

May 2019

Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton upon Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



Locals gather to dedicate a memorial kneeler at St Kenelm's, Clifton

In this edition

- Clifton Parish Council latest minutes
 - Shelsleys' Social Club focus
 - Local author's debut thriller
 - Clifton cyclist's London to Paris charity ride
 - Educational charity invites grant requests
 - Events, talks, coffee mornings... and much more!
-



www.temetriangle.net

Free to Residents



Over 125 children turned out to the Clifton-upon-Teme Early Years Centre's annual Easter Egg Trail on 14th April, raising £715 for play area development. The children also enjoyed face painting and code cracking. The Trustees thank all who took part, volunteered and donated prizes, including The Lion at Clifton and Tesco and Spa in Tenbury. Pictured are (left) Willow Williams and (right) Joel and Erin Beauchamp

Main Teme Triangle mailbox for your news:

editortemetriangle@gmail.com

**EDITOR THIS ISSUE /
SHELSLEYS NEWS**

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

EDITOR / CLIFTON NEWS / WEBSITE:

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

LOWER SAPEY NEWS:

Marion West: 01886 853249
marionjeanwest@googlemail.com

ADVERTISING/SPONSORSHIP:

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

If you or your organisation would like to sponsor *Teme Triangle* please contact Andrew Brazier. The cost of producing TT is £7 per household per year. Donations are encouraged, to: Alden's Farm, Barbers Lane, Martley, Worcester WR6 6QD (cheques made payable to Teme Triangle Community Magazine)

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.

Our front cover photo shows:

Marking the dedication of an embroidered kneeler at St Kenelm's church, Clifton in memory of Christine Fletcher, are (left to right) Eileen Richmond, Janet Melillo, Rita Slater, Pat Snelling, Sue Barnes, Tania (Christine's daughter) and Billy (Christine's grandson). See our full report on page 5.

CLIFTON CYCLIST TRAINING FOR LONDON TO PARIS RIDE



Clifton cyclist Aaron Cooper is preparing to take on a 311-mile cycling challenge from London to Paris in July. 19-year-old Aaron is raising money for St Richard's Hospice. The mammoth bike-ride spans four days (Thursday 24th July – Sunday 28th July), finishing on the Champs-Elysees the day before the finale of the Tour de France.

Engineering apprentice and college student Aaron says: "I've always wanted to do my bit for charity and

being a keen cyclist, I thought I'll put two and two together. To cover this great distance is an achievement in itself, but to be doing it for charity as well makes it more worthwhile. I'm very passionate about doing this event and supporting St Richard's Hospice. It is a local charity that has been there for friends and family when they have needed support during difficult times."

His grandmother, Diane Mann of Pitlands Farm, Clifton said: "I'm very proud of him. I should think everyone in our community has either family or friends who have benefitted from the excellent care service provided by the Hospice, not only to the patient, but all the family support they give."

Aaron says he hopes to raise at least £1,600 for the Worcester-based hospice, helping fund its free care to patients, loved ones and bereaved people across Worcestershire. Helen Griffie, St Richard's Communications Manager, said: "We are thrilled to have Aaron on board with this challenge and we wish him all the best with training."

Donations can be made online which then go direct to the Hospice. £5 will buy a meal, £10 will give a patient an hour of care and emotional support at home, £20 will provide an hour of care in the inpatient unit. To donate to Aaron's fundraising, visit justgiving.com/aaron-cooper4

SHELSLEYS' EDUCATIONAL CHARITY INVITES GRANT REQUESTS

Are you, or is one of your children, starting a new phase of education this autumn, and do you live within the Shelsleys' parish? If so then you may be eligible for a small grant from the Shelsleys' Educational 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 2019.

Applications for grants should be made as soon as possible in writing, and before the end of the summer term. Enquiries and applications should be addressed to Mrs B Francis, Westmill Cottage, Shelsley Walsh, WR6 6RR or by email: bridgetf@martley.org

CLIFTON CRIB TEAM LIFTS THE CUP



Clifton's Lion Inn crib team has won the Bill Boatwright Memorial Cup for the second year running. Winners last month were Ray Neave and Alan Bridgens.

Pictured with the cup are Ray Neave and Janet Lawrence (captain). The Lion Inn team were also runners up in the League Knock-out Cup Final, losing by just one hole to the Kings Arms A!

SAPEY GOLF CLUB MEMBERSHIP GROWS

Investment in Sapey Golf and Country Club's 18-hole, par 69 Rowan Course has led to a surge in new members for the 2019 season.

"A full programme of greens management last year is now really beginning to pay dividends" said Course Manager Kevin Booth. "We sit on clay, so I have concentrated on ensuring that the course and especially the greens drain well. We have also spent the winter refurbishing all our machinery."

Its popularity was evident at the Club's season opener on 13th April where 108 competitors vied for the Alfie Best Open AM/AM Trophy, won by intermediate team Dean Corbett, Steve Trafford, Alex Whitty and Bill James. "The course is in the best condition I've ever seen it and it's definitely a much more challenging course than many others I've played," commented Alex.

The club has also installed a GCQuad golf simulator, expanded the balcony overlooking the 18th green and added three, luxury adults-only lodges, complete with outdoor hot tubs. More lodges are planned in the next 12 months, a new golf pro shop is being opened this summer. Outline plans continue for a leisure complex including swimming pool and gym.

Associate Membership at Sapey Golf and Country Club starts at £250 for a year, with full 7 day membership £780 per year. Visit www.sapeygolfandcountryclub.co.uk for details.

MEMORIAL KNEELER DEDICATED AT ST KENELM'S

On Passion Sunday, 7th April, a new kneeler was blessed and dedicated by Pat Snelling at St Kenelm's church in Clifton in memory of a much-loved local lady.

The embroidered kneeler was started by Christine Fletcher, who many locals remember with great affection. "Sadly, Christine died before she could finish it," explained Churchwarden Barbara Seeley. "So her friends in the Knightwick and District Trefoil Guild decided to finish it in her memory."

