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May 2025



In this issue
VE Day • Open Gardens • Duck Racing
and all your parish news

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TemeTalk

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A community going forward with God

May 2025

Published by the churches of the
Teme Valley South Group
and delivered free to every household

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Parish website

www.temevalleysouth.org.uk

Items for inclusion should be
sent to Sandra Griffiths
by the 18th of the preceding month
and will be included subject to space

Dear Readers

Special Days in May

May is full of "special" days. Not only does the month include my birthday, but the first of May is (in some places) celebrated with may-pole dancing. In others it's celebrated as International Workers' Day with flying the Red Flag. May the Fourth (what a terrible pun!) is Star Wars Day. May 7th is World Naked Gardening Day. May 8th is VE Day when the Hanleys have a bonfire. The 12th to the 18th is Mental Health Awareness Week. There are a shedload of other "special" days.

I would like to draw your attention to the 29th of the month. It is Ascension Day. In some parts of this country it used to be celebrated as a holiday from work with processions and bands. It marks forty days after Easter when Jesus withdrew from earth and returned to his Father. This year we're marking it as a Church with a special service at Clifton at 7.30pm. We'll have the Relishing Rural Music Choir. We'll think about what it means for Jesus to have completed his work on earth, how (in each of our villages) we see signs of his love and what we hope he will do in each of our communities. Everyone is very welcome.

And just in case you were wondering, I don't intend to do anything to mark World Naked Gardening Day!

Robert

Front cover picture

This month's cover photograph of a mandarin duck on the River Teme near Eastham Bridge is by Andrew Holmes

TemeTalk deadline 18th May

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Teme Valley South Contacts

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Assistant Curate: Jen Jones 07749 977821

LLM Reader: Pete Thorp 07917 783159

Retired clergy: Robert Barlow, Sally Jones

Churchwardens

Eastham: Celia Adams 01584 781258

Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Stoke Bliss & Kyre: Jeremy Wyatt 07720 056671

Hanleys: Ed Yarnold 07930 882728

Stanford: Alexandra Winnington 07891 346783

Pastoral Team

Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Jenny Barbé 01584 781298

Mel Williams 01584 781284

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sue Softly
01584 881342

Village Hall Bookings

Stoke Bliss & Kyre

Janet Powell, 01885 410598

stokeblisskyrevillagehall@gmail.com

Rochford – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317

Eastham – Helen Matravers, 07580 158673

Hanley – Judy Bayliss, 01886 853813

Stanford – Catherine Mawby, 07831 303792
stanfordwithorletonvillagehall@gmail.com

Harriett Baldwin MP

Member of Parliament for West Worcestershire

Harriett Baldwin MP can help constituents with a wide range of issues.

To contact Harriett, please write to her at the House of Commons, email harriett.baldwin.mp@parliament.uk or call her constituency office on 01684 585 165.

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Parish news

From the Registers

Banns

In last month's TemeTalk we announced the banns of marriage between Alice Mary Crump and James William Gore, which were called in March and April. Unfortunately we misspelt Mr Gore's name, for which we apologise.

The banns of marriage between **Cecilia Jane Dean** and **Andrew John Dixon** will be called on 4th May at Stanford, at 11th May at Stoke Bliss and on 18th May at Eastham.

Baptism

We welcome into the Church family **Hugh Mark**, son of Chloe and Hilgrove Kenrick, who was baptised on Saturday 15th March at St Mary's, Stanford, and **Tora Finley**, daughter of Ashleigh and Joseph Churchill, who was baptised on Sunday 23rd March at St Mary's, Stanford.

Teme Valley Tots

Our tots group continues to meet on Fridays from 10.30am to 12 noon at Rochford Village Hall. We are meeting throughout May. For more information about Teme Valley Tots please contact Tina via email on tinaslord@gmail.com

Judy Christian

We are sorry to learn of the death of Judy Christian of Bell Lane, Hanley Broadheath. Judy has delivered TemeTalk in the Hanleys with her neighbour, Jan Howells, since 2022. We are grateful for all her hard work and send our condolences to her husband Derek.

We would also like to thank Jan for continuing to deliver the magazines for us.

SG

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Annual Meeting of the Parish of Teme Valley South

The Annual Meeting of Teme Valley South will be on 17th May at 9.30am at Rochford Village Hall. This year we are doing things a little differently and the first hour will be an informal time of gathering with refreshments. Our local groups are coming along to share what they are about, including tots, walking church, the TVS churches choir, Muddy Boots mission area, what's happening with plans for a toilet at Eastham church or the ceiling at Stoke Bliss.

