

Teme TRIANGLE

Clifton-upon-Teme • The Shelsleys • Lower Sapey



New Year's Day walkers gather at Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb

In this edition

- Christmas and New Year event reports
- New faces at Clifton shop
- Local author and vet achievements
- Parish matters
- ... plus all your local Diary Dates

Visit the website

www.temetriangle.net

FREE to Residents



Above: *Smiley faces, strong voices, plenty of dressing up and a full house at All Saints Church, Shelsley Beauchamp, for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.*

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Front cover picture:

Members of Midland Automobile Club and locals gathered for a bracing walk up the Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb on New Year's Day. Picture includes: estate gamekeeper Nick Cant (centre on quad bike); member Dougie Cant (back); competitor Sam Mason (far left); competitor and marshall Mike West (2nd from left), commentator Chris Ponsford (hat & scarf); competitor Pete Richings (5th from right); and competitors Anna Furnace and Ollie Wright (far right). Photo: Joy Richings. Story on page 3.

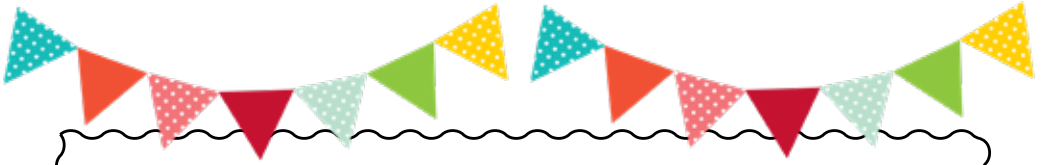


NEW FACES AT CLIFTON VILLAGE STORES

The new owners of the Village Stores in Clifton, Michel and Kiru Nimal, are delighted at the warm welcome that has greeted them since taking over the shop in December. Michel formerly managed a Tesco Express store in west London before moving to Clifton with his wife and children, Jayden (12) and Lena (9). Already the shop's opening hours have been extended to 7.30am until 7pm Monday to Saturday, and from 9am until 4pm on Sunday. "This is a very good community and we have been made to feel warmly welcome here," says Michel. "I plan to increase the range of affordable items in the shop and stock items that our customers particularly request."

COVER STORY: WALKERS ENJOY HILL CLIMB ON NYD

Dozens of locals, Midland Automobile Club AC members and competitors walked up to the top of the Shelsley Walsh Hill Climb on 1 January, in what has become a traditional local way to welcome in the New Year. MAC news editor Geoff Robinson said: "After the rain of the early hours cleared, New Year's Day enthusiasts, along with some of their four-legged friends, greeted 2025 with a trek up the track. The Courtyard restaurant was open, giving people the chance for hot drinks and a catch-up chat."



SHELSEYS VILLAGE FÊTE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Eleven years on since the last Village Fête, this June (date tbc) will see another 'Shelsleys Village Fête and Fun Dog Show'.

Finer details are still underway, but there will be the usual attractions ... tombola, tea and cake, Pimm's and beer tents, children's (and adults!) games, BBQ, hopefully some local produce and plants, and of course the dog show.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help on the day – whether on a children's game stand or serving tea and cake etc – there will be many jobs that will need doing and any help will be much appreciated. Likewise, if you have anything that you would like to donate to the Fête – bottle tombola prizes, cakes, home produce etc, it would all be gratefully received.

The event is raising money towards the 'fabric fund' of beautiful All Saints Church. Further details will be published in the March edition of *Temé Triangle*. In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like to help, please contact Louise Hutton on 07803 614078. Many thanks.

CLIFTON-UPON-TEME WI

The final two meetings of the WI were relaxed social events. In November, following the Annual Meeting, members tackled making a snowman decoration using a battery tealight candle. The final meeting in December was a social occasion with a quiz, beetle drive, nibbles and prosecco – always a firm favourite. A very enjoyable evening to finish the year. It has been a very successful year; we now have thirty members and are hoping to welcome more new members this year. We have planned speakers on a variety of subjects including, in February, Sophie Duleep Singh, a Sikh suffragette; and Lost Worcester in March. There are also more social events including a lunch out and garden visits. Later in the year the skittles team and a quiz team will be back in action. If you would like to know more, meet new people, or are thinking of joining the WI please do come along at 7.30pm, Clifton Village Hall, second Tuesday of the month. Visitors are always welcome, or email Ruth Wilson, cliftonontemepres@wfdwi.org.uk for more information.



CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL LATEST

Reminder to dog owners: After receiving reports of local sheep being bitten and harmed by dogs on public rights of way through local fields, Clifton Parish Councillors issued a reminder to local dog owners to ensure their dogs are under control at all times when using footpaths, particularly during the lambing season. While dogs do not have to be on a lead on a public right of way, they must be under control. If the owner cannot ensure this then the dog should be kept on a lead, and a landowner can request that such a dog is put on a lead. This clearly applies where the dog is not sticking to a footpath and trespassing on neighbouring land. To protect sheep, other farm animals and ground-nesting birds, dogs should be kept on a fixed length lead, no more than two metres long, between 1 March to 31 July, and at any time in the vicinity of livestock. Regardless of the time of year, the requirement for dogs to be under control remains. A farmer is allowed to kill a dog if it is worrying livestock.

Parish precept increase: A proposal to increase the parish precept by 10% was agreed at the January meeting of Clifton Parish Council, adding approximately £9.70 to the average annual council tax bill for households in the parish.

Playground rocking horse: Parish councillors agreed to spend £1,400 on restoring and preserving the old rocking horse (pictured right) within the newly equipped children's playground in Clifton. "The old horse still attracts many children," said Lyn Merrick. "As we still have ours, the plan is to restore it as much as possible. Its days of vigorous rocking may be over, but many children will continue to have fun riding on it."



LITTER PICKERS' BACON BUTTY PARTY

Thank you litter pickers for your year-long work last year. Litter still appears along our local highways and byways, so February half term is our focus for the annual *Temetriangle* litter pick this year. There will be a gathering for the Clifton litter pickers on the Village Green in Clifton at 10.30am on Saturday 15 February before setting off along local lanes, followed by a bacon butty party for everyone at 12 noon at Pitlands. The Harpley and Shelsley groups are aware of their particular areas, so please could they also use this week to get into action. To join the team, contact Candy Connolly at cconnolly111@gmail.com for more information. Please send photos of any bags or litter evidence for a display board at our party. We also have a new song to share (maybe!): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i4gFw4pPplw> . If you don't have them, grabbers and circles are available from The Hope, Clifton, after emailing me.

Candy Connolly

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LOCAL AUTHOR'S DEBUT WILL HELP HOSPICE

A Martley resident, originally from Clifton, has written a chapter in an anthology called *She Defies* - inspirational stories of women overcoming life's harshest challenges. The book is available in e-book and paperback formats, and to buy on Amazon.

Hannah Darby, a Reiki healer whose business Healing with Hannah offers grief support services, says: "In the chapter I open up about the challenges I have faced in my life, including childhood bullying, chronic illness and the death of my father when I was a teenager. I pair this with practical tips for those also living with loss from my professional background in Psychology." Hannah recently won a Commended award from the Worcestershire branch of the Women Who UK network, in recognition of her professional services.

She plans to donate a portion of the launch proceeds to St Richards Hospice and hopes local readers will seek it out. Visit www.healingwithhannah.co.uk .



STANFORD CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL GOES DOWN A STORM

The annual Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church in Stanford Bridge on 7 and 8 December was a great success, despite coinciding with Storm Darragh raging. Alexandra Winnington confirmed: "The church was full of trees — a wonderful sight that brightens the darkest days of winter! Unfortunately the storm caused two power cuts, including one in the middle of our Church Carols... but candles were lit and we just carried on without the organ playing!" The Archdeacon of Worcester, the Rev Canon Mark Badger, judged the trees. Clifton Primary School's tree (pictured) was awarded the children's trophy and Brockhill Estate won the adult's trophy. The people's vote went to Abberley Nursery School. The money raised will be shared with Clifton Scouts for their hut campaign.



LOCAL VET ON THE FOREFRONT OF RHINO CONSERVATION

Great Witley-based veterinary surgeon, Dr. Miriam Lodewyks, has been raising funds to support a variety of wildlife projects including otter rehabilitation, hedgehog rescue, a water-vole research project along the banks of the River Teme and more recently a South African rhino sanctuary. Miriam, whose sister in Shelsley Beauchamp is also a vet, is the founder of UK-registered wildlife conservation charity: Animal Saviours. Through this she has been organising small groups of passionate individuals to go to a rhino sanctuary and research centre in South Africa, to help with the annual horn-trimming procedures that reduce the risk of poaching of these iconic species by about 80%. Miriam told *Temetriangle*: “Rhino horn is much like fingernails and grows a couple of inches per year. It is highly prized in many Asian countries, but it is illegal to trade rhino horn so poaching is now the only way to obtain it. This has driven the value of the horn through the roof, and the species ever closer to extinction.”