The kneeler was taken to St Kenelm's on Passion Sunday for the blessing and dedication, where the Guild members were joined by Christine's daughter Tania and grandson Billy. The kneeler depicts the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fiery furnace, where they had been thrown by King Nebuchadnezzar because they refused to bow down and worship the image of gold which he had had made. On the kneeler is shown, as per the book of Daniel, the image of the angel whom God had sent to protect them from the flames, enabling them to emerge unscathed and King Nebuchadnezzar to be converted to Christianity.

The kneeler can be seen in St Kenelm's, alongside the other embroidered kneelers in the pews. "Many thanks to the Trefoil Ladies for such a gesture of love and remembrance," said Barbara.

Christine's family and friends are pictured at the dedication in our front cover image.

OPEN DAY AT THE VIEW, CLIFTON

George Pickard, Senior Partner at Andrew Grant is pictured (left) with Sundip Shihn, Director of HCT Homes, outside the new houses at The View in Clifton at the open day last month for the development of 20 houses.



ORLETON LANE TEMPORARY CLOSURE: 3rd MAY

Orleton Lane will be temporarily closed for 6 days between Eastham and Stanford Bridge, commencing 3rd May, for roadworks that will lay new ducting.

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SHELSLEYS AUTHOR PUBLISHES DEBUT THRILLER

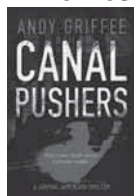
Shelsley Kings resident, Andy Griffie, has fulfilled a life-long ambition with the publication of his first novel. His crime thriller, called *Canal Pushers*, is released by Orphans Publishing on 2nd May. The 57-year-old former BBC journalist and manager hopes it will be the first of many in a series called The Jumping Jack Flash Thrillers.



Author Andy Griffie with his dog Eddie, who features in the book

"This really is a dream come true," says Andy. "I studied literature at university and I have always read copiously but never really had the time and energy to sit down and write fiction before." The debut author's first book was inspired by rumours of a real-life serial killer stalking the canal towpaths of Greater Manchester. Having hired narrowboats in the past, he came up with the story of a newly-divorced and penniless ex-journalist who begins living on a boat on the Stratford Canal. The hero, Jack Johnson, teams up with a secretive woman and they quickly become embroiled in trouble with the media, a drug-dealing gang and a serial killer chasing them across the waterways of the Midlands.

"The publishers enjoyed my first submission, but they wanted proof that I could write a sequel," explains Andy. "So, I worked out a new plot featuring the same couple, based on the River Avon in Bath." The result was a two-book publishing deal which was celebrated with a launch party at the Worcester branch of the Waterstones bookshop. Andy is now busy planning and researching the third book in the series, set on the River Thames in Oxford.



"Time flies by when I'm writing," adds Andy, "and when I get stuck, I take our dogs out for a walk and a think." Andy and his wife Helen have three dogs and one of them, a border-terrier called Eddie, features in the novels. "He belongs to a young homeless man who is killed by the Canal Pusher," explains Andy. "So, then he is adopted by our hero and heroine."

"I love canals and rivers. They can be beautiful and restful places. I take our dogs along the Teme most days and I sometimes I see a kingfisher which makes my day. However, canals can also be quite dark and threatening places and I wanted to capture that more sinister aspect in the books." However, he stresses that there are many moments of humour in the book too. "I really hope it will appeal to everyone," he says. "It's not just aimed at crime or canal enthusiasts."

Signed copies of *Canal Pushers* can be obtained from the publishers, www.orphanspublishing.co.uk. It is also available to order from Amazon, Waterstones and good book shops.

THAT'S LIFE! TEME VALLEY TALKS BRING INSPIRATION

A series of inspirational talks will be hosted by Churches Together in the Teme Valley in May and June, on the theme of 'O God ... that's life!' Each event comprises a guest speaker and supper (bring your own wine), and will be held at Clifton Village Hall from 7.00pm. Speakers include HJ Colston on Wednesday 8th May, Kimmy and Ovi Vaipan on Wednesday 22nd May, and the Rt. Reverend Graham Usher Bishop of Dudley on Wednesday 5th June.



HJ Colston

Tickets are £5 from Des & Beryl Robson: 01886 812535 / beryl.blackburn@yahoo.com or Steve Tidmarsh: 07932 687886 / stephentidmarsh@aol.com

BINGO! EYES DOWN AT GREAT WITLEY

A Bingo Night is being held at Great Witley Village Hall on Friday 24th May. Entry is free (buy game books on the night), and doors open at 7pm for 7.30 start – with great prizes to be won. Enquiries to Fay Parsons 01886 812486.

COME ALONG TO CLIFTON TABLETOP SALE

Bric-a-brac, jumble, craft, cake, games, plants, books and more will all be available at a tabletop sale in aid of Clifton's St Kenelm's Church on Saturday 15th June. Being held at Clifton Village Hall from 10am – 1pm, entry is £2 including a drink and homemade cake. Tables are still available at £10. Contact Ruth on ruth.wilson38@btinternet.com / 01886 853574 if you would like to raise money for yourself or your organisation.

CLIFTON PHOTOGRAPHERS' WORK ON SHOW

A coffee morning and exhibition of pictures taken by Clifton photographers of all ages, will be held at Clifton Village Hall on Saturday 11th May from 10am-12 noon.

TEME VALLEY MARKET SUMMER DATES

Described by *The Independent* in 2013 as 'One of the 10 best farmer's markets in the country', the Teme Valley Market is continuing to offer a chance to buy quality local foods, drink, plants, arts and crafts directly from the growers, bakers, cheesemongers, brewers and makers on the second Sunday of every month this summer.

The market, which is currently celebrating its 21st year, is held undercover next to the riverbank at The Talbot Inn, Knightwick, WR6 5PH. Upcoming market days are 12th May, 9th June, 14th July and 11th August, all 11am - 1.30pm. Visit www.temevalleymarket.co.uk for details.

