

Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton-upon-Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



Celebrating the launch of a new hair, beauty and nail salon in Shelsley Walsh

In this edition

- Clifton floral artist awarded MBE
- New hair & beauty salon for the Shelsleys
- Two local businesswomen win awards
- Clifton and Shelsleys Parish Council minutes
- ... plus all your local Diary Dates

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Above: *Stanford Bridge Pilates Studio* voted best in two counties (full story P12)



Above: *Shelsley florist* wins prestige award (full story P13)

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Opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editorial team. Teme Triangle is not responsible for goods and services advertised. Contributions may be edited at the discretion of the Editor.

Front cover picture:

The team behind the new, luxury GoldSoul hair, nail and beauty salon, recently opened at Homme Castle Barns near Shelsley Walsh. Pictured (L to R): aesthetician and bridal makeup artist Zoe, hairstylist and colourist Vicky Licence (with Lola the salon mascot), and nail technician and massage therapist Jess (full story page 11).

WELCOME TO THE JULY/AUGUST EDITION OF *TEME TRIANGLE*...

There is so much success and positivity in this summer issue. What talented and dedicated folk we have in our villages! An MBE... a clutch of award wins... two new local business launches... a new era for a local hostelry... record fund-raising initiatives... grants available... special events... enhanced local amenities... friendship, worship and learning opportunities. Much to congratulate, much to feel glad of, and much to be proud of. Enjoy.

CLIFTON RESIDENT'S HONOUR

Clifton's Shane Connolly, who helped set up the Sustainable Church Flowers Movement, and provided displays for the King's wedding and coronation, has been appointed an MBE in the King's Birthday Honours.

Shane said it was a pleasant surprise to be recognised for services to sustainable floristry: "You don't do anything thinking that you're going to get acknowledgement, so it was very strange because I never expected it," he added.

"I've been doing this since 1989 and the real problem in the flower industry is that it is very heavily dependent on non-environmentally friendly flowers that are imported from halfway around the world. The way they're arranged in things like floral foam, which is a non biodegradable microplastic, is also a problem."

His work has been showcased at events for the Royal Family several times, an opportunity he is grateful for.

"I've been incredibly lucky that I've been commissioned by the now King and the now Queen to do their wedding in 2005, to do the Prince and Princess of Wales's wedding in 2011 and to do the flowers for the Coronation."





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Are you, or is one of your children, planning to start a new stage of education this autumn, and do you live within the civil parish of the Shelsleys?

If so, you may be interested in the Shelsleys Educational Charity. The income of this charity is used to support the education (for example to assist in the purchase of uniforms, books and sports equipment) of children and young people under the age of 25 who live (or whose parents/ guardians live) within the parish of the Shelsleys. The Trustees will be meeting in August to consider making small grants to eligible pupils or students. These are those either attending primary school for the first time, or those starting secondary school/college or university in autumn 2025.

Applications for grants should be made as soon as possible in writing, and in any event before the end of the summer term. All enquiries and applications should be sent by email to the Clerk to the Trustees, Jude Damerell, at judith_damerell@hotmail.com or by post to Jude Damerell, Somer Barns, Camp Lane, Shelsey Beauchamp, WR6 6JQ.

K-KIOSK COMING TO MILL FARM

Teme Valley shoppers will soon be able to get their hands on some of the world's trendiest stationery, thanks to a new shop being opened at Mill Farm Country Retail in Stanford Bridge.

Already a seller of K-pop albums and collectibles online, young entrepreneur Nell Haywood is opening her new retail venture The K-Kiosk on August Bank Holiday weekend. As well as all kinds of must-have Japanese-inspired stationery, Kenji and Pokémon cards, the shop will be offering K-Pop Kardz and selected items created by small businesses in the area.

"Japanese culture and K-Pop are huge trends right now," said Nell. "We can't wait to open and offer something a bit different. Do come along!"

DETECTORIST'S FINDS

Clifton metal detectorist Richard Bramhall has unearthed some rare coins around the village. Among his finds is an Edward I medieval silver penny (1279-1307), a William & Mary silver coin dated 1689 and Victorian one shilling dated 1897.



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CLIFTON'S NEW INN WELCOMES NEW ERA

The New Inn pub at Clifton has welcomed a new owner, after previous tenants Alan and Wendy Moore announced in June that they would be hanging up their aprons and bar towels after five years.

Wendy and Alan, who will be staying local, thanked their customers for their support and friendship. Wendy said: "The biggest thank you to all of you who've helped make this possible. I honestly believe this is one of the best pubs around. However, we think it is now time to take some well-deserved time out and do some of those things we have been missing. We will see you on the other side of the bar!"



Stepping in as the popular pub's new owner is Guy Lees-Milne, a long-time Clifton resident who has more than 30 years' experience in the bar and restaurant trade. Focusing on locally sourced food and drink, Guy has exciting plans in the pipeline.

"I'm delighted to be back in my home village to take on the infamous and historic New Inn!" he confirmed. "The pub is open seven days a week as usual, currently serving drinks and light refreshments including cob platters. Our kitchen is also undergoing a facelift, and will soon be fully open for an exciting new, locally sourced menu. Come and have a look and a drink!"