The volunteers who travel to South Africa with Animal Saviours help to protect a small enclave of Southern White Rhino, physically helping with data collection and horn-trimming (the wild rhinos are first sedated with a dart gun by an experienced vet, from a helicopter) as well as funding their anti-poaching patrol team, which comprises 13 people, two Bloodhounds, four German Shepherds and four Belgian Malinois. Whilst in Africa the volunteers learn about what it takes to maintain a healthy ecosystem that can support not only the rhino, but also giraffe, buffalo, ostriches, various antelope and countless bird, reptile and insect species. Animal Saviours has also helped fund multiple local projects that aim to benefit endangered British wildlife, such as hedgehog, otter, bird and bat rescues. When not in Africa, Miriam provides a mobile, in-home, end-of-life care service to the pets of Worcestershire and Herefordshire (called Dignipets). Find more information about Animal Saviours at www.animalsaviours.org.



Left: Clifton WI members enjoying a recent craft session, making snowman decorations. Story on page 4.

CLIFTON TO HOST EVENING OF OPERATIC ARIAS FOR UKRAINE

A limited number of tickets are available for an evening of opera at The Hope, Clifton-upon-Teme, on Friday 14 March at 6.30pm. Valery Sherlock, an accomplished Ukrainian soprano who lives in Martley, will give a charity recital of works by Verdi, Mozart, Puccini and Tchaikovsky, as well as Ukrainian songs. Also performing is her bass-baritone husband Kieran Sherlock. The event is



hosted by kind permission of Candy and Shane Connolly, with the proceeds going to Valery's native Ukraine, to support the ongoing efforts since the Russian invasion. Jerry Johns, who is coordinating tickets, said: "Valery is a sensational soprano whose spectacular recital should leave you in awe. It promises to be a night to remember, and a unique opportunity to experience the magic of live opera."

An academy-trained operatic soprano, Valery began her musical path in her native Ukraine. She graduated from music school in piano class, Odessa Music College in vocal class and finally the Odessa Music Academy Opera vocal programme. She came to the UK from Ukraine nearly four years ago. Kieran Sherlock, a field archaeologist from Martley,

was greatly influenced as a child by Pavarotti and the Three Tenors performing *Nessun Dorma* during World Cup Italia 90. He began singing in 2018 receiving Operatic vocal tuition from South African tenor Wilhelm Theunisen and made his performance debut in 2019 at Huntingdon Hall. He shares the same bass baritone voice type as Welsh Opera great Bryn Terfel. Their accompanist is David Archer, who spent five years accompanying instrumentalists and singers at the Birmingham Conservatoire, and is a musical director in local amateur dramatic societies as well as a rehearsal pianist for Worcester opera societies. Tickets, including champagne and hors d'oeuvres, are £35 each from Jerry Johns. Email crown.house@polperpress.co.uk or call 01886 812304.

CLIFTON RURAL REELS - CLIFTON VILLAGE HALL

Saturday 8 February, 7pm: *The Bucket List*, a 2007 American comedy-drama film starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman, following two, terminally ill men on a road trip with a wishlist of things to do before they 'kick the bucket'.

Saturday 8 March, 4pm: *Paddington in Peru* (2024). A joint venture between the Village Hall and Clifton-upon-Teme School PTA.

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COME AND ENJOY A SHELSLEY NATURE WALK

A Valley Walk will take place on Sunday 6 April.
Meeting at All Saints Church, Shelsley Beauchamp at 11am.
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kmetcalfe.shelsleyspc@gmail.com



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LIFE ON THE FARM

Occasional column from local farmer Allan Jeffries

2024 went so quickly that I think every month must have been about five days shorter and we were all so busy we didn't notice! It was quite a difficult year being a sheep farmer and I think most sheep farmers would agree. Most of the problems were weather-related. My Dad used to say you forget those difficult times when you get some nice warm sunny days and the lambs are running and skipping around the fields. Spring always meant hearing the cuckoo, with great competition to see who would hear it first, but together with a lot of other bird species, numbers of cuckoos are falling fast and some years I don't even hear one.

Last autumn we didn't buy quite so many yearling ewes to replace what we term the cull ewes. These are ewes who are getting older and losing their teeth (a lot of farmer's wives seem to disappear off to the dentist at this time of the year!) or perhaps have had mastitis and so would not be able to rear lambs again the following year. There are always the odd one or two ewes who for some reason just don't have a lamb and so there is no point keeping them for another year. As the yearlings were quite expensive last autumn, we decided to keep some of the older ewes for another year even if their teeth weren't too good!

