

May 2024

# Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton-upon-Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



*Celebrating Easter at All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp*

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## **In this edition**

- Local Shelsley author goes Dutch!
- Easter service photos
- The final Worcester Passion Play
- News from the farm
- Parish Council minutes and Church news

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## CLIFTON COUPLE'S DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Clifton residents Jack and Beth Whittenbury received a special delivery in the form of a card of congratulation from His Majesty the King, to celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary at the end of March.

"We had a lovely family get-together and apart from the fact that our sons are all in their fifties, we still find it hard to believe that 60 years have gone by since the day we were married," said Beth.



The couple married in 1964 at their parish Church of St. Michael in Blundellsands on the outskirts of Liverpool. There, they brought up their family of three sons until moving to Germany for four years in 1990. Back in England they lived in Cornwall and then Hampshire, moving to Clifton twenty years ago and reconnecting with Beth's family roots in Worcestershire.

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## Welcome to the May 2024 edition of the Teme Triangle

As I write this I am overjoyed to see the sun shining once more. I actually wore my walking boots rather than wellingtons on my dog walk today! Fingers crossed summer is truly on its way....

I hope you enjoy this edition - thank you so much to all the contributors for your articles and photos. I do love to see the photos, so it is great to see so many this month.

Please do keep sending your articles in to [editortemetriangle@gmail.com](mailto:editortemetriangle@gmail.com).

Thank you, from all the team.

## A FARMER'S LAMENT

*In what we assume will be a record-breaking month for rainfall in the UK, local resident Johnny Crabbe has written this wonderful 'Farmer's Lament' - although I feel like it applies to each and every one of us too!*

My cows have great big wellington boots on;  
My sheep have donned waders right up to their thighs;  
My pigs (silly things) sport pink water wings,  
They enjoy a good swim in their pens and their sties.

In the 'paddy fields,' corn, (and it just didn't oughter)  
Waves gently beneath about four feet of water.  
The blue of the linseed is aquamarine,  
And the rape has been raped by the floods of the Teme.

The tatties we proudly and neatly burmed up  
Have been flushed down the river to Tewkesbury lock.  
They've been hammered and bashed and split on the trip  
And now they're a sodden collection of chips.

Please Lord, in your mercy, just bring us some sun  
So the effort of living can once more be fun.  
We realise the damp is essential for growth  
But the rain and the storms ....it's just too much with both.  
So give us some blue skies and days that will shine  
So work and enjoyment can combine our time.

AJTC April 2024

**Front cover picture:** Parishioners enjoying refreshments after the Easter service.  
From left to right: Jamie Stewart, Alexandra Winnington, Jill Smith, Jen Denniston and Anthony Winnington.

## TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE GROUP, by Stephanie Mocroft

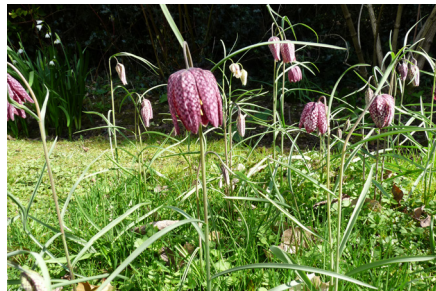
The patch of grass in front of my house slopes down to the hedge bordering the village lane. It is regularly mowed but can in no way be described as a lawn. It is irregular, uneven and never likely to host Wimbledon-style stripes. Instead, daisies, buttercups and dandelions flourish there and multiple colonies of yellow meadow ants labour ceaselessly to raise their tumps above its surface. The area is damp and waterlogged and its greenness owes more to moss than grass.

In old maps the patch is described as an orchard and pig-run. The pigsty is still there but sadly most of the fruit trees are long since gone. One forlorn cherry remains, although last year's late snowfall took out one of its main branches. The tree no longer bears fruit and is well into the process of decay, but it is kept because of the enjoyment of watching tree creepers and nuthatches searching for insects in the crevices of its bark. It is also a useful place to hang feeders filled with nuts and seeds to attract other avian visitors.

Regardless of its rough and ready appearance, the grass provides plenty of opportunities to watch wildlife. In March, I spotted a grey squirrel raking up moss with its paws, gathering large bundles into its mouth, then scaling the trunk of our holly tree where a drey was in the making. He was up and down many times, busily working away at his task. Then I noticed a mistle thrush collecting strands of moss in its beak. He, or she, disappeared into our large yew bush, clearly intent on nest-building too. Meanwhile, behind our house, in a steep sloping orchard grazed by sheep, jackdaws were also at work. These cheeky characters were standing on my ewes' backs shamelessly pulling out wool by the beakful, presumably preferring warm wool to line their nests.

