

# Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton-upon-Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



*The Shelsleys Women's Group*

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## **In this edition**

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- **Stanford Fête and Dog Show photos**
- **Shelsley yachtsman's fundraising voyage**
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## UKRAINE STUDENT'S ARTWORK



SB Print, based in Shelsley Beauchamp, was asked if it could provide a graphic design student with some inside knowledge for a day, of the workings of practical print production and production of large format printing.

Owner Barry Hodgetts says "Veronika, who is studying at Worcester Sixth Form College, is from Kiev in Ukraine, which as we know, is being bombed on a daily basis. The work that Veronika brought with her to show us was excellent and was as good as any other student's work that we have been involved with over the years.

"Veronika spoke excellent English and was very polite, attentive and eager to learn the ins and outs of modern techniques. And we in turn were pleased to pass on our joint knowledge of over 50 years experience. Veronika wrote us a very endearing thank you letter, which was much appreciated, and we do intend to keep in touch with her to catch up on her progress."

### YOUR TEME TRIANGLE TEAM

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## HELPING BUTTERFLIES THRIVE IN CLIFTON

Butterflies are among the most beautiful and important visitors to our gardens, yet many species have declined significantly in recent years. One of the simplest ways we can help is by providing the plants they need to complete their life cycle.

Many butterflies can only lay their eggs on specific plants, known as larval food plants. These are often wild flowers and plants that are commonly found in gardens, parks, roadside verges and patches of uncultivated land. Unfortunately, many of these plants are often regarded as “weeds” and removed before butterflies have the chance to use them.

By learning which wild plants grow in our gardens and allowing some of them to flourish, we can make Clifton a more welcoming place for a wider variety of butterflies. Small changes made by many households can have a significant impact on local biodiversity.

If you would like to find out which wild flowers are growing in your garden and whether they support butterfly larvae, local resident Lyn Merrick is offering free garden surveys. Participants will receive a list of identified plant species together with a free Butterfly Guide.

To arrange a survey or find out more, please contact Lyn Merrick at [lynmerrick80@gmail.com](mailto:lynmerrick80@gmail.com).

Together, we can help increase both the number and diversity of butterflies in Clifton upon Teme.



## CLIFTON SCOUTS SEEK TEAM LEADER



Scouting has long been a place where young people can make friends, learn new skills, gain confidence and discover what they are capable of. Clifton upon Teme Scouts are looking for someone to help ensure that opportunity continues for local children and young people.

They are seeking a Team Leader (Group Lead Volunteer) to help guide and support their volunteers and shape the future of the group. The role involves building a positive team, encouraging volunteers, bringing fresh ideas and helping young people reach their full potential.

No previous Scouting experience is necessary. Full support and training are provided, and the role can be shared between two people. Volunteering is flexible and designed to fit around work, family and other commitments. Scouts offers young people a place to find themselves, be themselves and belong. Girls and boys from all backgrounds are welcome and provide opportunities for adventure, friendship and personal growth.

Could you help? Or do you know someone who could? Perhaps a parent, friend, neighbour or colleague would be interested.

To find out more, contact the trustees at [trustees@cliftonontemescouts.org](mailto:trustees@cliftonontemescouts.org) or call 07774 667074.

## CREAM TEA AND 'CALENDAR GIRLS' COME TO CLIFTON

Get ready for an afternoon of delightful treats, heartwarming cinema and community spirit! On Sunday, 15 August, Clifton Village Hall will play host to a special community fundraiser combining two British classics: a traditional cream tea and a screening of the beloved film *Calendar Girls*.

The event kicks off at 3pm with a delicious traditional cream tea accompanied by a glass of refreshing Prosecco. It is the perfect opportunity to catch up with old friends, meet neighbours and enjoy a lovely summer afternoon together. Following the tea, guests will settle in at 5pm for the heart-warming and laugh-out-loud screening of *Calendar Girls*. For those fancying an extra tippie, the bar will be open throughout.

Best of all, your attendance directly supports important causes. All proceeds from the afternoon will go toward maintaining Clifton Village Hall and supporting vital Breast Cancer charities.

### Event Details:

- Date: Sunday, 15 August 2026
- Time: 15:00 (Cream Tea) | 17:00 (Film Screening)
- Venue: Clifton on Teme Village Hall
- Price: £10 per person

Advance booking is essential to secure your place. Contact Mandy at [amandajhenry1970@gmail.com](mailto:amandajhenry1970@gmail.com) to reserve your tickets. Bring your friends along for a wonderful afternoon of treats, laughter, and community spirit—together, we can make a difference!

## CLASSIC CARS RETURN TO HOLT HEATH

Classic car, motorcycle and tractor enthusiasts are invited to the first Holt Heath Classic Vehicle Show, taking place on Sunday 23 August 2026 from 12 noon to 3pm at the Holt Millennium Green Trust, WR6 6LX.

The event will showcase a range of classic and interesting vehicles, with food and drink available throughout the afternoon. Visitors are welcome to come along, admire the exhibits and enjoy a relaxed community event in the heart of Holt Heath. Vehicle exhibitors are invited to enter their vehicles for a small fee: £5 for cars and tractors and £2 for motorcycles. Spectators are asked for a £2 contribution per car (cash only).

