

March 2024

Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton-upon-Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



Litter pickers preparing to set out from Clifton

In this edition

- **Former Art Teacher's Waffle Venture**
 - **Clifton Parish News**
 - **Local Litter Picking Drive**
 - **Candlemas At Shelsley Walsh**
-

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Shrove Tuesday pancakes at Harpley: (L-R) Liz Younge, Candy Connolly, Sue Rigby, Rev. Jen Denniston and Pat Savage.

YOUR TEME TRIANGLE TEAM

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Front cover picture (left to right): Richard & Maggie Newman, David & Ali Seall, Rev. Julia Curtis, Candy Connolly and Sue Johns (See report on page 18)

FORMER ART TEACHER'S WAFFLE VENTURE

Clifton's Emma Symons' new business venture, the Van Waffle Company, began when her career as an art teacher at Abberley Hall School ended abruptly last year. Offered the opportunity to serve waffles out of a vintage Citroën van at the Taphouse in Stanford Bridge over the summer, Emma decided to buy a specially-converted van of her own and The Van Waffle Company was born.



“We serve delicious sweet Belgian waffles absolutely loaded with homemade delights, doing our best to source local products, plus various favourite flavours. You can select a treat from the menu or you can build your own, adding as many toppings as you like,” says Emma, who has named her van Vincent van Waffle. “As well as serving at local venues and events we also do private parties and weddings.”

Further details can be found on her website: www.thevanwafflecompany.co.uk

CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

SPONSOR A BENCH IN CLIFTON'S NEW WILDLIFE GARDEN

If anyone is looking to keep the memory of a loved one in the village, Clifton Parish Council is seeking sponsorship for benches to be placed in the wildflower garden due to be constructed in the new recreation ground. The cost, including a dedication plaque, is £500. The benches are of good quality and will have many years of life.



CLIFTON PARISH PRECEPT

Clifton Parish Council has agreed to increase the parish precept by 10% to £33,825.00 for the next financial year (2024/2025). With the increase in the council tax base for the parish, this equates to £90.02 per year for a band D property (reduced from £93.79 in the current year), enabling the Parish Council to continue to provide and improve facilities and services within the village.

TEME TRIANGLE DONATION

Clifton parish councillors agreed to donate the sum of £600 towards the cost of producing *Temé Triangle* for the year. [Ed. Clifton Parish Council's generous support much appreciated]

CLIFTON NURSERY

Following a plea by Alice Fletcher, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Clifton Nursery, Clifton parish councillors agreed to donate £1,000 towards the cost of replacing the access ramp that provides disability access to the nursery. District Councillor Paul Cumming said he would add a further £750 from his district fund.

BERT BRADLEY TREE

Approval was given for an evergreen oak tree to be planted in the sensory garden of the new recreation area in memory of Bert Bradley, the cost to be met by the Bradley family.



SOCIAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY FOR CLIFTON RESIDENTS

Houses allocated for Social Housing on the Hope Lane development in Clifton (either for rent or part ownership) are nearing completion. The terms of the planning agreement are that existing local residents have first options on the houses, followed by those who live near Clifton and then those who live further afield. Clifton Parish Council is keen that local people should take up the opportunity if they so wish. Anyone interested should contact Citizen Housing, the owners of the houses, for further enquiries.

GUEST COLUMN BY HARRIETT BALDWIN MP

We are blessed to live in a wonderful area where we have great employers, great schools, and, as important to those moving to the area, low levels of serious crime. I was elected on a pledge to recruit 20,000 more police and West Mercia Police Crime Commissioner John Campion has put this pledge into effect locally. Over the last three years, 330 additional police have been recruited and trained. West Mercia Police now has 2,496 officers – that's the highest number ever recorded.



You regularly tell me that visible policing is very important to you in our town centres - Pershore, Malvern, Upton-upon-Severn and Tenbury Wells - as there are occasional instances of anti-social behaviour. I went out on patrol with Pershore police to see the challenges for myself. I am pleased to hear that their visible policing patrols, as well as some targeted plain-clothed officer investigations, is delivering results, with anti-social behaviour down 44 per cent after a 73 per cent increase in interventions in Pershore.

Rural crime is an issue which is regularly raised by farmers whenever I meet them with equipment theft occurring far too often. It's another issue that PCC John Campion has been focussing on and I am hopeful that more resources can be allocated to detecting and prosecuting offenders.