DON'T MISS SHELSLEY WATER MILL OPEN WEEKEND

A reminder that Shelsley Walsh Water Mill will be open to explore on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th May from 11am to 4pm, as part in the National Mills Open Weekend.

The Shelsley Walsh Water Mill is the only working water powered corn mill in Worcestershire. The weekend, which marks the annual festival of the UK's milling heritage, offers the chance to visit a much-prized local gem in the heart of the Teme Valley. A demonstration of flour milling will also take place from 2pm on both days. Entry is free (though donations towards upkeep of the mill are welcome) and there is free parking in the adjacent, world-famous speed hill climb paddock.



From left – Chief 'Dibnah' Kim Johnson, Drene Baker (whose late husband Colin was one of the original 'Dibnah' volunteers at Shelsley Walsh Mill Society), and David Haggerty receiving the award in March

The Society is also celebrating some special recent news. "The Society was recently selected to take part in the District Council's Pride of Malvern Hills Community Awards evening at Malvern Town FC's stadium – and received a 'Highly Commended' Community Project award!" explained the Society's Tim King. "It was a real honour to have this historic mill recognised."

There has been a water mill on the Shelsley Walsh site since the early 1300s, and it remained part of the Teme Valley farming community until the early 1900s. The Water Mill Society is run by volunteers – collectively known as the 'Dibnahs' – who have lovingly restored the mill over a ten year period to its current working condition for use as a visitor attraction and educational resource.

More information at: www.shelsleywatermill.com

RUSSIAN FOLK SONGS AT TEDSTONE DELAMERE

A concert of Russian folksongs over canapes, drinks and light supper at St James' Church in aid of Tedstone Delamere church restoration fund will take place on Monday 13th May, at 7pm for 7.30pm. Vocal ensemble 'Lyra' from St Petersburg – professional musicians singing in different churches in St Petersburg – will perform chants of the Russian Orthodox Church and folk songs from Russia. Tickets £25 from William North: wanorth@hotmail.co.uk

MENITH WOOD WI HOSTS CRAFT DABBLE DAY



Menith Wood's WI invites local folk to experience something new at a 'Craft Dabble Day' on Wednesday 15th May at Lindridge Parish Hall (WR15 8JL), from 11am to 3pm. Part of the nationwide Get Creative Festival, the free event offers the chance to try your hand at crafts such as flower arranging, sugar craft, iris folding, patchwork, gift boxes and petit fours, under expert guidance. Greetings cards and cakes will also be on sale, and a pop-up café will be serving bacon butties, homemade cakes, tea and coffee.

IT'S BLUEBELL RIDE TIME

This year's Bluebell Cross Country Fun Ride will take place on Sunday 5th May from Wichenford in aid of the Midlands Air Ambulance, St Richards Hospice and local charities. The 11-mile pleasure horse ride through bluebell woods and fields includes optional shortcuts, no roadworks and lots of optional jumps of various sizes.

First entries are at 10.00am and last entries 1pm, starting from the field next to Wichenford Church (opposite Wichenford Dovecote and Court, WR6 6XY). Riders must have insurance and valid horse passports and take part at their own risk. Hard hats and adequate protection are obligatory. Dogs must be kept on lead. Teas and refreshments are also available. Riders entering on the day: Adults £16, children (under 12) £12. Walkers are also encouraged, entry £5. Rides on 4th May and 11th - 12th May are also available, strictly by appointment. Contact: gblwichenford@aol.com or call 07767 788273 / 01886 888678.

SEVENTEEN WICHENFORD GARDENS TO OPEN IN JUNE

Garden lovers can explore seventeen, beautiful private gardens in the village of Wichenford on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June, in the annual Gardens of Wichenford open weekend.

The gardens – which range from small to large, and encompass a huge variety of planting, designs, views and interesting features – include four new ones, open for the first time. Six gardens are serving afternoon teas, with home-made cakes. Delicious lunches are also available in Plas Gwlad in Prickley Green, plus a licenced bar. Visitors can start at any garden and visit as many as they fancy from 11am to 6pm – and all for the bargain entry price of only £5.

"Wichenford has been opening its gardens for nearly 20 years in aid of village and local charities," said organiser Sandra Kelley. "We're also famous for our plant stall which is stocked by the garden owners, who dig up and divide their plants so visitors can buy some to take home. Last year we made over £10,000 for local charities which is impressive for a village of less than 400 people!"

Full details at <http://wichenfordopengardens.webplus.net/>

See photos of one of the Wichenford open gardens, Pear Tree Cottage, on our inside back cover.



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SPOTLIGHT ON: SHELSLEYS' SOCIAL CLUB

A little-known club overlooking the glorious Shelsley Beauchamp countryside is inviting new members to discover its bar, bingo, sports and social life all year round.

Nestled near the banks of the River Teme, with panoramic views and a paved terrace looking out towards the Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb, the Shelsleys' Social Club offers locals a hidden hub of bar, social and leisure activities at the heart of the community.

Located in the right-hand half of the well-known Shelsleys' Village Hall (WR6 6RA, close to All Saints Church), the self-funded, locally run Social Club has more than 50 members from the Valley and beyond.



Left to right: Vice Chair Chloe Moogan, Bar Manager Fay Parsons and Secretary Claire Sanders in the Social Club bar



Pool team member Jay Parsons (left) pots a ball, with league organiser Mike Dapilito

For the small, annual sum of just £5.50 for individual members, £8 for couples and £3 for over 60s (with under 16 membership free of charge) the Social Club offers the chance to enjoy a fully-stocked bar on the doorstep, with Wye Valley brewery HPA pale ale and Thatchers Gold cider on draught.

Active air rifle, darts and pool teams meet there fortnightly as part of local league competitions, and welcome new players – plus Club members and their guests can play pool or darts whenever the bar is open. Bingo nights are held on two Saturday evenings each month, offering cash prizes and a raffle (See our Calendar of Events on page 34).