We have just pensioned off one of our pet ewes who, about ten years ago, was chased by a neighbour's dog and in her panic crashed headfirst into a fence post with such force that she actually broke the fence post off. She damaged her front leg quite badly and couldn't stand. It took a month of special care, turning her several times a day until eventually it paid off and she managed to get back on her feet. It is a very satisfying feeling to see the reward of all your hard work. It's a certain fact it's not about the money, but don't tell the vet it's a pet, or you'll pay the same rate as for cats and dogs! She went on to have really good lambs every year until we felt she was too old to go to the ram this time. We put the rams into the ewes in the first week of October so should start lambing around the beginning of March. This year the ewes were what we term as lacking a bit of condition, or in other words were a bit thinner than most years. Again, this was weather-related.

The snow in November took us by surprise! The first thing I noticed that morning was that Bryn (the sheepdog) wouldn't get out of bed. I suspect he had jumped up on the draining board in the utility room to steal the cat's food, saw the snow and, like my good friend Trev, decided it called for a lazy day in the warm! We sold the last of the lambs at Tenbury sheep sale four days before Christmas. Leading up to Christmas, I help our friend David Moore with delivering his turkeys. Fi (my wife) was getting very excited with the thought of all the money I was earning, expecting a very nice Christmas present... until I reminded her that even after twenty years, David said he's still teaching me the job and so can only afford apprentice rates and he definitely hasn't heard of the minimum wage! This year I might have to ask John Richards at Wichenford for a week's work.

Wishing everyone a good, and more importantly healthy, 2025.

VOTE FOR CLIFTON'S GUIDES TO RAISE FUNDS FOR GARDEN

Clifton-upon-Teme's guiding groups are asking everyone to support a very worthwhile cause, by simply voting for them through a special Co-op community support scheme.

Leader Angie Griffiths said: "The Co-op has kindly given 1st Clifton Guides, Rainbows and Brownies the chance to raise some money for development of the area we have been given in our new park. We are keen to create something that the whole village can enjoy, including trees, flowers and a wild area with benches and insect habitats. To support our cause, simply visit www.coop.co.uk/membership or scan the QR code shown below, and sign in or become a Co-op member. You then click the button to record your vote. It's free to vote for us, and the more votes, the more money we get. We are very grateful for any support!" The Co-op promotion finishes in October.



Clifton's Guides, Rainbows and Brownies come from several local villages, offering girls of all kinds a wide range of opportunities and activities to give them confidence and enrichment. Guides (age 10-15) meet on Mondays 6.15pm - 7.45pm, Brownies (7-10 years) meet Wednesdays 5.45pm - 7pm, and Rainbows (age 4-7) meet Wednesdays 4.30pm - 5.45pm. "We do great things, have lots of fun activities like swimming, climbing, axe throwing, clay modelling, crafts, theatre trips, sports etc," confirmed Angie. "We normally meet at Clifton-upon-Teme Pavilion, unless we are doing away activities."

To enquire about joining, please email Angie Griffiths at angiegriffiths@aol.com or call 07957 462519.





HARPLEY'S CHRISTMAS DAY CREATES A STIR!

Harpley villagers celebrated Christmas Day with a difference a few weeks ago. Locals gathered round the churchyard firepit, with candles and fiddle-playing. One particular costume, worn by David Richards, caused quite a stir! Rev Jen Denniston explained: "David attended as a mega-inflatable, orange Christingle. This illustrates the theme of Jesus, Light of the World and God's many gifts to us all through the year. Many thanks to him, and to Liz Younge, his fellow church warden, for leading life at St Bartholomew's throughout the year...and providing warm apple punch and firelighting at Christmas!" Locals look forward to ceiling works in the church being completed by Easter.





CLIFTON'S CHRISTINGLE

An inflatable Christingle also livened up Clifton's St Kenelm's Church on Christmas Eve. Dan Austin donned the blow-up costume and Rev Jen Denniston led the service. Jackie Gilbert, Mike Snelling and Tabitha Sparey assembled the Christingles. Tim Goodall played keyboard, and Rachel Austin explained the significance of the Christingle. Dawn Goodall led the prayers. "Everyone joined in the Calypso Carol chorus with tambourines and shakers," said Rev Jen Denniston. "The lights went off, the church was in darkness. Then, from the flame of the Easter candle, light went along the pews from person to person as each Christingle in turn was lit. A very special moment - love, light and warmth shared by old and young, gathered together the night before Christmas."



LICENSING SERVICE FOR REV JEN DENNISTON

A special Service of Licensing by the Archdeacon of Worcester, the Venerable Mark Badger for the Rev. Jen Denniston as Associate Priest, was held at All Saints Church in Shelsley Beauchamp. Pictured above (from left): The Venerable Mark Badger; Rev Jen Denniston; Father Tim Williams, Rural Dean; Rev Julia Curtis. The service was led by Father Tim Williams who presided at Communion. The Archdeacon preached on journeying and pilgrimage.

CLIFTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB REPORT

Dot Millward writes: The Club had two excellent meetings in December, a lovely, cooked Christmas lunch, and a return visit from some of the members of Stourport Choral. Members joined in singing carols. It was a joyous afternoon. Our first meeting in January was on New Year's Day. We decided to go ahead with this meeting



for members who might have been spending the day alone. Twenty members enjoyed sherry and mince pies and a lovely time to chat. On Wednesday 5 February we look forward to another visit from Physio in the Sticks, and on Wednesday 19 February

we welcome Penny Bowden talking about her New Zealand trip. The Club's meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, 2:30pm in Clifton Village Hall. Visitors and new members always welcome. Contact Dot Millward dotmillward@btinternet.com .



ST KENELM'S NEWS

Services: Thank you to everyone who celebrated Christmas at St Kenelm's. The church looked amazing with the Christmas trees in the windows. Thank you to all the organisations and individuals who kindly decorated a tree. Services were well attended from the formal Lessons and Carols to Christingle with a dancing orange Christingle entertaining the congregation. The school Christmas service was a pleasure to host and a lovely time to share the church with parents and younger children. Thank you to all those who helped at the services or organised behind the scenes.

Warm Welcome celebrated Christmas with a celebration lunch where approximately 40 people came for lunch. The following week Clifton Nursery and the parent and toddler group celebrated the nativity story with live music and acting. Thank you again to all involved on these occasions. Warm Welcome continues to meet weekly Thursday 10.30 to 1.00, lunch served at 12. Please do come and join in if you would like a chance to meet neighbours and friends. There is no charge but a small donation of money can be made or offers of food. Please contact Ruth Wilson ruth.wilson38@btinternet if you would like more details or to offer help or need a lift to attend. The baby and toddler group also meets Thursday 9.30 to 11.30, both held at the Village Hall.

Soul Space meets at the end of Warm Welcome for those who would like a short time of reflection on alternate Thursdays, 12.45 in the Rowberry Room in the Village Hall. Those who have attended have found it a precious time for peace and reflection in a busy week.

Bellringers: We are delighted to report that following our request for bellringers we now have eight learners who, due to their enthusiasm and the excellent teaching by the Martley ringers have made excellent progress. If anyone wants to come along and see what we do and have a go you will be most welcome. We alternate between Martley and Clifton on Mondays 6.30 pm. Please contact Mike Snelling on 01886 812443. There is also a very good social side to the ringing, on New Years Eve we enjoyed a wonderful dinner with the Martley ringers in the village hall, then proceeded to the church to ring out the old year and ring in the new year, very special, we have visions of doing this at St Kenelm's for 2025.

Church Repairs: Sadly we lost more shingles from the spire during Storm Darragh, I am hoping this will have been mended by the time this is published! Maintenance and repair is ongoing due to the age of the building. The cross on the east end of the church roof will be taken down to assess the state of the cross which has already been repaired several times and the state of the coping stone underneath which needs repairing, as high winds are making this unstable. This year there will hopefully be more work on the tower to repair cracks, investigations have taken place to see if the cause may be linked to subsidence, currently awaiting reports. We are also looking forward to the RSPB installing swift boxes in the tower as part of the swift project in Clifton, there is already evidence of the swifts nesting there.

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

Ruth Wilson, church warden

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CLIFTON-UPON-TEME PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held 9th January 2025 at Clifton upon Teme Village Hall

Present: J. Bowden (Chair); B. Gilbert (Vice-Chair); R. Neave; P Brooks & L Merrick **Also present:** District Councillor Paul Cumming, Sarah Simcock (Clerk) and x3 members of the Public **Apologies:** County Cllr D. Chambers, District Councillor Pam Cumming & Sid Haywood **Declarations of Interest:** None. **The Minutes of the Meeting held 5th December 2024:** Purposed P Brooks seconded by R Neave **Matters arising:** Paul Brooks has checked both defibrillators work and on the BHF website and work from a mobile even if you have no mobile signal. There will be signs made and placed outside each defibrillator explaining this. Paul Brooks is to pass on information to clerk to order a spare battery. Bruce Gilbert has reported to BT about the public phone box not working. John Bowden has written to the water company about the meters and the matter is still ongoing.