Speeding is a key issue, particularly in rural West Worcestershire and alongside the work of the County Council and the Safer Roads Partnership, I am keen to see police monitor and enforce speeding across the area. The busy A46 continues to be raised with me, both on the doorstep and in my post bag but also a number of rural communities have recently written sharing concerns about speeding and how to make their own roads safer for road users and pedestrians.

The national Crime Survey picture is reassuring - since 2010 violent crime is down 51 per cent, neighbourhood crime is down 48 per cent and theft is down 46 per cent. While every instance of crime is troubling, I am confident that West Mercia Police is doing the best it can to keep you safe and secure.

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Clifton Parish Council Minutes of meeting held 1st February 2024

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

Also present: 2 Members of the Public & District Councillors Paul & Pam Cumming

Apologies: Cllrs L. Merrick and S. Haywood

The Minutes of the Meeting held 22nd January 2024: Proposed by P. Brooks; seconded by B. Gilbert. All agreed. Matters arising: No matters arising.

DEMOCRATIC PUBLIC TIME: No public matters raised.

County & District Councillor Reports: The County Councillors Report was read out by the Chairman & Paul Cummings elaborated on his report for January.

Matters discussed included: Community Infrastructure Levy and local development within the district, including SWDP proposals; Policing priorities including rural crime and speeding. It was noted that the Police & Crime Commissioner had attended a recent meeting on such matters; Neighbourhood Planning matters including validity periods and housing allocations. It was noted that our NDP does not include a housing allocation so may qualify for a 5-year validity period; Start-up funding for local businesses; Concerns regarding The Chantry catchment area and the impact of new housing development. Clifton Primary School numbers are now becoming viable which is positive news; Electric vehicle charging points – information still being chased up.

Finance & Governance Matters: Payments and receipts schedule – proposed Cllr Gilbert, seconded Cllr Brooks. All agreed, including additional payments of £30.30 for Cllr Bowden and £600.00 for Teme Triangle. Section 106 matters – meeting held with M. Hammond at MHDC seemed positive regarding further improvements to the recreation ground pavilion. A pavilion user meeting is to be held on 7th Feb to look at drawings and to progress ideas. Natural Networks funding application – Cllr Gilbert reported on the work done and that the application has been submitted as an initial draft for £15k of funding. Cllr Gilbert also explained how current s106 funding could also be used with MHDC approval. Smart Meter – Cllrs Gilbert and Bowden are to liaise regarding the installation of a smart meter in the pavilion.

Parish Matters /Updates: Village Maintenance Plan – R. Wilks quotes for hanging baskets and grass cutting in 2024 were approved at the 22nd January meeting. The gully at 3 Hope Lane is now cleaned. The holly over the bin in Manor Rd has been cut back. The hedge at 24 Manor Rd is being progressed by R. Wilks. Tarmac around The Green - the gully is being monitored by Cllr Bowden. Hole in paving outside the school – to be reported to Worcs CC by the Clerk. Social Housing – no further update. The matter has been raised with D. Cllr Paul Cumming who will raise the query. Cllr Gilbert to liaise.

S106 Project (CFAF) updates: Cllr Bowden reported that the project is going well and lots of work has been completed. The Bowling Green works are under way and awaiting turf. The children's play area work starts next week. Heras fencing will be erected for H&S reasons and the area will be closed for 5-6 weeks. Councillors all asked to think about a formal opening ceremony, although the area will be re-opened as soon as works are complete and H&S checks done. Picnic benches to replace the old ones will be considered at the next meeting as quotes have been obtained. Cllr Bowden will circulate. Recreation field user contracts to be reviewed.

Planning Matters: No new applications received. Cllr Brooks reported on recent land and traffic surveying locally, but the Clerk has not been informed of anything formally.

Strategic Planning Matters: The SWDP remains with the Independent Examiner.

Highways Matters: Lengthsman – the end of Kenelm Close has tree debris which needs clearing. The 30mph sign down School Lane needs to be turned around. Village bus shelter – Cllr Bowden is progressing. Road sweeping – the Clerk has requested via MHDC. Litter bin emptying – the bin at Hill Farm has been emptied and is now added to the MHDC programme. Land ownership – the strip of land between Kenelm Close and Manor Rd needs to be confirmed as tree works are needed. Clerk to chase up WCC Highways.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 7 March 2024 at 7.40pm in the Village Hall.