Soon, I shall look forward to seeing the ant tumps in the front grass attract the attention of green woodpeckers. These large birds employ long sticky tongues to slurp up myriads of ants. They are majestic creatures and so brightly coloured that they seem more suited to a tropical environment than to the homely surroundings of the Teme Valley. But they love old meadows and old orchards which is why they are here.

Another exotic-looking character, which can be encouraged to thrive in a boggy patch of old grass, is the snakeshead fritillary. This lovely box-shaped flower is not native to Britain, but the jewelled petals which hang down from a slender stalk add a curious beauty to grass in the early spring. A few years ago, inspired by seeing meadows filled



with them in Oxford's Magdalen College grounds, I planted some bulbs in a persistently damp corner. They have thrived, despite being attacked by both pheasants and lily beetles, and they continue to multiply and enjoy the less-than-perfect conditions of my grass that is not a lawn.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 9 May at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall, WR15 8RR. We welcome Steve Woodison who will be inviting us to 'Meet the Owls'. He will be bringing his feathered friends to tell us all about them. Everyone is most welcome and it is just £3 on the door.

For information on what wildlife is being seen in the area, or to give us your sightings, please visit our Facebook page. Our programme of events is available on our website [www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk](http://www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk) and we normally hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month. Contact us by email at [twwg@outlook.com](mailto:twwg@outlook.com).

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK REMINDER....**  
**Friday 17 May, Clifton Village Hall, 6.30pm-9pm**  
**'Refresh, Restyle, Recycle' – Preloved Clothes to buy!**



Tickets are £8 and will include a glass of prosecco (non-alcoholic alternative provided), nibbles, plus a raffle ticket. The evening will include talks from local residents.

**This is where we need your help:** If you have pre-loved, good quality ladies clothing that you are willing to donate, then please ring Rachel Austin on 07742 977 027 or Marion Dipple on 07597 950 595. Alternatively, you can drop off any clothes at the Old Vicarage, Clifton, and leave them in the front porch if Rachel is not there. Any clothes that we do not sell on the night will be donated to St Richard's Hospice.

**Saturday 18 May 10am-12noon – Coffee Morning** at the Austins, the Old Vicarage, Church Road, Clifton. Coffee, cakes, Bring & Buy. All welcome.

**Saturday 18 May 4pm-7pm 'Croquet and Bouquets'** at Shelsley VH and local croquet lawn. Join us for an afternoon of croquet tuition by Stuart Smith and a round-robin competition. Kate Hurst, our local florist will demonstrate sustainable flower posies with an auction at the end. £10 per adult, to include refreshments.

**Saturday 8 June 9am-1pm – Big Breakfast** at the Dipples, the Old House, The Village, Clifton. All welcome. Please book at least 24 hours in advance and confirm whether vegetarian or meat (eggs will be locally sourced and meat outdoor bred): [mjdipple@btinternet.com](mailto:mjdipple@btinternet.com) / tel: 07597 950 595.

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## Clifton Parish Council minutes of meeting held 11 April 2024

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

Also present: District Councillors Paul & Pam Cumming, Michelle Alexander (Outgoing Clerk), Sarah Simcock (Incoming Clerk) and x8 members of the Public.

Apologies: County Cllr D. Chambers.

The Minutes of the Meeting held 7th March 2024: Proposed by Cllr Neave; seconded by Cllr Bowden. All agreed.

**Democratic Public Time:** The new play area looks lovely and is already well used. Some concerns regarding older youths climbing over it during the evening and signage was suggested to deter this. Cllr Bowden reported that RoSPA have already raised this issue in their recent H&S audit and have set a sample sign – work in progress. St Kenelm's PCC have requested a donation from the PC for the churchyard maintenance, which will be discussed later in this meeting. Concerns were raised regarding trip hazards in Forge Meadows. Tarmac has been done but the issue hasn't been resolved. The paint marks have now faded where works were identified. This needs to be reported again to WCC as it is adopted highway – Cllr Bowden will do this as he has raised other matters, and these have been attended to recently. The hole by the school gate has a cone over it, but WCC say it is not Highways land to repair. The gully by the school has been added to R. Wilks tasks by Cllr Bowden. J. Fletcher has also offered to help with this. The leaves need to be cleared by the Pavilion steps – Cllr Bowden to ask R. Wilks. Bottle banks for the village? There are no facilities for this in adjacent villages either but where should they be located? Matter to be placed on the next agenda.