To register a vehicle or find out more, email [hmgt2000events@gmail.com](mailto:hmgt2000events@gmail.com). The event is organised by the Holt Millennium Green Trust.







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
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## TENBURY FLOOD DOCUMENTARY FILM PREMIERE

The premiere of the documentary *What Comes After the Flood* will be screened at the Regal cinema in Tenbury Wells at 7pm on Tuesday 7 July. It explores the devastating human and financial impact of repeated floods on Tenbury Wells. Directed by Charli Willow and presented by Mothers Rise Up, it focuses on how the Worcestershire town is struggling as properties become virtually uninsurable.

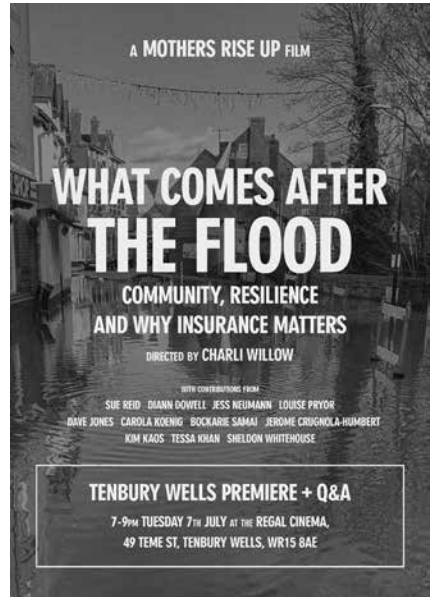
The film, serves as a catalyst for community discussion and exploring real-world climate solutions.

The events following a screening of this documentary include:

**Post-Film Q&A:** A discussion featuring the film's creators, climate contributors, and affected local residents.

**Community Action Planning:** Open forums to discuss actionable solutions for Tenbury Wells, focusing on flood defences, government funding, and the uninsurability crisis affecting local homes and businesses.

**Campaigning:** The group uses the documentary to build grassroots pressure on local authorities, the Environment Agency, and the insurance industry.



## SOME WORLD HISTORY – AGAIN!

The Stanford History Group continues to meet on Monday evenings for two hours in autumn at Sapey Village Hall, WR6 6EU. A warm welcome awaits you. We are a diverse group with an interest in understanding the past, to better appreciate today and how we got here! Our lectures have been very well-attended - last year we averaged nearly 40 people attending across the 10 lectures, but there's plenty of parking!

This year, 2026, we have another interesting programme of 10 lectures, in five topical and controversial subject areas (*see opposite*) - you can come for any one or all. We have expert lecturers from Birmingham and Worcester Universities. Do come and join us – there's coffee, biscuits and discussion too! We start on Monday October 5 at 7.30pm. £70 for 10 lecture course or £10 per lecture, payable at the door, or by bank transfer.

*Simon Marriott*

## **STANFORD HISTORY GROUP 2026 PROGRAMME**

7.30pm Monday evenings at Upper Sapey Village Hall, Upper Sapey WR6 6EU

**5 October** *The Spanish Labyrinth I: From Civil War & Francoism 1936-1975*

**12 October** *The Spanish Labyrinth 2: Transition, Democracy & Monarchy 1975-2022* (Senior Teaching Fellow Antonio Sanchez Univ. of Birmingham)

**19 October** *The Trump Administration: something different or more of the same? 1. From Settler Colonisation and Slavery to keeping the world safe for Democracy*

**26 October** *2. From the Cold War to the War on Terror*  
(Lecturer John Munro Univ. of Birmingham)

**2 November** *Stabilising the level of Economic Activity, 1930s to the present*  
*1. Keynes and Keynesianism – Pre WW2 to 1960s*

**9 November** *2. Monetarism and After - 1970s to 2010s*  
(Professor Roger Backhouse Univ. of Birmingham)

**16 November** *The Rise and Fall of the East India Company*

**23 November** *The British Raj and its Undoing*  
(Professor Neil Fleming Univ. of Worcester)

**30 November** *The Decolonization of Africa: Success, Disappointment and Hope*

**7 December** *The End of Empire in the Sahara: The Tragedy of the Commons?*  
(Associate Professor Berny Sebe University of Birmingham)

**COSTS:** The full course £70 or £10 for an individual lecture payable on the door or by bank transfer.

**CONTACTS:** <https://stanfordhistorygroup.com>

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## Minutes of the meeting of Clifton Parish Council held on Thursday 11 June 2026

**Present:** Cllrs J. Bowden, R. Neave, A. Griffiths, D. Crawshaw & S. Haywood.  
District Cllr P. Cumming.

**Apologies:** Cllr P. Brooks, County Cllr Bowen.

**Declarations of Interests:** Cllr Crawshaw declared he is involved with the local Scouts group and so enquired whether he needed to declare an interest. As the Scouts is a voluntary organisation there is no pecuniary aspect to his involvement and therefore no dispensation required.

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** April 2026 Parish Council Meeting minutes approved at May Annual Parish Meeting. Annual Parish Meeting Minutes to be approved in July 2026 meeting.

