

March 2022

Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton upon Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



Local women go cold water swimming for breast cancer fund-raiser

In this edition

- * Wild winter swim helps breast cancer cause
 - * Local footpaths advice
 - * Clifton and Lower Sapey parish council latest
 - * 'Memory Lane': Life in the Shelsleys in the 1900s
- plus
- * All your spring Diary Dates!
-

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www.temetriangle.net

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Early lambs in the Teme Valley (photo: Michael Whitefoot)

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Front Cover Picture: *Daring to bare: Intrepid women from the Shelsleys, Lower Sapey and nearby villages scorn the February chill for a fund-raising lake swim in aid of the Worcestershire Breast Unit Haven (story page 4-5).*

A VERY WARM WELCOME to the MARCH 2022 edition of Teme Triangle

As spring emerges and the spectre of Covid seems – dare we hope – to be receding, there are definite signs of events and social lives returning cautiously to ‘normal’.

In this edition we hear of bold charity efforts, venue re-openings, concerts, club meetings and talks in the pipeline (only some of which on Zoom). Council and Church matters continue apace, and the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee provides a key focus for local events across our parishes this summer.

We also have a fascinating inaugural ‘Memory Lane’ feature, taken from the life story of a past resident who lived by Ham Bridge in the 1900s. If you or your family also have Shelsley, Clifton or Lower Sapey recollections and photos from the past that you would like to share through our pages, please email them to editortemetriangle@gmail.com

As always, thank you to everyone who has contributed. Do keep sending in your news!



HAVE YOUR SAY ON PROPOSED LOCAL COUNCIL WARD MERGER

New boundaries are being proposed for council wards in Malvern Hills District Council. The Local Government Boundary Commission wants to hear what residents and local organisations think about the proposals. A ten-week consultation on the proposals will run until 21 March 2022. The Commission, an independent body that draws these boundaries, is proposing there should be 31 councillors, with 13 single-councillor wards, six two-councillor wards, and two three-councillor wards.

Among the proposed changes is the merger of the existing Teme Valley ward (extending from Newnham Bridge to Ham Bridge and including Clifton, the Shelsleys and Lower Sapey) with the Martley ward to form a combined Teme Valley and Martley ward stretching from Abberley to Cotheridge.

You can comment on the proposals by telling the Local Government Boundary Commission what you think of the proposals and your reasons why. You are also welcome to put forward alternative proposals. Have your say on the new Boundary Review proposals by visiting the MHDC website at: <https://consultation.lcbce.uk/node/24708>

LOCAL SWIMMERS DARE TO BARE IN AID OF BREAST CANCER

An intrepid group of women from the Shelsleys, Lower Sapey and nearby villages joined members of a Worcestershire wild swimming club in February, to brave the chilly waters of a local lake for a partly-topless swim in aid of the Worcestershire Breast Unit Haven.

The all-women fund-raiser – dubbed ‘Tits to the Wind!’ – was coordinated by Shelsley Beauchamp resident Carole Warren.

She explained: “In 2019 I took part in a trek in the Himalayas for St Richard’s Hospice and met Steph Harrison, who was part of a Worcestershire cold water swimming club. When I mentioned our lake at The Birche, she asked if her group could visit. Since then they have swum here around once a year. This time, however, we decided to involve some local ladies and make it a special charity challenge just before Valentine’s Day. And as a result we’ve managed to raise £1,100 for the Worcestershire Breast Unit Haven!”

The 25 novice and experienced swimmers – some clad only in partial swimming gear, gloves, shoes and bobble hats – spent several minutes in the bracing 5°C waters of the one-acre, 14-foot deep lake before warming up indoors with tea, bunch and a glass of bubbly.

“Safety is paramount so we always test the water temperature first,” confirmed Carole – who has swum in her lake many times, once even having to break the ice to get in. “For every degree Celsius above freezing, you can usually stay in the water for up to one minute, or perhaps a bit longer if you’re experienced.”

Undertaken safely, cold water swimming is often considered good for physical & mental wellbeing. As well as the exercise, by forcing the body to adapt to changing conditions it can boost white blood cell count. As Carole admitted: “Cold water swimming can be a real shock at first! The first minute is the trickiest. But the more you do, the more easily your body acclimatises.”



The Worcestershire Breast Unit was established in 2016. Its charity team works closely with the specialist NHS Breast Care Team to provide a wide range of additional clinical support, equipment, practical and emotional services to the 800+ women and men from the County who are diagnosed with breast cancer each year. With the charity needing to raise at least £120,000 each year to keep going, fund-raising is continual.