The annual meeting of parishioners will follow and is open to anyone who lives in Teme Valley South and the main item of business is election of churchwardens (a maximum of two can be nominated from each parish church). This is quickly followed by the annual church meeting, which is open to anyone on the electoral roll and the meeting receives the annual accounts and reports of what has been happening in our churches over the past year.

Rev'd Julia

TemeTalk

ronsmum@icloud.com or 07482 482629

Deadline for the June issue is 18th May

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***Congratulations to this month's
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Wednesday winners

19th March	No 28	Not sold
26th March	No 14	Dan Taylor
2nd April	No 53	Not sold
9th April	No 43	Not sold
16th April	No 45	Sarah Forsyth

Saturday winners

22nd March	No 26	Carole Powell
29th March	No 19	Hannah Prosser
5th April	No 18	Not sold
12th April	No 31	Not sold

There are still plenty of numbers available – why not join in? It's just £1 per draw – plus you get two chances each week to win £25!

Remember, you must be in it to win it!

Ring Norma Goodall on

07974 8098242

Deadline for the next issue 18th May

ronsmum@icloud.com

07482 482629

Teme Valley Tote

April's and May's draws will be taken together and the results will be published in the next issue of TemeTalk. If you have any queries please contact Robin Dean on 01886 853295 or email robin.c.dean@gmail.com.

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Rochford News

Easter in Rochford

The church was beautifully decorated with white lilies for the Easter Sunday service. Many thanks to everyone who donated to purchase the lilies, and we do hope you got to see and smell them! Many thanks to Jennifer and her helpers for the beautiful display.

Neighbourhood lunch

Dates for sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are 27th May, 24th June, 29th July and 26th August. Booking for lunches is essential and takeaways should be collected between 12.30 and 1pm. Please book with Ann on 01584 781317 at least the previous week

Open gardens

Rochford gardeners have once again agreed to open their gardens on Sunday 27th July. You don't need a big or immaculate garden so please get in touch if you are willing to open your garden, it would be great to have some different gardens for people to visit.

Churchyard maintenance

We will arrange a churchyard spring clean over the next few weeks. Please look out for notification on the WhatsApp group and come along and help if you can.

Church flower rota

May: Pam Powell and Norma Goodall
June: Amy Jones
Thank you

Dates for your diary

Church Fête and Flower Festival:

Sunday 13th July

Rochford Open Gardens: Sunday 27th July

Harvest Supper and Service: 12th October

Rochford Quiz Night and Supper:

Friday 21st November

Contacts

Ann on 01584 781317, Andrew on 07809 658484 or through the parish WhatsApp group

If you would like to be added to the parish WhatsApp group to keep you up to date with all the village happenings, please send me your mobile number.

Andrew Barbé

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Stoke Bliss and Kyre

Social Night

Just a reminder that May's Pub & Social Night on Saturday 31st May will be our May Extravaganza with a delicious barbecue in the late afternoon/early evening. The bar will be available from 4 o'clock and we aim to start serving food around 5 o'clock.

Please remember to book in advance at SBKVillageHall@gmail.com.

Spring Walk

On Sunday 11th May we have organised a walk along the lanes and footpaths of Stoke Bliss followed by refreshments. It's time perhaps to dust down your old walking boots. The walk will be approximately 4.5 miles long. Cost £10 including soup, bread roll, drink and cake.

The walk starts and finishes from Apple Cross, Bannals Lane and sets off at 10am. Please reserve your place on the usual email, SBKVillageHall@gmail.com



Meadow Meanders with Maggie Kingston

Each month from May to September you are invited to "Walk and Wonder" around Hollow Meadow, Stoke Bliss

A time to explore the meadow then join together to reflect on the experience with a drink of apple juice

Sunday 4th May, 7 to 8pm

Wednesday 14th May, 7 to 8pm

Saturday 7th June, Orchid Afternoon 2 to 5pm

Wednesday 18th June, 7 to 8pm

All welcome

Parking limited so share if you can

To book a time or for more information contact hollowmeadow23@gmail.com or ring **01885 410431** and leave a message

Volunteers are always welcome for plant and creature identification and to help look after the meadow



Thursday 8th May

Thursday 12th June

at Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

12.30pm welcome, lunch served at 1pm

Two courses plus refreshments

To book: 07396 813137 or sbklunch@gmail.com

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Eastham Jottings

Church flowers and cleaning

May – Tammy Starling

June – Diana Clark

Eastham Coffee Morning

Please come to the coffee morning on **Thursday 8th May** at 10.30am at Eastham Memorial Hall and enjoy a coffee and a chat and win a raffle prize. Note that it's the second Thursday this month because of Polling Day.

Spring cleaning

Thanks to everyone who helped tidy up the church and churchyard for the summer months on 26th April.