In addition the new committee, which came on board in 2018, is planning a number of special fund-raising events this year such as a Pig Roast.

The Club is also the ideal venue for private functions – and anyone hiring the adjoining Village Hall, whose main room and kitchen are equipped for 100 people, can request the Social Club bar be opened for their event for no extra charge.

“Shelsleys' Social Club offers so much for everyone in the area to enjoy. It's a great way to relax and get together – which is especially important in a rural community!” confirmed Secretary Claire Sanders. “We can't put up external signage however, so some people don't realise we're here!

"We'd love even more locals to come along and make the most of our facilities. Drinks are well below city centre prices, there's a TV to watch sports and news in the bar, and nothing beats the view from our patio on warmer evenings. We're also dog-friendly for walkers and close to the Worcestershire Way. Everyone is welcome to try it out before they join."



Shelsleys' Village Hall. The Social Club entrance is on the right

To enquire about Social Club membership or private hire, drop in whenever the bar is open or call Bar Manager Fay Parsons on 01886 812486. For Village Hall enquiries, contact Management Committee Vice Chair Dave Bates on 01886 812551.

Shelsley Social Club opening times

- Pool team / Bar: Every other Monday, 7-11.30pm
- Darts team / Bar: Every other Wednesday, 7-11.30pm
- Air rifle shooting team / Bar: Every other Thursday (from September), 7-11.30pm
- Bingo / Bar: 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month, 7-11.30pm
- Bar also open: Every Sunday 1-6pm (plus some Saturday nights in summer)



Shelsley Village Hall Shelsley Beauchamp WR6 6RH

The Carnival Band



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SUPPER AND 60s/70s DISCO NIGHT COMING TO VILLAGE HALL

A fish and chip supper plus 60s/70s disco (dress to match the theme!) is in the pipeline at Shelsleys' Village Hall in late May/early June. "The date is being finalised, but anyone interested in tickets should let me know now," said Vice Chair Dave Bates. "We'd also love to hear about other events people would like to see." Contact Dave on 01886 812551.

Shelsley Beauchamp Village Hall *Coffee Morning*

Everyone Welcome

**10a.m
to 12.30pm**

Plants for sale

**Saturday
4th May, 2019**

**Come along for coffee and cake and
chat with your neighbours**

HEALTH FOCUS: BE ALERT TO LYME DISEASE

May is Lyme Disease Awareness Month. To help raise local awareness of this tick-borne illness, Jennie Holmes, a Sapey Common resident whose Kidderminster-based daughter Isabel lives with the disease, spoke to *Teme Triangle* about their story.

Many people may know someone who has had Lyme Disease, a bacterial infection that can sometimes be spread to humans by infected ticks. The risk of getting ill is low, but there are 3,000 new cases of Lyme disease each year in the UK (source: Public Health England) and up to a third of people with it never fully recover.

Mobile phone entrepreneur John Caudwell, who has 15 family members suffering from Lyme disease, says on his Caudwell LymeCo charity website: "Anyone can catch Lyme disease. It is an infection spread by tick bites that attacks the nerves, brain, heart, joints, and eyes, and can also cause skin rashes. Lyme is the most common and fastest-spreading vector-borne disease in Europe, yet it is one of the most under-researched illnesses in the western world."

Isabel's story



Isabel with her children

I took Isabel to the doctor many years ago when she was about 13. She had a bull's eyes rash on her arm which was diagnosed as herpes. Cream was dispensed, and the rash disappeared. Over the years Isabel had several times when she was very tired or suffered badly from vertigo. Annoying, but put down as 'just one of those things'.

About a year ago her health deteriorated rapidly. She suffered from joint and muscular pains, dizziness, extreme fatigue and a complete inability to concentrate. Her GP was very supportive and carried out numerous tests. Referrals were made to consultants but none of them seemed able to look at all her symptoms at the same time. Causes were deemed to include possible depression and tiredness

from looking after two children. Driven by desperation Isabel began searching on Google and concluded she may have chronic Lyme disease. The UK does not test for Lyme's after this amount of time. She sourced details of a specialist doctor in Dublin, bloods were sent off to a German lab, the results came back positive and she then started three-monthly visits to Dublin. Unfortunately, she has not responded well to the regime of antibiotics and other supporting tablets. More blood tests show that she also has co-infections which are a lot harder to treat.

Meanwhile Isabel's elder son, Oliver, had been diagnosed with Coats disease and may eventually lose all his residual sight in his right eye. She wanted to raise money for the very supportive children's hospital in Birmingham, by running the Birmingham half marathon in 2017. She trained hard despite being very tired much of the time. But this was the last time she was able to run.

If detected straight away the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has issued guidelines for the treatment. Unfortunately, these guidelines are quite specific and do not include those like Isabel who have chronic Lyme Disease. She continues to experience muscle weakness and twitching, Bell's palsy, joint pain, brain fog, speech and balance problems, fatigue, heart palpitations, gut problems, depression/anxiety and migraine.

Jennie Holmes

About ticks and Lyme disease

- **What are ticks?** Tiny, spider-like creatures that live in woods and areas with long grass all over the UK. Ticks can attach to the skin of animals or humans that brush past them, then feed on blood for a few days before dropping off. Only a small proportion of minute, nymph-stage ticks, that have already bitten an animal infected with the bacteria causing Lyme disease, can infect humans
- **What to do if bitten:** Carefully remove the tick as soon as possible, using fine tweezers to gently grasp it close to the skin, then clean the bite with antiseptic.
- **How to reduce the risk:** Cover skin, tuck in trousers, use DEET-based insect repellent and stick to paths when out walking (source: NHS)
- **Symptoms of Lyme disease** (can vary):
 - Circular, 'bull's-eye' shaped red skin rash around a tick bite, lasting several weeks
 - Flu-like symptoms
 - Possibly months or years later: joint pain and swelling; nerve problems; heart problems; memory / concentration trouble
- **When to see a GP:** If you've been bitten AND experience symptoms. For more information visit: www.nhs.uk/conditions/lyme-disease and www.lymediseaseaction.org.uk



Twin spring lambs pictured near Shelsley Beauchamp, by photographer Michael Whitefoot

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Worms! What are they for? Why am I writing about them? Well, a farmland wildlife survey recently hit the news. In spring 2018 some farmer-surveyors of earthworms dug multiple pits across arable fields, counting shallow-burrowing, deep-burrowing and surface worms, and trying to gauge the health of their soil. In all, 1318 hectares of fields, mainly wheat and mainly in East Anglia, had 1,260 soil pits dug and 12,010 earthworms counted. 77% of pits had at least one worm and 58% had all three types, but 21% of fields had no surface worms and 16% fields had no deep-burrowing ones.

