, with Shelsley Beauchamp to the right and the hillclimb and Stanford in the distance.



*View of the floods from the Birch Hill orchards, looking across the Shelsley airstrip towards Ham bridge.
Both photos © Michael Whitefoot, 3 Jan 2024.*





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Contributions for the March 2024 edition by Friday 9 February 2024 please to: editortemetriangle@gmail.com

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