And thanks to David Clarke who took up the gauntlet from Reg Perkins, mowing the lawns and strimming around the graves. Great job after Reg's 17 years at the helm!

VE Day 80th Anniversary

The bells will be rung across the country at 6.30 pm on VE Day including at St Peter's and St Paul's in Eastham – pop down to listen and join the bell ringers for a drink and nibbles.

Barbecue

There will be a barbecue in the Memorial Hall garden on Friday 20th June at 6.30pm, organised by friends of the fête. Open to all, burgers and a cash bar. Please bring a pudding.

Eastham Memorial Hall AGM

The public meeting on Tuesday 20th May at 7pm is open to all Eastham residents and there will be a Zoom/Teams link for those not able to attend in person – please contact Celia Adams in advance for the link details. The accounts will be posted on the website in advance of the AGM when Barbara Selkirk ACMA has completed the independent examination.

Villagers wishing to join as trustees please contact Mike Palfrey (07976 854267) or Celia Adams (01584 781258) or email admin@easthammemorialhall.org.uk for an information pack. Nominations are required by 5th May (14 days in advance of the AGM).

Eastham Parish Council Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the parish council is on Tuesday 27th May at 7.30pm.

Pub Night

The next pub night is on Friday 16th May at 7pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Watch out for the usual banner.

Filling Station at Eastham Memorial Hall

The next meeting is on Thursday 15th May, everyone welcome. This is a great group and loves having visitors. For more information contact Kate on kateharley6@gmail.com.

Lambert's Family Grocers

The mobile shop calls at Eastham Memorial Hall every Wednesday at around 10am. Mike carries Ashley's Bakery and Wyre Pie products etc.

Eastham's Annual Pumpkin Competition

If you want to be in with a chance of winning top prize at Eastham's Annual Pumpkin Competition you still have time to plant the seed during May and keep plants well-watered up to then – but no time to waste!

There will be three classes this year with a Best in Show prize sponsored by Eastham Fête:

- Heaviest pumpkin
- Widest girth pumpkin
- Selection of three squashes
- Children's competition

Eastham Fête Grant Scheme

This year the fête committee has decided to take £500 from reserves to offer a pot open to all residents of Eastham who would like to put on an event or start a regular meeting / club using the village hall.

The money would help to get your idea up and running, so if you have an idea for a community based event and would like to progress it using the hall, the fête committee can offer support in the form of small grants to cover (for example) the hire of the hall or the provision of refreshments, the cost of a speaker or the hire of equipment.

The only rules are that you must use the Memorial Hall and the event must be open to all.

To apply, in the first instance please email easthamfete@gmail.com.

Good news – the first grant has been awarded to the litter pickers to buy more equipment!

Celia Adams

See page 13 for Eastham Fête News!

Hanley Happenings

Hanley House Open Evening

We are all invited to an open evening at Hanley House on Wednesday 7th May from 5 to 8pm. Have a look around the finished version of Hanley House: eight rooms all renovated, a large event space and of course a bar. There will be a complimentary drink on arrival to celebrate with the hosts and then mooch around all eight rooms.

Anyone for tennis?

If you are interested in a game of tennis at Town Farm, Margie is happy for the courts to be used. Just give her a ring on 07796 081857 to check that they are available when you want to play. You never know, we may have tennis weather soon!

A donation would be much appreciated and passed on to the appropriate charity.

VE Day 80th Anniversary

Join us on Thursday 8th May from 4.30 to 9.15pm at Hanley village hall to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE day with fun games and a raffle, food and drink.

The beacon will be lit at Hanley Childe church at 9.30pm. Hot refreshments available.

See details on page 15.

Hanley Open Gardens and Horticultural Competition

This year's Hanley Open Gardens will be on 24th May from 10.30am to 4pm. Light lunches and tea or coffee will be available and the proceeds will be shared between Cure Leukaemia and the village hall.

Pay at the village hall and collect a map of participating gardens (Hanley Broadheath, Hanley William and Hanley Childe).

Call Margie on 07796 081857 if you are happy to open your garden or if you can help in any way.

This year the day will also feature a horticultural competition with entries on the day by 11am at the village hall, £1 per entry and children's entries free. See details on page 15.

Table tennis at Hanley

If you would like to join in the fun come along to Hanley Village Hall on Monday evenings at 7pm.

Bats and balls are provided.

Your first taster session is free, then it's just £3 per evening.