For updates visit www.thenewinncliftonuponteme.co.uk or @thenewinnclifton on Facebook.

NEW SALON EXPERIENCE OPENS NEAR SHELSLEY WALSH

A new, luxury hair, nails and aesthetics salon has opened its doors at The Threshing Barn, Homme Castle Barns near Shelsley Walsh.

The GoldSoul Hair & Beauty Salon was founded by experienced hairstylist Vicky Licence (*below, right*), who has always wanted to create an independent salon bringing together a range of treatments from qualified specialists, in a beautifully appointed retreat setting.

Complementing Vicky's expert hairstyling, colour and extension services are aesthetician and bridal makeup specialist Zoe, who offers advanced facial and skin treatments; and nail technician and luxury massage therapist Jess, who built her skills at a number of leading spas.

The salon is also home to GoldSoul Weddings, offering bridal parties a choice of relaxing pre-wedding beauty packages in a dedicated bridal parlour. Adding to the experience is a choice of drinks, cocktails, freshly baked sweet treats and even lunch delivered from The Crown at Martley.

Vicky said: "We are already building a nice group of clients who love visiting for their hair and beauty treatments. We're delighted that we're going down well with the local community!"



GoldSoul is now seeking additional hairstylists to expand the team. "I am looking for experienced, high-end hairdressers who want to be part of a friendly team. I aim to create a warm, welcoming space where everyone feels at ease, so I'm looking for team members who will positively support that!" confirms Vicky.

Visit www.goldsoulhairandbeauty.co.uk or @goldsoulhairandbeauty on TikTok and Instagram.

Special offer for *Teme Triangle* readers: To mark the launch, GoldSoul is offering TT readers 10% off their first appointment, if they bring a copy of *Teme Triangle* magazine with them.

STANFORD PILATES STUDIO NAMED BEST IN TWO COUNTIES

Playground Studios at Mill Farm Country Retail, Stanford Bridge, has won the title of 'Best Pilates / Yoga Studio in Worcestershire and Gloucestershire' at the Muddy Stilettos Awards 2025, held at Sudeley Castle.

Playground Studios, which first opened in 2023, offers a broad mix of Reformer Pilates, a type of Pilates workout that sculpts the body, improves flexibility and enhances core stability. Classes range from classical beginner/intermediate sessions to Power 'bootcamp-style' classes and Bounce jumpboard sessions. The studio holds seven, state-of-the-art Align C8 reformer exercise machines with additional equipment.



Founder and mother-of-two Sarah Gray (*above, teaching*) said: "The Muddy Stilettos platform shines a light on the local gems that make our communities so special – and I'm honoured to be part of that spotlight this year. Thank you also to my customers! For every class you've shown up to, every vote you cast, every kind word, every moment of trust. This award doesn't belong to me, it belongs to all of us." She added: "Clients can experience Pilates as it was originally created, with sessions rooted in Joseph Pilates's original repertoire, while also enjoying contemporary progressions that bring variety and challenge."

Find Playground studios at www.playgroundstudios.co.uk or social media @playgroundstudiosuk.

To celebrate their win, Playground Studios is offering customers their first two Beginner Classes at £30. "These are designed so people can experience the variety of sessions we run, as no two classes are ever the same," said Sarah. "Afterwards there is a variety of packages on offer, as well as a pay-as-you-go option."

LOCAL FLORIST IS DOUBLE AWARD WINNER

Shelsley Beauchamp sustainable florist Kate Hurst, director at Camomile & Cornflowers, has won the Central England Best Florist award in the Prestige Awards for the second year.

The multi-award-winner uses her three-acre cottage garden to grow and arrange her own flowers as organically as possible, to create 'unique, wild and delicate' designs for all occasions.

Adding to her recent work at the Malvern Spring Show, she has also struck gold at perhaps the industry's most prestigious event.

Kate told *Teme Triangle*: "I am a member of the Farewell Flowers Directory - a directory of florists that provide compostable floral tributes using predominantly British flowers - and I helped on the directory's stand at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in May.

Funeral flowers were displayed for the first time in 150 years. The stand won a Gold award and was much admired by The Queen. We even featured on ITV News!"

She confirmed: "Most funeral flowers are based on floral foam or Oasis which is a single use plastic that takes hundreds of years to degrade. It also releases dangerous chemicals into our environment and breaks down into micro-plastics that pollute our watercourses.

Imported flowers (90% of our flowers in this country are imported via Holland) mostly come from places like Columbia, Uganda, Egypt, Ethiopia and Kenya. Many of these countries will spray their flowers with lots of pesticides and preservatives before shipping their flowers thousands of miles by plane. Flower production on a commercial scale also depletes precious water resources.

For these reasons I only use British flowers, herbs and unusual foliage all year."

See Kate's work at www.camomilecornflowers.co.uk or call 01886 812184.



