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August 2023

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**Eastham Fête • Open Gardens • Afternoon Teas • Trains
and all your parish news**

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TemeTalk

EASTHAM • ROCHFORD • STOKE BLISS & KYRE • THE HANLEYS • STANFORD

A community going forward with God

August 2023

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

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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

Whilst preparing to write this, I thought I would take a look at a few back issues of TemeTalk. Flicking through various copies looking for inspiration, I came to the August 2019 issue and the photo of Sue Softly and me taken at our Confirmation service in Upton on Severn on 23rd June. That day was a turning point for me and in some ways, as the memory of it fills my mind, it feels like only a few months ago. The reality is that it was four years ago.

Little did any of us know what was to follow. In the spring of 2020 we found all our lives disrupted, we were locked out of our churches due to the Covid pandemic and 'church' went online! The world as we knew it was changed as people began working from home, teaching our children at home and limiting the times we could spend together with those we love.

For me, from the moment I knelt before the bishop at Confirmation and surrendered to Christ, I knew my world had changed. It became a time of discernment and waiting as I began a journey of two years of Licensed Lay Ministry/Reader (LLM) training at Queens Theological college followed by interviews, more discernment, waiting and additional training. I began the Worcester Diocesan Auxiliary Pathway to Ordination in September 2022 alongside my continuing LLM training. Fast forward to 2023 and here I am, still soaking up the news that I am to be ordained at Worcester Cathedral on Sunday 24th September at 6.30pm.

I am really looking forward to being a curate here in Teme Valley South where I will continue my training with and be mentored by Rev'd Julia.

Some people have said they hope that this doesn't change me. I think those of you who know me well have seen a change; but I'm still me. Change isn't something to fear, it has been life changing for me, and I am truly blessed to be walking the path that God has revealed.

Jen Jones

This month's cover photograph:
part of Colin and Tina Lord's magnificent
collection of dahlias in their garden at
Skipperley, Rochford – see page 11

Please note our new email address is
ronsmum@icloud.com



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Teme Valley South Contacts

Priest-in-charge: Julia Curtis 01886 853286
Associate Priest: Sally Jones 01584 819435
Reader: Pete Thorp 07917 783159

Churchwardens

Eastham: Celia Adams 01584 781258
Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317
Stoke Bliss & Kyre: Jen Jones 07749 977821
Hanleys: Ed Yarnold 07930 882728
Stanford: Robin Dean 01886 853295

Pastoral Team

Stanford: Lesley Dean 01886 853295

Hanleys:

Stoke Bliss:

Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Jenny Barbé 01584 781298

Eastham: 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

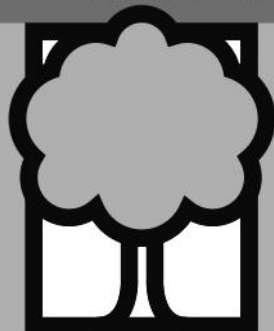
Eastham – Helen Matravers, 07580 158673

Hanley – Judy Bayliss, 01886 853813

Stanford – Catherine Mawby, 07831 303792

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Parish news

From the Registers

Wedding

Our congratulations to **George Morris** and **Clare Kerby** who were married at St Peter and St Paul Church, Eastham, on Saturday 1st July.

Funerals

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of **Garfield James Morris** whose funeral service and burial took place at St Michael's Church, Rochford on 29th June and of **Michael Ralph Winwood** whose funeral service and burial took place on 17th July at St Lawrence Church, Lindridge, officiated by Rev'd Julia Curtis and Licensed Lay Minister Peter Thorp.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Teme Valley Tots

We will be taking a summer break during August. We will be back on 8th September.

Lammas celebration

On 13th August at 4pm we are celebrating the Festival of Lammas or Loaf Mass. We will be at Hollow Meadow at The Retreat, Bank Street in Stoke Bliss WR15 8RY, by kind permission of Maggie Kingston. She says the hay should be cut by then and car parking will be available past the cottage on the right and before the T-junction with the B4214.

John and Julia Curtis celebration

A reminder that on 17th September we will be celebrating five years in this beautiful place. There will be a celebratory church service at 11am (note time change) in Eastham church with Archdeacon Robert followed by lunch at Eastham Memorial Hall. The lunch will be free, but please book with assistanttvspcc@gmail.com so we know how many to cater for. Everyone is very welcome to come along to the church or lunch, or better still both!

Service times and openings

You are very welcome to come and spend some time in any of our beautiful churches to reflect, to pray and just to 'be' for a quiet moment. All continue to be open during the day and Kyre church is open daily from 10am to 4pm. It will still be attended on Friday afternoons with 'Take Breath', our silent prayer time, open to all from 4 to 4.30pm.

Where are they now?

Last summer we hosted two people for placements, Br Martin and Reverend Chris Henson. I'm delighted to be able to share an update on them both. Firstly, Chris has successfully completed his curacy and will be moving to become team vicar in the Halas group, with responsibility for Romsley (a rural location in the Clent Hills) and Lapal (a modern urban church). Br Martin was ordained at Birmingham Cathedral on 24th June and will be a curate working in the city, but staying as a Franciscan friar. Do pray for them both and enjoy the joyous photo of Martin at his ordination.