**County & District Councillor Reports:** The County Councillors report was read out by the Chairman. There was no written District Cllrs report, but the following matters were noted –

SWDP – progress is very slow as the Transport Survey is still awaited from 3 years ago. We are all at risk of development currently. The land supply is to be recalculated due to changes in the system. It is now County policy not to adopt roads on new estates. Neighbourhood Development Plans are now significant if within 5 years of being made or reviewed as there is no SWDP in place. It was noted that Clifton has reviewed their Plan in 2023 and this has been reported to MHDC. Cllr Pam Cumming will report on biodiversity at the next meeting.

**Finance & Governance Matters:** Payments and receipts schedule – proposed Cllr Haywood, seconded Cllr Merrick. All agreed. Clerk to process payments. The payment to Komplan was approved in principle subject to Cllr Bowden approval after the 'snagging meeting' for the recent works. It was noted that the recent electricity bill was higher than expected and the Clerk was asked to write to all the users asking them to make sure all heaters etc are turned off after use. Section 106 matters – Cllr Bowden gave a verbal update on works planned for the pavilion extension re designs and costs – work in progress. The application for funding is to be made soon to MHDC. Scouts and Guides are also looking at match funding options. Work to start in the autumn hopefully. There is also a building on another site which may be able to be reused / rebuilt and this

option is also being explored. The final wildflower garden s106 application has been submitted today by Cllr Gilbert for circa £23k. Cllr Merrick reported that a resident had suggested rainwater harvesting, and this idea was acknowledged by Cllr Bowden.

Clerk Recruitment – Sarah Simcock has accepted the role as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer and was introduced to everyone at the meeting. Michelle Alexander will arrange the handover and training asap. Annual Parish Meeting – the date of the APM was agreed as Thurs 16 May at 7pm, to be followed by the annual meeting of the PC at 7.40pm.

**Parish Matters /Updates:** Village Maintenance Plan – Cllr Gilbert reported that hanging baskets will hopefully be put up in June and that R. Wilks has started grass cutting in the village. Urgent tree works – Cllr Bowden is progressing, but it may not be Council land.

Swift boxes – Cllr Gilbert reported that there has already been some interest in purchasing boxes by residents. A leaflet drop is planned soon. 20-25 houses are needed.

S106 Project (CFAF) updates: This has been a very successful project! The Bowling Green re-turfing is subject to weather so may be done in June. Tarmac is due for the MUGA next week possibly. The budget is stable. J. Whittenbury reported that the Bowls Club will play at Cripplegate Park in Worcester until the works are completed.

**Planning Matters:** Application for consideration - M/24/00387/AGR Hollands Mill, Clifton Upon Teme, Worcester, WR6 6HJ - Prior Notification for a multi-purpose agricultural building used for storage of machinery and for housing cattle. No Objections.

Strategic Planning Matters: The SWDP remains with the Independent Examiner. Highways Matters: Bus shelter correspondence with WCC remains ongoing via Cllr Bowden. Road closure notices were noted as circulated including Old Road water main works.

**Councillor Reports & Items for Future Agendas:** HGV's using Hope Lane and Hollybush Lane are causing concerns due to verge damage. Cllr Gilbert has written to Hfcs Council to ask for a max of 7.5 tonnes and will report back to the next meeting. Cllr Bowden showed the meeting options for signage and stickers for the play area. Dog fouling stickers are also needed. A budget of up to £200.00 was agreed – proposed Cllr Gilbert, seconded Cllr Neave. All agreed. Cllr Bowden to progress this. Cllr Bowden is revising the Clifton Walks book and will bring to a future meeting. Electric vehicle charging at the pavilion is being explored and Cllr Paul Cumming was asked by Cllr Bowden for an update – he will look at options via MHDC and report back. Speed Watch is still being requested by residents and it was agreed that the PC should maintain contact with the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team and WCC Highways as the matter remains with them for speed data analysis. Lack of Police presence locally was noted, although Cllr Gilbert confirmed that the Police do liaise on local matters. Outgoing Clerk, Michelle Alexander, was thanked for her service to the Council over the past five years.

**Date of next Meeting:** Thursday 16 May 2024 at 7pm (Annual Parish Meeting) and 7.40pm (Annual Meeting of the Parish Council) in the Village Hall.

## **LOWER SAPEY NEWS, by Margaret Griffiths**

April has flown by, as has our busy Easter. Our own Easter Day Communion was a lovely service, with a very good congregation. This even included a few new grandchildren, all in good voice. As usual, Scarlet the dog also attended. The Church had been beautifully decorated by Dot and the ladies.