I have lived in the Teme Valley for over thirty years now, but I don't think I've ever seen it blossom so beautifully as it has in 2025. Dry, warm weather chased away grey skies and frequent rain. Since then we have been lucky to see the sun nearly every day. A lack of frost and rain encouraged plants, both in the garden and in the wider landscape, to put on a tremendous spring display. Blackthorn, as usual, was first to bloom, tiny white star flowers bursting from thin black twigs on shrubby bushes and low trees. Then fruit blossom took over. Damson, cherry, apple and pear all seemed to come out together this year. My pear trees were utterly laden, leaving barely a leaf in sight. Next came the creamy spires of horse chestnut flowers, then an avalanche of hawthorn whose blossom was draped over nearly every hedge.

Not to be outdone, garden flowers then came in on the act, exhibiting perfect wisteria and exuberant clematis. Before a music concert on a warm evening in Much Marcle, I enjoyed the extraordinary sight of a blue wisteria which had been trained straight upwards to an unusually tall height, presumably on some kind of support which was completely hidden by flowers. It looked marvellous, but what made it special was that a vigorous pale pink Clematis montana had twisted itself high up through it. Concert goers were drawn to look up in wonder as they spotted it on their way past.

Well, what exactly is blossom? Technically, it is a cluster of flowers blooming on any plant, but it tends to be a term associated with trees which bear fruit. It is celebrated here in Worcestershire by the Vale of Evesham Blossom Trail, a route that has been promoted for over forty years to attract visitors to a region famous for its many orchards. The trail winds around Pershore and Evesham, vaguely following the route of the River Avon. Fruit and vegetable growing began in the vale in the eighth century under the monks of Evesham Abbey, but its peak came in the late nineteenth century when the arrival of the railways allowed the area's produce to be sent out over long distances.

After the discovery of the Pershore Yellow Egg plum in Tiddesley Wood, and the development of the Purple Pershore plum, plum growing boomed around Pershore, where jam and processing factories were set up to preserve the produce. Sadly, imported fruit and railway closures ended the boom and only a quarter of the vale's orchards remain today. Nevertheless, it is possible to enjoy the region on foot, by bike or by car, and to follow a variety of trails through orchards to witness the area's unique landscape. The original 8-mile blossom trail has been extended over the years and is now a 55-mile driving tour. Here's Worcestershire at its best!

The next meeting of the TVWG will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 10 July at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall for a talk on Shropshire. All welcome, £3 on the door. More at www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk.

CLIFTON-UPON-TEME FRIENDSHIP CLUB LATEST



Our May meeting was a visit from Andy Arnold. When asked for a title, Andy said it would be a surprise, we had a very interesting talk about pandas with some lovely slides.

June saw a return visit from 'Ukulele' Phil and friends. Phil was also joined by one of our members, John Bowden.

We had a fabulous afternoon singing and joining in. We even had our own skiffle group. Great fun was had by all.

Visitors and new members always welcome. We meet on the

first and third Wednesday at 2:30pm in Clifton Village Hall. For more information contact dotmillward@btinternet.com.

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STANFORD HISTORY GROUP ANNOUNCES NEXT LECTURES

'Some History of Empire, Immigration and Vagrancy'

A warm welcome awaits attendees at Stanford History Group, which meets on Monday evenings from the end of September to the start of December. Meetings are held at Sapey Village Hall, WR6 6EU. Chairman Simon Marriott confirmed: "We are a diverse group with an interest in understanding the past, to better appreciate today and how we got here! Our lectures are very well attended and there's plenty of parking."

The Group's 2025 programme comprises ten lectures, in six topical and controversial subject areas, presented by expert lecturers from Birmingham and Worcester Universities. "You can come for any one, or all of them," said Simon. "Do come and join us – there's coffee, biscuits and discussion too!"

Topics will include the history of Canada, 150 years of UK Vagrancy and Homelessness, what makes a sovereign state and French Colonialism and Decolonialism. The first lecture takes place on Monday 29 September, 7.30pm.

The 10-lecture course is £60, or £10 per lecture, payable at the door, or by bank transfer. Contact Simon at simon@adamswoodfarm.co.uk or 01886 853412 or visit www.stanfordhistorygroup.com.



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TEME VALLEY'S CHRISTIAN AID WEEK RAISES RECORD FUNDS

Christian Aid week this year has been another whirlwind experience. We had an intense period of fundraising activities in the Teme Valley and, due to the generosity of our communities, we have raised a massive £3,177.83 so far (our highest total ever) whilst also having great fun and fellowship.

It was lovely to see some new faces and enjoy catching up with friends at the coffee morning in the Austin's home, whilst enjoying delicious cakes and fresh coffee. We enjoyed a charming afternoon at Harpley's St Bartholomew's Church admiring the 'Language of Flowers' floral displays, with novices also trying their hand at bouquet-making (*right, top*) whilst enjoying delicious cakes, cups of tea (in fine bone china cups) and sipping Prosecco.

The evening with author Ellie Somme was utterly fascinating and gripping. Her father's story of his bravery as a member of the Norwegian resistance and his daring escape from his Nazi captors across the mountains to Sweden was awe-inspiring. The chilli, potatoes, crème fraiche and cheese went down well too.

