

Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton-upon-Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



An array of favourite characters at Clifton Primary School's World Book Day

In this edition

- MP's praise for litter pickers
- New café for the Shelsleys
- Fund-raising, parish and Christian Aid event plans
- Clifton and Shelsleys Parish Council minutes
- ... plus all your local Diary Dates

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CLIFTON OPERATIC EVENING

The evening of operatic arias performed in Clifton in March raised a total of £1,000 for a special needs children's home in Odessa, Ukraine.

Ukrainian-born soprano Valery Sherlock and her bass-baritone husband Kieran performed a series of arias and songs, accompanied by Worcester-based accompanist David Arthur, at the home of Shane and Candy Connolly. Catering was provided by Ruth Wilson, Tracey Lowes and Michelle Crawshaw from Clifton WI.

Pictured left: Valery Sherlock with accompanist David Arthur

WELCOME TO THE APRIL 2025 EDITION OF *TEME TRIANGLE*...

Co-editing this magazine several times a year always brings home how quickly the seasons seem to pass... and along with that, the type of news and content we receive to include. This month you can really see the inspirational effects of warmer weather, budding spring and Eastertide reflected in the sheer number of lovely events, fund-raisers, fayres, coffee mornings, walks, open weekends and more happening soon around our villages. Life may sometimes be tough, but we are lucky to live in such a community-minded, beautiful part of the world!

MP PRAISES LOCAL LITTER PICKERS

West Worcestershire MP Dame Harriett Baldwin has praised local community groups who have banded together to help keep the countryside clean, including the litter picking teams from Clifton, Harpley and the Shelsleys who cleaned up roadside rubbish from local lanes in recent weeks (*Teme Triangle*, March).

Dame Harriett made the point while joining a similar litter picking session in the small Teme Valley village of Eastham, to highlight the blight of littering across the rural road network.

As well as encouraging other local community groups to get together to help keep the countryside clean, she also urged drivers to take their rubbish home.



Pictured: Dame Harriett Baldwin MP (4th from right) with Eastham's litter pickers.

She said: "I'm really grateful for all the community groups who take the time to clear up their local areas and fight the scourge of littering. It saddens me that so many people think it is acceptable to throw their rubbish from vehicles, which can be bottles of alcohol, fast food wrappers and other non-biodegradable junk. Malvern Hills District Council supports such groups with equipment and collecting bags, and I've joined several of them over the last year to help out and also to raise awareness of the issue. My message to drivers is clear. Please take your rubbish home because it is damaging the environment and it means that volunteers have to go out in all conditions to clear up your mess after you."

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Front cover picture:

Pupils at Clifton Primary School pictured taking part in World Book Day in their newly refurbished library last month. Left to right: Rupert Silver (Harry Potter); Charlie Poraj-Wilczinski (Mr Bean); Elisa Winnington (Peter Rabbit); and Elisa Dallow (Grimwood); with Head Teacher Francesca Dancer (Paddington Bear).

NEW CAFÉ AND 4* FOOD RATING AT SHELSLEY VENUE

Shelsley Beauchamp's StepToe's Bar, located in part of the Shelsleys' Village Hall, is celebrating several exciting developments this spring, including the launch of a new café serving breakfasts and lunches three days a week.



In March, StepToe's Bar was pleased to have been awarded a Food Hygiene Rating of 4 following an inspection by the Food Standards Agency, signifying that its food hygiene standards are 'good'. Such inspections cover aspects such as how food is handled, prepared and stored, the cleanliness of facilities and how food safety is managed, with a maximum available rating of 5.

In addition a new café has just been opened at Shelsleys Village Hall, run by StepToe's Bar manager Marie Caswell. M.C's Café is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am-1pm. Diners can enjoy a wide range of traditional breakfast options including a 'full English' and filled breakfast baps or sandwiches. A further range of filled rolls and sandwiches, plus drinks, is also on the menu for lunch.

"We were proud to gain the grade 4 Food Hygiene Rating for StepToe's Bar, and I'm now excited to open the new café too!" said Marie. "Whether it's breakfast or lunch you're after, why not pop down and try us? You can either eat in or take away."

SHELSLEYS BINGO, QUIZZES AND EASTER EGG HUNT

- Other regular social evenings are also on offer at StepToe's Bar, WR6 6RA:
- **BINGO NIGHTS:** Every other Friday. Starting at 7.30pm, £7 per book
- **PUB QUIZ NIGHTS:** Every other Friday. Quiz starts at 7.30pm. £1.00 per person to enter the quiz, maximum of six people per team. Winning team will win the prize money. Hot food also available.
- **EASTER EGG HUNT & DISCO:** Saturday 19 April, 3pm (details page 17).

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK EVENTS 2025



Last year nearly £3,000 was raised for Christian Aid week during various community events in Clifton, Harpley and Shelsley Beauchamp, including a pre-loved clothing sale, coffee morning, Big Breakfast, afternoon tea and a croquet and bouquets afternoon, as well as the house-to-house collection.