Unfortunately, the weather hasn't changed greatly. The Meteorological Office keep telling us how warm it is, but with the winds here at over 40mph and no sun, this doesn't seem quite right? Apparently, the jet stream is to blame as usual and climate change has caused higher temperatures in the North Pole, melting the ice and glaciers and playing havoc with the jet stream. We all pity the hard working farmers and growers again, wondering how they will cope with the mud and the floods. One thing is certain and that is that there will be shortages and therefore price rises, for certain vegetables and fruits later this year. New laws complicating imports of some from the continent won't help matters as well.

The weather didn't put off the gallant few who completed their litter picking excursion, by walking from Clifton to Upper Sapey, headed by our new local Dame. Congratulations to everyone involved throughout the area. I can't understand why rubbish is thrown from car windows, rather than collected in a bag or bin in the car.

In May, we have the annual Christian Aid week and there will be many fund raising activities around the area. Harpley will be holding a Cream Tea in St Bartholomew's Church on Saturday May 25th at 3pm. There will be scones, cream, jam and tea and coffee and maybe some Prosecco. I am sure this will be a happy occasion to bring us some cheer.

Congratulations to our friend and local resident Pat Savage, who celebrated her 90th birthday late in April. There are quite a few nonagenarians in the area, but how many of them can manage 10,000 steps a day as Pat can? Is there something in the air round here?

### **SERVICES at St. Bartholomew's**

On Sunday 5 May there will be a special Rogation Service at New House Farm at 10.30, followed by refreshments. This will probably be instead of usual Morning Services, but always check times before you go.

Sunday 19 May - Methodist morning service at 10.30.

Sunday 26 May - Circle service at 10.30.

**Housekeeping** for May is in the hands of Angie Dallow. Thank you Angie.

**The Ladies Bible Group** had a successful re-start at Jane Dallow's. Thank you Jane. Our next meeting will be at Pat Savage's home on Tuesday 14 May at 2pm, when we will be using the Ladies of the New Testament book. Thank you Pat for hosting.

**The Mobile Library** will call on Friday 17 May at 10.20 and 10.40am.

The email address for Church wardens is:

lowersapeychurchwarden@gmail.com

The website for our area is: [www.lowersapey.net](http://www.lowersapey.net)

Don't forget to vote in the local elections on Thursday 2 May and remember to take your photo identification with you, which is now required by law.

As I write this, the situation in the Middle East and Ukraine is actually worse. Just now, the situation seems almost hopeless and we must rely on politicians with good sense to bring us all safely through this.

## **SHELSLEY LITTER PICKING, by Carole Warren**

Having now completed my Spring litter picking from the verges allotted to me.... I can report as follows.

A positive is that there seems to be less waste each year and I'm fascinated by the contents of my waste sack and how it has changed since last year. I did however fall victim to the countryside scourge of the dog poo waste, left hanging around in non-compostable poo bags waiting for a home. It's the first time that I've seen this in Shelsley and I'm saddened that this trend has caught up with us. Please either flick it or take it home for disposal, but not left as a parcel for me or the other volunteers who walk the verges, black bag in hand.



There also seems to be a lot of crisp and chocolate munchers using our roads, and they also major on energy drinks - no particular favourite brand for me to recommend!

Whilst cider and beer have always been a major part of my annual litter 'stash', it was a surprise to see that our more recent "chuckers" have now become Gin and Tonic (from a can!) drinkers.....

Well done to all those volunteers who have litter picked over the last month or so around the Teme Valley.



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## CONVERSATION IN THE WOMB - A PARABLE OF LIFE AFTER DELIVERY.... a parable from 'Your Sacred Self' by Dr. Wayne Dyer

*Having heard and been moved by this reading at the Shelsley Easter Sunday service, I wanted to share it with you...*

In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other "Do you believe in life after delivery?" The other replied, "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later."

"Nonsense" said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?"

The second said, "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now."

The first replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded."

The second insisted, "Well I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore."

The first replied, "Nonsense. And moreover if there is life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere."

"Well, I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet Mother and she will take care of us."

The first replied "Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists then where is She now?"

The second said, "She is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her this world would not and could not exist."

Said the first: "Well I don't see Her, so it is only logical that She doesn't exist."

To which the second replied, "Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and you really listen, you can perceive Her presence, and you can hear Her loving voice, calling down from above."