The Big Breakfast, which was diverted to the Clifton Village Hall due to the inclement weather, was also a huge success. We served a record 74 full English breakfasts, cooked by super chefs Penny Bowden and Nick Denniston (the eggs and milk generously donated by Jan the Milk from Phil Gray), along with tea, coffee, orange juice, toast, jam and marmalade to locals, friends and family from the surrounding area (*opposite, bottom*). It was great to see people meeting old and new friends whilst enjoying a superb breakfast. The annual house-to-house collection in Clifton raised more than ever before.

We have one last event, a stall at the Shelsley Beauchamp Fête selling pre-loved clothing and accessories, which we hope will raise our total even higher.



(L to R): Novice florists Nick Denniston, Rev David Hewett and Clive Austin



There are so many people to thank for this year's fundraising and social success, including the bakers, flower arrangers, chefs, shoppers, collectors, speakers, gazebo providers, waiting staff, drinks makers, furniture movers, money counters, promoters, raffle prize givers and ticket sellers and of course to the supporters. Thanks to all for making this a record breaking total which will now be used to help some of the world's poorest communities.

Marion Dipple

SPECIAL METHODIST SERVICE AT HARPLEY

Harpley Methodist celebration service

In June a special service was held at St Bartholomew's Church, Harpley, to give thanks for more than 40 years of Methodist services held there regularly after the High Lane Methodist Chapel closed in 1979. The service marked the ending of Methodist services there, as there are no longer enough people to attend and lead.



Rev Jen Denniston said, "It was a lovely occasion - marking the end of an era, while celebrating the fruitful collaboration of different 'flocks' working and worshipping as one, with expectation that something new will come now, rather than a full stop."

Rev Katherine Pickering, Methodist minister from Bromyard Road, Worcester, led the service, highlighting the four decades of collaboration of Anglican and Methodists at St Bartholomew's since High Lane Methodist Chapel closed.

Valerie Edwards of Hollybush Lane, Harpley shared reminiscences of the chapel and told the story of how St Bartholomew's PCC offered the church for the monthly Methodist services.

GRIST TO THE SHELSLEY WATER MILL

In April, the 'Dibnahs' and Shelsley Walsh Water Mill were visited by Savannah Edwards, an arable farmer from Wichenford. Savannah collaborates with Sarah Corbridge, a sourdough baker who works with farmers in regional grain networks to mill and test-bake various heritage wheats. Savannah predominantly grows a variety called April Bearded and this year she also has a spring rye in the ground, which has stood the drought well and is already 1.5m tall.



“Sarah’s ability to work with and understand how a heritage grain works best along with her attention to flavour is incredible” Savannah told us. “April Bearded is an “awned” wheat, named after the long “awns” that project from the head of the grains to give wind protection and assist drying. Once harvested the crop is stone ground, in the traditional way to retain the nutritional content of the wheat in the flour unlike modern techniques that strip the flour of all its nutrients and then replaces what it has taken out with synthetic substitutes.”

When Savannah and Sarah arrived, the mill was put to work on its first bulk milling job since it became productive again and in three hours, 100kgs of flour was milled. The Dibnahs are delighted to play their part in this exciting project. On hand was expert Adam Marriott, the man who keeps all the water mills in the UK functioning. Adam is a millwright, engineer and fixer of all vintage and old machinery, as well as a farmer of heritage grains. It is his threshing machine Savannah will use so that the rye straw can be used for thatching.

Savannah and Sarah are interested in seeing the heritage grain milled traditionally and using it in traditional baking. “The flour has a delicious nutty flavour,” Sarah said. “A good all-purpose flour, ideal for making bread if mixed with a strong flour; and great for baking biscuits, cakes, pasta and pizza dough.”

PRAISE FOR CLIFTON WILDFLOWER GARDEN

The new wildflower garden in Clifton's recreation field has won the praise of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.



Writing to the Parish Council, the Trust's Natural Networks Officer, Becca Bratt, sent her congratulations, adding: "The wildflower area, and indeed the whole site, looked absolutely fantastic! The wildflower turf has done so well and was humming with bees and insects. Well done on keeping this and the hedgerows watered and healthy over the dry period. You've created a really fantastic space for local people as well as massively boosting resources for wildlife, as well as managing to keep a balance between 'wild' and neatly maintained. Bravo!"



Natural Networks awarded a grant of £15k and worked with the Parish Council to enhance the recreation ground for the villagers and to provide a natural resource to improve the habitat for wildlife. Parish councillor Lyn Merrick and her daughter Rachel were responsible for the design and nurturing of the wildflower garden which has received praise from many park visitors.

ST KENELM'S NEWS

Church Repairs The report has arrived from the structural engineer and has highlighted some of the issues with the tower many of which are historic. However the first concern is the arch leading internally from the nave into the church tower. The tufa stonework of the arch, a more recent addition than the main tower structure, needs attention and repairing as it has continued to crack losing more mortar, this has been happening over many years. The summer will be a time to discuss with the architect the plan for what next!



Thank You Last month the lawnmower, despite having some repairs, came to the end of its life and has sadly been retired. I would like to thank the Friends of St Kenelm's who have bought a new mower allowing Darren to continue to keep the grass looking good.

Thank you to Anne and Shelia for hosting the annual Rogation Service which raised £104 for the Midland Air Ambulance Charity.