**Planning Applications:** M/26/00799/RM – Hope Lane. Full application received. Clarification of draft S106 required. Allotments and playground formed part of the original plans but do not seem to appear in full application. No construction restrictions outlined in application. What analysis has been used to base two new homes as being sufficient for this development? On what basis will affordable and new homes be allocated to potential inhabitants? For instance, those who live or work in Clifton, the parish, the area or county etc? How will this system be managed? Are there any 106 funds for infrastructure and not just services? There are concerns that 106 funds allocated to bus services may not meet the needs of the village as well as investment in infrastructure. Action: Clerk to formulate a response from comments and share with councillors before submission.

**District and County Councillors' Reports:** Cllr Cumming: SWDP planning has started for the next iteration when the current plan expires in three years' time.

**Financial and Governance Matters:** Payment schedule to be circulated via email by the Clerk. Review of previous payments made in May. Parish council will need to be part of a pension plan to enable employees to opt out. Clerk will organise. Clifton Walks Book – 500 copies for £324. Books will sell at £5 each and will be distributed via local shops, pubs, cafés. Decision: Distributors will be able to keep proceeds from sales as a way for the Parish Council to pay for shelf space in each establishment. Proposed Cllr Bowden. Seconded Cllr Crawshaw.

**Parish Matters and Updates:** Hose pipe delivered and will be installed at the Pavilion with security box. Review of the Parish Council Calendar 2026, including notable dates and events. Nursery Fair – 11 July 2026. Christmas Fair Sunday 6 December. Update on the noticeboard (Cllr Neave); delivered and awaiting installation. Tunnel project update - nearly completed. Rubber mats need to be ordered and installed at both entrances. Action: Clerk to order field mats to be delivered to Lengthsman. Wildflower noticeboard completed and installed. Tree donation from Woodland Trust will be delivered in November. Faulty speed sign

seems to have been recalibrated to 30mph and working as expected. Summer Fete 11 July - Use of Village Green proposed by Cllr Bowden. Seconded by Cllr Neave. No objections. Action: Clerk to contact organisers and notify them of the fencing available. 6 December Xmas Fair in the Village Hall. Cllr Brooks to update on improving accessibility to specific footpaths in and around the village at July meeting.

Neighbourhood plan update (Clerk) Events scheduled for December linked to updating Neighbourhood Plans. Action: Clerk to forward information to councillors. Cllr Neave to update on letter sent to Case Officer regarding planning application. Cllr Neave has forwarded email to planning appeal committee on 28 May.

Wooden tractor updates from Cllr Bowden - After an appeal on NextDoor.com two members of the public have been in touch regarding repair and / or replacement – ongoing. Update on footpath improvement plans - Cllr Griffiths enquired about stile to the left of the church; ownership is being looked into with the possibility of replacing with a gate. Cllr Neave has identified a circular walk publicised by the Ramblers. Details will be circulated.

**Pavilion Update:** Cllr Bowden provided an update on the Pavilion. Process of applying for extra funding has started via a working group. £147,000 from S106 funding, £5,000 from Guides and £10,000 from Scouts. Total £163,000 currently. Target is approximately £260,000. Information from the planning process can be used for grant applications. Costs incurred for planning approval can be reimbursed from S106. Future proposal for amount reimbursed from S106 funds to be allocated to Pavilion building costs. Proposed Cllr Bowden. No decision required until funds applied for and allocated. Pub quiz proceeds will be allocated to Pavilion funding. Construction is at least 12 months off. Action: Clerk to circulate information regarding VAT refunds on building costs for business and non-business use. Action: Clerk to print out RoSPA report for Chair.

**Highway Matters:** Lengthsman tasks discussed. Some footpaths are being obstructed by overgrown vegetation. Gullies to be reported on highways website portal. Cllr Neave to request further information from Cllr Bowen regarding traffic and speed measures.

**Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agendas:** Cllr Griffiths asked if Andy Arnold can maintain the bowling green rockery. Seconded Cllr Bowden. Action: Cllr Bowden to contact Andy Arnold to discuss.

Issues raised with Cllr Griffiths about Ham Bridge and priority traffic calming measures. Restricted view and lack of lighting limits range of traffic calming measures that can be taken crossing the bridge. Action: Cllr Griffiths to contact County Highways Officer to report resident's concerns.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday 9 July, 2026, at 7:40pm in the Village Hall.

## **CILIFTON PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS PROGRESS ON VILLAGE IMPROVEMENTS**

The Chairman of Clifton Parish Council, John Bowden, highlighted a number of ongoing projects and achievements across the village in his report at the Annual Parish Meeting.

One of the Parish Council's notable successes has been the Children's Playground, which is now recognised on several websites as a worthwhile destination for visiting families. Improvements continue, with a new seesaw recently installed to replace an ageing piece of equipment. Plans are also being developed to replace the popular play tractor, which has reached the end of its serviceable life, although progress will depend on securing sufficient funding.

The village Wildlife Garden continues to attract praise from residents and visitors alike. An information board detailing the site's flora and fauna is due to be installed shortly. The Parish Council thanked Lyn Merrick for her continued support of the project and to Andy Arnold for carrying out maintenance work. Plans for a new bus shelter in Kenelm Road have been complicated by uncertainty over the ownership of a strip of land between numbers 7 and 11. After extensive research, it was discovered that the land is not registered with the Land Registry. Solicitors have been instructed to resolve the matter and the Parish Council is also seeking financial support from Worcestershire Transport to help fund the project.