As always the Teme Valley community and friends came together to have fun whilst also generously supporting the world's poorest communities. A great big thank you to all involved.

Christian Aid continues to focus its efforts on climate change and the devastating impact this has on the most vulnerable countries; on campaigning for justice and support for those unfairly affected; as well as supporting developing countries' farmers through promoting fair trade practices.

This year we will be holding the following events. Everyone is very welcome to join in:

17 May, 10am-12noon - Coffee Morning at The Old Vicarage, Church Road, Clifton-upon-Teme (Austins). Bring your friends and enjoy coffee, tea, cakes, and bring-and-buy.

24 May, 2.30-5pm - Cream Tea and 'Language of Flowers' flower display at Harpley Church. Tea, coffee and scones will also be available. Proceeds to be split between Harpley Church Fund and Christian Aid.

30 May, 7pm - Supper and a Story at the Village Hall. Hear Ellie Somme tell the true story of her Norwegian scientist father's incredible escape from Nazi occupied Norway. Homemade veggie chilli, baked potatoes and salad included. Wine and soft drinks for sale. Please order tickets at least 24 hours in advance via email mjdipple@btinternet.com (£10).

7 June, 9am-12noon - Big Breakfast at The Old House, 20 The Village, Clifton-upon-Teme (Dipples). Full English including bacon and sausage, and local eggs. Vegetarian available. Dogs welcome. Tea, coffee and toast included. £10 per person. Please book at least 24 hours in advance by email on mjdipple@btinternet.com.

29 June, 12noon-4pm - Fête and Dog Show, games, stalls (including pre-loved clothing stall for Christian Aid), teas and ice cream, held at Church House, Shelsley Beauchamp.

Marion Dipple

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CLIFTON'S RACE NIGHT RAISES MORE THAN £1,500

Following the Cheltenham Festival, horse racing continued on Saturday 15 March with a fun 'Race Night' at Clifton-upon-Teme Village Hall. The event was organised by Village Hall Trustee Andy Arnold with the aim of raising much-needed funds for the upkeep of the hall.

Andy told *Teme Triangle*: "Those attending enjoyed eight races, with the opportunity of placing a bet or two, guessing which horse would come home first. In most races the winning horses were separated by very narrow margins, causing great excitement for those watching, making for a very enjoyable atmosphere throughout!"



He continued: "The Trustees would not only like to thank those who attended, but also those who were unable to attend but made personal donations.

"A very special mention goes to the individual sponsors of each race. In doing so they provided a significant contribution to the overall amount raised. In no particular order they were: Michel & Kiru Nimal of Clifton Village Stores; Brad Phillips of Yeomans Garage Limited; Clive & Rachel Austin; Jo & Charlotte Thompson of The Apple Tree Kitchen; Ed Winnington; Sue & Ian Sparey of I & S Stoves Limited; The Directors of BPN Architects Limited; and Ian & Alice Mann of Pitlands Farm Holidays.

"The Trustees of Clifton Village Hall are very pleased to announce the total amount raised from Race Night was £1,533.83."

SEE THE 2024 WORCESTER PASSION PLAY VIDEO IN SHELSLEY



**Good Friday 18th April
Shelsley Village Hall
10am**

Come to watch the full-length Video of 'The Passion of Christ' on a large screen in the local village hall.

The Passion Play was performed open air in Cathedral Square in Worcester for 3 years but is not taking place this year.

This is your opportunity to see the film of the 2024 Worcester Passion Play production which took place in Cathedral Square with a cast of 60+ amateur actors from local churches in Worcester, some from the Shelsleys.