Why are worms important, and should we be concerned that some fields didn't have all three types? Earthworms have long been known to be necessary to maintain productive, humus-rich, well-aerated soil.

They were extensively studied by Charles Darwin. He found them not only to be vitally important, but sociable and intelligent as well! Their habit of burrowing and drawing down leaves and other plant matter deep into the ground, mixes the soil, improving its structure, increases the availability of nutrients and creates good drainage. Worms facilitate the decomposition of organic matter by other organisms too. Fewer worms make for less fertile soil, and fewer worm-eating birds, such as song thrushes. The good news is that increased crop rotations and organic matter applications are thought to have the potential to reverse any decline.



Earthworms are found on every continent except Antarctica. Australia is home to an enormous species an inch wide and 13 feet long! Europe has 200 different species, Britain has 26. Darwin estimated that there are 53,000 earthworms per acre of land and it has been calculated that, every year, they shift 100 tons of soil per hectare.

The largest British earthworm, reaching 14 inches in length, is called *Lumbricus terrestris*. It is probably easiest to observe when it comes to the surface of your lawn at night. It feeds and mates above ground, but always has to keep a foothold in its burrow, in case it needs to beat a hasty retreat. It is a much loved snack for blackbirds, badgers, moles, foxes and hedgehogs.

Although earthworms are hermaphrodite, they choose to mate with another worm to fertilise their eggs. Each partner then deposits its eggs in the soil, inside a special egg capsule.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group is at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th May at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall (WR15 8RR) when Jim Almond (also known as The Shropshire Birder) will talk about 'Nature in Focus. Entry is £2 on the door, all welcome.

For more local wildlife news and sightings, visit the TVWG Facebook page or www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. Call 01584 881397 / email at twwg@outlook.com for details.

Full Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Clifton upon Teme Parish Council held on 21st March 2019

1. Attendance

Present: M Newman (Chairman); W Bradley; N Parkinson; B Yarnold; R Henry
In Attendance: J Hill (Clerk)

In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, Members resolved (W. Bradley / B. Yarnold) that the public and press be excluded pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. The reasons being matters linked to staff employment.

2. To Consider a complaint received by the Parish Council

a) **Council Resolution: Council having duly considered the complaint has determined that there is no substance to the accusations.**

Proposed: M. Newman

Seconded: B. Yarnold

Proposal carried: 4 in favour, 1 against.

b) **Council Resolution: Council authorises the Chairman to convey the following reply to the complainant: that Council, having considered the content of the complaint, has resolved it fundamentally disagrees with the complainant's remarks which are ill informed and lack substance.** The Chairman is not authorised to communicate further with the complainant on the Council's behalf.

Proposed: W. Bradley

Seconded: B. Yarnold

Proposal carried: 4 in favour, 1 against.

3. To consider employment matters

Council Resolution: Council recognises that both Parish Councillors and the Clerk are operating in an untenable and unsustainable working environment due to the attitudes and actions of various members of the community. In order to meet its obligations as a responsible employer towards a member of staff the Council has reached an amicable agreement with the Clerk to provide a severance package (confidential file note).

Proposed: W. Bradley

Seconded: M. Newman

Proposal carried: 4 in favour, 1 against.

4. Date of Next Meeting

The next Ordinary Meeting of Clifton upon Teme Parish Council will be held at 19:40 hours at Clifton upon Teme Village Hall on Thursday 4th April 2019.

5. Approval of the Minutes of this meeting

Council Resolution: Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Clifton upon Teme Parish Council held on 21st March 2019 are hereby approved and shall be signed by the Chairman at this meeting as a correct record of the business conducted at the meeting.

Proposed: B. Yarnold

Seconded: N. Parkinson

Proposal carried: unanimous.

Meeting closed: 8.30pm

M.Newman
(Chairman – 21st March 2019)

Excerpts from the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Clifton upon Teme Parish Council held on 4th April 2019

Statements by Councillors

Statement of intention to resign by Cllr Wendy Bradley

It is with regret that I hereby inform you that I intend to resign as a Parish Councillor on Tuesday 30 April 2019, as of 12.00 midnight.

The reason for my resignation exactly mirrors that of Councillor Winer in April 2018 - I have found that the uninformed criticism from a minority of parishioners has affected me personally.

There has been ongoing unwarranted, unwanted, unnecessary, unsubstantiated and inaccurate criticism prior to and since April 2018. The recent vindictive insidious and overt personal attacks and trashing of the Clerk from a minority of parishioners has rendered the situation untenable.

Since 2015, it has been my privilege to work with my fellow Councillors and Clerk in diligently dealing with a number of thorny issues that had been unresolved by a previous Council for a substantial time. I have supported and still support the current Councillors in making difficult decisions and I have supported and still support the Clerk who has sourced appropriate advice at the request of the Councillors, acting appropriately as a conduit or messenger.

The Councillors considered a complaint about the Clerk at its meeting of 21st March 2019 and determined that there is no substance to the accusations. Council resolved that it does not agree with the comments listed in the complaint and that in Council's judgment and opinion the Clerk has not provided poor advice or behaved in the manner suggested. It is Clifton upon Teme Parish Council's opinion that the Clerk is a valued and respected employee who has provided exemplary service to the Council.