Another major initiative is the proposed extension of the Sports Pavilion to accommodate growing demand from residents, particularly following recent housing developments. Despite the work involving an extension to an existing building, the Parish Council was required to obtain full planning permission from Malvern Hills District Council, a process which took around nine months and cost approximately £12,000. The scheme will benefit from Section 106 funding, but additional match funding will be required before the full extension can proceed. The Council remains confident that the project is achievable and has already received a welcome boost thanks to a generous donation of around £5,000 from the village Guides and Brownies. The Parish Council recorded its thanks to Angie Griffiths and her colleagues for their support.

"I can also confirm that despite the many issues we have addressed this year, we have not requested any increase in our small portion of the Council Tax," added John Bowden. "We hope this helps families struggling in these harder times."

## **THE SHELSEYS VILLAGE HALL LATEST**

It has been a busy month with improving weather and improving outlook from the Village Hall. Now we are watertight, we are turning attention to the outside guttering – repairing and repainting to make sure it looks great and can withstand stormy weather. The planters have all been painted and filled with flowers at the front and we have a new sign up as well.

AGM – took place in May. The agenda and accounts were available for all to inspect and ask questions about. The same committee will stand for another year as there were no new candidates put forward and so an election was not needed. We appreciate that some people may not have been able to make the meeting so if anyone would like to have a copy of the accounts or indeed have any matters they would like to discuss with the committee then please feel free to contact us through our email address: shelsleysvhmc@gmail.com and we will gladly either respond as soon as possible or arrange a face-to-face meeting to discuss further. We are always looking for new members to join the committee so if this is something you would like to be involved with, please use the above email or speak directly to any member of the committee.

### **Matt Peplow Rocked the 80s at the Village Hall!**

What a fantastic night as we welcomed back the talented Matt Peplow for an evening of unforgettable 80s classics! The hall looked amazing, the atmosphere was buzzing, and it wasn't long before the dance floor was packed with people singing and dancing the night away. The inflatable guitars and microphones were a huge hit and definitely got plenty of use as guests embraced their inner 80s rock stars!

A huge thank you to Matt for another brilliant performance - truly a friend and supporter of the Village Hall and also a massive thanks to everyone who came along and supported the event. It was a night full of fun, laughter and great music – we can't wait to do it all again!

We ended the month with another hugely successful Coffee & Cake Saturday morning. These mornings are not to be missed, with amazing cakes and delicious sausage rolls, all home-baked by one of our fantastic committee members, Caroline. It was lovely to catch up with so many people from the community once again. Thank you all for your continued support – we really do appreciate it and look forward to seeing you at the next one!

### **Upcoming Event**

4 July – Coffee and cake (and probably sausage rolls by popular demand). Come along for a chat and an indulgent treat. Still free – donations welcome.

## TWO (OLD) MEN IN A BOAT

Fifteen years ago, Nick Thompson lost his best friend to Alzheimer's. "We shared many adventures together on the high seas, and I know he would have been proud to see this first voyage dedicated to his memory and in support of such a worthy charity," says Nick.

Eight years ago, he bought *Dream On*, a 21ft 1985 Corribee sailing boat, which he has been restoring at his home at Forge Mill in the Shelsleys ever since. After crossing the Severn Bridge countless times, he had always dreamed of taking on the challenge — despite the river's notorious tidal dangers — of navigating his own boat down the River Severn.



The journey began at Stourport-on-Severn, the most inland port in the UK, before travelling downstream to Gloucester. From there, he and Nick Griffiths joined the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal to catch the high tide at Sharpness on the Severn Estuary, before continuing on to Portishead Marina near Bristol, a total of some 75 miles. Apart from the physical discomforts of spending a week aboard a small boat, the route itself presented a demanding and unpredictable challenge. Nevertheless, despite the 'mature age' of the crew, he completed the voyage 'come hell or high water'.

At one point, Nick was woken early by the sound of an urgent tapping on the hull of his boat. Sensing an emergency, he came up on deck only to discover a pair of swans and their cygnets outside demanding their breakfast!





At the time of going to print, Nick had raised over £2,500 for the Alzheimer's Society who are working towards a world where dementia no longer devastates lives by giving help to those living with dementia today and providing hope for the future. Nick's Just Giving page can be found via the following link:  
**<https://www.justgiving.com/page/two-old-men-boat-challenge>**

## STANFORD FÊTE

The first Stanford fête in 13 years was held last month by St Mary's Church and Stanford Village Hall, kindly hosted by Tom and Amber Spilsbury at the Tap House, Orleton Court Farm.

It was a fun afternoon for all with a dog show, traditional games, bric-a-brac stand, cake stand, wheelbarrow raffle, tombola, face-painting, and 'guess the weight of the cake' plus refreshments.

A fantastic £1,890 was raised to be shared by the church and village hall thanks to the hard work of the committee team and all the volunteers on all the stands. Sue Softly and I would like to greatly thank all those involved. Special thanks to Tom and Amber at the Tap House, Barry and Simon Hodgetts at SB Print, Louise Mawditt for the coconuts and David Evington for his marquee.