Temetalk deadline 18th May • ronsmum@icloud.com • 07482 482629



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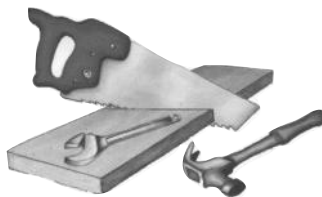
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Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

Services in Stanford

Sunday 4th May

Holy Communion with hymns at 10am

Flowers for May

Sarah Burgoyne

Daffodil Day

Daffodil Day at Stanford village hall on 22nd March was a great success and the arts and crafts were inspired by the daffodils in Stanford and the many vases of daffodils around the hall. Mel Williams and Jill Smith helped the children with painting pictures, tiles, vases and big stones and making flowers. Rev'd Julia Curtis, Rev'd Jen Deniston and Rev'd Jen Jones all came to join in the fun. Delicious tea and cakes made by villagers and Clive Serrell @batch22 were served by Helen Nicol. Proceeds went to St Mary's church. Many thanks to everyone who helped and attended.



Artist Mel Williams at the arts and crafts table

Area Church Committee AGM

The AGM of the Area Church Committee will take place on 1st May at 7pm at Stanford Village Hall, followed by the ACC committee meeting. Anyone on the civil electoral roll is invited to attend.

Dates for your diary

Volante Strings Concert, Friday 4th July at St Mary's with canapés and wine. Helpers needed.

Jazz Evensong with TVSCC on Sunday 6th July at 4pm.

Christening

The Christening of Tora Finley Churchill at St Mary's on Sunday 23rd March was a very happy occasion. The baby looked lovely in a beautiful christening gown. The children were entertained by Rev'd Jen Jones who asked them to help her find the soft cuddly 'lost sheep' around the church. There was much laughter.



Far right, Ashleigh Churchill, mother of baby Tora who is held by one of her godparents, and top middle Joe Churchill, Tora's father.

St Mary's Church

We are trying to find ways to make St Mary's more interesting and encourage parishioners to get involved with some of our ideas to upgrade the information inside the church. If you cannot help with anything but would like to donate please visit the link: www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/stanford-with-orleton-st-mary-stanford-on-teme/

Churchyard Working Party

On Saturday 12th July from 10am to 12 noon. Coffee and biscuits will be served. We hope you can come along as we achieved a great deal last time.

King's Coronation Orchard

Don't miss the grand opening of the King's Coronation Orchard and "Jeff's Shed" on Sunday 11th May – see page 14.

Alexandra Winnington

Welcome to our new curate



Our new curate, Tobias Thornes, will be ordained in Worcester Cathedral on 29th June and will join us immediately after his ordination. His training incumbent will be Rev'd David Morris but he will be working across the Muddy Boots Mission Area and will be spending time in both Rev'd Sallie Butcher's area and

Rev'd Julia Curtis's area. Here is what Tobias has to say about himself.

"I come to you as a curate fresh out of theological college, having trained for three years at St Stephen's House in Oxford. I was born in Worcester and grew up in the countryside near Droitwich, in the parish of Hadzor with Oddingley. I've always had a passion for the environment, and have never been able to leave Worcestershire for very long – it's definitely the place that feels like home!

"I am thirty-two years old. Before training for the priesthood I was a physicist, studying physics and astronomy at University College, Durham, then taking a doctorate at Oriel College, Oxford, on the topic of weather and climate forecasting. Whilst there I was a member of our University Challenge team (we didn't get very far!) and served as a Bible clerk in the college chapel. I was also a physics teacher for a couple of years. I enjoy walking with my collie, horse-riding and writing about faith, science and the natural world, and try as far as possible to live life in harmony with nature. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you and getting involved with rural ministry in such a beautiful part of our county."

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Hanley Dingle expanded thanks to generous donors

Staff and volunteers at Worcestershire Wildlife Trust are celebrating after raising £470,000 to buy 16 hectares of land next to their Hanley Dingle nature reserve.

Hanley Dingle, one of the oldest deciduous woodland areas in the country, rich in mosses and ferns, is a truly special place. The bluebells, primroses, violets and wood anemone are all out in flower and it looks fabulous in the spring sunshine.

Situated in a ravine, it is very difficult to access or manage which has resulted in a true haven for wildlife with very little disturbance from people. It is reminiscent of a rainforest and is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The land next to the Dingle will allow the plants and animals to extend their range, buffering them from the effects of climate change and helping to protect the site into the future. The Trust will plant trees, create ponds and allow natural regeneration to take hold – a long-term project to allow wildlife to thrive well into the future.

Mike Perry, Chief Executive Officer of the Trust,



explained "We would like to thank more than a thousand generous individuals, private trusts and businesses that have donated to our fund raising appeal.

"We'd also like to thank our supporters who are sadly no longer with us but whose gifts in their wills have enabled us to buy this im-

portant piece of land."

The Trust plans to create a mosaic of new habitats on the 16 hectares connecting Hanley Dingle to the Shortwood Brook. As well as creating meadows and glades, it will plant large- and small-leaved lime, oak, field maple and wild service trees in order to extend the woodland.