CLIFTON ON TEME FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Clifton Friendship Club's first meeting in February was with Clifton's very own Andy Arnold, who took us on his amazing challenging trek to the Karakoram mountain range in Northern India.

Meetings in March begin with the Club's 53rd birthday celebrations. This will be a lunchtime meeting at 12.30pm on the Wednesday, 6 March, when we will have Pete Griffin and The Village Mobile Fish & Chip Shop will be coming to make lunch for everyone. On Wednesday, 20 March, Terry Green 'The hedgehog man' is coming to talk about hedgehog care.

January was a very busy month for the Friendship Club. "We had the usual sherry and mince pies with time to chat, then the Age UK roadshow came with a lot of useful information and help for our members," said Dot Millward. Visitors and new members are always welcome; for more information contact dotmillward@btinternet.com

SHELSLEY CHURCH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are looking for willing volunteers who may have a few spare hours once or twice a year to help keep our beautiful All Saints Church in Shelsley Beauchamp looking splendid!

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NEW ARTS & CRAFTS WORKSHOP IN MARTLEY

This new venture based at Unit 1, Maylite Trading Estate in Martley starts this March with an already sold out 'Coffee & Clay' event tutored by sculptor and artist Lyn Merrick: www.lmsculpture.com

Future clay and illustration events will be available throughout the year along with other exciting and interesting arts and crafts workshops. If you are interested as an attendee or if you are a talented crafter yourself and would love to host an event, contact Emma Rice at emma@babyrice.co.uk for more information.

ANDY ARNOLD'S WINTER CHALLENGE RAISES £3,000

Andy Arnold, whose epic challenge trekking from Edale in Derbyshire to Kirk Yetholm in the Scottish Borders featured in last month's *Teme Triangle*, said he had encountered some of the "worst weather I've ever been in, with winds of 50-60 miles an hour" during the six and a half days of the Montane Winter Spine Race in January. He managed a total of only seven hours sleep in the course of completing the event, much of which was done in Arctic blizzard conditions in total darkness with only brief stop-overs at checkpoints along the way.



Andy, who celebrated his 62nd birthday in the course of completing the gruelling 271 miles of the challenge, has raised more than £3,000 for charity. "My sincere thanks to each and everyone who had donated, it is hugely appreciated," he said. "I chose 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."

The Montane Winter Spine is widely regarded as Britain's most brutal endurance race. It's a truly epic challenge that tests competitors' physical resilience and mental fortitude and Andy experienced the full intensity and ferocity of the British winter including snow and storm force winds as he headed north across some of the most beautiful but difficult terrain found in England.

At one point, a few miles north of Hadrian's Wall, Andy stopped to aid a female fellow competitor who was suffering from vertigo due to the extreme conditions. As a result, he was awarded a 'Good Samaritan' bonus time by the race organisers. Of the 166 competitors who started, only 90 (including Andy) managed to complete the course.

CLIFTON UPON TEME WI

The next meeting of the Clifton WI is on Tuesday, 13 March. An Introduction to Textile Art, Paint, Stitch, Mixed Media and Screen Printing led by Georgia Jacobs who will talk and demonstrate her work.



The WI skittles team has now played three matches winning two of these. Two more matches are planned.

Enthusiasm is high, skills are improving as is understanding of the rules! It has proved to be good fun as well as a chance to meet up with other local WI groups.

The WI Health and Wellbeing Evening on the topic of osteoporosis, which was postponed due to flooding in October, is now taking place on Friday, 26 April. We are looking forward to the speaker from the Royal Osteoporosis Society. Osteoporosis is an important topic that affects both men and women so all welcome. This is a free event with refreshments, stalls, an introduction to useful Pilates exercises, and a raffle.

February's meeting was well attended despite the weather! Colin Millett entertained us with slides of pieces made at Royal Worcester Porcelain Factory, from the start of the factory in 1751 to its closure in 2008. The range of porcelain made, and skill of the painters was amazing. Tea drinking made teacups popular and we were shown delicate cups and saucers hand painted inside and out with pictures of highland cattle, sheep, birds and flowers to name a few. The main factory was sited where the car park in Copenhagen Street is now located. The Museum is well worth a visit to learn more of this prestigious factory and we are hoping to plan a visit for the WI Summer Outing.