*Alexandra Winnington*

*Tom Spilsbury with Bertie*



*Karen Ward-Batty with Cody Powell*



*Grace and Greta Sparey*



*David Evington with cuddliest dog winner Carter*



*Dog Show Judge - Sarah Garner*



*Jen Denniston, Jill Smith and Hilary Tulloch*



*Susie Taylor with Iris*

## **SHELSLEY WOMEN'S GROUP**

The recently formed Shelsey Women's Group is a friendly and informal group for local women, providing a network and hub for local women to meet, chat and enjoy time together.

There were plenty of flowers blooming in our gardens, despite the wind and rain, for us to enjoy at our meeting last month. Using small posy vases, we created our own floral arrangements, a lovely, relaxed evening with plenty of creativity, chat and refreshments. It was great to see familiar faces and welcome new ones too.



Interested in joining us? Please contact: Susie Taylor – [susan.james21@btinternet.com](mailto:susan.james21@btinternet.com)  
Karen Metcalfe – [kmetcalfe.shelseyspc@gmail.com](mailto:kmetcalfe.shelseyspc@gmail.com)

## **THE SHELSLEYS' EDUCATIONAL CHARITY**

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

If so you may be interested in this local charity. The income of the charity is used to support the education and training (e.g. to assist in the purchase of uniforms, books and 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, or an apprenticeship, in autumn 2026.

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](mailto:judith_damerell@hotmail.com) or by post to Jude Damerell, Somer Barns, Camp Lane, Shelsley Beauchamp WR6 6JQ.

## LOWER SAPEY NEWS

Sunshine and showers again - where has the summer gone? [*Ed: Followed by a searing heatwave - equally unpredictable!*] Climate change seems to be almost universally accepted as taking place now and it is certainly very difficult to plan ahead. I pity the farmers and growers and think I may even invest in a small heater for my greenhouse this winter.

Now that No-Mow May is over, the churchyard grass has been cut, actually scythed down and the graveyard tidied up with wild flowers planted. I hope the weather will soon be good enough for Scouts and any others, to make use of the popular fire-pit area for gatherings. The whole garden area looks lovely now with the trees fully green and some blossom still out. Expert visitors recently discovered two new types of tree, an unusual elm and a different lime growing in the churchyard. Do visit, following the information boards.

Recently, we held our celebration service to honour the Church's foundation 150 years ago and this was held mainly in the churchyard under the magnificent chestnut tree. Fortunately the weather was sunny although a little windy! Inside, there was music provided by the RRM singers and a local septet. The church was beautifully decorated, mainly by huge pink peonies. During the service, the singers sang a poem by local poet Jane Dallow, beautifully set to music by Chloe May Kennick and the players treated us to the *Brandenburg No. 5*. It was an occasion to remember.

This edition of *Teme Triangle* is a double one, covering July and August, by which time, frighteningly, autumn will be here. It is difficult to predict ahead at this early date, so please check at the end of the edition for service times. There will be a very special service on 5 July at 3pm honouring the National Health Service. This will be at St Bartholomew's and again, there will be music and singing, provided by the above named groups. Various NHS members will be speaking about their experiences and anyone who has served in the NHS is very welcome to come along and speak as well. There will also be the annual service held in Old St Bartholomew's on Sunday 30 August. The speaker will be announced later.

## NOTICES

Services at St Bartholomew's. \*

Sunday 5 July: Special service at 3pm to honour the NHS

Sunday 26 July: Circle Service

Sunday 2 August: Morning Prayer 10.30am

Sunday 30 August: Special annual service at Old St Bartholomew's 3pm

MOBILE LIBRARY will call on 17 July and 21 August at 10.20am and 10.40am

HOUSEKEEPING for July, Sue Everitt and for August, Candy Connolly

LADIES BIBLE GROUP will meet at Pat's at 2pm on Tuesday 14 July. There will be no meeting in August.

*Margaret Griffiths*

## TEME VALLEY WILDLIFE GROUP

I found myself visiting the parish of Mamble twice in close succession during the months of April and May, to join two different guided walks along its many footpaths. A walk by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust was billed as a chance to see bee orchids, whilst the object of Mamble History Group's walk was to see the evidence of former coalmining in the parish. On both occasions, dry sunny weather allowed the participants to enjoy beautiful landscapes, lots of fruit blossom and a host of wildflowers.

It is always a surprise to incoming valley dwellers to find that this quiet rural location once played a significant role in industry. Coalmining began in Mamble during medieval times and only came to a halt in 1972, even though plenty of coal remains in the ground. What is also unexpected, is that Nature has swiftly and completely cloaked man's exploitation of such resources with abundant vegetation. Hunthouse Wood is now a Worcestershire Wildlife Trust nature reserve, but in the past coal was hauled up steep inclines after being laboriously worked from shafts and adits along the Dumbleton Brook. It no longer resounds to the clang of explosives blasting rock from the coalface. Instead, its engines, chimneys and buildings have given way to a deciduous woodland where bats, dormice and three species of woodpecker enjoy utter peace and quiet.