Welly Church We met for our second session of Welly Church at St Kenelm's in May (below) and celebrated Pentecost - the coming of the Holy Spirit. On Saturday 19 July at 4pm we are off on a treasure hunt in the church grounds and will begin a series of

adventures to seek and explore the treasures and gifts we can find in creation. Followed, of course, by refreshments!

Warm Welcome We are continuing to meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, 24 July, 28 August and 25 September until the autumn: 11am to 1pm in the village hall. A light lunch is served at 12.00. Do come and join in and meet other neighbours. Citizens Advice Bureau will be available if you have any questions or concerns, they can help with.



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

Ruth Wilson, Churchwarden

LOWER SAPEY NEWS

Here we are, almost into the summer holidays, all hoping the weather will be more settled by then, with sunny days and showery nights. The year is passing very quickly as it seems to do when one gets older.

All our travel seems to be very restricted in this area just now though, with frequent and confusing road closures. These road repairs are needed of course, especially in the Herefordshire areas, but it is getting difficult to plan your route round the counties. However, we thank the road workers for all their hard work and hope the resulting repairs will last longer than usual.

St Bartholomew's Church is now open and working back to normal. It is such a pleasure to be back in our church home, especially with the bright new ceiling, which should also make it warmer in the winter months. We are now slowly installing a simple kitchenette in the organ alcove and have obtained a new keyboard temporarily, so things are looking up.

The Flower Festival in May was a great success and the displays were all beautiful. The warm early spring months had produced some wonderful blooms, although the beekeepers are still worried about the shortage of bees this year, so bring on more sunshine! The teas provided were enjoyed by a good crowd of visitors, many of whom enjoyed the outdoor sunshine. Many thanks go to all the helpers, with the flowers and with the cookery. The scones were delicious!

The Methodists said farewell to our church on their 40th anniversary and will no longer be holding a monthly service with us. Many of the original worshippers have passed away and those remaining will be joining congregations in other local Methodist churches. We held a farewell service on the afternoon of 8 June and Valerie Edwards spoke entertainingly of the history of their worship in Harpley, including in the original chapel. Her late husband, Merlin, was one of the original worshippers.

Into August soon, and we will be holding the traditional annual service in The Old St Bartholomew's Church. This will be at 3pm on 24 August and if fine, it may be possible to picnic in the area. The speaker is yet to be arranged. We hope the weather will be kind on the day.

I have just returned from today's quiet gathering, around the firepit in St Bartholomew's churchyard. It was a lovely sunny morning and there is always a feeling of calm and peace at these informal meetings. The next one is on Friday 4 July between 10am and 12.30. These are friendly meetings, very informal and with a time for quiet thought. Light refreshments are available as well. It gives one time to reflect on our lives.

The St Bartholomew's Harpley PCC held their Annual Meeting recently and all the members were re-elected, apart from Mrs Pat Savage who has retired after over 30 years of service. Many thanks Pat. Our two valiant and hard-working churchwardens have also been re-elected and they are David Richards and Liz Younge (lowersapeychurchwardens@gmail.com)

LOWER SAPEY NOTICES

Church services

St Bartholomew's: *Please check all service times as they are sometimes subject to change*

Friday 4 July	Quiet service between 10am and 12.30pm
Sunday 6 July	Morning service at 10.30am
Sunday 27 July	Circle service at 10.30am
Sunday 3 August	Morning service at 10.30am
Sunday 24 August	Annual service in Old St Bartholomew's at 3pm

Mobile Library: Harpley

The mobile library will call on Friday 18 July and Friday 15 August at 10.20am.

Ladies Bible Group

This will be held at The Hatt on Tuesday 15 July at 2pm.

There will be no meeting in August.

September will be on Tuesday 9 September at 2pm. Venue to be arranged.

Thanks go to all these ladies.

Housekeeping

July	Sue Everitt
August	Candy Connolly
September	Hilly Tulloch (tbc)

This is a double edition of *Teme Triangle*, bringing us into September, which I hope is a glorious month! It will mean a new beginning for schools and pupils, a new season for farmers and a new start for St Bartholomew's after the building repairs.

Lastly... congratulations to florist Shane Connolly on the award of an MBE in the King's Birthday Honours. This is well deserved!

I hope everyone has a lovely summer holiday.

Margaret Griffiths

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CLIFTON-UPON-TEME PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Thursday 5th June at Clifton upon Teme Village Hall commencing at 7.40PM

Present: Chair: Cllr J Bowden, Cllrs B Gilbert, R Neave, S Haywood, P Brooks
Also present: Cllr Justin Bowen (WCC), Anna Briggs (Acting Clerk), 3 members of the public

22.25 To consider apologies and to approve reasons for absence. None.

23.25 Declarations of Interests & consideration for requests for Councilor Dispensations in line with s33 of the Localism Act 2011. None.

Register of Interests: Councillors are reminded of the need to update their Register of Interests. To declare any Personal or Prejudicial Interests in items on the agenda and their nature. None.

24.25 To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held Thursday 22nd May and consider any matters arising from the meeting if not itemised on this agenda. One amendment Picklands is Pitlands (found in public participation). Correction made. Minutes proposed by Cllr Gilbert, seconded by Cllr Neave. Chair signed and dated minutes.