Congratulations

to Chloe Evans, who completed an epic swim in the Lake District in July. She swam from one end of Ullswater to the other (7.5 miles) in 5 hours 20 mins and 47 seconds! The water temperature was only 15 degrees and she says the torrential rain and potential thunder and lightning storms didn't stop her. She loved the supportive atmosphere and lakeside encouragement as her fiancé ensured she was okay and still swimming north.

Chloe will be working with TVS from the autumn as our Director of Music, which will be somewhat less adventurous than her swimming exploits!



Rev'd Julia

Rochford 49 Club

*Congratulations to this month's
£25 winners!*

Wednesday winners

June 21st No 54 not sold
July 28th No 20 not sold
July 5th No 12 Sheila Palmer
July 12th No 45 Mrs Forsyth

Saturday winners

June 24th No 31 not sold
July 1st No 34 Rob Perrin
July 8th No 14 Mrs Robinson
July 15th No 30 Hugh Nicholson

There are still plenty of numbers available – why not join in? It's just £1 per draw and the profits are split between Rochford church and the village hall – plus you get two chances each week to win £25!

Remember, you must be in it to win it!
Ring Gill Smith on

07815 030050

Teme Valley Tote

July's draw, the fourth in this series, was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 4th July to select the set of random numbers. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **David Abrahams** of Pensax (No 395)
£30 – **Margaret Godsall** of Pensax (No 339)
£20 – **Carole Gardner** of Eastham (No 266)

You can still take part in the Tote. If you have any queries please contact Robin Dean on 01886 853295 or email robin.c.dean@gmail.com.

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TemeTalk deadline 18th August

Remember, this is the *last* day for contributions – the sooner you submit your items, the more chance there is that they will be included
ronsmum@icloud.com or 01568 750665

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Rochford News

August is a quieter month in Rochford as we take a break from community events and let Ann recover. Teme Tots is on summer vacation but will resume in September, together with other community events for the autumn.

We are planning a whist drive for the autumn. We haven't done this for a while but the last one was popular. If you have any ideas for something that you think people will enjoy, please let us know.

Rochford fête

Rochford fête and fun dog show on Sunday 16th July was a tremendous team effort – many thanks to the many people who helped make this a very successful community event which raised nearly £1,700. The weather wasn't kind to us but around 150 people braved the weather. Some heavy showers just dampened our shirts but not our spirits! Many thanks to everyone who supported this event, which ended up with two of us chasing plastic ducks down the river!

Neighbourhood lunch

Ann has taken a break from preparing neighbourhood lunches while she recovers from her kidney stone but hopes to resume normal service soon. Dates for sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are 29th August (provisional), 26th September, 31st October and 28th November. Everyone is welcome and booking for lunches is essential. Takeaways should be collected between 12.30 and 1pm. Please book with Ann on 01584 781317 at least the previous week.

The Big Breakfast

All are welcome on Saturday 30th September at 9.30am so come along and enjoy one of Ann's breakfasts – fruit juice, cereal, full English (with veggie option), toast, tea and coffee followed by an optional walk if you are feeling up to it!

**Advertise your event FREE in
TemeTalk and reach 660
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Dates for your diary

Saturday 21st October – back by popular demand **Fix! Live music** in Rochford village hall. A talented local three-piece electro/acoustic covers band with a repertoire of well-known songs from across the decades.

Friday 10th November – **Rochford Quiz**

Church flower rota for August

Ann Prosser, thank you!

Contacts: Ann on 01584 781317

Andrew on 07809 658484 or through the parish
WhatsApp group

Andrew Barbé

Thank you from Ann

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for their get-well messages, taxi services, cat feeding, offers of help and support. They have been overwhelming and so has the well-meant nagging, it is all so much appreciated.

Thank you all again and I'm sorry there will be no neighbourhood lunches for a while. Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible.

Love, Ann xx

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Friday 25th August from 6pm

Food served at 7pm

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Village Hall

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or 01885 410368



Sponsor a tile!

St Peter's church has been serving the parish of Stoke Bliss since the 12th century, witnessing many changes and challenges. Its current challenge may be the biggest threat ever.

The church roof restoration project aims to refurbish the roof and then replace the ceiling of the nave to secure the future of the church. The current estimate for the work is at least £100,000.

The roof above the nave has about 16,000 tiles on it. To help with the fund raising, you can sponsor as many tiles as you like for only £5 each.

You can donate online by scanning this QR code with your smart phone to generate the link.



So please help to save this beautiful church by sponsoring one or more tiles today!

Neighbourhood Lunch

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

Thursday 10th August

Thursday 14th September

Welcome at 12.30pm

Telephone 01885 410641 or email

lunchkasb@aol.com if you would like to come



Social & Pub Night

Friday 29th September

Bar opens at 7, supper served at 8pm

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

Reserve your meal with Julia on

sbkvillagehall@gmail.com or 01885 410368



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Eastham Jottings

Church flowers and cleaning

August – Alison Brookes

September – Mel Cumming

There are vacancies in 2024 so we are looking for volunteers. Please ring Celia Adams on 01584 781258 or email easthamcourt@icloud.com.