The history group's guide took us past long-abandoned coal bell-pits which are now ringed by mature oaks. Beneath those trees, sheep and lambs welcomed shelter from the sun. Elsewhere, the raised foundations of a former tramway, which once led to the Southnett terminus of the long-defunct Leominster Canal, was knee-deep in bluebells, wild garlic and red campion. Considerable imagination was required to see coal-tubs rolling past, heading for a wharf to be loaded onto narrowboats for onward sale. Fortunately, the history group's members were on hand to help, with a display of photographs, maps, documents and vintage coalmining picks, plus tea and excellent cakes in the village hall. They had secured permission to visit 'Harry's shaft', a 1920s coal shaft which proved unsuccessful as a coal source but has been remarkably successful in remaining virtually unchanged for more than a century. It even retains the windlass and chain used for hauling up its treasure. The views from this spot were magnificent – it did not feel anything like a coalfield.

And what about the bee orchids of Mamble? Unfortunately, none were to be found, or even admitted to by the WWT's walk leader. "I didn't write the publicity material", he explained. The walk was still enjoyable though, having lovely views, good company and the sight of a noisy pair of ravens seeing off some buzzards. I later made good my bee orchid deficit and visited a patch of grass verge where I've looked for them in previous years. It's opposite a layby on the A44, near the turn-off to Martley, and this year there were lots of bee

orchids flowering there in the last week of May. As a bonus, they were joined by common spotted orchids and pyramidal orchids too. Result!

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7:30pm on Thursday 9 July at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall, WR15 8RR. We welcome back Geoff Hall whose talk will be on the wildlife of Shropshire. Members and friends are welcome; it is just £3 on the door. For up-to-date information on what wildlife is being seen in the area, or to give us your sightings or comments, please visit our Facebook page. Our programme of events, newsletter and bird survey are available on our website at [www.teme-valley-wildlife.org](http://www.teme-valley-wildlife.org) We hold meetings on the second Thursday of the months January to November. Everyone is welcome.

*Stephanie Mocroft*

## **HOLLOW MEADOW EVENTS**

Tai chi and a cup of tea will be happening at Hollow Meadow, Stoke Bliss on Sunday 26 July. 10.30 -12noon. Donations.

Contact Michelle Mears 07837 359403

Willow - making a swallow; Sunday 19 July 2pm-5pm. Materials provided. £40

Contact: [jo@willowwithjo.co.uk](mailto:jo@willowwithjo.co.uk)

Please book with course leader. Additional queries contact Maggie Kingston: [hollowmeadow23@gmail.com](mailto:hollowmeadow23@gmail.com) or 01885 410431

## **EXPLORING HIDDEN TREASURES**

Young people are invited to take part in Exploring Hidden Treasures, a series of four interactive sessions exploring the Christian faith. Together, participants will discover themes including God our Parent, Jesus, God's Child, and the Holy Spirit as God's breath, while exploring what these ideas mean in everyday life.

Two identical courses are available:

**11–14 August, 10.30am–12.30pm**

**25–28 August, 7.00pm–9.00pm**

All sessions will be held at St Mary's Church, Stanford.

For further information, contact Julia Curtis ([revjuliacurtis@gmail.com](mailto:revjuliacurtis@gmail.com)), Robert Barlow ([rhyselane@gmail.com](mailto:rhyselane@gmail.com)) or Jen Jones ([tvscurate@gmail.com](mailto:tvscurate@gmail.com)). To book a place, email [secretarytvspcc@gmail.com](mailto:secretarytvspcc@gmail.com).

### **VACANCY FOR SHELSLEY KINGS PARISH COUNCILLOR**

A vacancy has arisen for the position of Parish Councillor for Shelsley Kings. Applicants should send a completed form to the clerk by 13 July. The co-option of a candidate will be decided at the Parish Council Meeting in the Village Hall at 7pm on 14 July 2026.

For more information and an application form apply to the clerk at:  
[clerk@shelsleys-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@shelsleys-pc.gov.uk) 01886 812444

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## **Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Lower Sapey Parish held on Thursday 14 May 2026 at 7:30pm at St Bartholomew's Church, Harpley**

**Present:** Chair - Dot Millward, Vice-Chair David Richards, Treasurer Nick Denniston, George Higgins, Bernadette Higgins, Candy Connolly, Paul Millward, Beryl Dursley, Shane Dossett, Liz Younge, Steve Younge, George Pickard, Sean Hinton, Sophie Sparks

Apologies for absence: Sue Everitt, Jen Denniston.

**Election of Chair for 2026-2027:** Dot Millward explained the role; to chair a meeting once a year (previously was 3) and discuss any planning applications, which is usually done with local residents. Reporting of potholes no longer needs doing at meetings as can be done online. George Pickard volunteered, majority in favour.

**Election of Vice Chair for 2026-7:** David Richards agreed to stand for a further year.

### **Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting held on 13th May 2025**

Nick Denniston proposed acceptance of minutes, Sean Hinton seconded.

**Annual report of Chair for 2025-6:** Several planning applications received in previous year including Oxhall Cottage extension, 6 self-build houses in Pound Lane (fell into Clifton parish), toilet at Church (comments now closed)

**Financial matters:** Accounts have been reviewed by Tony Dipple without comment - Tony was thanked by Nick for his work. Annual governance statement page 5 of Form 2PM approved by meeting. Approval of Accounts ended 31st March 2026 page 6 of Form 2PM. Dot signed off accounts. Bank balance as of 14th May 2026 £74. Review of payments and receipts. £1,200 received plus any planning fees (£324), spent £1,332 on 10 year license fee for new Government-approved domain name: lowersapey-parishmeeting.gov.uk (Bernadette to give demo). Burial yard maintenance £825, Bank charges £20. Precept usually set in January prior to the end of the financial year in March. After discussion it was agreed to increase precept by £300 which needs to be put forward to the Malvern Hills Council in January 2027.