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

LITTLE WITLEY FILMS

On Saturday, 16th March, Little Witley Films will be screening a classic gem - Cinema Paradiso. If you haven't seen it before, it's about childhood, cinema and Sicily... with the fantastic music of Enrico Morricone. And if you saw it before, you'll want to see it again! One of the most loved films ever. Little Witley Village Hall doors open at 7.15pm, film at 8pm as usual.





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TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE REPORT

“When gorse is in blossom, kissing’s in season” runs an old saying, which is handy for would-be sweethearts because gorse flowers can be found in any month of the year from January to November. Botanists point out that the long flowering season of gorse is due to most colonies being a mixture of two varieties; common gorse which flowers from January to June and western gorse which takes over between July and November.



We are all familiar with the spiky green gorse bush, also known as furze or whin, which opens into a sea of bright yellow flowers and has a pleasant coconutty scent. The pea-like flowers are apparently edible although I’ve never given one a try. Rather surprisingly, the plant was formerly used as animal feed and was first passed through a mill, sometimes a cider mill, to soften the stems and take the edge off the spines. In fact gorse was once a very useful plant and local laws controlled how much could be cut in order to keep it as a sustainable resource. Furze-cutting was often limited to what could be carried on a man’s back and some districts forbade the grubbing up of whole bushes.

The main use of gorse was as a fuel, although it was sometimes taken to be made into brooms and chimney brushes. Being highly flammable it provided a quick hot blaze which was good for getting a fire going on a cold morning. It also found favour in domestic bread ovens and was used to fire both brick kilns and lime kilns. Despite being so flammable, gorse is well adapted to survive the natural fires encountered when growing in its usual heathland habitat. New shoots can spring up directly from the roots and the seed pods crack open and are scattered by fire. In this way, patches of predominantly old bushes can be rejuvenated by deliberate firing.

Gorse flowers are attractive to many species of bee because they produce large amounts of pollen. A trigger mechanism is activated when a bee pushes inside the flower, releasing a burst of pollen grains onto the insect’s abdomen. This is useful to pollen-seeking bees but other pollinators are less likely to visit because the flowers offer very little nectar.

Other creatures to value gorse are birds who take advantage of the thorny protection afforded to their nests. Birds with a particular liking for the plant include stonechats, whinchats and yellowhammers. It is said that the call of the stonechat, often to be seen perching on top, is remarkably similar to the sound of a gorse seedpod cracking open. I wonder what lies at the heart of that coincidence, nature has so many secrets unknown to us.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7:30pm on Thursday, 14 March, at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall, WR15 8RR. We welcome Alison Wilkes who will be talking about the work of the Severn Rivers Trust. She will include details about a local project which is ongoing in the Kyre brook catchment area. 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, please visit our Facebook page. Our programme of events, bird survey and archive photographs are available on our website www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk We normally hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by email at twgw@outlook.com

WAS CLIFTON THE INSPIRATION FOR AMBRIDGE?

Which Worcestershire village was the actual inspiration for the BBC Radio 4 serial *The Archers* has long been a topic of debate, but Clifton has perhaps a better claim than most to be the real life Ambridge, thanks to a report in the *Worcester Evening News* in 1977 (right) which included a photograph of the Archers' creator, Godfrey Baseley, in the bar of the Lion Inn.

The photo was actually taken in the 1940s, shortly before the long-running radio soap opera was first broadcast in 1951.

With nearby Ham Bridge over the River Teme at the foot of Clifton Hill, maybe the aitch-dropping habit of some local residents added weight to the claim...

Landlord of the Lion at the time was Joseph Thompson, pictured pulling a pint for Mr Baseley.

SINCE the Evening News announced plans by the BBC to find and promote a real-life Archers village of Ambridge in Worcestershire, letters have been pouring in with nominations.

For those who didn't read the story, carried last Wednesday, what it amounts to is this:

In the 26 years the BBC has run its "everyday" story of country folk, there has never been any one village that listeners can associate with the fictional Archers — although Hanbury and Lakeview have often been used as backgrounds for photographs and recordings.

Now, Jock Gallagher, network editor, radio, at Birmingham's Probe Hill studios, thinks it is high time a Worcestershire village was nominated to be the real-life Ambridge.

PHOTOGRAPH

Wednesday's front page story asked News readers to suggest a village for the role and give their reasons for nominating it.

As I said, letters have been coming in thick and fast, suggesting places like

Everyone knows an Ambridge!

Ombersley, Hallow, Birmingham, Kempsay, Elmley Castle, Clifton-on-Teme and Upton-upon-Severn.