The recent move by some parishioners' to blacken the Clerk's name and professional reputation not only within the Parish of Clifton upon Teme but also the Parish of Hallow is nothing short of a vexatious and defamatory attack. I can no longer tolerate being subject to unwarranted criticisms and unscrupulous antics.

Statement of intention to resign by Cllr Neil Parkinson

I hereby inform you of my intention to resign from the Parish Council at midnight on Tuesday 30 April 2019. As you know I have lived in Clifton upon Teme all my life and that I joined the Parish Council some 4/5 years ago in order to support and represent the village. I fully support all the comments made by Cllr Bradley in her statement. I have become increasingly concerned about the level of discord generated within the village by a small group of residents which has become increasingly evident at the monthly meetings. This culminated in an unwarranted and direct attack on the Parish Clerk at the March 2019 meeting.

I am a volunteer and the personal criticism of the Council and the Clerk has left me disillusioned and unwilling to commit my personal time and effort beyond 30th April 2019.

Statement of intention to resign by the Chairman, Cllr Maggie Newman

I am intending to resign on Tuesday 30th April 2019 at 12 midnight from Clifton upon Teme Parish Council. I feel that it is unnecessary to add further comments to Councillor Wendy Bradley's statement as she has been very comprehensive in her detailing of the situation concerning the Parish Council and Clerk.

Continues on page 27

I will add though that my decision has not been an easy one and that I and the other councillors, who are resigning have timed it so that our end of term of office does not cause too much impact for the Parish, in regards of village facilities. I am looking forward to the end of my term as Councillor and Chair and wish the new council who sit in May, all the best.

Proposed: sign the minutes at the meeting

Proposed: B. Yarnold

Seconded: N. Parkinson

Proposal carried: unanimous

Excerpt Minutes as prepared and approved by Clifton Parish Council

Caroline Palethorpe's Report for Clifton upon Teme Parish Council meeting – Thursday 4th April 2019

Dear Councillors,

An update for your perusal:

Worcestershire Skills Show: Nearly 6,000 young people, employers and education providers from across the Midlands attended Worcestershire Skills Show 2019, which took place on 13th March at the Chateau Impney Hotel in Droitwich Spa. A total of 46 schools and colleges attended the event, along with over 110 of the county's most exciting businesses and education providers. The event was divided into six key 'zones' that grouped together likeminded businesses from different industry sectors including science, technology, engineering and maths, tourism and leisure, professional services and creative industries. The Worcestershire Skills Show provided young people with a wide variety of exciting activity-based stands that brought the world of work to life in a fun and interactive way – from augmented reality and virtual reality headsets, to 3D printers and towers built out of marshmallow! The Skills Show was delivered by the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Worcestershire County Council, through The Careers and Enterprise Company's national initiative. We were delighted to see so many local school children attend and engage with the exhibitors, which included young people from Tenbury High Ormiston Academy.

Worcestershire 'Proof of Concept' is a grant fund that has been designed to support established and start-up businesses to develop innovative new products and processes within Worcestershire. Financial support is offered to projects that aim to investigate, advance and protect early stage innovative business ideas and to commercialise new innovations. The principal objective of the Proof of Concept fund is to encourage SME investment in innovation, specifically creating products and services that are new to the company or new to the market. The fund offers grants of up to £30,000, representing 40% of the total project costs. Any Interested businesses should, in the first instance, contact Jane Holmes (Central Technology Belt) by emailing jane@centraltechnologybelt.com.

Cyber Security Breaches Survey 2017 has revealed that almost 7 in 10 large businesses have identified a data breach or attack, costing in some cases millions of pounds. Cyber Security has never been more important, particularly with the introduction of the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). With this in mind, there is still some grant funding available to help businesses improve their cyber security and IT systems. If you are aware of any businesses in your wards that are considering investing in new IT equipment and systems, or that might simply be after some free advice, please point them towards www.business-central.co.uk/be-cybersecure/.

Caroline Palethorpe

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CHRISTIAN AID TARGETS RECORD TEME VALLEY SUCCESS

In 2018 Christian Aid fundraising raised an outstanding £2,557.62 – the highest amount of all the Worcestershire parishes and an impressive achievement for our valley. Several events organised locally in the coming weeks will now aim to achieve similar success this year.

“Christian Aid continues to work alongside some of the poorest communities on earth, improving the lives of those most in need. Your support for this work is once again massively appreciated,” said organiser Marion Dipple. “Every year a dedicated team of collectors visits every house in Clifton to request donations to help the world’s poorest communities. It takes time and effort and sometimes seems a daunting task, but we reap the rewards year in, year out due to the kindness and generosity of the community and the hard efforts of the collectors.”

Representatives on the Christian Aid Committee include those from St Kenelm’s Church, Clifton, St Peter’s Church, Martley and St Bartholomew’s Church, Harpley, to extend the collection of funds as widely as possible and to share fundraising events together.

Everyone is very welcome to this year’s continuing events:

- **Quiz Night with Cheese Board - Clifton Village Hall - Saturday 11th May, 7pm** Quizmasters Alan and Alana Cooper, £6 per head including cheese and biscuits. Maximum team size 6 people. Raffle. Licensed bar.
- **Coffee Morning - The Old Vicarage, Clifton (Rachel & Clive Austin’s) – Saturday 18th May 10am -12 noon** Plants, Cakes, Bring and Buy, Raffle, Traidcraft, tea, coffee.
- **Harpley Antiques Roadshow - St Bartholomew’s Church, Harpley - Saturday 18th May from 2.30** (proceeds split equally between the Harpley Church Kitchen Fund and Christian Aid). Bring your family treasures to be valued for £2.50. Refreshments available.
- **Desert Island Discs Evening with Shane Connolly - Clifton Village Hall - Saturday 8th June, 7pm** Tickets £8 which includes a summer buffet. Come and hear about the life and work of Shane Connolly, who holds the Royal Warrant of Appointment to HM The Queen and HRH The Prince of Wales; and was the Artistic Director for the wedding of HRH The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Licensed bar.
- The annual house-to-house Christian Aid collection will also take place in **Christian Aid week, 12-18th May**. “Please give whatever you can. If you make a donation in a Christian Aid envelope, please remember to fill in the gift aid form on the envelope if you are a tax payer so Christian Aid can claim the additional gift aid sum of 25% of your gift,” said Marion.