Before public time the Chair formally announced the new Clerk for Clifton upon Teme, Andrew (Sid) Ward. The Chair welcomed Sid on board. The Chair thanked the Acting Clerk Anna Briggs for stepping in whilst a suitable permanent clerk was appointed.

Meeting closed for public participation

The Chair started by saying notwithstanding the Standing Orders, the meetings are "open" meetings and so members of the public can speak on any subjects covered on the agenda.

The Chair welcomed Cllr Justin Bowen, the newly elected County Councillor. He introduced himself and gave a brief verbal report: The Full County Council AGM was on the 22nd May where Jo Monk was appointed Council Leader and Cllr Bowen has been given the job of responsibility for children and families.

- Financial Challenges: The accounts haven't yet been signed off for last year but the CC debt is in the region of £600M with assets (mainly roads) coming in at £1.2B. In operating terms the Council faces a forecast deficit of about £30-40M.
- Devolution update: The two options are a one unitary authority 'One Worcestershire' or a North Worcestershire and South Worcestershire divide. These two options to go before the panel in November. A conversation took place around both these options. (From a personal point of view Cllr Bowen would choose 'One Worcestershire'). Cllr Neave asked if it will free up some assets; Consultants PwC will take a closer look at this. Discussions also took place concerning local planning and how this could be affected with probable re-alignment of boundaries and also how the SWDPR may be affected. Many unanswered questions!

Meeting opened

25.25 District & County Councillor Reports (to be circulated via email). None.

26.25 Financial & Governance Matters –

- Payment schedule (to be circulated via email). One expenses bill to be added.

Chair signed and dated.

- To review and agree the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25
- To review and agree the Accounting Statement 2024/25

Unfortunately, the end of year accounts have not yet been completed due to change of Clerk, so after the parish meeting finishes a meeting will take place with the internal auditor appointed by the Parish Council Mr Tony Dipple as to the way forward.

27.25 Parish Matters / Updates. None.

28.25 Playing Field. (It was noted at this point that the agenda items could be reviewed). With regard to the RoSPA report and 'walking the playground' - the Chair and Cllr Brooks to meet tomorrow. One of the things highlighted is the old seesaw and the cantilever swing. The Chair reported back with a price for a seesaw – a two seater £1380 and a four seater £1,850 and Dino Swing £6,350. He's also seeking a price for a play tractor. Cllr Bruce suggested that the seesaw be approved in principle and to set aside £2,000 for this purpose. Cllr Gilbert proposed, Cllr Brook seconded. All in favour with a budget of £2,500 be set aside.

The Chair confirmed the nets are work in progress. No real progress on S106 with the trial holes costing at £400 (this is to ascertain whether the footings of the existing BP hut can be used for the new changing rooms). Cllr Gilbert proposed this spend, Cllr Neave seconded. All in favour. Chair liaising with Bromyard Plumbing for an external tap – depending on price the Chair will pay and claim back cost.

SWDPR – Has been discussed already.

29.25 Planning Matters –

- a) Planning applications considered or to be considered: None.
- b) M/25/00449/LB. 20 The Village, Clifton Upon Teme. Replacement of 11 timber windows and a door. **Approved.** Noted.
- c) Enforcement updates as received: None.

30.25 Strategic Planning updates. None.

31.25 Highway Matters –

- Lengthsman tasks. The hanging baskets are up! By public opinion more hanging baskets are required so the Chair has instructed Rob Wilks to buy another six (they are not cheap).
- Cllr Haywood handed to the Chair a list of outstanding matters for the Lengthsman which was discussed. Clerk to circulate list by email. Cllr Bowen said he can help with any highways issues and gave his email address: jbowen4@worcestershire.gov.uk.
- Outstanding matters referred to County Cllr Chambers. None.
- Road and footpath closure notices (as circulated). There are no new road closures but Cllr Brooks reminded everyone that a number of road closures are coming up later in the summer and that the road resurfacing is still going on at the crossroads.

32.25 Councillors Reports & Items for Future Agendas – Councillors may report on any matters not listed on this agenda and request future agenda items for consideration. Cllr Gilbert said the benches ordered for the recreation ground need to be sanded and varnished/preserved. Andy Arnold has offered to do them all for £120. Cllr Gilbert

proposed, Cllr Brooks seconded. All in favour.

A discussion took place around mis-treatment of outdoor furniture – specifically the tennis net which had been damaged. Cllr Neave asked if there was any update on the potential planning application of 14 more houses. A discussion took place around the SWDPR and the Neighbourhood Plan boundary with Cllr Bowen being part of the discussion and planning applications which go to appeal. The Chair had two questions: a) how can we find out if applications are going to appeal and b) do we have any say when the appeal comes before the board. Basically there's not much we can do and things are likely to get through on appeal. Cllr Bowen said the best bet is to try and form a communication with the developer at an early stage and trying and influence the development as best we can.

Cllr Brooks raised the question as to pharmacy and distribution of prescriptions. At last month's meeting the conversation seemed to be based around Knightwick and our connection with them. But as we're in the boundary of Great Witley, can we not tap into their system of distribution of prescriptions? After a long conversation Cllr Brooks to contact Great Witley.