With the recommendation for Clifton, was this photograph (below) taken in the Forties, of Archers' creator Godfrey Baseley, chatting to locals in the village's Lion Hotel.

Landlord Joseph Thompson — he's the one about to pull a pint — kept the Lion for 14 years and during that time, Mr Baseley was a regular guest.

It might just be that from his visits to Clifton-on-Teme seeds for Britain's famous farming

serial first germinated — especially when you consider that a mile away there is a crossing over the river Severn called Ham Bridge.

I have it on good authority that the best contender for the Real-Life Ambridge stakes at the moment is Askton-under-Hill — principally because the main family living in the village happens to go by the surname of Archer!

If you have any more suggestions, then don't hesitate to send your letters to: The Real Ambridge, Evening News, Hydon Road, Worcester.



Did radio's most famous serial start here ?

LITTER PICKING

This year's litter picking operation saw teams of volunteers from all three parishes take part in a clean up operation that stretched from Ham Bridge to Harpley, covering eight miles of local roads. Among those taking part were Clifton Cubs and Beavers, led by Scout Leader Nick Rowe, who collected two full bags of rubbish during their winter nature hike to Martley.



Organiser Candy Connolly said: "We reached new heights this year by covering the whole of Clifton Hill for the first time. The lower half was significantly full of debris. Thanks to everyone who took part."

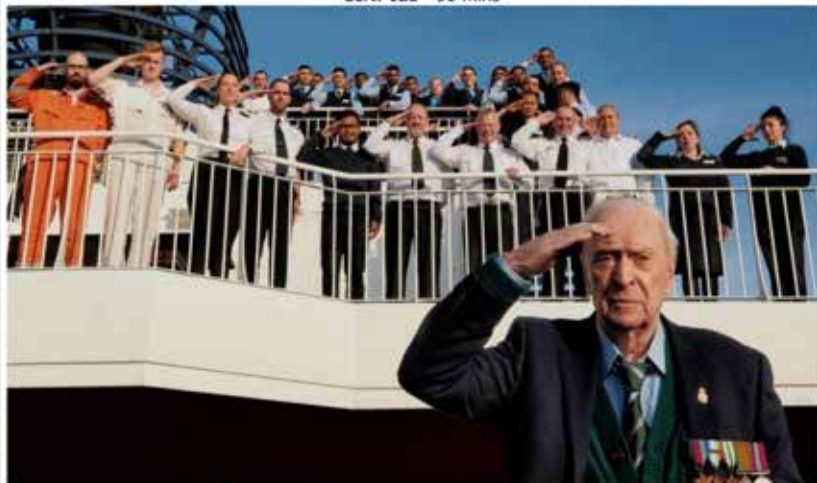
Among items found were a large bright pink space hopper; car number plate, bumper and wheel disc; an empty wine bottle, gardening glove and discarded vapes.



Pippa and David Richards in Hollybush Lane

The Great Escaper

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Sat 9th March - 7.00 pm

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In the summer of 2014, a World War II veteran sneaks out of his care home to attend the 70th anniversary commemoration of the D-Day landings in Normandy.

Starring: Michael Caine, Glenda Jackson, John Standing



Work on Clifton's new Recreation Area.

*Above, the new multi-games court and boules playing area.
Below, construction of the children's playground (with artist's impression)*



CANDLEMAS AT SHELSLEY WALSH

A very enjoyable few hours was spent at a 'full to the brim' St Andrew's Church, Shelsley Walsh on Sunday 4 February. For the first time in a very long time, a special Medieval Candlemas service was held in our very own Medieval Church. St. Andrew's was adorned with candles and everyone in attendance also held individual candles, to signify Christ as the light of the world, a symbol of protection and prosperity.

Members of the congregation took part in an enchanting re-enactment of Candlemas (the often forgotten ending to the Nativity story) - the purification of the Virgin Mary and the presentation of Christ in the Temple.



Throughout the service we were treated to interludes of the truly beautiful, hypnotic music and singing from Steve Tyler and Katherine Evans, using traditional Medieval instruments - the hurdy-gurdy drone, the citole and the gothic harp. You can watch part of their performance on the following YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q87uDaqAPTc>

There was also a wonderful solo singing performance by Meadow Perks. In a fitting finish to this special service, the congregation was treated to some delicious mulled mead and Medieval Candlemas cakes.