Ponds will be created in naturally wetter areas. The diverse habitats will be essential for supporting a wide array of wildlife from butterflies and birds to amphibians and dragonflies.

There are public footpaths through the wood but access other than on these is by special permit only. please contact the Trust for more information.

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8th June – St Columba
13th July – for the summertime
10th August – Lammas
14th September – Harvest
9th November – Remembrance

Please email Rev'd Jen Jones at
tvscurate@gmail.com for more information

The Filling Station

Our next meeting is on Thursday 15th May at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start. Our speaker will be Tony Hyams, an evangelist who has been involved in a number of tent missions and has also ministered abroad.

We look forward to your joining us for this evening of fellowship, worship, teaching and refreshments. If you are not on our mailing list and would like further information please contact me on kate.harley6@gmail.com.



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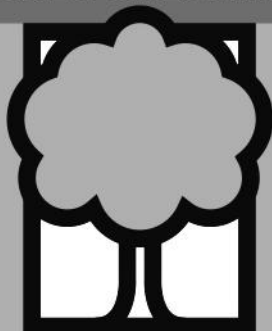
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Mandarin Ducks



This month's cover photograph by Andrew Holmes is of a beautiful mandarin duck on the River Teme near Eastham Bridge.

The mandarin duck was introduced from the Far East, where it can still be found in China, Japan, Korea and parts of Russia. It escaped, or was deliberately released, from captivity in the UK. Mandarin ducks are actually quite shy birds, often hiding beneath overhanging willows and usually only forming small flocks.

They nest in holes in trees, sometimes high up and a long way from the water. Shortly after the ducklings hatch, the female flies down and tries to coax the young to jump from the nest. Once they have left the tree and made their way back to water, the father will return to the family and help to protect the ducklings.

Stoke Bliss Spring Walk

Sunday 11th May

Meet at Apple Cross, Bannals Lane at 10am

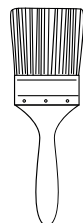
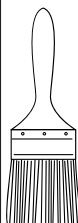
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17 MAY @ ROCHFORD HALL

 **DOORS OPEN 9.30AM**

Our groups are invited to meet informally and share their activities followed by our TVS Parish AGM



Activities at Eastham Memorial Hall

- Pilates, Tuesdays 1pm. Contact Sue on 07974 343609, sue579@icloud.com for details or a taster session.
- Yoga, ring Zoe on 07962 981456 or see www.zedyoga.co.uk. Wednesdays at 10am in term time. Ring Zoe for a taster session.
- Zumba Gold, Lucia on 07709 301030, lu.500@live.co.uk. Wednesdays at 12 noon, just turn up.



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Stanford with Orleton Village Hall

Grand Opening!

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Sunday 11th May, 2pm onwards

If you planted a tree in the orchard for the Coronation, or if you would like to see the thriving orchard and 'shed' renovations, you and your family and friends are warmly invited

Refreshments for all – no charge but any donations will be gratefully received for the upkeep of the orchard

The marquee will be available in case of inclement weather

Parking in the field next to the hall

Booking not essential but an idea of numbers would be good for catering purposes – contact David on 01886 853677 or Sue on 07929 479865

Look forward to seeing you all!

St Mary's Church, Stanford with Orleton

NOTICE OF AREA CHURCH COMMITTEE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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Saturday 24th May

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Suggested donation of £3.50

Dogs are welcome in the Park
and allowed off leads if kept under control
No cycles allowed in the grounds

Kyre Park, Tenbury Wells WR15 8RW

Eastham Fête News

Sunday 17th August starting at 12 noon

Only three more TemeTalks to go until the big day!

Produce Show

There are plenty of opportunities to join in the produce show. How about trying Class D (54) which this year is a 7" treacle tart to your own recipe. Have a go and keep the friendly competition alive!



Dog Show

The ever-popular dog show is open to all, and we don't discriminate against dogs no matter how good or bad their pedigree!

Car, bike or tractor to display?