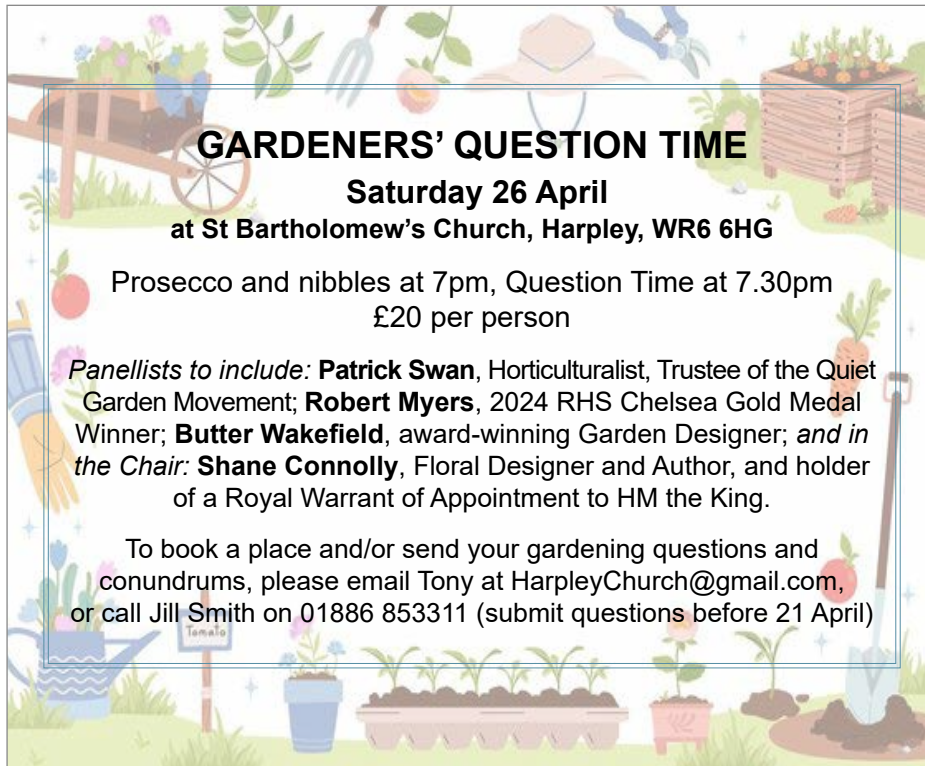
It was performed in traditional dress showing the last week of Jesus' life starting with the joy of Palm Sunday and showing his trial, suffering, crucifixion on full size crosses and ending with his triumphal resurrection.

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Over 1500 people came to watch each year. The local shops and cafes were amazed.

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Churches Together in the Teme Valley**

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GARDENERS' QUESTION TIME

Saturday 26 April
at St Bartholomew's Church, Harpley, WR6 6HG

Prosecco and nibbles at 7pm, Question Time at 7.30pm
£20 per person

Panellists to include: **Patrick Swan**, Horticulturalist, Trustee of the Quiet Garden Movement; **Robert Myers**, 2024 RHS Chelsea Gold Medal Winner; **Butter Wakefield**, award-winning Garden Designer; *and in the Chair:* **Shane Connolly**, Floral Designer and Author, and holder of a Royal Warrant of Appointment to HM the King.

To book a place and/or send your gardening questions and conundrums, please email Tony at HarpleyChurch@gmail.com, or call Jill Smith on 01886 853311 (submit questions before 21 April)

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More details coming soon...

COME AND ENJOY A SHELSLEY NATURE WALK

A Valley Walk will take place on Sunday 6 April.
Meeting at All Saints Church, Shelsley Beauchamp at 11am.
Approximately 2 miles.
Please wear sturdy footwear and appropriate clothing
for the weather conditions. Dogs on leads welcome.
Contact Karen Metcalfe kmetcalfe.shelsleyspc@gmail.com



COFFEE MORNING & TABLE SALE

The Pavilion, Pound Lane, Clifton-upon-Teme, WR6 6DE

Saturday 12 April, 10am - 12 noon
*to raise money for 1st Clifton-upon-Teme
Rainbows and Friends of St Kenelm's*

Please also vote to raise funds for the Guides' local garden project!

Everyone is also asked to continue to vote for Clifton's Guiding groups through the Co-op's community support scheme. The Co-op has kindly given 1st Clifton Guides, Rainbows and Brownies the chance to raise some money to add trees, flowers and a wild habitat to an area the group has been given in Clifton's new park. To support the cause, visit www.coop.co.uk/membership or scan this QR code, and sign in or become a Co-op member. You then click the button to record your vote free of charge.



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TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE GROUP

by Stephanie Mcroft

If you go down to the woods today... you might find a woodcock, as I very possibly did a few weeks ago when I entered my nearest patch of woodland to see whether the hazel catkins were out. They weren't, but a largish bird flew up from the dried leaves of the woodland floor some ten feet in front of me then zig-zagged silently between the trees and away out of sight. The lack of a squawk, an accurate flightpath and middling size suggested that it was not a pheasant, although I was left with an impression of colourful feathers. Sadly, I did not catch a glimpse of a head or beak so cannot be certain exactly what it was.

My local wood offers many features capable of attracting an unusual bird such as a woodcock. It is deciduous, has open rides, deep dry leaf-litter and plenty of wet areas where small springs seep out to a nearby brook. The woodcock is technically a wader, having a long arched bill, but has adapted to life amongst trees rather than on the shoreline where it's relatives the curlew and sandpiper are more likely to be found. It uses its long bill for dabbling in soft mud to retrieve worms, small insects and molluscs and feeds largely in the early evening, resting up during the day in drier parts of the wood. It has large eyes for seeing in low light conditions and these are unnaturally placed high up on the sides of its head, providing a very wide arc of vision.