## LOCAL AUTHOR GOES DUTCH

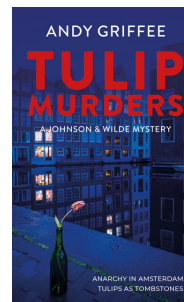
Teme Valley-based author, Andy Griffiee, has gone Dutch for the fifth book in his popular Johnson & Wilde series of crime mystery novels.



Tulip Murders is set on the canals of Amsterdam and features the shocking reappearance of a tulip that no-one has seen for almost 400 years. Someone is leaving the rare and beautiful Semper Augustus tulip alongside a succession of corpses which are being discovered in the city's canals.

How has the most valuable tulip in Dutch history survived across the centuries? Why are the corpses so carefully posed in the same way? And when will the police identify who is committing the murders in plain sight?

Andy, a former BBC news producer and senior manager, says Tulip Murders is another 'tiller-thriller' featuring his main characters, Jack Johnson, Nina Wilde and Eddie, their border terrier.



"I thought it would be fun to bring out Tulip Murders in the Spring, just as the tulips are actually coming out of the ground in the UK," says Andy, who lives at Shelsley Kings in the Teme Valley. "But it's the first book in the series which is set abroad so there is much more of an international thriller feel to the novel."

"There's also a troubled romance between Jack and Nina in all of the books," he adds. "And I really wanted their relationship to move on during the couple's so-called holiday in Amsterdam."

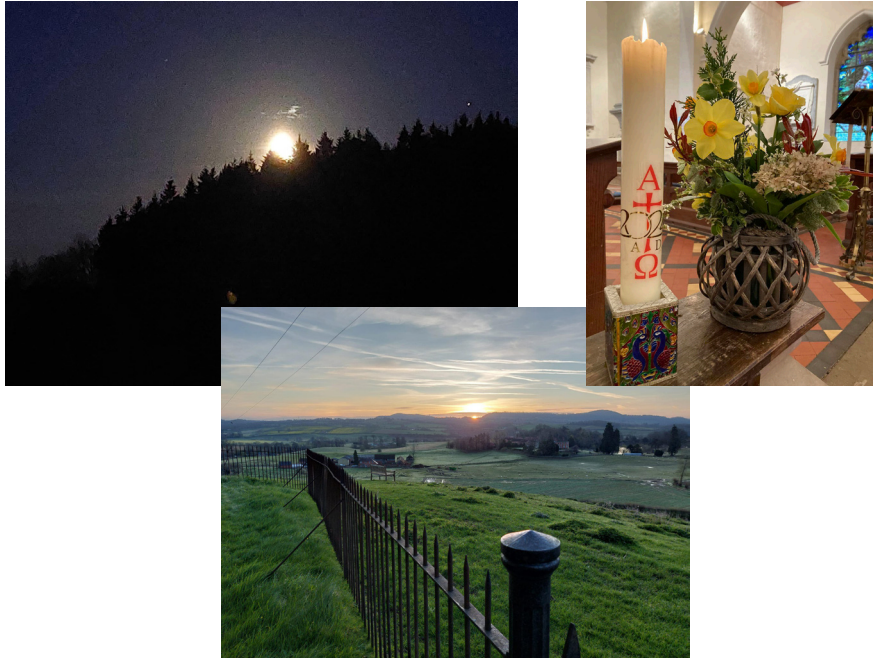
Andy says there is much more of a political edge to his latest book which is set during the run-up to elections in the Netherlands. Each of the murder victims has far-right anti-Islamic views, but each of them also has a dark secret they would wish to hide.

"I wrote the book during the final days of lockdown from my home," he explains. "I thought I was writing fiction, but since then the far right have become the largest party in the Netherlands and other aspects of the book have also become reality."

Andy, 62, began writing fiction five years ago after he retired as a media consultant and has had a new novel published each year since then. The latest book was published just days after he became a grandfather for the first time.

## HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA! EASTER SERVICES IN THE TEME VALLEY

Easter Sunday started with the dawn service at St Mary's, Stanford. Over 20 Parishioners gathered to bring the light back into the church building, along with a wonderful dawn chorus as the sound track!



Meanwhile, the service later that morning at All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp, was truly outstanding, led by Jen Denniston and Jill Smith. After numerous thought-provoking readings and sermons, the



adults enjoyed refreshments whilst the youngsters received a special visit from the Easter bunny!



A special mention must go to the flower ladies from All Saints who created such beautiful displays for our Easter service - thank you.



## ANOTHER SUCCESS FROM THE TEME VALLEY - THE WORCESTER PASSION PLAY

Cassian Roberts writes:

“It is always a great pleasure to write about local success and we can rightly be proud with the great success of the Worcester Passion Play. The Trust which was established in 2019 to run annual plays until 2024 has achieved its aim and is now closing down, in profit!