33.25 **Date of next meeting – Thursday 3rd July 2025** - All meetings take place in the village hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for their support. The meeting ended at 8:45PM

SHELSLEYS PARISH COUNCIL

Unapproved Abbreviated Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Shelsleys Parish Council held on May 13th 2025

Present: Val Jones (re-elected Chairwoman), Louise Hutton (re-elected Vice-Chair), Laura Taylor, John Stinton, Dave Bates, David Belfield, Carole Warren and Jean Hammond

Apologies: Councillor Karen Metcalfe (accepted)

District Councillors Pam and Paul Cumming and County Councillor Justin Bowen. Councillors were reminded of their commitment to attend meetings and to provide reasons for absence.

Declaration of Interests. None. **Public Questions.** None. **The Code of Conduct:** Noted. **Council's Scheme of Delegation:** Planning comments between meetings to be collated by the clerk and reported to MHDC. Finance, emergency payments up to £100.00 may be made between meetings.

Insurance: Insurance Renewal. The cover is considered adequate and it was agreed to renew the policy in the same terms. The three year fixed term option will be taken. Risk Assessment. No change. Jean Hammond to replace Laura Taylor on the Lloyds Mandate.

Appointment of Individual Officers: The following were agreed. Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb Liaison: Louise Hutton. Tree Warden: John Stinton. Footpaths Warden: Karen Metcalfe and a new post of Safety Officer David Belfield. Laura Taylor is to act as liaison between the Parish Council and the Village Hall

Management Committee. The Clerk to write formally to the VHMC to advise of this appointment.

Minutes: The minutes of the 11th March 2025 were approved and signed.

Lengthsman: The annual contract will be renewed. **Highways & Footpaths:** Two pedestrian warning signs agreed with WCC are now in place. It was agreed more are needed and WCC will be contacted. The damaged, and badly repaired road edge by the Shelsley Beauchamp bungalows has yet to be rectified despite a request from the Parish Council. The spring flowing on to Fetterlocks Lane is on private land. Councillor Hutton will contact the landowner.

Domain name: CALC has advised the clerk that a change in email address is required before the 2025/2026 Audit is submitted. Councillors approved this change and the clerk will proceed.

Progress Reports: Superfast Broadband. Councillor Hammond reported that there has been little progress on the scheme involving Pard House Lane and surrounding properties. New government advice is that the 14% of properties currently with inadequately fast broadband will be connected to superfast broadband by 2030. Trees planted by the Parish Council will be inspected. Councillor Belfield will straighten one which appears to be leaning.

End of Year Accounts 2024/2025: The end of year accounts were agreed and accepted in advance of the Audit requirement. The Internal Auditor has inspected the figures, minor adjustments of under and overpayment due to standing order differences were necessary throughout the year. Some typographical errors were highlighted. The Auditor was thanked.

Audit: The Exemption Certificate was signed and will be submitted to the External Auditor.. Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return were agreed and signed..

Finance: The CALC subscription, Clerk's expenses, Lengthsman payment and Insurance totalling £971.69 were agreed.

Planning: M/25/00580/CLE The Grange Shelsley Beauchamp. There was a lengthy discussion as Councillors were concerned that the application details were vague. The comments raised will be collated and will be submitted by the clerk. Malvern Hills District Council planning decision. M/24/01643/LB Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb repairs and restoration to the Granary and Cart Barn. Approved.

Defibrillator: Councillor Belfield maintains weekly checks. There was discussion on whether the code should be freely available. It was agreed not to as the Ambulance Service (999) will provide this when required.

County Association of Local Councils: A letter to Councillors regarding devolution and possible future changes in the county was read out.

The date of the next meeting is confirmed for **September 9th 2025** 7pm in the Village Hall. The November meeting will be held on November 11th. The full minutes and the Chairwoman's Annual Report to the parish are available on the WCC website <http://eservices.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/>

Please note: The name of the parish on the website is Shelsley Kings.

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Church Matters

by Jill Smith



QUIET GARDEN TIME AT HARPLEY CHURCH

Harpley Church has joined the Quiet Garden Trust this year. Already we have had two mornings where the church and the churchyard has been used for quiet reflection, with more to come this year.

Our next morning will be on Friday 4 July, 10am-12-30pm, with lots of refreshments and a warm welcome around the fire pit. You are welcome to stay for as long as you need.

Rt Revd Sarah Mullally, Bishop of London, writes: "Quiet gardens are places where we can bring our questions, struggles, tiredness and our longings. There is something about those spaces which holds us, calms us, and often helps us to see things in a new light.

"I give thanks for the Quiet Garden Trust and the vital work of ensuring that such places are available to as many people as possible in as many places as can be found.

"Gardens are tools of transformation and healing.

"May we cherish the gift."

To find out more you can visit the website info@quietgarden.org or make a visit to Harpley Church and read more about the trust from the display there.

I have been a trustee for many years and have had a Quiet Garden for over ten years and seen many folk come tired and leave feeling refreshed. No weeding required, just come and be. People of no faith and all faiths are welcome.