No charges have been seen from the Lengthsman so if it is unknown whether there are any charges, or if this is charged to the Council. He is sometimes difficult to get hold of. Ongoing running charges for website expected to be about £100/year.

New defib pads bought, cost of electricity to defib – all agreed to cover this cost and new battery if necessary.

Defrayed service cost for clerk's duties - agreed.

Expenses relating to use of the Church for the Parish Meeting approved.

The new Parish Meeting website was noted - demonstration to follow General meeting today. Bernadette thanked for her work with applause from all.

### **Date of next meeting:**

Thursday 20 May 2027; 7:30pm at St Bartholomew's Church, Harpley

## **Minutes of the meeting of Lower Sapey Parish held on Thursday 14 May 2025 at 8pm at St Bartholomew's Church, Harpley**

**Parish Lengthsman:** Tasks to be undertaken - Pothole issues raised but not repaired. Metal grate outside gateway reported and not repaired. Smell in Harpley; malfunctioning sewage treatment unit has been rectified and pollution washed through to ditch and odour diminished. Suggested some own repairs be carried out to potholes in the meantime?

### **Highways matters:**

Water pours down Harpley Lane from fields (underground ditch possibly blocked), some drains had been cleared by residents, roads been resurfaced but no consideration to existing drains, David Richards to speak to Rob Wilkes. Hole in lane by finger post had cone on top and had been a long outstanding issue.

**Policing matters:** Lee Durrant who used to be good at informing residents has now moved on so it is unknown who may have taken over as there has been no contact.

**Any other Parish business:** *Teme Triangle* (10 issues was £80 in 2024) – agreed contribution, majority in favour.

WiFi at Church for benefit of visitors due to lack of mobile signal – not agreed due to anticipated cost of about £30 a month. St Mary's (Stanford Bridge hill has free WiFi offered) – those present agreed to investigate costs and look at options to consider in future. Shelsley Village Hall has given permission for installation of equipment onto their roof benefitting the community using the hall with free WiFi (thought to be £80 a year but this is believed to be a discounted rate to promote)

Steve offered use of his WiFi in the meantime for the odd occasion it may be required.

Dot was thanked for her work as Chairperson and round of applause followed. Sue was thanked for her contribution to maintaining the Parish independence.

**Date of next meeting:** Thursday 20 May 2027; 8pm at St Bartholomew's Church, Harpley (to follow Lower Sapey Annual General Meeting)

Following the Lower Sapey General meeting, demonstration of new website followed given by Bernadette Higgins - the website address is [lowersapey-parishmeeting.gov.uk](http://lowersapey-parishmeeting.gov.uk). Bernadette, Candy and Sue have done a huge amount of work setting this up and loading interesting material onto the website. To be a functioning Parish Meeting this website was required by Local Government. The meeting was delighted with the new website and as the world becomes more digital this website will be increasingly used by the community to communicate events, history and places of natural interest. Bernadette was thanked and applauded by the meeting.

# Church Matters

by Jill Smith



What makes you think, reflect and rest?

A walk in the garden, a cup of tea, a glass of wine?  
Perhaps it's a smoke on a pipe, like Tolkien and C. S. Lewis.

Whatever it is, treasure those moments as the mind settles and the world is a distance away, not invading your thoughts.

Jesus says, *'Come away to a quiet place and rest'*.

Rest is a gift we should allow ourselves and our souls. I would love to be better at it... July and August are the height of the summer months. Schools are getting ready for the holidays. Children are planning their next class, high school teenagers are anticipating exam results and future plans.

It's a busy time mentally for all concerned and emotions can run high.

Yet taking time out can be good for us. So let me encourage you to find rest in a book or a walk in a garden. Perhaps make a visit to one or more of our beautiful churches in the Teme Valley. Sit in the cool and breathe in deeply the prayers said over the years and add your own. Explore the history and the stories of faith in the Lord Jesus who encourages us to rest and 'Just Be'.

R. S. Thomas writes in one of his poems:

*'But the silence in the mind is when we live best'*.

## Thank You Message from Pat Snelling

Due to rushing off on holiday, I did not get the opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone who came along and supported me on the occasion of my 25 years in ministry celebrations at St Kenelm's. I thank you all for your kind messages and gifts, I was completely surprised and overwhelmed, I know a lot of hard work went on to provide a lovely tea, and a memorable Evensong. It has been my joy and privilege to be with you over all these years. Love and all good wishes. x Pat

## ST KENELM'S NEWS

Repairs to the structure of St Kenelm's are ongoing from last year. Following many delays the Apex cross was removed due to safety concerns and is due to be reinstated soon following roof repairs and the repair of the cross. The Quinquennial Inspections, carried out every five years, highlighted significant, although known, structural issues with the building especially around the tower area internally and externally. The architect and structural surveyor are working on the necessary plans for the repairs and the wall repair is out to tender at the moment. In December a team from University of Birmingham carried out testing to provide a 3D model of the tower using a laser point cloud scanner (to monitor cracks and deformation) and conducted vibration testing on the tower using accelerometers to measure vibration at each corner at different heights, by ringing each bell individually for 2-3 minutes. They have carried out similar testing in different churches as part of a research project and we are awaiting results which will inform restoration work to the cracks etc. Major repairs are needed in 2026 to the cracks in the tower, a bulge in the external tower wall that collapsed in February, the internal arch into the bell tower and loose plaster around that area. It will also be necessary to replace the cedar shingles on the tower which have come to the end of their lifespan. Sadly the church is not able to put swift boxes in the tower until the major works are completed. The costs are still unknown but are in the region of £250,000 plus, a conservative estimate. Grants are being applied for but there will also be information events and fundraising activities to help meet the costs.