If you would like to bring a car, a bike or tractor, or if you have an idea to run a new stall or activity, please do get in touch with the organisers at



easthamfete@gmail.com

What's on at The Regal in May

Live Theatre

Thu 1st 7.30pm A Shoddy Detective and the Art of Deception
Fri 2nd 7.30pm

Live Opera

Sat 3rd 7.30pm Rogue Opera: Carmen Reimagined
Sat 10th 7.30pm A Night at the Opera: Opera Gala

Live Music

Fri 9th 7.30pm Jazz Nights: Mark Latimer, Gracie Beverley and friends
Sat 17th 7.00pm Tenbury Town Band Annual Concert
Fri 23rd 8.00pm Ben Ottewell of Gomez plus support from Gracie Beverley
Sat 24th 7.30pm Hello Again – The Neil Diamond Songbook
Fri 30th 7.30pm Talon – The Acoustic Collection

Live Music and Film

Sun 11th 5.00pm Safety Last! Classic film with live improvised piano accompaniment from Darius Battiwalla

Film

Mon 5th 12 noon A Minecraft Movie (PG)
Tue 6th 7.00pm Six The Musical Live! (12A)
Fri 16th 7.00pm The Penguin Lessons (12A)
Tue 20th 7.00pm The Amateur (12A)
Fri 30th 11.00am Peppa Meets the Baby Cinema
Sat 31st 11.00am Experience (U)

Live

Thu 8th 7.30pm Alistair McGowan 3-in-1

Broadcast

Wed 14th 5.15pm The Royal Opera: Die Walküre
Thu 22nd 7.15pm Royal Ballet: Ballet to Broadway: Wheeldon Works

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HIGHLIGHTS

*programme as of 10/04/2025

FOR MAY AT THE REGAL



LIVE MUSIC



Rogue Opera Presents: Carmen Reimagined Sat 3 May, 7.30pm

FILM



SIX the Musical Live! Tue 6 May, 7pm

LIVE COMEDY



Alistair McGowan 3-in-1 Thu 8 May, 7.30pm

LIVE MUSIC



A Night at the Opera - Opera Gala Sat 10 May, 7.30pm

FILM WITH LIVE MUSIC



Safety Last! - Classic Film with Live Piano Accompaniment Tue 15 Apr, 7.30pm

LIVE BROADCAST



The Royal Opera | Die Walküre Wed 14 May, 5.15pm

LIVE MUSIC



Ben Ottewell of Gomez (plus support) Fri 23 May, 8pm

LIVE MUSIC



Hello Again - The Neil Diamond Songbook Sat 24 May, 7.30pm

LIVE MUSIC



Talon - The Acoustic Collection Fri 30 May, 7.30pm



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Fox crib team narrowly beaten in KO Cup

As the Bromyard & District Crib League season draws to a close, we can report mixed results for The Fox crib team. We finished a respectable fourth out of seven in the league and lifted the runners-up trophy in the final of the Knockout Cup, being narrowly beaten by The Kings Arms B from Bromyard.



Thanks also to Ray Neave from The Lion for organising the league and making it all happen, his efforts too often thwarted by death and disaster, and to Sharon and John for making us so welcome at The Fox. We especially enjoy Sharon's fantastic post-match sandwiches and chips.

Proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets plus our £30 prize for coming second in the KO Cup gives us a sum of about £87 to donate to the Midlands Air Ambulance.

Many thanks to our regular and occasional team members for leaving their warm firesides on the coldest and darkest winter nights to travel to the furthest reaches of the district.

The average age of our team is hovering around 70 and we would love to welcome some younger players. We practise at The Fox every Wednesday evening during the off-season so if you are interested in learning to play this exciting, intriguing and sometimes frustrating game, please come and join us.

SG



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Lemon cheesecake



This softly set no-bake lemon cheesecake is super simple and gelatine free, so suitable for vegetarians. Ginger works well with lemon but you could swap the gingernut biscuits in the base for digestives or oatly biscuits instead.

Serves 12

Ingredients

100g / 3½oz butter, melted, plus extra for greasing
275g / 9½oz gingernut biscuits
625g / 1lb 6oz full-fat cream cheese (or soft cheese)
140g / 5oz icing sugar, sifted
3 lemons, zest and juice (about 80ml / 2¾fl oz)
150ml / 5fl oz double cream
75g / 2¾oz lemon curd

Method

Grease and line a 22–23cm / 8½–9in loose-bot-

tomed or springform cake tin with baking paper.

Blitz the biscuits to crumbs in a food processor.

Tip the crumbs into a bowl with the melted butter and mix thoroughly until the crumbs are completely coated. Transfer to the prepared tin and use the bottom of a glass or jar to press down firmly into an even layer over the base. Chill in the fridge for 1 hour.

To make the filling, put the cream cheese, icing sugar and zest from 2 of the lemons in a large bowl, and beat with an electric whisk until smooth.

Reserving 2 teaspoons of lemon juice, add the rest of the rest of the juice to the cream cheese mixture. Pour in the cream and continue beating until the mixture is thick.

Spoon the filling into the tin and spread evenly over the biscuit base, smoothing the top with the back of a spatula or spoon. Chill overnight in the fridge to set.