Thanks must go to Kate Hurst and Holly Perks for planning the service, Jill Smith for leading it, and to all those who helped in some way, providing refreshments, candles, glasses and everything required to make this such a special Shelsley event.

Louise Hutton

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LOWER SAPEY NEWS

January seems such a long month and this year has been no exception due to the awful weather, heavy rain, named storms and some below-average temperatures. Yes, this is winter and I suppose last year we were lucky, but now we are watching rising fuel costs more carefully. The Warm Hub in Clifton Village Hall continues to flourish and thanks go again to the many kind helpers. Hearing the grim international news doesn't lighten our spirits either. February is a short month, even though we have one extra day this year - Leap Year. Lent has started early (14 February) and maybe this will mean that spring is not far away. Many areas are experiencing flooding again and although some flood barriers are working well, the water levels have been testing many others. The extreme changes in the weather are also having a bad effect on the road surfaces so beware potholes; hopefully, the councils are prepared for this. Meteorologists say that we will feel the effect of El Nina in the UK this summer, but they are not yet sure what this will mean for us, so farmers and growers beware! In the meantime, the spring bulbs are beginning to smile: even my *Stellata Magnolia* is covered in buds and the seven pheasants that we have been feeding for some years have survived into the closed season and are demanding food.

We celebrated Pancake Day in St Bartholomew's Church on 13 February with the usual delicious pancakes baked by Liz Younge and her helpers. Quite a few people arrived to sample these, despite the dreadful weather.

I was lucky enough to go with a few parishioners to hear the Archbishop of Canterbury speak in Worcester Cathedral earlier in the month. I do admire him very much and just now he seems to have the troubles of the world on his shoulders. The main aisle of the Cathedral was full and the Cathedral looked stunning with some rare winter sunshine. Afterwards, we were invited to join various prayer stations; we joined one in a hidden part of the garden near the old monastery ruins. I must admit that I didn't know this place existed. We also talked to a delightful young American monk from the St Anselm's group. In the summer, the Cathedral will be hosting the Three Choirs Festival again. The programmes will be out soon and booking starts in April (see their website). Events will be also taking place all over the county.

Services in St Bartholomew's for March: there will be no Methodist Service during March. Please see the full list at the end of the magazine, but always check times and dates.

Housekeeping: There will be no flowers of course during Lent. We are hoping to have a good Church clean-up on one or two dates, 22 or 23 March. Please come and help if you can.

There are two Lent Courses running in the village, one at the home of Pat Savage (2-4pm) on Tuesday, 19 March and 26 March, and one at the home of Jen Denniston on Wednesday 20 March and 27 March (7-9pm). Because of this, there will be no Ladies Bible Group until Tuesday, 19 April. The venue for this will be arranged nearer the date.

The Mobile Library will be calling on Friday 15 March at 10.20am and 10.40am.

May you all have a wonderful Easter and may we all see the coming of the spring sunshine very soon.

Margaret Griffiths

FORMER CLIFTON RESIDENT'S MEMORIES

Standing recently under the ancient and magnificent chestnut tree in Clifton-upon-Teme with Ripley, my chocolate Labrador, was a powerfully nostalgic moment for me, writes former resident Roger Hanson, following a recent visit to the village.

“Way back in 1970, aged sixteen, I moved to Clifton with my parents, Doug and Jean Hanson. The house in question was the Old Smithy, Clifton: ‘under the spreading chestnut tree, the village smithy stands ...’ as the famous poem runs! I have so many happy memories of our time living there, along with our boxer dog, Caesar. My mother, Jean, took a job as an instructor at Kyre Park, near



Tenbury where I joined her as a junior houseparent for a short time, before heading down to London’s St Thomas Hospital as student days beckoned.

Continued on next page

“Glorious and very dear memories of Clifton abound. Shaking hands with the wonderful countryman and local farming stalwart, Martin Crump. When he shook your hand - it stayed `shook`! Listening to Martin and Dad discussing farming issues of the day over a pint in the Lion. A revered local character around the village, Frank Haywood. What Frank didn't know about gamekeeping definitely was of no worth to anyone! Friends and neighbours - Jerry and Sue Johns next door at the Crown House. Bernard and Marjorie Rogers across the road at Hope Wynd. Douglas and Pauline Ratcliffe over at Burys Place, Ken and Anne Wortlehock at Corner Cottage. Latterly Sally and Paul Wakefield at Clematis Cottage. I played football with Phil Haywood and others for Clifton Rovers - (semi-attacking full-back) changing in the old stable block behind the Lion Inn - pre-conversion. To my intense embarrassment, I once had to admit to Phil that, in my rush, I'd forgotten to pack my football kit for an away game in Worcester... He took it better than expected - just about!