Chair of the Breast Unit, Fiona Charny, who was present at the swim, explained: “We’re delighted that Carole has got her friends involved in this amazing event. A huge thank you to them all! Breast cancer is something that unites so many people – which is why our motto is ‘Everybody Knows Somebody’. We encourage anyone who might have breast cancer-related concerns to reach out to us if they want support. Above all, please check your breasts regularly so you can quickly identify any changes. It might save your life.”

Warming up after the adventure, first-time wild swimmer Trisha Ford, from Tedstone Wafer, said: “It was nerve-wracking, but I feel brilliant now! Having cold feet was the worst thing. I’d do it again!”

Even a brave non-swimmer took part. Lower Sapey resident Clare Hill explained: “I can’t swim! So I just went in and paddled. It was cold at first, but then I got used to it. Totally exhilarating!”

“Despite the wet and windy weather on the day, we had a fantastic time. There were lots of jokes about buoyancy aids!” laughed Carole. “Hopefully we’ve made a few more converts to cold water swimming, and people hearing about our event will want to donate to the Breast Unit cause.”

To donate to the swim, contact Carole at carolegwarren@gmail.com. The Worcestershire Breast Unit Haven is on Facebook: [@worcsbreastunithaven](https://www.facebook.com/worcsbreastunithaven) and general donations can be made at <https://www.justgiving.com/wbuh>



Hot drinks and a glass of bubbly awaited the successful swimmers

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FOOTPATHS AND BRIDLEWAYS AROUND CLIFTON AND LOWER SAPEY

In these brilliant villages where we live, we are blessed with having a very extensive network of footpaths and bridleways, there being 200 footpaths running to some 51 kilometres in Clifton, and 108 footpaths covering 29 kilometres in Lower Sapey.

In the last couple of years, probably due to the Covid pandemic, the usage has expanded exponentially, which is great, but there have been a few incidents of confrontation between pedestrians and landowners, usually involving dogs. With this in mind, I thought it might be of use to refresh people's knowledge of the rules and laws surrounding the footpaths.

The footpaths are for there for pedestrians; bridleways are also for pedestrians, with both horse riders and cyclists allowed access. The convention being that cyclists 'give way' to both pedestrians and horse riders. There is no 'Right to Roam' over arable land in England.



If you choose to take a dog onto either a footpath or bridleway, the law states that it should be 'under control at all times' and stay on the footpath or bridleway to avoid trespassing onto adjacent land. The phrase 'under control at all times' is obviously open to interpretation, as in most legal matters, but it does seem that the vast majority of dog owners have their dogs on leads when on the roads or pavements.

On another similar matter, some people have made a circular path around the field to the southwest of the copse below the current housing development site in Hope Lane, Clifton. It should be noted that there is no 'right of way' around this field, the only footpaths being 598, which goes south to Knoll Barn and leading onto the Hill Farm drive. The other footpath, 599, heads west over the Sapey brook to the bottom of the sewage works. The landowner has provided signs to indicate this, some of which have been removed, by 'persons unknown'. There have also been attempts to remove some of the footpath green signage; neither of these actions is acceptable behaviour. All the footpaths and bridleways are displayed on the 'definitive map' displayed on the Footpaths noticeboard situated at the rear of the village green.

I would ask that all parties be reasonable and tolerant so that we can enjoy the brilliant countryside that we are privileged to live in and our landowners can continue their commercial operations, which provide some of the food that we eat!

John Bowden, Parish Path Warden, Clifton-upon-Teme

CLIFTON UPON TEME WI

February's meeting consisted of the annual meal together. It was decided that rather than planning a meal out members would take part in a Pot Luck supper. Plates of food were brought, shared and enjoyed washed down with Prosecco, other non-alcoholic drinks were available! A very relaxed and enjoyable evening.

The WI aims to bring women together, providing them with educational opportunities and the chance to make a difference in their communities. As well as offering a range of workshops, lectures etc. each year a Resolution is passed that will become the WI campaign for the following year. Members in every WI are asked to vote from a choice of five which this year covered a wide range of topics. Appropriate clothing for girls: Fit for purpose, Fit for Girls; Appropriate sentencing of non-violent women offenders; Equality in law for the menopause; Women and girls with ASD and ADHD: under-identified, under-diagnosed, misdiagnosed, under-supported. These resolutions were introduced and voted on after the meal with Appropriate sentencing for non-violent women chosen. Later in the year at the Annual Meeting the Resolution most voted for will be chosen.