Woodcock reach about the size of a wood pigeon and have mottled russet feathers, a perfect camouflage for sitting amongst dried leaves. Two populations live in Britain, a native one present all year round and a migrant population flying in across the North Sea in September to escape the frozen winter ground of northern climes. The latter departs in March. Resident birds nest on the ground between March and June, producing four mottled eggs. Both parents care for the chicks and are reputed to carry them between their legs to protect them in times of danger. In summer, male birds exhibit a slow territorial flight at dusk and dawn. Slow wingbeats and a triple croak followed by a whistled "tsiwick" cry characterise this unusual behaviour, which is known as "roding".

For centuries the woodcock has been a game bird. Shakespeare wrote of dusk as "cock-shutt time", when men set up cockshuts: nets suspended vertically between two poles to catch birds for the table. This activity is recalled in present-day names such as Cockshutt Wood, but the name is derived from the much more ancient Anglo-Saxon phrase, "Cocc sciete". One final woodcock curiosity is that an old Worcestershire apple was named after it. Used for eating and cider-making, this large, oblong, red-streaked apple was held on a long stalk thought to resemble a woodcock's beak. I wonder, does anyone still grow it?

Next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group: 7:30pm, Thursday 10 April, Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall, WR15 8RR. We welcome Kevin McGee talking about "Bees, wasps and the buzz around their brilliant diversity". Everyone welcome, £3 on the door. Visit www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk.

EASTER FAMILY BINGO

SATURDAY 26TH APRIL

Doors open 5:30pm

Eyes down 5:45pm

CLIFTON ON TEME VILLAGE HALL



Adults £5 Children £2 Families £12:50

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In aid of the village hall

Steptoos Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday 19th April Starts at 3pm
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There will be a disco on as well as food
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Meet at Clifton Village Hall, 6, Hope Lane, WR6 6DN for a 2.30pm to walk or 3.30pm at the hall if only coming for afternoon tea.

Sunday 27th April 2025
2.30pm - 6pm

Tickets £5 per Adult (Children £2.00) or £8 for a family ticket. (2 adults and up to 2 children)
Tickets from Beryl Robson. 07398101709. email beryl.blackburn@yahoo.com

Walk duration around 1-1.5hrs

Walk or Just Come Sit and Chat

SHELSLEY CURRY-OKI NIGHT RAISES THE ROOF (AND £1.2K)

The fundraising event that David Moore organised for All Saints Church in March turned into a lively, noisy (!) evening. Steve Parker of the Den Café made lots of lovely turkey curry served with naan bread. David turned up his Golden Oldie playlist, and the assembled company sang along with gusto. Apologies to Neil Diamond, Abba and Manfred Mann...but by the middle of the evening people were in excellent voice and joined in enthusiastically... especially for the choruses.



The PCC says a big thank you to everyone who came along or gave donations. The evening raised over £1,200 for general All Saints funds. Huge thanks especially to David for the idea and the turkeys, and to Steve for his generosity cooking curry for 70 people. Thanks too to the cooks who produced the tremendous puddings, and to those who supplied the cheeseboard. A memorable evening!

Rev Jen Denniston

SHELSLEY CELEBRATES WOMEN'S DAY AT BLETCHLEY PARK

Three Shelsley women attended a special International Women's Day symposium on 8 March at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire – once the top-secret principal centre of Allied code-breaking during the Second World War. Alexandra Winnington and Holly Perks from Shelsley Beauchamp, with Kate Hurst from Shelsley Kings, attended the day of talks and discussions, revealing the often-hidden stories from around the world of women's roles in intelligence during World War Two.



**Right,
L to R:**
*Alexandra
Winnington,
Kate Hurst
and
Holly Perks
at the event.*

Above:
*Speaker
Ruth
Bourne in
her Navy
days*



Alexandra told *Teme Triangle*: "It was a fascinating day and wonderful to see how valued women were in wartime intelligence. This had never happened before and was a great step forward for the women's movement. There were several speakers who had written books about Bletchley, women in the French Resistance, Eastern European women in espionage, and women of Cambridge University selected for certain roles. We were also lucky to have 92-year-old WWII veteran speaker, Ruth Bourne, a former WREN who decoded messages encrypted via the Enigma cypher device. We also heard about the contribution of Kathleen Pettigrew, the most senior secretary in MI6 and inspiration for Ian Fleming. Kathleen came from an ordinary background, but rose up to one of the most important positions - very unusual for a woman at that time."

Editor's request: A Shelsley / Bletchley connection? It is thought that at least one young woman from Shelsley was amongst those recruited to work at Bletchley Park during WWII. If you know more about this, *Teme Triangle* would love to tell their story - contact editortemetriangle@gmail.com.

A LONG DAY... AND AN EVEN LONGER RIDE!