DEMOCRATIC PUBLIC TIME: A member of the public asked a question if there was any news on the proposed planning of the fifty-five houses. There have been many meetings on the questions that SWDP has posed to the inspector. They are having various meetings in the guildhall going through the questions. The parish council have suggested finding out if anyone can attend the meetings to get more information. **County & District Councillor Reports:** The County Councillors report was read out by the chairman. County Councillor Paul Cumming gave a verbal report on many changes within the council. SWDP the extra information has now been provided to the inspectors. Electric charging stations: Paul Cummings will ask to see if we can acquire funding but need to find out cost, how many people would use it and what power point and where the charging stations would be placed. **Finance & Governance Matters:** Payments and receipts schedule – proposed Cllr Paul Brooks, seconded Cllr B Gilbert. All agreed. Section 106 matters – John Bowden has not heard back from MHDC about the possibility of using the 106-funding money for planning. John Bowden asked Richard Newman if there was someone who could put a budget together, he said yes, his QS would do this for £375.00+VAT proposed by John Bowden seconded Paul Brooks all agreed. The final wildflower garden: Bruce Gilbert spoke about an email he had off Becca saying would you like to put in an interim claim because we have already paid for bits for the garden Bruce and Lyn will be meeting with Becca on Tuesday. Lyn mentioned the trees have arrived and also mentioned a memorial tree will be planted with a plaque for Bradley and also having a wildlife garden open day. We will have a formal open day for the new facilities for the sporting and children's playground MH council definitely want to come to this but it's postponed while the wildlife garden is being done. Possible formal opening day the 5th of May. Pavilion updates: Cllr Bowden said there is nothing more to report at present. Precept: It was agreed a 10% increase would be appropriate to help with the upkeep of the new facilities. Proposed by Bruce Gilbert seconded by John Bowden. **Parish Matters /Updates:** Village

Maintenance Plan – John Bowden has written a list of jobs which need doing around the village and he will forward it on to Rob Wilkes. There is a flooding issue down Pound Lane which was reported to John Bowden. John has spoken to Tanya from highways and the landowners will be issued with a letter. Swift boxes – Cllr Gilbert Nothing to report. **S106 Project (CFAF) updates:** John Bowden nothing more to report at present. **Planning Matters:** -. PLANNING APPROVAL NOTICE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 Approval - Householder Planning Application No: M/24/01349/HP Parish: Clifton upon Teme CP Agents Address: Mr Simon Angell Simon Angell Architectural and Planning Consultant Orchard Cottage Ashford Carbonell SY8 4BX Applicants Address: Mrs T Philipps Laburnum Cottage Pound Lane Clifton Upon Teme Worcestershire WR6 6DE Part I – PARTICULARS OF APPLICATION Statutory Start Date: 28 October 2024 Location: Laburnum Cottage, Pound Lane, Clifton Upon Teme, Worcester, WR6 6DE Proposal: Garage conversion and extension into annexe **Strategic Planning Matters:** A verbal update earlier in meeting from Cllr Paul Cumming. **Highways Matters:** Cllr Bowden mentioned a fence which is blocking a footpath and will be reported. **Councillor Reports & Items for Future Agendas:** A price from Lee James regarding the Rocking Horse to repair and paint to preserve it for £1400.00. Proposed John Bowden and seconded by Bruce Gilbert. Just a note: new signs have been erected down Clifton Hill. The council have been made aware of dog attacks on sheep recently. The council have asked people to be responsible when walking their dogs on land where there are farm animals - please keep dogs on leads and stick to the footpaths. Also lambing season will start very soon. Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 states that the owner of the dog can be fined and prosecuted. Scottish Widows account is a reserve account. A letter to be written to Harriet Baldwin MP inviting her to the opening of the formal opening day of the new sporting facilities and the children's play area and also the wildflower garden. **There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.15pm. Date of next Meeting: Thursday 6th February 2024 at 7.40pm (Meeting of the Parish Council) in the Village Hall.**

SHELSLEYS PARISH COUNCIL

Abbreviated Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on January 14th 2024

Present: Val Jones, Louise Hutton, Laura Taylor, John Stinton, Dave Bates and David Belfield, one member of the public and the clerk. Karen Metcalfe joined the meeting at 7.25pm, having previously sent apologies. **Apologies:** Carole Warren, Jean Hammond, (accepted). Councillors Cumming. **Declaration of Interests.** Councillors Stinton, Bates and Belfield re Village Hall. **Minutes:** With one item requiring clarification, the minutes of the meeting held on November 14th 2024 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairwoman. She reported that she had received an apology from Councillor Warren for

leaving the November meeting. **Public Question Time:** The question referred to highways and was dealt with under that heading.

Midland Automobile Club: No report, a representative from the MAC will attend the March meeting.

Highways and Footpaths: Lengthsman: Two time sheets, invoice for November and December and a report have been received. There was much discussion on the poor state of the roads in the parish. Since the last meeting WCC have agreed to place warnings of pedestrians but this has not been done yet. Clerk to pursue.