*Ruth Wilson*



### **Save the Date ... Don't be late!**

St Kenelm's Fun Dog show, Saturday 26 September 2026 1.30pm – 4pm  
In aid of St Kenelm's and Child of Hope Charity. Who will be best in show this year?

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

## **July 2026**

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

- 10.30am:** Holy Communion, St Kenelm's, Clifton  
**3.00pm:** NHS Celebration, St Bartholomew, Harpley  
**3.00pm:** Deanery Outdoor Service, Ombersley

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July**

- 10.30am:** Holy Communion, All Saints, Shelsley Beauchamp  
**2.30pm:** Rochford Fete

### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July**

- 10.30am:** Holy Communion, St Andrews, Shelsley Walsh

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

- 10.00am:** Praise 4 All, St Kenelm's Clifton  
**2.00pm:** Walking Church

### **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July**

- 4.00pm:** Welly Church, St Kenelm's Clifton

### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July**

- 10.30am:** Circle Service with Communion,  
St Bartholomew, Harpley  
**3.00pm:** Celebration of Popular Praise, St Kenelm's Clifton  
**6.30pm:** Patronal Evensong, St Kenelm's, Clifton

## **JAZZ IN WHITBOURNE**

'Jazz in the Village' comes to Whitbourne Village Hall on Friday 10 July when Scottish saxophonist Ian Millar and pianist Dominic Spencer perform at 8pm. Tickets available from Whitbourne village shop.



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

## **August 2026**

### **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August**

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

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

### **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August**

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

MAC Service, St Andrew's, Shelsley Walsh

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

### **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August**

**10.00am:** Praise 4 All, St Kenelm's Clifton

### **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August**

**10.30am:** Holy Communion, St Andrews, Shelsley Walsh

### **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> August**

**4.00pm:** Welly Church, St Kenelm's, Clifton

### **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August**

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

### **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August**

**11.30am:** The Evans Story @ St Bartholomew, Harpley

### **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August**

**3.00pm:** Thanksgiving Service Old Bartholomew, Lower Sapey

#### **FILLING STATION**

The next meeting of the Filling Station will be on Thursday 16 July when Nick McLeish will be the speaker at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15pm.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JULY

- 4 Coffee & cake, Shelsleys VH
- 7 *What Comes After The Flood*, Regal, Tenbury 7pm
- 8 Friendship Club outing to Symonds Yat, Clifton VH 10.15am
- 9 Teme Valley Wildlife Group meeting, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH 7.30pm
- 9 Clifton Parish Council meeting, VH 7.40pm
- 10 Jazz in the Village, Whitbourne VH 8pm
- 11 Clifton Nursery Summer Fête, Village Green
- 14 Shelsleys Parish Council meeting, VH 7pm
- 16 Filling Station meeting, Eastham VH 7.15pm
- 19 Willow workshop at Hollow Meadow 2pm-5pm
- 26 Tai chi and a cup of tea, Hollow Meadow, Stoke Bliss 10.30am
- 26 Celebration of Popular Praise, St Kenelm's Church, Clifton 3pm

### AUGUST

- 1 Teme Valley walk from Homme Castle, 2pm
- 15 Clifton Cream Tea & Film, VH 3pm tea, 5pm Film

### SEPTEMBER

- 5 Evening Supper and Talk: *The Oldest Hillclimb in the World*. Clifton VH
- 15 Shelsleys Parish Council meeting, VH 7pm
- 17 Filling Station meeting, Eastham VH 7.15pm
- 26 St Kenelm's Fun Dog show, 2pm-4pm

## CHURCH CONTACTS

**Oversight Minister:** Rev 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)

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@btoopenworld.com](mailto:kathrynhurst@btoopenworld.com)

Holly Perks 01886 812369

[hollyperks@me.com](mailto:hollyperks@me.com)

**St Kenelm's, Clifton:**

Ruth Wilson (Church Warden, incl. Warm Space) [ruth.wilson38@btinternet.com](mailto:ruth.wilson38@btinternet.com)

Jackie Gilbert

**St Bartholomew's, Lower Sapey (Harpley) Church Wardens:**

David Richards / Liz Younge [lowersapeychurchwarden@gmail.com](mailto:lowersapeychurchwarden@gmail.com)



### **150th ANNIVERSARY SERVICE FOR HARPLEY CHURCH**

The 150th anniversary of St Bartholomew's Church was marked by a special service conducted by Rev Julia Curtis and Rev Canon David Hewlett. During the service, the congregation processed around the churchyard.



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