The longest day of the year, Saturday 21 June, will seem even longer for Clifton-upon-Teme biker, Darren Watkins who will hit the road with serious intent as he tackles a ride from Land's End to John O'Groats in memory of his late dad, Cyril Watkins to raise money for Cancer Research UK. The 'Longest Day Challenge' was launched in 2018 by Performance Bikes magazine. Riders have a spending limit of £600 to buy their bikes, and the route, which is almost 1,000 miles, is restricted to the use of A and B roads (no motorways) using a mapped-out route.



Darren's machine is a 1999, T-reg Triumph 955 Sprint. "I'm doing this to honour my late father's memory," Darren said. "He was a biker, and he is the reason why I find so much joy in bikes. He passed away due to cancer last August and in the last few months I told him I hoped to complete this challenge."

The physical challenges of this popular event are carefully monitored, with five checkpoints on the route. Trackers are fitted to all riders and a support vehicle is in place. In 2017, Darren raised money by completing the Welsh 3000 in memory of his mum who he lost to ovarian cancer. "I was astonished then by people's generosity, and I'm now asking for people to dig deep again via my JustGiving page." His sponsors who have lost people to cancer will have a white sticker placed on his bike in their memory, and anyone celebrating their success against the disease will have a yellow one on there. "We wish Darren the best of luck and look forward to seeing him at Shelsley after he completes his fund-raising jaunt," said Midlands Automobile Club news editor Geoff Robinson.

MARK GRIFFITHS

Mark Griffiths, husband of Margaret who contributes the monthly Lower Sapey news in *Teme Triangle*, died at home last month (March) at the age of 88. A retired NHS consultant and visiting professor to University College London based on his work in neuroscience, he had lived in Hollybush Lane, Harpley, for nearly 28 years. Margaret's column will resume in next month's (May) issue.

Last November Mark wrote the following, thought-provoking article on hospice care, for *Teme Triangle*.



END OF LIFE CARE

by Mark Griffiths

The year was 1968 and I was doing my first job as a pre-registration surgical house officer in a small district general hospital. The consultant general surgeon was competent, benign and compassionate, the nurses were good and we all thought that the whole team functioned rather well, apart from the usual 100 hour working week. A young woman with inoperable widespread ovarian cancer appeared in one of the beds. I was not sure why she had been admitted, I think she probably had a transfusion and there may have been a problem with her home care. She was skeletally thin with that translucent quality associated with terminal illness. The nurses fed and bathed her and reported that she was not in pain, so I thought that everything was as good as it could be. On ward rounds we stopped at her bed and exchanged pleasantries. She sank into a torpor. We walked past her bed glancing at the pitifully small foetal shape under the bedclothes, with a wisp of hair showing on her pillow. It seemed like an intrusion to disturb her. She died, to everyone's relief, and her bed was then occupied by an altogether more satisfying patient, someone who stood a fair chance of going home better than when she had come in.

Some weeks later the consultant produced an audio cassette tape for one of our regular clinical meetings. It was about a new institution called 'Saint Christopher's Hospice' that had been started the year before. The voice on the tape was none other than the now-famous Cicely Saunders (founder of the modern hospice movement). As we listened I became suffused with shame and guilt. All of us were thinking of the wretched patient we had watched die. There were so many things that we could have done but had failed to do, and there were so many things that we had done, but ought not. One of the most notable was the way in which we had walked past the end of her bed without any contact. We left the room in silence, avoiding eye contact. We had cared for the patient's body but neglected her soul. It was a signal moment that I have recalled so often down the years. Of course in those days there was no teaching in care of the dying so I took small comfort in my ignorance, but deep down I had to acknowledge that failure of the system does not excuse individual responsibility. Everyone should have salutary experiences, preferably at the start of a career. Mine was worth an awful lot of CPD/CME points.

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CLIFTON-UPON-TEME PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held 6th March 2025 at Clifton Village Hall

Present: J. Bowden (Chair); P. Brooks; R. Neave and L. Merrick. Also present: District Councillor Paul Cumming, Sarah Simcock (Clerk) and six members of the public

Apologies: County Cllr D. Chambers, District Councillor Pam Cumming, B. Gilbert and S. Haywood. **Declarations of Interest:** None. **Minutes of meeting held 6 February 2025:** Proposed, P. Brooks, seconded by L. Merrick.

Matters arising: Cllr Brooks reported that a police liaison officer went round knocking on people's doors in Clifton asking if they feel safe in the area or if they have any concerns. Cllr Brooks raised concerns people had at the last meeting; they will be looking at the parking by the T-Junction by the schools. MHDC will be setting up a neighbourhood watch scheme where you can sign up and report issues. Dame Harriet Baldwin MP is unavailable for the opening of the new play area and wildlife garden. Cllr Bowden mentioned that it will be 80 years since VE day, possibly combining the opening with VE day. He asked Cllr Brooks to speak to the tennis club. Cllr Bowden contacted Shelsley Parish Council about flood cameras; they will discuss it at their next meeting.