The WI meet on Tuesday 8 March at 7.30 in Clifton Village Hall. The speaker, Philip Bowen who previously presented an entertaining, interesting and factual talk on the Tudor Bishops of Worcester, has been requested by members to return for a second talk. Philip will be present a new talk entitled 1950s Decade of Optimism; it promises to be an interesting evening. If you are interested, please do come for the evening where there will be a warm welcome. If you would like any more information about WI please email Penny Bowden, President of Clifton WI cliftonontemepres@wfedwi.org.uk

Ruth Wilson

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NEW PIANO FOR CLIFTON CHURCH

More than £850 has been raised by Clifton parishioners to pay for a new keyboard for St Kenelm's church. John and Ros Wain, who initiated the fund-raising, said: "We have learned not to be surprised at how responsive people in this village can be. Many of the donors are not members or attenders at church but know that it is an important asset to the village and, clearly, want to support it. The Parochial Church Council will add to the fund and, we are sure, would like to thank all who joined in."

SHELSLEY PLATINUM JUBILEE LATEST

As reported in last month's *Tem Triangle*, Shelsleys Parish Council recently called for ideas to help celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (weekend of 2-5 June 2022). A Working Group has now been set up to consider options and plan how the village will celebrate the event. If anyone has any further ideas, or is interested in helping, please contact Rob Pound at robertjpond@yahoo.com.

MARTLEY YOUNG FARMERS BIG BREAKFAST

Martley Young Farmers meet fortnightly, and have recently welcomed some new faces. New members are always welcome. The group's Annual Big Breakfast is being held at Martley Memorial Hall on Sunday 6 March, with two sittings: 9am and 11am. Come and enjoy a Full English Breakfast for £10 per person / children (up to 12 years) £6. Tickets available until 1 March from Martley Shop, or contact Zoe (07772 202 840), Amy (07975 636 122) or Alison (07771 893 670).

Memory Lane

Our thanks to Jerry Johns for sharing a fascinating local history book with us for a 'Memory Lane' article. *'My Book: Memories of life in rural Worcestershire at the turn of the century'* was written in 1979 by Jessie Brydges, whose family lived in part of one of the cottages that still exist near Ham Bridge, by the junction of the Shelsley road and Clifton Hill.

The youngest of ten children, Jessie recalls the harsh practicalities of her childhood in the early 1900s, as well as the rural calendar and the local countryside. Her earliest memory is of "riding in an extremely old-fashioned pram on three iron wheels, with a wicker body. It was the only pram my mother had for the ten of us." The children had hardly any toys, but a cat became their pet and kept vermin down.



Jessie Brydges



The cottages at Ham Bridge where Jessie was born. She wrote: "It was once an old farmhouse, but had been converted into four work-man's cottages. A waggoner lived next door, a stockman in the third cottage and another general farm labourer in the fourth." A single tap in the yard, "which we thought very modern" was shared by all.

Jessie's father Walter Brydges was born in Herefordshire in 1857. He had never been to school as his parents could not afford it, but he had in depth knowledge of the countryside. His employer, Mr Bodington of Homme Castle, was a big fruit and hop grower.



With her farm labourer father Walter's wages at just 12 shillings a week, food was scarce, work hard and resources precious. The family was lucky that a brook ran through their part of the garden, enabling them to grow vegetables. They always kept a pig; curing its bacon and trying to make it last 12 months until the next one. Finances were helped when Jessie's mother, a skilled needlewoman, began making more garments for neighbours (and the children), thanks to a then-rare sewing machine she bought in instalments from a visiting salesman. The family also earned by hop-picking.

With no buses available, Jessie's mother would visit Worcester once a fortnight in the horse carrier's cart that also brought newspapers post from Worcester to Ham Bridge. As her father was unable to read or write, the children were encouraged to read out loud to him. "He was strict, but very kind," Jessie recalled. "One of my delights was for him to take me for a walk on Sunday morning after his chores, by the River Teme close to our house."

We'll try and include more from Jessie's book in future editions of *Teme Triangle*.



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DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held Thursday 3rd February 2022 in the Village Hall commencing at 7.40pm

Present: Councillors J. Bowden (Chairman), A. Henry (Vice-Chairman), R. Henry, B. Gilbert, P. Brookes and N. Campsall. Also present: 3 members of the public.

Apologies for absence: Cllr L. Merrick and District Cllr C. Palethorpe.

Declarations of Interests and applications for Councillor dispensations: None.

Democratic Public Time: A resident asked if funding received through sales of local cards could be donated towards the s106 play area project fund? The money is currently held as a community fund as amounts to approx. £1000.00. It was suggested that the money could be used towards a boules court. The Parish Council thanked those concerned very much for their kind gesture.

To agree the Minutes of the meeting held 6th January 2022 – the minutes were approved and signed as a true record. Proposed Cllr Gilbert, seconded Cllr Brookes. All agreed. No matters arising.