Jill Smith

POPULAR PRAISE AT ST KENELM'S

The Friends of St Kenelm's Church in Clifton will be holding an outdoor celebration of 'Popular Praise' to the accompaniment of guitars at the church on Sunday 13 July at 3.30pm. Entry is free and refreshments will be served.



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

July 2025

Friday 4th July

10.00-12.30 am: Quiet Garden Day, St Bartholomew,
Harpley

Sunday 6th July

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

10.30am: Morning Service, St Bartholomew, Harpley

Sunday 13th July

10.30am: Holy Communion, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

4.00pm: Iona Service, Hanley Village Hall

Wednesday 16th July

10.30am: Holy Communion, St Andrews, Shelsley Walsh

Saturday 19th July

4.00pm: Welly Church, St Kenelm's Clifton

Sunday 20th July

4.00pm: Saints and Sausages, St Kenelm's, Clifton

6.30pm: Patronal Evensong, St Kenelm's, Clifton

Thursday 24th July

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

Sunday 27th July

10.30am: Circle Service, St Bartholomew, Harpley



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

August 2025

Sunday 3rd August

10.30am: Morning Prayer, St Kenelm's, Clifton

10.30am: Morning Service, St Bartholomew, Harpley

Sunday 10th August

8.00am: Morning Prayer Service, (Midland Automobile Club)

MAC Service, St Andrew's, Shelsley Walsh

10.30am: Family Communion, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp

4.00pm: Iona, Celebration of Lammas, Hanley Village Hall

Sunday 17th August

6.30pm: Evensong, St Kenelm's, Clifton

Wednesday 20th August

10.30am: Holy Communion, St Andrews, Shelsley Walsh

Saturday 23rd August

4.00pm: Welly Church, St Kenelm's Clifton

Sunday 24th August

3.00pm: Annual Service, **Old St Bartholomew's**,

Lower Sapey WR6 6HE Bring a picnic and a chair.

Thursday 28th August

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

Sunday 31st August

9.30am: Café Church, Hanley Village Hall

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

- 3 Clifton Parish Council meeting, VH 7.40pm
- 4 Volante Strings Summer concert, St Mary's Church, Stanford 7.30pm
- 6 Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb, Vintage Meeting
- 8 Clifton WI meeting, sports activities, Recreation Ground 7.30pm
- 10 Teme Valley Wildlife Group meeting, 'Shropshire', Stoke Bliss VH, 7.30pm
- 12 Clifton Primary School PTA Summer Fête, 1-3pm
- 15 Clifton WI Meeting - Garden meeting- venue tbc. 7.30pm
- 16 Nora Parsons' Centre AGM, Venn Lane, Whichenford, 7pm
- 18 WCC Mobile Library: Clifton VH 9.45am / Harpley 10.20am / L.Sapey 10.40am
- 19 Welly Church, St Kenelm's Clifton 4pm
- 19/20 Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb, Classic Nostalgia
- 24 Warm Welcome, Clifton VH 11am-1pm

AUGUST

- 9/10 Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb, Championship Challenge
- 12 Clifton WI Summer meeting - A visit to Croome Walled Garden
- 15 WCC Mobile Library: Clifton VH 9.45am / Harpley 10.20am / L.Sapey 10.40am
- 23 Welly Church, St Kenelm's Clifton 4pm
- 28 Warm Welcome, Clifton VH 11am-1pm

SEPTEMBER

- 9 Shelsleys Parish Council meeting, Shelsleys VH, 7pm
- 13/14 Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb, Harvest Festival
- 29 Stanford History Group lecture, 'Anti-Americanism', Sapey VH, 7.30pm

CHURCH CONTACTS

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

Christenings, Weddings, Funerals:

Rev Jen Denniston 07783 432017

jendenniston@gmail.com

Jill Smith 01886 853311

Pat Snelling (Clifton) 01886 812443

All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp / St Andrew's, Shelsley Walsh Church Wardens:

Kate Hurst 01886 812184

kathrynhurst@btopenworld.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

A BUSY SUMMER FOR CLIFTON UPON TEME WI

In May, Clifton WI met at Angel Gardens at Mill Farm Country Retail, Stanford Bridge, where Louise Mawditt demonstrated how to plant up a hanging basket. The members were then able to purchase and plant up their own baskets or tubs to take home.



June's meeting was entertained by Dalziel Ellis who writes poems and song lyrics. She shared events in her life as well a range of her humorous, thought provoking, philosophical, poetry, limericks, stories and songs.

In July we plan to meet at the recreation ground and try out a range of sporting activities, so do come and join in on Tuesday 8 July.

This year already WI have provided refreshments for funeral teas, an anniversary tea, refreshments for the opening of the recreation ground and a coffee morning. It is the aim of the WI to support the community as well as offer a range of activities, social and educational for their members.

In the summer we will be visiting the Walled Garden at Croome Court for a private tour and afternoon tea.

In the autumn we will host a Health and Wellbeing evening, on Friday 7 November, a good excuse for the prosecco to be shared, more details to follow! This year the skittles team will be back in action again and are planning to practise before playing so may do better than the last season we took part in.

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

Ruth Wilson

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