“Off to New Road with Dad on summer Sundays for the new JP limited over league, camp chairs under the shady chestnuts. In later years my father would head off to New Road for county cricket with Brigadier George Young. I recall my Mum would share church flower duties with the local team, including Jean Young. My dear father dressed up as the narrator in the Clifton pageant celebrations in 1977 Jubilee year. During 1977, Jerry Johns' wonderful collection of jubilee beers from around the UK - we so enjoyed assisting Jerry in his research! My father's dedicated Parish Council work along with stalwarts such as Ernie Maudsley. Clifton with the snow falling heavily, the promise of a log fire and those epic Boxing Day lunchtime gatherings at the New Inn! One of my absolutely fondest memories is of the wonderful climbing rose at the front of the Smithy, with its fantastically heady scent drifting up through the open window of the bedroom on a balmy early June night... Completely heavenly - my father loved his roses. Then there's my mother proudly polishing the imposing brass front door-knocker.

“I could go on to mention other characters and experiences, but suffice to say, whenever I drive over from home in Ross-on-Wye, I feel a very strong pull towards an earlier home which will always be with me...”

Roger/Sue Hanson Tel: 01989 567958
Mobile: 07731 194838

Church Matters

by Rev Jen Denniston



Valentine's Day and the beginning of Lent coincided this year. So, the 14 of February brought mixed emotions and mixed responses. On Shrove Tuesday there was pancakes and partying. The following day there was romance and red roses and messages of love and admiration for Valentines on one hand, and messages of repentance and reflection and giving up chocolate for Lent on the other. Feasting and fasting, celebration and self-denial. How can we live with those two possibilities in tension?

Maybe we can do both at the same time. There's an opportunity for a bit of both, with the two companions that help in Lent: Gus and Tom. GUS reminds us to Give Up Something, And TOM reminds us to Take On More. GUS: Give Up Something that we like eating or drinking; Give Up Something that we spend time or waste time doing; or give up..... you'll know what it is in your life that you could give up. And TOM: Take On More: offer our talents in a community project; help a neighbour with a task they struggle with; give money or stuff or time to a charity... Keep the money we don't spend on chocolate or that second drink and donate it to help someone who needs it more than we do.

In his Lent message this year, the Bishop of Worcester reminds us that, 'Lent is a time for us to take stock of our lives, to do a spiritual reset and to focus again on the love of God and love of neighbour.'

So, in these six weeks of Lent, as we prepare for Easter (yes, there will be Easter egg hunts in our village churches and churchyards on 31 March!) let's focus on God's love and his goodness, and re-commit to hope and forgiveness, and to finding peace in our broken world, loving our neighbour.

With love, and wishing you all a Happy Easter!

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ALL OUR YESTERDAYS



REMEMBERED today are the infants of a Worcestershire village school 66 years ago.

The vintage photograph of the youngsters of Clifton-upon-Teme School in 1925 comes from Mrs Florence Beard (maiden name, Price) of Redborough Drive, Warrndon, Worcester. She is seen third from the right in the back row.

She recalls that the headmaster was known as "Boss" Carter because he was "very strict and always had a cane handy."

"I remember being caught by my skirt up a tree and if it hadn't been for a Boy Scout helping me down, I would have felt that same. The bell was ringing for assembly and I would have been late," recalls Mrs Beard.

She can remember only some of the names of her classmates of 66 years ago including Jim and Ernie Saunders, Margaret Saunders, Archie and Dennis Powell, Mary Hope, Doris Underwood, Mabel Crowther, Lily Hogward, Denis Hogward, Vera James, Ida Hogward, Dick Roberts and Jack James. The small girl standing in front of the group was the headmaster's daughter Betty.