County & District Councillor reports: The County Councillor's report was read out by the Chairman. District Councillor Paul Cumming reported that devolution is on-going. The planning application for 55 houses is likely to come up at the next planning meeting. Bids for the District Councillors' ward grant scheme were invited. Cllr Bowden attended a meeting of the SWDPR which he found interesting. There will be a planning meeting of Malvern Hills District Council on 2 April which members of the public can attend.

Finance & Governance Matters: Section 106 matters – Cllr Bowden said he attended a meeting at the Pavilion at which all organisations were invited to say what they wanted so that a budget could be created. Rob Wilks has started to put the bow-top fencing around the bowling green. When finished, he will be laying the slabs down the south end. Wildflower garden: Lyn Merrick asked about the design of the display board; it was suggested that she speak to Malvern Hills about it. Due to the resignation of the Clerk, CALC to be contacted regarding recruitment of a replacement.

Parish Matters / Updates: Village Maintenance Plan – Cllr Bowden to speak to Rob Wilks about moving the bins that had been moved back. He requested a road sweep and gully clean – Clerk to organise. E-mail about overgrown footpaths – Highways to clarify the situation. Rob Wilks to be contacted about the tree in Manor Road. Rocking Horse – Cllr Bowden mentioned that it has been dismantled for repair.

Highways Matters: Cllr Brooks mentioned moving the 30mph sign on the Tenbury road out of the village; Cllr Bowden said Highways will not move it. Cllr Brooks said Highways had been round and marked pot holes and they will be filled in in the next couple of weeks.

Councillor Reports & Items for Future Agendas: Cllr Bowden said the village hall will be in use for the elections in May so it will not be possible to hold a Parish Council meeting there. Possibly hold the meeting in the Pavilion on Wednesday 30 April – to be confirmed in due course. Cllr Merrick suggested having a wildlife day on Easter Saturday. She has been doing a survey of the four-acre meadow and it was coming along nicely.

Date of next Meeting: Thursday 3 April 2025 at 7.40pm in the Village Hall.

SHELSLEYS PARISH COUNCIL

Abbreviated Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on March 11th 2025

Present: Val Jones Chairwoman, Louise Hutton (Vice-Chair), Laura Taylor, John Stinton, Dave Bates, David Belfield, Karen Metcalfe and Jean Hammond. **Apologies:** Carole Warren (accepted). **Declaration of Interests:** None.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on January 14th 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairwoman.

Public Question Time: No questions.

Midland Automobile Club: No report. **Highways and Footpaths:** The landowners who cleared fallen trees from the Worcestershire Way were thanked. The annual Shelsley Walsh footpath closure notification was circulated, no comment. Concern was noted that a spring above the Manor Lane exit is causing problems with freezing. WCC to be contacted for advice.

The Lengthsman's Report regarding the clearing of the culvert near Brockhill Court was noted and worksheets for January and February accepted.

Village Walk reminder for April 6th.

Flood warning signs and depth indicators. The clerk to write again to WCC.

The road closure near All Saints will be operational on April 14th for one day.

Road flooding at Shelsley Walsh near New Mill Bridge is causing problems again, the Brockhill Estate to be notified.

Urgent Decisions: None.

Planning: M/25/00113/FUL the Bridge Hotel two storey extension.

The plans for the planning application were discussed, no objection.

Correspondence: Devolution and its impact. Circulated and further reported on by Councillor Cumming.

Minerals and Waste Development information 2025-2027. No comment.

From Councillor Bowden re flood camera. Members could see no benefit to having a webcam. WCC will be contacted (see 6.5).

Consultation on Extension of Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) for dog control. Malvern Hills will be contacted to report on the problem of roaming dogs fouling without the owner's knowledge.

Police Charter Q2 Circulated, the clerk to complete as before.

Heart Health, MHDC presentation <https://youtu.be/tOOw6dCthXs> circulated. Members were disappointed that there was very short notice for this event.

Village Fete: The cake competition's theme is the Natural environment. There will be three categories for various age groups. As part of its biodiversity plan it was suggested that the PC might sponsor this and provide first and second prizes. It was agreed that £45 would be allocated. The date of the Fete is June 29th.

Finance: The payment of £306 to the lengthsman was agreed.

Councillors' reports and items for future agenda: The clerk to remind WCC Highways about the agreed pedestrian signage.

The meeting concluded at 8pm.

Next meeting date: The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on May 13th, preceding the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on May 13th 2025, at 7pm.

The full minutes, the District and County Councillors' reports are available on the WCC website <http://eservices.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/>.

SHELSLEYS' ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**Shelsleys Village Hall
Tuesday 13 May, 7pm**

All welcome. A chance for parishioners to raise questions and discuss anything village-related. (Not a Parish Council meeting)

*Immediately followed by the
Annual Meeting of the
Parish Council*

ST KENELM'S NEWS

Church Repairs: The apex cross that has been removed from the east end of the church roof is currently in storage waiting repair. The decision has been made to replace the cross and repair the damage to the stone below once the relevant permissions have been obtained. The roof does look bare without the cross!