District & County Councillor Reports: Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting and were noted. Reports will be uploaded to the website. County Cllr Chambers highlighted the following areas within his report – Covid statistics across Worcestershire are up and down currently, whereas they have been quite stable. Hospital admissions remain low. Data was published by the Director of Public Health for Worcestershire. Cllr R. Henry stated that the data is incorrect and misleading and that no further Covid data should be included in future County reports, which should focus more on other local issues. Cllr R. Henry also referred the meeting to an alternative set of data published online. County Cllr Chambers confirmed that County Councillors have been asked to share the data published by the Director of Public Health. Other Councillors, and members of the public present, stated that they wished to remain informed at future PC meetings. Cllr Brookes suggested that perhaps a compromise would be to include data in future reports as a footnote. This was agreed by those present. Public Transport – it was noted that there is a current funding bid and proposals to improve transport across Worcestershire. 20mph speed limit in Clifton – it was noted that WCC have confirmed that this would not be supported as a speed reduction measure. Clifton Primary School visit – it was noted that Cllr Chambers has allocated £1068.00 towards new play equipment for the school. WCC Divisional Funding – funding bids will be accepted from 1st April for community initiatives. Defibrillator App – Cllr Chambers is asking WCC to promote an App across the County showing where the nearest defibrillator is located as it appears that not all privately maintained ones may be registered with the Ambulance Service. The meeting noted the need to promote the x2 defibrillators in the Village, once the new one has been installed. Divisional funding may also be used for community refresher training.

Financial & Governance Matters: Payments were agreed as per the schedule circulated. Proposed Cllr A. Henry, seconded Cllr B. Gilbert. All agreed. Grass cutting quote received – it was proposed by Cllr Bowden, seconded Cllr Gilbert, to accept the quote received from R. Wilks for 2022. Clerk to notify R. Wilks. Playing field invoicing – it was agreed that the Football Club should be invoiced for the current season as matches had been played as normal. Clerk to action. Pavilion storage container insurance – the Bowls Club asked the Council to assist with insuring equipment stored in the container. There is difficulty as the equipment is stored in a container owned by the PC rather than the Club. The Clerk agreed to check with PC insurers how this could be overcome and report back asap. MHDC Boundaries Commission consultation – the consultation was noted, and all were asked to check on the MHDC website if any issues needed to be raised at the March meeting.

Parish Matters / Updates: Village Maintenance Plan – it was noted that village noticeboards still need some attention. There may be options for the old noticeboard to be used. The one outside the Village Hall needs refurbishing – Cllr Bowden to obtain a quote locally. Archives refurbishment – Cllr Gilbert reported that a lock and computer equipment has been purchased as agreed. Opening arrangements need to be put in place and Volunteers will be needed.

It was agreed to advertise for Volunteers via Nextdoor, Teme Triangle – to be actioned by Cllrs Gilbert, M. Henry and J. Johns (TT). Access protocols also to be drafted. Pavilion CCTV – Cllrs Bowden agreed to arrange for a local Electrician to look at it. It was noted that this was originally installed via the Police after a spate of vandalism. Village Green way marker damage – the Lengthsman had reported that the concrete base has split and needs repair. It was agreed that the Clerk report as appropriate. Cllr Bowden to send images. New waste bin – the PC had received a suggestion to install a new general waste bin next to the newly installed bench. It was agreed that the Clerk should purchase a new bin and ask R. Wilks to install. Playing Field – Cllr Brookes reported some repairs required to play equipment and a gate. It was agreed that Cllr Brookes send images to the Clerk and that R. Wilks be asked to undertake the work asap. Queens Platinum Jubilee – Cllr A. Henry reported that there is to be a Big Community Lunch on the Village Green on Sunday 5th June. A gazebo needs to be sourced. There may be options for commemorative items for under 16's. The Church would like to organise Afternoon Tea on Sat 4th with some dancing on the Green. Scouts & Guides are to help with the teas. Martley Bellringers are to ring the church bells. It was proposed by Cllr Bowden to allocate up to £1000.00 towards the community event, seconded Cllr Campsall. All agreed. Clerk to set aside the funds in accounts.

Section 106 Matters: Four Acre Field (CFAF) Project – the Clerk updated the meeting regarding the Land Registry situation which remains ongoing. A new survey drawing is now required by Land Registry, despite previous drawings being sent to the Solicitor. The Clerk has arranged a local Surveyor to undertake the work as soon as possible. The Clerk was asked to confirm Surveyor costs and Solicitor costs to date. It was noted that the Land Registry application should be escalated as it is linked to a funding application. Cllr Campsall has now received all the project information and will be contacting the MHDC Officer and C. Hurley for handover meetings. It may be necessary to revisit some elements of the project and to review funding against rising material costs.