To serve, remove the cheesecake from the tin, carefully peeling off the baking paper, and transfer to a serving plate. Place the lemon curd in a bowl and loosen with just enough of the remaining lemon juice to create a runny texture. Drizzle over the top of the cheesecake and decorate with the remaining zest.

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Whatever happened to the Leominster Canal?

Until about 300 years ago goods were difficult and expensive to transport to market. Moving stuff by cart was slow and the unmade roads were worse than today's potholes (by a country mile)

This had been the case for centuries, until one day in about 1760 a man had a good idea. What about building a canal to tow a floating vessel to carry goods to market?

That man was Francis Egerton, 6th Earl and 3rd Duke of Bridgewater, who wanted to sell his coal into the growing market of Manchester. He needed to obtain an Act of Parliament and he gained support by promising the price of coal would reduce to 4p per cwt (112lbs or about 50 kilos).

His canal turned out to be a stunning commercial success and soon everyone was investing in canals and shovels were digging and building "cuts", tunnels and aqueducts.

A bit late to the game came a plan for a canal



18 miles long to go from Mable to Leominster.

The Leominster Canal Act 1791 was obtained on 13th May 1791, which allowed the proprietors to raise £150,000, with another £40,000 if necessary. By 1794 the canal had reached Woofferton but it took a further two years to reach Leominster.

Plans to extend east to the River Severn and west to Kington were never realised.

By the 1840s railways and steam engines arrived and canals could not compete. Some commercial canals remained operational until the 1950s but most closed fairly quickly. The Hereford to Shrewsbury railway opened in 1853, so after that the Leominster canal was doomed. It closed just five years later in 1858.


The remains of the aqueduct over the Teme (pictured above) can be seen near Little Hereford and it was still intact until the British army destroyed the centre arch in an explosives exercise during the Second World War. What is left was protected by a Grade 2 listing in 2000.

Known as the bridge of a million bricks, the second largest structure on the canal is Rea Aqueduct over the River Rea at Marlbrook, near Mable. In 2013, due water ingress after torrential rain in the early part of that year, a large part of the eastern side of the aqueduct collapsed into the river.

- The price of coal in Leominster fell from £1.50 to £0.75 per ton when the canal opened.
- The canal never made enough profit to pay a dividend
- Its 18 mile length contained three tunnels, two aqueducts and 16 locks
- Over 4,000 miles of canal were constructed in Britain in the 70 years from 1760.
- £150,000 in 1790 would equal over £5 million in 2025.
- With no mechanical diggers the Leominster Canal project was completed in five years. Take that, HS2!

More information and pictures can be found at <https://leominstercanal.co.uk/>

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Ludlow goes totally quackers – again!

Following the success of Ludlow Rotary Club's first Duck Race last year, which raised over £2,500 for good causes, the club will be holding another on Bank Holiday Monday, 26th May. This year they plan that it will be 'bigger and better' with some 2,500 bright yellow plastic ducks being launched from Dinham Weir to race under the bridge and down the River Teme. This fun event is being arranged to raise funds for Ludlow Rotary Cares, the club's community grants scheme, and other Rotary causes.

There will be five duck races beginning at 11am with everyone who sponsors a duck for £2 having the chance of winning £100 if theirs is the first across the winning line. There will be plenty of opportunity to cheer on the ducks from the banks of the river on the day.



Planning a duck race is no mean feat as the ducks have to be corralled into pens of 500 then decanted into boxes of 100. Each box of 100 ducks is then put into numbered bags, checked and double checked to make sure each ticket sold is allocated to a duck.

As Ray Cork of Ludlow Rotary explained "Even more challenging will be launching the ducks from the weir at the start and then ensuring that all the ducks are collected and none escape at the end of each race. During this process we expect there to be a lot of laughing and counting and, if last year is anything to go by, some cheering in the hope that some of us may even get a little wet."

Ducks are available to sponsor online at www.ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk or by using the QR code on the posters displayed around the town.



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Teme Valley Wildlife

The hills of Worcestershire have been recognised as a site of special landscape and geological interest. They lie on a demarcation line which divides our island into two distinct areas, upland and lowland. Here in the Teme valley we live in upland Britain, the Severn plain east of the Malverns belongs to lowland Britain. The Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark is a designation recognising the importance of our local landscape and brings together people who work in geology, forestry, conservation and education with the aim of influencing its protection and management.

The Geopark covers 1,250 square kilometres of Shropshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire. It is a long thin area running between Bridgnorth and Gloucester and takes in the Abberley, Suckley, Malvern and May Hills. In our region, it stretches west to east from Newnham Bridge to Kidderminster. A good way to enjoy the park is to walk its Geopark Way, a long-distance footpath of 109 miles taking in its high points and



many fabulous views from the hills. Seven years ago, I signed up for a few days' walking with the Malvern Walking Festival and found myself walking my first miles on the path. I have to confess that it was quite a few years before I completed them all, as I only occasionally got round to tackling the next 10-mile stretch.