The Churchyard: The hedge at the back of the churchyard has now been cut back to the correct height, giving a fabulous view across the fields and access to several graves that had become covered with brambles. Sadly, now the hedge and brambles have been cut, there are large gaps where there is no hedge. This will need replanting and developing again into a habitat for the local wildlife as soon as possible.



Clifton Crafters: Sometimes known as Knit and Natter, the group will be holding monthly Cream Teas and Craft for Sale afternoons 2.30-4pm in church starting on 26 April. The craft group meet in the village hall Tuesday afternoons at 1.30pm, where those unfinished projects hiding in cupboards are completed and other items are made to sell in church to help with building repairs. An excellent way to meet people and get help with projects.

Welly Church: Come and explore and see where God is at work in the natural world. This will be held in the churchyard of St Kenelm's. It will be a chance for families to come and take part in a range of outdoor activities followed by a short talk, prayer and refreshments including hot chocolate. The first session on Saturday 26 April 4-5pm will be based around Easter and no doubt some Easter eggs will be involved!

Remembrance Day: In November the village meets together to honour those who have been affected by war. Each year wreaths are laid at the plaque for those who died in the First and Second World Wars. Each year I have wanted to know more about who they are and whether they still have family in the village. I would like to put together some information ready for November if anyone has photos or information and would like to share this with the village as a display, please contact me. There is also a Roll of Service with many more names, about whom it may also be possible to find out more.

Volunteers: If you would like to help with brass cleaning, church cleaning, gardening or other jobs around the church please contact Ruth Wilson. Volunteers are always very welcome!

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Church Matters

by Rev Julia Curtis



One of my favourite seasons of the year is the spring, and Easter in particular. Much as I love cuddling up under a blanket in front of the log burner with a good book and a warming drink. Much as my eyes love to feast upon the sparkle and glitz of Christmas lights and decorations. Much as I love to sing Christmas carols and songs. It is spring which I find the 'most wonderful time' of the year.

April is a time when new life is bursting through all around. The lambs are growing fit and strong in the fields, as they gather into groups and charge around for no reason other than they can. Our gardens are filling with blossom and colour. Here at Hanley Rectory we will see whether John's exploits with pruning our apple trees, after some excellent local advice, quite literally bears fruit.

Alongside this we have the drama of the Easter story, which we retell and enter into each year. For the second time all the churches I oversee will be holding a joint Palm Sunday service with a short procession from the Rectory to Hanley Village Hall.

Following the events of Holy Week we think about the last week of Jesus's earthly life; reflecting on the joy and the pain that it brought in such a short space of time.

In the world today we see events unfold just as quickly as they did that first Easter. We are witnesses to the turning of political moods on the head of a pin.

In the midst of everything, what shines through is the hope promised by renewal and new life seen on Easter Day. That is what makes this the most wonderful time of the year for me.

That, and the promise of chocolate after a long Lent without it! Wishing you a hope-filled Easter!

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Come and explore and see where God is at work in the Natural World around us

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Experience Easter - **April 26th**

Holy Spirit & Pentecost - **May 24th**

Treasures Part 1 - **June 28th**

Treasures Part 2 - **July 19th**

Summertime - **August 23rd**

New beginnings - **September 27th**

Harvest - **October 18th**



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

April 2025

Sunday 6th April

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

Thursday 10th April

12.45pm: Soul Space, Clifton Village Hall, Rowberry Room

Sunday 13th April Palm Sunday

10.00am: Palm Sunday Celebration, Hanley Rectory and Hall

Wednesday 16th April

10.30am: Communion, St Andrews, Shelsley Walsh

Friday 18th April Good Friday

10.00am: Good Friday Reflections, St Bartholomew, Harpley

1.00pm: Devotional Hour, St Kenelm's, Clifton

Sunday 20th April Easter Day

5.30am: Dawn Service and Communion, Stanford Church

9.30am: Family Communion, St Bartholomew, Harpley

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

11.00am: Family Communion, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

Thursday 24th April

12.45pm: Soul Space, Clifton Village Hall, Rowberry Room

Saturday 26th April

4.00pm: Welly Church, St Kenelm's Clifton

Sunday 27th April

10.00am: All Age Worship and Communion, Rochford

FRIENDS OF ST KENELM'S: EVENTS PROGRAMME

Saturday 12 April, 10am: Table Top Sale and Coffee morning in conjunction with Clifton Rainbows to be held at the Pavilion.

Sunday 11 May, 6:30pm: Organ recital: Tim Goodall: "From Bach to The Beatles".

Sunday 8 June, 3.30pm onwards: Visit and guided tour of Burford Church. Gather for tea at Burford Garden Centre, followed by a service at the church and a short guided tour of the church and its features by Ray Morris.