PLEA FOR CLEANERS AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH

If any Shelsley Beauchamp person could spare just an hour per month to keep the lovely All Saints Church clean, please contact Ann Holloway 01886 812660 or Jane Froggatt 01886 812215.

LOWER SAPEY NEWS

It's May already, but at the time of writing this, it is more like 'February fill-dyke'! The wildlife and the plants must be thoroughly confused after our brief spring in late February.

Having Easter so late this year adds to the confusion for all of us and maybe, one day, they will sort out a regular date for this. In May, we enjoy two more Bank Holidays, so let's hope the weather has improved by then and I can get some gardening done.

We had a constructive AGM of our PCC recently and are pleased to say that we are making progress at last with the improvements needed in St Bartholomew's Church. The water is there and just needs permission to pipe through the wall. Then, hopefully, we can go ahead with the plans for the kitchenette and toilet. All the members of the PCC agreed to stand again and were duly elected.

There are two weddings planned in the Church for this year and the first of these is between Natalie Kelly and Richard Smith of Hollybush Lane. This is on 25th May and we hope they have a wonderful day. We wish them well in their future together.

We are also looking forward to the Antiques event on Saturday 18th May at the Church, planned by Richard Stevens. Dick's friend Adrian Mackwell will be valuing items we take. There is a charge of £2.50 per item and the event starts at 2pm. There will be tea and coffee available. Any profits will be going towards the improvements at St Bartholomew's.

Don't forget next month's village party on Saturday 15th June, also at the Church, where there will be singing and refreshments to celebrate. Unfortunately, we had our large shed broken into while my husband was away and although not a great deal was taken, it is very frightening to think someone is watching your house. We had several break-ins while living in Bristol, even though we had an alarm and we are well alarmed here. Their persistence is amazing! The local police were very helpful and gave us useful advice. I hope many of you were able to go to their 'marking day' recently as I am sure this all helps.

NOTICES

- Housekeeping for May is in the hands of Angie Dallow. Thank you, Angie.
- The Ladies Bible Group will meet on Tuesday 14th May at 2pm at the home of Margaret Griffiths.
- The mobile library is calling on Friday 17th May at 10.20am. and 10.40am.
- Services for May in St Bartholomew's Church:
 - o Sunday 5th May Morning prayer at 10.30am
 - o Sunday 12th May Methodist HC at 10.30am
 - o Tuesday 21st May Morning prayer at 9am

NB: The Rogation service is on Sunday May 26th at New House Farm at 11am

Margaret Griffiths

Church Matters

by Nigel Roberts



“Whatever is....noble, whatever is right...whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy...think about such things.” Philippians 4,v8

If you have been turned off by reports from Parliament in recent weeks, then to hear good news items comes as a relief. Some of the most moving often come from something which starts off as a tragedy. One of those some weeks back was the story of the man in Sheffield who has tended the graves of 10 American airmen for over 70 years, who selflessly crashed their plane into woods to avoid inevitably killing children on a playing field. One of those children never forgot this and remains thankful for their sacrifice to this day. It is surely good to celebrate such thankfulness and loyalty on our news programmes!

On the other hand, recent years have seen a time when many prominent politicians and media people have found themselves in the news for the wrong reasons, people who have been highly acclaimed for their successes, suddenly having to account for some revelation about wrong doing in their lives in the past. Perhaps even resulting in eventual prison sentence. From experience, many who are imprisoned would welcome one thing more than any other and that is forgiveness, so that they could be accepted. And who amongst us does not desire forgiveness for what we have done.

In the midst of bad news there is often good news as indeed in the Easter story, for what is left after the events of Easter which the church celebrates, is indeed good news. For in the midst of the horrors of the barbaric process of crucifixion lies something more hopeful in the sacrifice of Jesus. He has left us with forgiveness in the eyes of God and that demands our thankfulness. As someone said: “Thank God it was Him not me.”

WORKSHOP EXPLORES KEY DIGITAL ISSUES AFTER DEATH

Before I Die Worcestershire is holding a special 'digital'-themed evening at the Worcester Arts Workshop on Wednesday 15th May from 7.30pm, to discuss such questions as 'Managing your digital legacy', 'Who will own your digital photos when you die?' and 'How do you manage someone else's Facebook site after they are dead'?

Join a conversation with James Norris of the Digital Legacy Association to discuss how to manage your digital assets, or how to give authority to others to manage your social media and other online accounts after your death. Entry is free. For more information, visit: beforeidieworcs@gmail.com