WCC response to flood indication poles was declined, saying drivers drove at their own risk through flood waters. However after the request for flood warning triangles at New Mill Bridge these had been placed by the roadside.

The clerk has reported to WCC the crumbling and dangerous road edge by the Shelsley Beauchamp bungalows. Photos will be submitted along with another urgent request for the edge to be repaired.

The lengthsman will be asked to clear the drains in the dip by the village hall and to remove mud ingress at the sides of the road. All grit bins are full, the only one used is at the Kingswood B4203 junction.

There was some discussion on parking by the church, especially on the bend.

Village Hall: The PC liaison Councillor reported a conversation with the Charity Commission where it appears that the Village Hall Trustees are able to change the rules in the governing document, a copy of which is held by the Commission.

Urgent Decisions: The clerk in consultation with councillors submitted the following decisions to MHDC regarding M/24/01598/CU & M/24/01597/LB Shelsley Grange. The PC neither supported nor objected to the application but made comments. M/24/01643/LB Hill Climb. The PC supported the application.

Planning: M/24/01290/HP at 7 The Bungalows Shelsley Beauchamp. Erection of single storey side and rear extension and new entrance porch has been approved.

Correspondence: The Police Charter was discussed and completed.

Finance: Bank balance currently £4,543.14. The Lengthman's invoice and the Clerk's expenses were agreed. Bank balance is £6,748. **Precept:** It was agreed to increase this from £7,000 to £8,000.

Councillors' reports and items for future agenda: A Shelsley Nature Walk has been rearranged for April 6th at 11am. Details to be placed in the Teme Triangle. The Chairwoman reported on an online meeting "Councils as Trustees" which added to the information from the liaison officer above. The meeting concluded at 21.25.

Next meeting date: March 11th 2025 at 7pm in the Village Hall.

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

LOWER SAPEY NEWS

A very happy and healthy New Year to everyone and may it bring peace and sunshine to us all. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and at least the weather was quite good to us over the festive season. What a difference now, with the snow, fog, rain and floods worse than we have experienced for several years. Our thoughts are surely with all those who are really suffering this month. Personally, we at least have the security of living on high ground. However we do suffer with high winds, and therefore, some power cuts. One can't have everything!

The cases of flu seem to be worse this year than ever and I hope you all stay safe. I am sure it is not too late to request a jab. Even though it may not stop you catching flu, it will at least be less severe. Do take care. I expect the warm hub on a Thursday in Clifton Village Hall is proving very popular this month. Thanks to all who give so much of their time to it. Did anyone make any New Year resolutions? I gave this up some years ago, as I am afraid they rarely lasted.

Christmas and New Year seemed quiet in Harpley and Lower Sapey, mainly because St Bartholomew's is still closed and we all miss this very much. Thanks to some energetic and resourceful members of the community, two services were held round our fire-pit and were well attended. Fortunately, the weather was quite kind, but the hot chocolate drinks were very popular. The appearance of the strange yellow-clad giant was much appreciated at the Christmas Day service! I am glad to say that work on our church ceiling is now progressing well, thanks to the arrival of financial support from the Centenary Fund! However, it may not be finished until mid-February and then must be allowed to dry out well. We hope for some sunny, warmer days maybe? It should be ready for the beginning of Lent, which is quite late this year. Please look out for any notices or information about the church's opening. I doubt whether it will be important enough to appear on X, but one never knows the way things are going!

NOTICES

- I have no information of any possible services in St Bartholomew's as yet.
- The dates of the Lent Courses will probably appear soon.
- The January Ladies Bible Group meeting was cancelled because of the inclement weather, so the first one of 2025 will be on Tuesday 11 February at 2pm. Venue to be confirmed. We still plan to have a lunch together as soon as the better weather arrives.
- Our Mobile Library will call on Friday 21 February at 10.20 and 10.40am.

May you all have a safe and healthy February and then we can surely look forward to the Spring!

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Church Matters

by Rev. Jen Jones, assistant curate



'In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.' John 1:4-5

'Continuity': the fact of something continuing for a long period of time without being changed or stopped. Year in and year out, the seasons come and go and the church year continues its liturgical cycle. As I write it is New Year's Eve 2024 and as you read, this event may well seem like a while ago.

In the church calendar we have celebrated the birth of Jesus, then in January the arrival of the Magi or Wise Men and now on the 2nd February it's Candlemas. Here we celebrate the presentation of the baby Jesus in the Temple and purification of his mother Mary. This day marks the completion of forty days since his birth. Joseph and Mary bring the baby into the temple where there are two people, who for many years, have been awaiting this moment. A fragile old man named Simeon, who acclaims the baby as 'the light to enlighten the nations' and with him is the prophet Anna who proclaims Jesus as her Redeemer.