Planning Matters: Applications to consider – M22/00018/HP – Mr & Mrs Warmington, 9 Kenelm Close, Clifton upon Teme WR6 6DW – rear single storey extension, side open carport and garden room, and material alterations to existing dwelling. No objections.

Notifications received – 21/02198/HP – 6 Kenelm Close, Clifton upon Teme WR6 6DW – approval for new porch/garage roof. Render to existing front and side wall.

Strategic Planning Matters: Cllr Gilbert will monitor the SWDPR and notify the Council of any matters which require attention.

Highways & Facilities Matters: Lengthsman tasks – no further updates. Road / Footpath closure notices – as circulated. The Clerk was asked to write to T. Pollock at WCC requesting that the PC received future closure notices relating to Shelsley Walsh footpath closures which affect our parish. The Public Path Order for footpath 650 was noted.

Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agendas: Cllr Gilbert advised the Council regarding the S.278 agreement, currently with Worcs CC, in respect of Hope Lane development. Cllr Bowden reminded the Council of the need to publish the release of social housing locally – Cllr Gilbert is currently looking into this matter.

Correspondence received: Pavilion clock – the Council noted with thanks that a new clock had been donated for the pavilion by R. Parry in memory of his brother, the late John Parry. It was agreed that the Clerk should write and thank Mr R. Parry for the kind gesture. Trees planted in Salford Close – an email had been received concerning the trees recently planted in Salford Close which appear to be too close to a garden boundary. It was agreed that Cllrs Bowden and Brookes will contact the resident concerned.

Next meeting to be held on Thursday 3rd March 2022 at 7.40pm at the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 21:30

M. Alexander – Clerk

Worcestershire County Council Report to Clifton Parish Council, 3rd February 2022

1. Latest Covid Figures as at 1st February 2022 are:
 - a. Worcestershire is showing an infection rate of 1,234 cases per 100,000.
 - b. The infection rate in the Malvern Hills District is 1,069 cases per 100,000.
 - c. The direction of travel is up in Worcestershire as a whole and in four of the six Districts within Worcestershire.
 - d. Worcester City has the highest infection rate in Worcestershire with 1,563 cases per 100,000.
 - e. The rate of infection in England as a whole is 1,100 cases per 100,000.
2. The above rates have increased dramatically in the last two months, for reasons which we are all aware. A week ago numbers were coming down in all Worcestershire Districts but in the last few days, rates have begun to climb up again in four of the six Districts. Fortunately, Covid related hospital admissions and deaths in Worcestershire have not risen at the same rate. The message from the Director of Public Health at the County Council remains the same: Adhere to Government guidelines, ensure you are fully vaccinated, use doctors' surgeries, pharmacies, Minor Injury Units, NHS111 etc., wherever possible and only call an ambulance or visit the Acute Hospital if it is absolutely necessary, in order to keep pressure off these two key services, as far as possible.
3. This month I have been allocating my Divisional Funds to various projects and I am pleased to be able to have provided £1,068 to Clifton Primary School, which will enable them to develop a new outdoor play area for the Reception Class. This will include outdoor play equipment, Mud Kitchen, Sandpit Music Frame and other items chosen by the school to enhance the children's learning and outdoor activities.

David Chambers
County Councillor, Tenbury Division.

Lower Sapey Parish Meeting Minutes of the virtual meeting held on 20th January 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Ashley Jones (Chairman), S. Everitt (V/Chairman), C. Connolly, D. Milward, H & S Rigby, M & M Griffiths, N. Denniston, S. Younge, J. Bowden, A & J. Jones.

Apologies: County Cllr D. Chambers, District Cllr C. Palethorpe, J. Denniston, L. Younge.

Minutes of the annual meeting held 24th September 2021: The Minutes were agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed M. Griffiths, seconded H. Rigby. All agreed.

Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes: None

Financial Matters: The meeting noted that finances were satisfactory. Precept 2022-23: The meeting raised concern that the precept had remained static for a long time and the parish risked a possible huge increase in future if for any reason it needed to join with Clifton upon Teme parish, whose current Band D is approx. £90 higher per household. This may happen if ever the church closes. The parish needs to be able to financially support the church to try and avoid this happening as it is the only community facility for the parish. If the precept is raised, then it will also contribute towards community events. It was also noted that the church has not been funded for the last 2 years as meetings have taken place on Zoom, but the church outgoings remain the same. No invoice had been received by the Clerk. Further to discussion, it was proposed by H. Rigby to increase the precept from £600 to £800 per year (33.3% increase), justified as necessary to retain local facilities, including the church as a community building. Seconded N. Denniston. All agreed. Clerk to notify MHDC. S. Younge agreed to invoice the Clerk for the last 2 years church funding.