The Trust was the brainchild of Jane Roberts from Shelsley and James Hyslop from Martley. The idea was developed in mid-2018 based on the Wintershall Passion Play performed in Trafalgar Square each year on Good Friday. The cost of each performance with the cameras and screen, up to 50 performers, 25 stewards and as many backup staff, was £30k per year!

Many parishioners of the Teme Valley have been involved and ‘Churches Together’ has been the bedrock for support, providing actors, technicians and donations. The list is too large to place them all here, however special thanks should go to Richard Bray – set up and take down; Jen & Nick Denniston – marshalls; Andrew Grant – marshall; Kate & Freya Hurst – actors; James Hyslop – Chairman & supplier of doves; Huw Jones – operations and safeguarding; Jane Roberts & family – trustee actors and marshalls; Beryl & Des Robson – actors and marshalls; Stuart Smith – financial trustee; Caroline & Christopher Wilkinson – storage.



Without these volunteers and the generosity of the whole valley, the trust could not have arranged the performances – finishing this year with 2,000 spectators enjoying a wonderful performance! Thank you to everyone.”



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The fair will be celebrating 40 years in the centre (which was the school prior to us moving in).

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## NEWS FROM THE FARM, by Allan Jefferies

The start of this year has been the longest and wettest spell that I've known in my lifetime and writing this at the beginning of April, it is still a wet outlook for the next couple of weeks.

We have managed to get just over half of the ewes and lambs out in the fields, the rest are still in the sheds and they can't go out until the ground starts drying up.

It seemed as if we were only a couple of weeks into the new year and then March arrived and lambing began so our social life stopped. Fi was more concerned about the loss of income with me not out fencing, but I said it didn't matter as we wouldn't have time to go to the pub!

We had 230 to lamb, which went fairly well, although the majority lambed in the first two weeks, so we had very little sleep, especially as they seemed to prefer lambing at night. Fi had to assist about 1 in every 3 lambings, where the lamb wasn't coming correctly (that is with two front legs and a head coming first). Quite a few had a leg back and they very rarely manage to lamb like that unless it is quite a small lamb. We think it might have been due to all the mud they were trudging through during January and February.



When a ewe lambs, we put her into an individual pen together with her lambs for about 48 hours, this is to make sure the lambs are suckling and so that the ewe and lambs bond with each other. After this they move into an area with other ewes and their lambs where they can run together and get used to finding their mothers in a crowd. Usually after about a week, they go outside into the field, but this year due to the wet conditions we were keeping them in for a couple of weeks and in fact it is turning into even longer for the later ones.

There are always some highs and lows during lambing. Sadly, we lost one of our pet ewes, called Jill, despite the vet doing a caesarean. Another ewe lay on both her lambs, but we did manage to adopt one on to her. One night, we had a very small lamb born and I thought there is no way he could live, but by the morning he was running round the pen and is still doing well.

We've had quite a few triplets again this year so I've got thirty on the milk buckets. Poor Bryn, our sheepdog, finds lambing very boring as we have had

very little time to take him for a walk and he has to spend a lot of time lying in the hay outside the sheds. Supper can be anytime, depending on what is happening with the sheep, sometimes after 10.00pm by which time you are really not that hungry and just want to grab a couple of hours sleep! However, we have had some delicious suppers brought round by friends, Karen and Mel, which were very much appreciated.

I am hoping the weather gets drier and warmer because the next big job will be shearing towards the end of May.

## SHELSLEY SOCIAL CLUB EVENTS

The Shelsley Village Hall and Social Club are putting on a few events in the near future and would love everyone to come and support them.

Dave Bates writes: "The club has a wide range of drinks and bar food; darts; pool; pub quizzes and games such as Mr & Mrs. We are dog friendly and small people friendly. We welcome motor bike, scooter and car clubs. Call 07436 110 793 for further details."

The club is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 6.30pm to late and Sunday 3pm to 7.30pm.

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-----

New Shelsley residents and Social Club supporters Craig and Jessica Allington have recently welcomed their first child to the valley! Piper Elizabeth was born on 1st April at Hereford hospital, weighing 7lb 12oz. We look forward to meeting Piper in due course and who knows, possibly a Shelsley baby and toddler group at the Village Hall.....?

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## CLIFTON ON TEME FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The May meetings begin with a members birthday celebration on Wednesday 1st, celebrating Pat Savage, Jenny Painter and Janet Lawrence, who all have nought birthdays.