The festival of Candlemas is celebrated with lots of lighted candles. These lights signify that 'Jesus is the light shining in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it'. These words were announced forty days ago in the reading from John's gospel that was read at Christmas services in churches across the world. At Candlemas Anna takes on the role of evangelist, preaching to all the people of God that the Messiah has come to redeem the world. Simeon and Anna have seen salvation with their own eyes, they hand this salvation on to others, on to us, and this becomes our role too. 'Continuity' – here over 2000 years on we are called to share that light, the message of hope and salvation to all the world.

CHURCH CONTACTS

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Christenings, Weddings, Funerals: Rev Jen Denniston 07783 432017

Jill Smith 01886 853311 jendenniston@gmail.com
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
Anne Gayden (PCC Minutes Secretary) & Jackie Gilbert

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

David Richards / Liz Younge lowersapeychurchwarden@gmail.com



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

February 2025

Sunday 2nd February

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

10.30am: Morning Praise, St Bartholomew, Harpley*

4.00pm: Candlemas, St Andrews, Shelsley Walsh

Sunday 9th February

3.00pm: Snowdrop Songs of Praise, Rochford Church

4.00pm: Snowdrop tea and crafts, Rochford Village Hall

Thursday 13th February

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

Sunday 16th February

6.30pm: Evensong, St Kenelm's, Clifton

Wednesday 19th February

10.30am: Communion, St Andrews, Shelsley Walsh

Sunday 23rd February

10.30am: Circle Service, St Bartholomew, Harpley*

Thursday 27th February

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

*All services at Harpley are to be confirmed nearer date, due to building works

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 3 Stanford History Group Spring lectures, Upper Sapey VH, 7.30pm
- 5 Clifton Friendship Club, Physio in the Sticks, Clifton VH, 2.30pm
- 6 Clifton Parish Council meeting, Clifton VH, 7.40pm
- 8 Clifton Rural Reels, '*The Bucket List*', Clifton VH, 7pm
- 11 Clifton WI Meeting, Sikh suffragette, Clifton VH, 7.30pm
- 15 Shelsleys Valentines 80s Party, Shelsleys VH, 7pm
- 15 Clifton Litter Picking, Village Green, 10.30am
- 19 Clifton Friendship Club, Penny Bowden NZ talk, Clifton VH, 2.30pm
- 21 WCC Mobile Library, Clifton VH, 9.45am / Lower Sapey, 10.20am
- 22 Little Witley Films, 'Goodbye Christopher Robin', Little Witley VH, 8pm

MARCH

- 8 Clifton Rural Reels, '*Paddington in Peru*', Clifton VH, 4pm
- 8 Shelsley PCC's CurryOki Night, Shelsleys VH
- 11 Clifton WI Meeting, 'Lost Worcester', Clifton VH, 7.30pm
- 11 Shelsleys Parish Council meeting, Shelsleys VH, 7pm
- 14 Charity Opera Recital with Valery Sherlock, The Hope, Clifton, 6.30pm
- 21 WCC Mobile Library, Clifton VH, 9.45am / Lower Sapey, 10.20am

APRIL

- 6 Shelsley Valley Nature Walk, from All Saints Church, 11am

THE DEN: NOW OPEN EVERY DAY

The Den Café Bar at Mill Farm Country Retail in Stanford Bridge has reopened its doors for 2025, and is now operating seven days a week:

- Monday to Friday: 9.30am - 3pm
- Saturday: 9am - 3pm
- Sunday: 10am - 1pm

Last orders from the menu at 2.30pm, drinks and cake served til 3pm. Contact 01886 853800 or visit the Facebook page.




SHELSLEY FOLK GATHER TO WELCOME 2025

The Shelsleys Village Hall and adjacent Steptoe's Bar were focus of the valley's New Year's Eve festivities, when around 30 locals gathered for an enjoyable night of celebrations, dancing and fireworks (picture below). The next event at Shelsleys Village Hall is a Valentine's 1980s Party on Saturday 15 February at 7pm - see details below.



Above: Steptoe's Bar manager Marie Caswell with Village Hall chairman Dave Bates.



SHELSLEYS VILLAGE HALL & STEPTOE'S BAR VALENTINE'S 80s PARTY Saturday 15 February, 7pm

Competition for Best 1980s Fancy Dress!
Tickets £5 including buffet food.
Children under 12 years free.

Tickets from Marie 07719 403225

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Contributions for the March 2025 edition by Friday 14 February 2025 please, to:
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