SERVICES FOR MAY 2019

Services in the parishes of Clifton, The Shelsleys and Lower Sapey (Harpley) May 2019			
Wednesday 1st	10.00am	<i>Pushchair Praise</i>	<i>St Kenelm, Clifton</i>
Sunday 5th May Easter 3	10.30am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>	<i>St Kenelm, Clifton</i>
	10.30am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>	<i>St Bartholomew, Harpley</i>
	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp</i>
Tuesday 7th	9.00am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>	<i>All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp</i>
Sunday 12th May Easter 4 (Christian Aid Week 12th to 18th May)	10.30am	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>St Kenelm, Clifton</i>
	10.30am	<i>Methodist HC Service</i>	<i>St Bartholomew, Harpley</i>
	6.30pm	<i>Evensong</i>	<i>St Andrew, Shelsley Walsh</i>
Tuesday 14th	9.00am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>	<i>St Kenelm, Clifton</i>
Wednesday 15th	7.30pm	<i>Time for Time Out</i>	<i>St Kenelm, Clifton</i>
Sunday 19th May Easter 5	8.00am	<i>Holy Communion</i>	<i>St Kenelm, Clifton</i>
	10.30am	<i>COME Service</i>	<i>St Kenelm, Clifton</i>
Tuesday 21st	9.00am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>	<i>St Bartholomew, Harpley</i>
Sunday 26th March Rogation Sunday	11.00am	<i>Rogation Service</i>	<i>New House Farm (by kind invitation of Mrs Ann Jones)</i>
Tuesday 28th	9.00am	<i>Morning Prayer</i>	<i>St Andrew, Shelsley Walsh</i>
Contact Details:			
Rev'd Canon David Sherwin (Team Rector & Rural Dean) Tel: 01886 888664 Email: davidwin56@aol.com Rev'd Anne Potter (Team Vicar) Tel: 01886 832355 Email: revannepotter@gmail.com Rev'd Becky Elliott (Curate) Tel: 01886 812451 Email: revrebeccaelliott@btinternet.com Rev'd Jen Denniston (Curate) Tel: 01886 853280 Email: jendenniston@gmail.com Churchwardens Clifton: Barbara Seeley 01886 812763 and Alana Cooper 01886 812520 Churchwarden Lower Sapey: Candy Connolly 01886 853248 Churchwarden The Shelsleys: Jane Froggatt 01886 812215 Parish Email: lizedwards69@aol.com Website: https://wwrt.churchinsight.com			

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May

- 2 Parish Council elections
- 4 Shelsleys' Village Hall Coffee morning, 10am-12.30pm
- 4 Shelsleys' Social Club Bingo Night, Shelsleys' VH, 7.30 for 8pm start
- 4-5 Shelsley Walsh Hillclimb 'Speed into Spring' weekend, 9am-5.30pm
- 5 Quiz at the Lion Inn, Clifton, 7.30pm
- 5 Bluebell Cross Country Fun ride, Wichenford WR6 6XY, 10am
- 8 Churches Together inspirational supper talk with HJ Colston, Clifton VH, 7pm
- 9 Teme Valley Wildlife Group meeting with Jim Almond 'Nature in Focus', Stoke Bliss and Kyre VH, 7.30pm
- 11 Quiz Night with Cheese Board in aid of Christian Aid Week, Clifton VH, 7pm
- 11 Coffee morning and Clifton photographers' exhibition, Clifton VH, 10am-12noon
- 11-12 Shelsley Walsh Water Mill open weekend, 11am-4pm
- 12 Teme Valley Market, The Talbot Inn, Knightwick, 11am-1.30pm
- 12-18 Christian Aid Week house-to-house collections
- 13 Russian folk song concert, St James's Church, Tedstone Delamere, 7pm for 7.30pm
- 14 Shelsleys' Annual Parish Meeting then Parish Council meeting, Shelsleys' VH, 7pm
- 14 Clifton W.I., 'Resolutions discussion for WFWI annual meeting', Clifton VH, 7.30pm
- 15 Menith Wood WI Craft Dabble Day, Lindridge Parish Hall, 11am-3pm
- 16 Clifton Annual Parish Meeting, Clifton VH, 7pm
- 18 Shelsleys' Social Club Bingo Night, Shelsleys' VH, 7.30 for 8pm start
- 18 Coffee morning in aid of Christian Aid Week, The Old Vicarage, Clifton, 10am-12noon
- 18 Coffee Morning, 26 The Village, Clifton 10am-12noon
- 18 Harpley Antiques Roadshow in aid of Christian Aid Week and Harpley Church, St Bartholomew's, from 2.30pm
- 22 Nora Parsons Day Centre AGM
- 22 Churches Together inspirational supper talk with Kimmy and Ovi Vaipan, Clifton VH, 7pm
- 24 Bingo night, Great Witley Village Hall, 7pm for 7.30 start

June

- 1 Shelsleys' Village Hall Coffee Morning, 10am-12.30pm
- 1 Shelsleys' Social Club Bingo Night, Shelsleys' VH, 7.30 for 8pm start
- 1-2 Shelsley Walsh Hillclimb 'Best of British' weekend, 9am-5.30pm
- 5 Churches Together inspirational supper talk with Bishop of Dudley, Clifton VH, 7pm
- 8 Desert Island Discs evening with Shane Connolly in aid of Christian Aid Week, Clifton VH, 7pm
- 8-9 Gardens of Wichenford open weekend (17 gardens), 11am-6pm
- 9 Teme Valley Market, The Talbot Inn, Knightwick, 11am-1.30pm
- 11 Clifton W.I., evening garden meeting at Milestone Cottage, 7.30pm
- 15 Shelsleys' Social Club Bingo Night, Shelsleys' VH, 7.30 for 8pm start
- 15 Lower Sapey Village Party, St Bartholomew's, Harpley
- 15 Tabletop Sale in aid of St Kenelm's, Clifton VH, 10am-1pm
- 15-16 Shelsley Walsh Hillclimb 'Classic Nostalgia' weekend, 9am-5.30pm

July

- 6 Shelsleys' Village Hall Coffee Morning, 10am-12.30pm
- 9 Clifton W.I., 'The Rise and Fall of Witley Court' with Ray Sturdy, Clifton VH, 7.30pm
- 14 Teme Valley Market, The Talbot Inn, Knightwick, 11am-1.30pm
- 20 Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb 'Supercar Fest' summer festival, 8am-10pm



GARDENS OF WICHENFORD: Open as part of the Gardens of Wichenford open weekend on 8-9 June (see full report on page 13) is Pear Tree Cottage in Witton Hill. Pictured top: The Grade II listed black-and-white cottage (not open) viewed from the woodland border. Bottom: The garden's picturesque pond.



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Contributions for the next (June) edition by Friday 17th May please, to editortemetriangle@gmail.com

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