On Saturday 4 May, we have a coffee morning to raise funds for the club at 10:30am in the Village Hall. Entry is £4 and there will be a tombola and a produce table.

Wednesday 15 May is our annual general meeting.

Our last meeting in March was with Terry Green and his very interesting and informative talk about hedgehogs and their care. We then had Stourport Choral come and sing for us, which included our very own Penny Bowden. Again, this was a wonderful afternoon and very much enjoyed by all.

New members and visitors are always welcome. Meetings are on the first and third Wednesday of the month, at 2:30pm, in the Village Hall.

## Church Matters

by Patricia Snelling

**'O to be in England now that April's there'  
'And after April, when May follows, and the  
whitethroat builds, and all the swallows!'**

*(Words written by Robert Browning in his poem 'Home-thoughts from abroad'.)*

May has always been a special month for me, it gives me the opportunity to drink in, the absolute beauty of the awesome richness of our precious Teme Valley. The return of the swallows, who honour us again, as they patch up last year's nest in our stable and always rear two little families of four. The abundance of wild flowers, cowslips, bluebells, the dainty wind flower, lady's-smocks, the modest daisy and celandine and so many, many more. Indeed, the fragrance of a single flower fills me with gratitude. Praise God for His awe-inspiring creation.

Unfortunately, our area of tranquillity seems to be a little gem, in what is a world where many nations face turbulence, war, great suffering and insecurity.

When the late Queen Victoria was asked about the secret of England's greatness, she took down from the bookshelf a copy of the scriptures, and pointing to the Bible said, 'that book explains the power of Great Britain.' I am sure this would also have been the opinion of the late Queen Elizabeth, who affirmed her faith to the nation on many occasions.

Daniel Webster, an American statesman once said, 'if we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will prosper'. These great leaders truly believed that, the only sure foundation of a nation's future was God's word.

The wisdom of the Bible teaches us not only how to order our earthly lives, but is also a firm foundation for nations.

Thank you, God, for the solid foundation of your word. Help us and all nations, to know it well enough to build our lives upon it.



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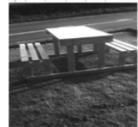
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## SHELSLEY CROQUET AND BOUQUETS

As part of the Christian Aid fundraising events being held throughout the Teme Valley, Shelsley Village Hall is hosting a 'Croquet and Bouquets' afternoon.

The event is being held on **Saturday 18 May, from 4pm-7pm.**

Join us for an afternoon of croquet tuition by Stuart Smith, followed by a round-robin competition. This will take place just along from the Shelsley Village Hall.



Kate Hurst, our local florist will also be demonstrating sustainable flower posies, with an auction at the end.

Tickets are £10 per adult, to include a sausage in a bun and drink refreshments.. There is no charge for children.

Please contact Kate Hurst on 07887 706 147 for further details.

## OPEN GARDEN AT PEAR TREE COTTAGE, WICHENFORD

Pear Tree Cottage, Witton Hill, Wichenford, WR6 6YX

The ever popular, award winning 'Pear Tree Cottage Garden' will be opening its gates for charity under the National Garden Scheme on Sunday 12 May, 11am – 5pm.

The garden, which is set in beautiful countryside, is 'wisteria nominated' and if the April weather has been kind (!!), there should be a wonderful show. Refreshments are served all day and include plenty of homemade cakes!

Once again, the clarinet choir 'Bows and Bells' will be performing during the afternoon. Visitors are guaranteed a very warm welcome and for those who have been before, there are some new features this year.

Admission £5 per person.

On the way, do stop off at the neighbouring garden at Maranatha, to check out the huge selection of home grown plants, all at bargain prices in aid of St Laurence Church, Wichenford. There will be plenty of interest for garden lovers including a wide range of perennials, plus bedding, tomato plants and lots more. **CASH ONLY PLEASE.** Free admission.



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

## May 2024

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May

#### Rogation Sunday

**10.30am:** A family service to ask for blessings for the community and its sustenance in a beautiful farm setting at New House Farm, WR6 6EF. Refreshments to follow.