Payments: A payment was agreed for £125.00 payment to the Clerk for Apr – Sept expenses, plus £20.00 reimbursement for village hall hire fees paid. Proposed S. Everitt, seconded A. Jones. All agreed. Bank balance: The meeting noted that the bank balance to 2nd Jan 2022 was £1226.44.

Queen's Platinum Jubilee: It was agreed to hold a parish party, and it was proposed by A. Jones, seconded by S. Everitt, to donate £200.00 towards the cost. All agreed.

The Chairman A. Jones left the meeting and S. Everitt, Vice Chairman, continued.

County & District Councillor Reports: Reports were received by email and will be uploaded to the website.

Parish Lengthsman: Thanks to R. Wilks for all the work done within the parish. Tasks requested – drain blocked outside Stone House, Hollybush Lane / flow of water across the road, 300 yards from the turn on to High Lane, by the 90-degree bend, is eroding the tarmac (highways ditch).

Highways Matters: Traffic cone still in the manhole cover at the end of Harpley Lane. There is also a finger post missing in the same location. Clerk has reported. Traffic concerns: The meeting noted that there had been a further road traffic accident at Upper Sapey crossroads. There is also to be a roadworks diversion via Harpley which residents consider dangerous. The Clerk updated the meeting regarding the 'slow vehicle' signage requests. A temp sign will be in place during the roadworks, via Worcs CC. Permanent signage has been requested from Hfcs Council, and the local PCSO and Safer Roads Partnership are also involved. Clifton Lane is being damaged by HGV developer traffic from housing sites. There is signage off the Stourport Rd to say no HGVs but nothing at the Clifton end. Clerk to report to Highways.

Planning Matters: S. Everitt suggested the parish check the affordable housing allocation for new developments and publicise locally for Harpley. The information is available within the MHDC s106 document, which could be linked to the parish web page. Clerk to arrange.

Police matters: PCSO Ness Snape is working with the Clerk to look into signage options along High Lane for slow moving vehicles. The parish thanked PCSO Snape for her assistance.

Harpley & Lower Sapey community vision: The meeting noted the document as circulated by C. Connolly via the Clerk.

St Bartholomew matters: The meeting noted that churchyard management is struggling for volunteers and so the aim is to try and simplify the work required. The Yew tree and roots are to be removed, and grave markers moved. Notices have been published widely across the parish and comments are welcome. The car park building belongs to Rooftop Housing and is to be put up for sale. The agreement is also being redrafted for use of the carpark. The document will be brought to a future parish meeting. It was noted that historically, residents used to contribute towards churchyard maintenance. It was noted that MHDC s.106 funding is not currently allocated towards the church or anything within the parish, as nothing meets the criteria due to it being owned by the Church or Platform Housing. J. Bowden updated the meeting regarding the s.106 project at Clifton playing field including delays regarding land ownership issues.

Parish Matters: Broadband provision – Openreach are now doing phase 1 of the installation, phase 2 to follow and then completion expected by end Feb.

Date of the next meeting: The next meeting was provisionally agreed as 19th May 2022 at 7.30pm at St Bartholomew's Church. Next agenda to include a review of the Clerks fees.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Michelle Alexander
Clerk

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TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE

"I've heard that Tommy Tittle-mouse lived in a little house" began Beatrix Potter in a nursery rhyme about one of our most loved garden birds. The old word titmouse once applied to the tit family in general, but here she was referring to the long-tailed tit, which does indeed have a splendid little house, woven from feathers, moss, fur and soft grass, covered with cobwebs and lichen.

Of all the tits the long-tailed is my favourite, a little ball of pinkish feathers and a long stiff black and white tail. In winter they flock together and sometimes visit my fat-bar feeder, crowding in with their tails pointing out at all angles. With high-pitched peeps they are barely there long enough to down a morsel before rushing away. At night they are known to crowd together in a long line along a tree-branch, huddling in to conserve their body-heat. In spring and summer they join with other tits in loose flocks, but in winter they seek out their own to try and beat the weather.



The ubiquity of tits explains a long list of local alternative names. Here in Worcestershire the long-tailed tit is nicknamed a mumruffin, but in other parts of the country it is known as a bottle jug, feather poke or huckmuck and there are many more besides.

Britain has six types of tit. Three of them, the blue, great and coal tits, are common garden visitors. The other three are the marsh, willow and crested tits. The long-tailed tit and the bearded tit are not actually classified in the tit family but are usually considered alongside them. We are all familiar with the acrobatic antics of these small birds, and we love to see them rearing their young in our garden bird-boxes. They are omnivorous feeders and opportunistic feeders too. Blue tits are not averse to helping themselves to the top of the milk should a glass milk bottle be left unattended.