The weather back in 2018 was hot and sunny when the walk started at the beginning of June. Following the Festival guide, we rambled along the western foothills of the Malvern Hills and in one area passed through grassland dotted with hundreds of dried seedpods which pointed up to the sky. They were just beginning to burst open and shed their seeds, but the nature of their leaves and flowers had long since shrivelled away. I popped an unopened pod into my pocket and then into a brown paper bag when I got home. When it opened, I counted 30 black seeds, each a few millimetres in length, and wondered if they could be

Continued on page 24

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Continued from page 23

daffodil seeds.

How long does it take for a daffodil seed to grow into a flowering plant? In my inexperienced hands, seven years. I planted my mystery seeds in a pot and left it behind the greenhouse. Spring 2019 saw over twenty tiny thin leaves push through the soil, a good germination rate I thought. Since then, I have done nothing other than add a little water when the pot looked dry. This year's excessive rainfall caused me to forget all about watering anything anywhere and it wasn't until the garden daffodils were in full bloom that I suddenly remembered I hadn't paid any attention to my seed experiment. To my joy and delight a single bud was forming on one of the still-diminutive plants. Even more joy, it wasn't eaten by Mitzi muntjac or by a slimy slug or snail. But, joy of joys, it opened into a perfect little wild

daffodil.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 8th May at Stoke Bliss and Kyre village hall. We welcome Rebecca Lashley whose talk is called "Local Nature Recovery Plan". Members and friends are welcome, it is just £3 on the door.

Stephanie Mocroft

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, bird survey and archive photographs are available on our website www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk We normally hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by email at tvwg@outlook.com



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What's on in Teme Valley South

May

1st	Thursday	Area Church Committee AGM, Stanford Village Hall, 7pm
8th	Thursday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am (Note change of date)
		Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 12.30pm
		VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations, Hanley Village Hall, 4.30pm
11th	Sunday	Spring Walk, Apple Cross, Bannals Lane, Stoke Bliss, 10am
		Grand Opening, King's Coronation Orchard and "Jeff's Shed", Stanford VH, 2pm
15th	Thursday	The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm
16th	Friday	Eastham Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
17th	Saturday	Annual Meeting of the Parish of Teme Valley South, Rochford VH, 9.30am
20th	Tuesday	Eastham Memorial Hall AGM, 7pm
24th	Saturday	Hanley Open Gardens and Horticultural Competition, 10.30am
27th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
		Eastham Parish Council Annual Meeting, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
31st	Saturday	Pub & Social Night May Extravaganza, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 4pm

June

5th	Thursday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
12th	Thursday	Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 12.30pm
20th	Friday	Barbecue, Eastham Memorial Hall garden, 6.30pm
24th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
27th	Friday	Social and Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm

July

3rd	Thursday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
4th	Friday	Volante Strings Concert, St Mary's Stanford
10th	Thursday	Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 12.30pm
12th	Saturday	Churchyard working party, St Mary's Stanford, 10am
13th	Sunday	Rochford Fête and Flower Festival
27th	Sunday	Rochford Open Gardens
29th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

August

7th	Thursday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
14th	Thursday	Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 12.30pm
17th	Sunday	Eastham Fête and Produce Show, 12 noon
26th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

**Send items for inclusion to Sandra Griffiths by 18th of the previous month
telephone 07482 482629 or email ronsmum@icloud.com**

Services

May/June 2025

Daily prayer continues at 9am and 7pm on Zoom, contact Rev Julia if you would like to join us. The blessings group meets regularly and is co-ordinated by Richard Skerrett, who can be contacted on 01886 853099 for more details.

The Church of England has a pre-recorded weekly on-line service which can be found by searching 'Church of England Weekly Services' or accessed on their website www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online/weekly-online-services

Services Schedule

Sunday 4th May

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion with Hymns
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Sunday 11th May

9.30am	Stoke Bliss	Holy Communion
11.00am	Hanley William	Holy Communion and Morning Prayer
4.00pm	Hanley Village Hall	Iona Service

Thursday 15th May

6.30pm	Stockton	CARL Rogation
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Sunday 18th May

10.00am	Eastham	All Age and Holy Communion
2.00pm		Walking Church

Saturday 24th May

4.00pm	St Kenelm's, Clifton on Teme	Welly Church
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Sunday 25th May

10.00am	Rochford	All Age and Holy Communion
4.00pm	Cross Farm, Stoke Bliss	Rogation

Sunday 1st June

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion with Hymns
4.00pm	Kyre	Choral Evensong

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