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May

**10.30am:** Family Communion, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May

**10.30am:** Methodist Morning Worship, St Bartholomew, Harpley  
**6.30pm:** Evensong **7.30** Annual Parochial Church Meeting, St Kenelm's, Clifton

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May

**10.30am:** Circle Service, St Bartholomew, Harpley

*Holy Communion at Heaton House, Martley every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 10.15am and every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday via our YouTube channel – [wwwrtlive1](http://wwwrtlive1)*

All services and timings are subject to review and amendment – please check the website for updates: [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com)

## CHURCH CONTACTS

Oversight Minister: Rev'd Julia Curtis 01886 853286 [revjuliacurtis@gmail.com](mailto:revjuliacurtis@gmail.com)

Christenings, Weddings, Funerals: Rev Jen Denniston 07783 432017  
[jendenniston@gmail.com](mailto:jendenniston@gmail.com)

Jill Smith 01886 853311 Pat Snelling (Clifton) 01886 812443

All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp and St Andrew, Shelsley Walsh

Church Wardens:

Kate Hurst 01886 812184 [kathrynhurst@btopenworld.com](mailto:kathrynhurst@btopenworld.com)

Holly Perks 01886 812369 [hollyperks@me.com](mailto:hollyperks@me.com)

St Kenelm's, Clifton contacts:

Ruth Wilson (PCC Vice Chair & Warm Space) [ruth.wilson38@btinternet.com](mailto:ruth.wilson38@btinternet.com)

Anne Gayden (PCC minutes secretary) & Jackie Gilbert

St Bartholomew's, Harpley Church Wardens:

David Richards 07765 866489 Liz Younge [erckuk@hotmail.com](mailto:erckuk@hotmail.com)

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### May

- 1 Shelsley PCC Election of Churchwardens, All Saints Church, 6.40pm
- 1 Shelsley Annual Parochial Church Council meeting, All Saints Church, 7pm
- 4 Clifton Friendship Club coffee morning, Clifton VH, 10.30am
- 4-5 Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb, MHC Championship
- 5 Rogation Service, Newhouse Farm, Clifton 10.30am
- 6 Unveiling of Peter Collins memorial, Shelsley Walsh 11am
- 9 TVWG, Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall, WR15 8RR, 7.30pm
- 12 NGS at Pear Tree Cottage, WR6 6YX, 11am – 5pm.
- 14 Ladies Bible Group, Pat Savage's house, 2pm
- 14 Shelsleys Parish Council Annual meeting, VH, 7pm
- 15 Clifton Friendship Club AGM, Clifton VH, 2.30pm
- 16 Clifton Annual Parish meeting, Clifton VH, 7pm
- 16 Clifton Annual Parish Council meeting, Clifton VH, 7.40pm
- 17 Clifton mobile library, 10.20 and 10.40am
- 17 'Refresh, Restyle, Recycle' event, Clifton VH, 6.30pm
- 18 Coffee morning, the Old Vicarage, Clifton 10am-12noon
- 18 'Croquet and Bouquets', Shelsley VH, 4pm-8pm
- 18 Little Witley film night, LW VH, 8pm

### June

- 1-2 Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb MHC Championship
- 8 Big Breakfast at the Old House, Clifton 9am-1pm
- 8-9 Shelsley Walsh Water Mill open weekend, 10am-4pm
- 15 Nora Parsons Summer Fair, 12 noon to 4pm
- 26 'Chalky and Band', soul & mod music, Shelsley VH, 7.30pm

### Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb events 2024

- 4-5 May Midland Hill Climb Championship
- 1-2 June Midland Hill Climb Championship
- 30 June Vintage Meeting
- 20-21 July Classic Nostalgia
- 10-11 August Midland Hill Climb Championship
- 14-15 September Harvest Festival Meeting

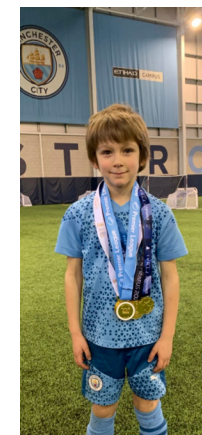
## LIVING PROOF THAT GENES SKIP A GENERATION!

This is Rex Puddy, son of Charlotte and grandson of lifelong Shelsley residents David and Jo Moore.

He is in the U6 Elite Development Squad at Manchester City along with 25 other boys.

He is wearing Phil Foden's five medals from the 2023 season. They are for the Premiership Champions, the FA Cup, the League Cup, the Champions League and the Club World Cup medals.

Something that he will remember forever - lucky boy!



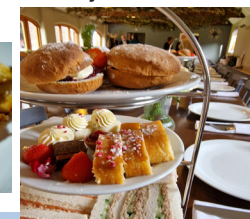
## THE COURTYARD AT SHELSLEY WALSH

The Courtyard Director, Kyle Hannaford writes:

"The perfect venue for your next event! From weddings, to business training days, to canapé receptions, our team will work with you to create a memorable day for all of your guests.

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We also host a very popular carvery lunch on select dates, so join us on social media and keep an eye out for the next date."



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