Willow and marsh tits look very similar to each other and have only been considered as separate species since 1897. The willow tit is not recorded in Worcestershire and is distinguished by having a duller black crown. The bearded tit and the crested tit are also absent from the county. The first inhabits East Anglia, being partial to marshes, and the latter lives in the forests of Scotland's Speyside.

Next meeting: Stoke Bliss and Kyre village hall, WR15 8RR, Thursday 10 March at 7:30pm, when Andrew Fusek Peters talks about "Shropshire Hill and Dale - a Wildlife Year" including superb wildlife photography. All welcome, £2 on the door.

Find more on wildlife sightings, comments, events, bird survey and photos on the TVWG Facebook page and www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month. Contact 01568 750413 or email twwg@outlook.com

Stephanie Mocroft

LOWER SAPEY NEWS

I am writing this in early February and it is still pretty cold. We are lucky here that our long-awaited LPG delivery arrived yesterday to great cheers, as we have been economising drastically for two weeks. I don't know how people will cope in future months with the costs of fuel and food, and with some shortages. I remember the winter of 1947, huddling round the coal fire and warming the bed with the bulky stone hot-water bottle. Our legs were scorched by the fire and the stone hot-water bottle always fell out of the bed with an almighty crash. We were young then so we managed. I think we all hope for a miracle in the next few months.

March is usually a lovely month, still cold and windy, but the spring flowers bring such pleasure. The snowdrops this year seem better than ever, especially in St. Bartholomew's churchyard. We held a special snowdrop gathering in the churchyard on Sunday 13 Feb, and our local poet, Jane Dallow, wrote a great poem to celebrate the event. I will report on this in the next issue. March 1st is Shrove Tuesday and my husband will be making his signature dish of pancakes! Then Lent will begin on March 2nd. The time will pass quickly, as will the winter gloom and, hopefully, the pandemic. We say this every year, but hopes are higher this year. There have still been so many deaths and so much sadness.

We have many things to look forward to though, including our second Great Plant Sale at St. Bartholomew's, which will be on 28 May, so please get planting and sowing ready for this. Like most communities, we are celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5 June. We hope to hold a grand tea party at 3pm in the church car park. There will be an excellent tea, plus competitions including a Flower Crown Competition. Dot Millward and the ladies will be grateful for any ideas, or help with this event. So there are two dates for your diaries.

Our lovely Church is almost fully operational now and looking clean and fresh, with some heating! Thanks again to Candy and everyone for all their hard work. There is still much to be done though. We think the new arrangement of seating is more intimate and attractive – what do you think? However, we are desperately short of volunteer cleaners, men or women, to take a month each during the year. Sadly, those of us still standing are getting old and would appreciate some help. Please contact one of us if you would be able to help.

We are starting our Parish Prayers service again in March, the first date being Thursday 3 March at 9.30am. This is a short service, mainly for private prayers, and will be held on the first Thursday of the month. We also have a very special service with Archdeacon Robert Jones on Sunday 6 March at 10.30am.

NOTICES

- Services in March at St. Bartholomew's are as follows:
 - o 3 March – Parish Prayer Service at 9.30am
 - o 6 March – Morning Service with Archdeacon Robert Jones at 10.30am
 - o 27 March – Circle Service with Jen Denniston at 10.30amOur Church should now be open all day and there is a small, quiet area for private prayers.
- The Mobile Library will hopefully be back on the road and will call on Friday 18 March at 10.20am and 10.40am.
- The Ladies Bible Group hopes to resume in April on Tuesday 12 April at 2pm, with Marion.

Have a happy and healthy March.

Margaret Griffiths

Church Matters

with Revd Anne Potter



As we move into the next 'season' of our Christian year, Lent, we enter a period of repentance, reflection and renewing as we prepare to journey through the most significant week of our faith, culminating in the celebration of Jesus' resurrection following his death on the cross and the fulfilment of God's promise of eternal life. This time of Lent in so many ways mirror the Advent season as we prepared for the birth of Jesus, the light that came into the darkness.

During Lent we remember the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness resisting temptation following his own baptism. Whilst Jesus did not succumb, we hear the echo of John the Baptist when he proclaimed the forgiving nature of a loving God through the baptism of repentance. Both Lent and Advent offer us a period in which we can, either individually through the written word, or together with others through the spoken word, reflect on our faith. Take time, whether the four weeks of Advent leading to Christmas or the six weeks of Lent leading to Easter, to reflect upon our faith and relationship with God and humanity.