Clifton-upon-Teme School 1925

CHURCH CONTACTS

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

Christenings, Weddings, Funerals: Rev Jen Denniston 07783 432017
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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

St Kenelm's, Clifton

Contacts :

Ruth Wilson (PCC Vice Chair & Warm Space) ruth.wilson38@btinternet.com
Anne Gayden (PCC minutes secretary) & Jackie Gilbert

St Bartholomew's, Harpley

Church Wardens:

David Richards 07765 866489
Liz Younge erckuk@hotmail.com



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

March 2024

Sunday 3rd March

10.30am: Holy Communion, St Kenelm's, Clifton

10.30am: Morning Praise, St Bartholomew, Harpley

Mothering Sunday 10th March

10.30am: Family Communion, refreshments and flowers, All Saints,
Shelsley Beauchamp

4.00pm: Mothering Sunday Activities family celebration with crafts, games,
flowers, refreshments, St Kenelm's, Clifton

Sunday 17th March

10.30am: Methodist Morning Prayer, St Bartholomew, Harpley

6.30pm: Evensong, St Kenelm's, Clifton

Holy Week

Palm Sunday Celebration 24th March

10.30am: Joint Service with our Rural Mission Area Churches.

Meet at Hanley Broadheath village hall for start of procession with 'donkey'.

Tuesday 26th March

7.00pm: Compline, St Kenelm's, Clifton

Good Friday 29th March

10.30am: Worcester Passion Play, Worcester

2.00pm: Devotional Hour Service, St Kenelm's, Clifton

Easter Sunday 31st March

6.00am: Dawn Service, St Mary's Church, Stanford Bridge

9.30am: Family Communion, Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Bunny visit,
St Bartholomew, Harpley

10.30am: Holy Communion, St Kenelm's, Clifton

11.00am: Family Communion, Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Bunny visit
All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 1 Lyn Merrick clay course, Unit 1, Maylite Trading Est., Martley 10am-12noon
- 6 Friendship Club 53rd birthday, Clifton VH 12.30pm
- 7 Clifton Parish Council meeting, VH 7.40pm
- 9 Film: *The Great Escaper*, Clifton VH 7pm
- 10 Teme Valley Market, Talbot Hotel, Knightwick 11am-1.30pm
- 12 Shelsleys Parish Council meeting, VH 7pm
- 13 Clifton WI meeting, VH 7.30pm
- 14 Teme Valley Wildlife Group meeting, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH 7.30pm
- 16 Film: *Cinema Paradiso* Little Witley VH, 7.15pm for 8pm
- 20 Friendship Club talk: Hedgehog Care Clifton VH 2.30pm
- 24 Quiz, Lion Inn, Clifton 7pm
- 29 Worcester Passion Play, 10.30am, Cathedral Square
- 31 Easter Dawn Service, St Mary's, Stanford 6am

April

- 16 Clifton WI Health and Wellbeing Evening, VH 7.30pm
- 17 Friendship Club talk: *Jeanne's War* Clifton VH 2.30pm
- 20 Friends of St Kenelm's church and 1st Clifton Rainbows coffee morning 10am - 12noon.

May

- 14 Shelsleys Parish Council Annual meeting, VH
- 15 Friendship Club AGM, Clifton VH 2.30pm

EASTER CELEBRATION BREAKFAST

Robin Dean, the churchwarden at St Mary, Stanford, where the Dawn Service is taking place on Easter Day, 31 March, starting at 6am, is extending an open invitation to anyone wishing to join him in celebration of Easter morning with a full English breakfast for £18 per person at The Den, Mill Farm, Stanford. If anyone would like to participate in this, please could they book with Robin on 01886 853295 before Wednesday 27 March. Payment on Easter morning please, but a booking will assume payment.

FLORAL WORKSHOPS IN THE TEME VALLEY

Ever wanted to know how to make your own gift bouquet or decorate your door with a natural Spring wreath? Kate Hurst from Camomile & Cornflowers is holding two workshops this spring using locally grown flowers:



Me & Mum Mothers' Day hand-tied bouquet workshop on Sunday 10 March at 2.30pm

Easter Living Wreath workshop on Sunday 24 March at 2pm

Both take place in Kate's beautiful garden in the Shelsleys. Check out more details at www.camomilecornflowers.co.uk

LOCAL PERFORMERS IN WORCESTER PASSION PLAY



This year's Passion Play in Worcester will be the last performance in the city, on Good Friday, 29 March at 10.30am in the Cathedral Square. A dramatic presentation depicting the Passion of Jesus Christ: his trial, suffering, death and resurrection, many of the performers are from the Teme Valley, including Des and Beryl Robson, Kate and Freya Hurst and Cassian and Flavian Roberts.

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