Sunday 13 July, 3:30pm: An afternoon of Popular Praise outside the church, to the accompaniment of guitars. Refreshments available.

Sunday 21 September, 6:30pm: Service led by the Severn Singers.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL

- 2 Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb Working Party, 9.30am-4pm (must register)
- 2 Clifton Friendship Club meeting, Clifton VH, 2.30pm
- 3 Clifton Parish Council meeting, Clifton VH 7.40pm
- 6 Shelsley Valley Nature Walk, from All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp, 11am
- 8 Clifton WI meeting, 'Sustainable Church Flowers', Clifton VH, 7.30pm
- 10 Teme Valley Wildlife Group: 'Bees & Wasps', Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH 7.30pm
- 12 Clifton Rural Reels (probably the new Bob Dylan film tbc), Clifton VH
- 12 Tabletop sale and Coffee Morning (Clifton Rainbows and Friends of St Kenelm's), Clifton Pavilion, 10am-12noon
- 18 WCC Mobile Library: Clifton VH 9.45 - 10.15am, and Lower Sapey 10.20am
- 18 Video screening of 2024's Worcester Passion Play, Shelsleys VH, 10am
- 19 Wildlife Activities Afternoon, Clifton Recreation Ground, 2-5pm
- 19 Easter Egg Hunt with Disco & Food, Steptoe's Bar, Shelsleys VH, 3pm
- 26 Gardeners' Question Time, St Bartholomew's Church, Harpley, 7pm
- 26 Cream Teas and Craft Sale, St Kenelm's Church, Clifton, 2.30-4pm
- 26 Easter Family Bingo, Clifton VH, doors open 5.30pm for 5.45pm start
- 27 Circular Guided Walk & Tea (Action for Children), Clifton VH, 2.30-6pm

MAY

- 1 Clifton Parish Council meeting, The Pavilion 7.30pm
- 5 Official opening of Clifton Recreation Ground
- 10-11 Shelsley Watermill Open Weekend, Shelsley Walsh Hillclimb, 10am-4pm
- 11 Organ Recital: 'From Bach to The Beatles', St Kenelm's, Clifton, 6.30pm
- 13 Shelsleys' Annual Parish Meeting, Shelsleys VH, 7pm (followed by Annual Meeting of the Parish Council)
- 13 Clifton WI Meeting, Clifton VH, 7.30pm
- 14 Annual Parochial Church Meeting, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp. All welcome
- 16 WCC Mobile Library: Clifton VH 9.45 - 10.15am, and Lower Sapey 10.20am
- 17 Coffee Morning (Christian Aid), Old Vicarage, Church Road, Clifton, 10-12
- 24 Cream Tea and 'Language of Flowers' display, Harpley Church 2.30-5pm
- 30 Supper and 'Another Man's Shoes' talk, Ellie Somme, Clifton VH 7pm

CHURCH CONTACTS

- Oversight Minister:** Rev Julia Curtis 01886 853286 revjuliacurtis@gmail.com
- Christenings, Weddings, Funerals: Rev Jen Denniston 07783 432017
jendenniston@gmail.com
Pat Snelling (Clifton) 01886 812443
- Jill Smith 01886 853311
- All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp / St Andrew's, Shelsley Walsh Church Wardens:**
Kate Hurst 01886 812184 kathrynhurst@bopenworld.com
Holly Perks 01886 812369 hollyperks@me.com
- St Kenelm's, Clifton:**
Ruth Wilson (Church Warden, incl. Warm Space) ruth.wilson38@btinternet.com
Jackie Gilbert
- St Bartholomew's, Lower Sapey (Harpley) Church Wardens:**
David Richards / Liz Younge lowersapeychurchwarden@gmail.com

POSTMAN RAY RETIRES

Local residents will be sad to no longer see the smiling face of local postman Ray Rawlings, who has just retired in March. Ray has worked for Royal Mail for 25 years, at the sorting office at Great Witley, and delivering in a patch which covers Kingswood, Stanford, Abberley, Stockton and the Stourport Road. Ray has continued to work beyond his retirement age, being a youthful 69! However, as the sorting office is moving to Worcester he has decided it's time to finish.



What changes has he seen over that time? A significant reduction in mail due to emails, WhatsApp and other digital communications, and the rise in the cost of stamps. Parcel deliveries have increased, alongside changing shopping habits. Ray is keen to point out that Royal Mail is a separate company to the Post Office, which has been in the news of late.

Ray will now have more time for his other interests, which include gardening, bee-keeping, walking with the Wyre Forest rambles, and the Severn Valley Railway. He has asked us to say thank you to all his customers for their support over the years, and we, his customers, would like to say a very big thank you to Ray, who has delivered letters and parcels in all weathers without fail (except when he was bitten by a dog!) and has looked out for residents at the 188 homes he visited, to make sure they are safe. Enjoy your retirement.

Val Jones

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