During this time of Lent as we can choose to take this opportunity to search our hearts and to intentionally repent and reflect on how we relate to God and our fellow human beings within the context in which we live we are offered the chance to renew ourselves. To renew our relationship with God, to renew broken relationships in the name of Jesus and to renew our commitment to the work of the Holy Spirit both within and beyond.

To guide us through Lent our WWRT benefice has been blessed to have five speakers who have accepted an invitation to talk about and share different aspects of life rooted in their Christian faith. Each Wednesday our invited speaker will talk for around 20 mins. Attendees will then be offered the chance to meet in breakout rooms, before coming back for a Q&A session with our speaker, followed by Compline. We aim to finish by 8.45 pm.

As per last year (because March is still cold) we will run our Lent talks on Zoom starting at 7.30 pm. If you would like to be added to the weekly Lent email link database, please email anne.wwrteam@gmail.com

Living in Faith – West Worcestershire Rural Team 2022 Lent Talks (Zoom, 7.30pm starts)

- 9 March – Saving Lives in Israel. Barbara Dingle, a Christian working for a Jewish “Family Office” talking about the life saving work of Israel’s national emergency service - Magan David Adom
- 16 March – Learning from the unexpected in life. Canon Ruth shares stories from her life, including taking the banana boat!
- 23 March – Finding God in a life crisis. Rebecca Sherwin reflects on how she found God in a recent time of crisis in her life.
- 30 March – Life as a Franciscan Monk. Christopher Boden will talk about his time being a brother in SSF and what it meant to him and his faith.
- 6 April – A life story... circular or linear? Claire Maxim will share her story from a rural upbringing to engineering to ordination to becoming CEO of the Arthur Rank Centre, an ecumenical national charity, which resources, trains, and advocates for rural Christians, rural churches and the communities they serve.



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

MARCH 2022

Wednesday 2nd March

Ash Wednesday

7.30pm Team Ash Wednesday Service via Zoom

Sunday 6th March

First Sunday of Lent

10.30am Morning Worship, St Bartholomew, Lower Sapey

10.30am Holy Communion, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

Sunday 13th March

Second Sunday of Lent

10.30am Matins, St Kenelm, Clifton

Sunday 20th March

Third Sunday of Lent

3.30-4.30pm Activ-i-teas, Clifton Village Hall

A new craft and activity-based service

Sunday 27th March

Fourth Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday

10.30am Mothering Sunday Service, St Kenelm, Clifton

10.30am Circle Service, St Bartholomew, Lower Sapey

Morning Prayer

Thursday 3rd - 9.30am at St Bartholomew, Lower Sapey

Monday 7th - 9.30am, St Kenelm, Clifton

Wednesday 16th - 9.00am, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

*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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March

- 3 Clifton PC Meeting, Clifton Village Hall, 7.40pm
- 6 Martley Young Farmers 'Big Breakfast', Martley Memorial Hall, 9am (tickets only)
- 8 Shelsley PC Meeting, Shelsley Village Hall, 7pm
- 8 Clifton WI meeting, Clifton Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 9 WWRT Lent Talk: Saving lives in Israel, Zoom, 7.30pm
- 10 TVWG talk: Shropshire Hill & Dale, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 10 WWRT annual 'Quiet Day', Holland House, Crophorne
- 13 Teme Valley Market, The Talbot at Knightwick, 11am – 1pm
- 16 WWRT Lent Talk: Learning from the unexpected in life, Zoom, 7.30pm
- 23 WWRT Lent Talk: Finding God in a life crisis, Zoom, 7.30pm
- 27 Chamber music concert in aid of Worcs Breast Cancer Unit, Whitbourne Round House, 3pm
- 30 WWRT Lent Talk: Life as a Franciscan Monk, Zoom, 7.30pm

April

- 6 WWRT Lent Talk: A life story – circular or linear, Zoom, 7.30pm

May

- 28 Great Plant Sale, St. Bartholomew's, Lower Sapey

YOUR TEME TRIANGLE...

To keep abreast of all the latest *Teme Triangle* news, visit our website:
www.temetriangle.net and Facebook page: www.facebook.com/TemeTriangle

Our free, printed magazine (10 issues/year) is available in local shops and community spaces. And please do keep sending in your Shelsleys, Clifton and Lower Sapey news and photos to: editortemetriangle@gmail.com

... we love to hear from you!

Contributions for the next (April) edition by Friday 11 March please.



Above: Swimmers tuck into brunch after braving the chilly lake waters of The Birche, Shelsley Beauchamp, in aid of breast cancer

Left: Trisha Ford (left) with Clare Hill (right) warming up after their swim

(Story page 4-5)

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