Eastham Coffee Morning

This month's coffee morning is on Wednesday 2nd August at 10.30am at Eastham Memorial Hall. The rota is

Wednesday 2nd August – Jane Yarnold

Wednesday 6th September – Ann Hadfield

In July we were joined by Linda Price, community builder for Malvern Hills District Council. She is looking at ways to engage with the rural community in the Malvern Hills area and would be interested to hear of any initiatives needing help. Linda hopes to return to the coffee morning in August so please come along and meet her as she has lots of ideas and potential access to funding.

Swifts at Eastham church

As usual the swifts have returned this summer to nest in our fine old church. Swifts are in sad decline and are on the red list but they continue to return to the church in good numbers. It is amazing to think how many generations have bred in the hundreds of years the church has been standing. If you would like to share local information please get in touch with Ann Hadfield at cannhadfield@hotmail.com. If you would like to know more about these amazing birds see www.swift-conservation.org.

Zumba Gold, Pilates and Yoga and Kung Fu at Eastham Memorial Hall

- Pilates starts again on 12th September. Contact Sue on 07974 343609, sue579@icloud.com. Tuesdays at 1pm and 2.15pm.
- Yoga classes start again on 13th September at 10am. Ring Zoe on 07962 981456 or see www.zedyoga.co.uk. Get in touch during August to book for autumn term.
- Zumba Gold, Lucia on 07709 301030, lu.500@live.co.uk. Classes from 9th August. Just turn up.
- Kung Fu, Adam on 07720 643524, for youngsters on Saturdays at 9.30am. Runs through the summer holidays.

Eastham Pub Night

Come along for a drink and a catch up on Friday 18th August at 7pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Everyone welcome. Look for the usual banner.

Eastham Fête and fun dog show

Hold on to your hats, Eastham's highly anticipated fête and flower show is just around the corner.

Once again we are **asking for donations** to make this event a great success. We need all the usual stuff, cakes for the cake stall and tea tent, bottles for the tombola and quality items you might want yourselves for other stalls such as books, plants and bric-a-brac. If you have things to donate either take them to the stall organisers, leave in the back of Eastham church for collection or ring 01584 781505 and we can try and arrange collection – but not on the day of the fête please!

The raffle is one of the best money earners at the fête and you can't win without a ticket. The more you buy the better your chance. Please collect and return books and takings to Celia Adams (01584 781258) – there are lots to be sold so make sure you have your quota.

We always need **extra help at the fête** and there is plenty to do on the day, just let us know. We also have to set up and take down the tents and move everything from the hall to the fête field and then back again. This starts with putting up the tents on Friday and dressing the site on Saturday morning in time for the fête to start on Sunday at noon. If you want to help, we start at around 9am so just come along and make yourself known and we'll find you something to do.

If you are **entering the produce or dog show**, check out the schedule which should have been delivered to you. If you need a copy please ring 01584 781258 or email easthamfete@gmail.com and we'll get one to you. We have a whole host of cups waiting to go home with someone!

Remember the fête is free and there is lots to do and see. Please make all the hard work worthwhile by coming along and enjoying it – you'll also be helping to raise vital funds for your village hall and church. We hope to see you on **Sunday 20th August** for a fun-packed afternoon.

Celia Adams

See page 10 for details of the Eastham Fête Fun Dog Show.

Hanley Happenings

A Countryside Evening to remember

The Hanleys Countryside Evening held on 24th June was a great success, raising much needed funds to secure the future of the village hall. It was a beautiful summer's evening. Children had acres of space to play and activities to enjoy. For adults there were panoramic views, the barbecue, bar and plenty of cake. Congratulations to Susanne who won the bottle barrow raffle and to Tom who once again milked the cow in the fastest time!

The money raised went towards a new double range cooker for the village hall where we hope to hold more events in the future. Look out for details. Many thanks to everyone who helped, especially the village hall committee who ran the event, Flushed Away for donating the toilet, and Spilsbury & Jones Brewing Co for the use of the bar.

Light a beacon for D-day in 2024

You are invited back to Court Farm on 6th June next year to light a beacon to celebrate 80 years since the D-Day landings in 1944, the largest naval, air and land operation in history. The heroism of those who landed on the shores represented a beacon of light for the world during dark periods of war. Communities throughout the UK and beyond will light beacons in tribute to the light of peace that they brought out of the misery of darkness.

We will also be paying tribute to the brave fisherman who fished the dangerous seas during the war by serving up fish and chips from the multi award winning Our Plaice Fish & Chips – not to be missed.

Edward Yarnold

Look out for pigs!

It's not unusual to see walkers in the Hanleys but when the walkers are Gloucester Old Spot pigs it's worthy of comment. The "family" having a quick wander were "spotted" and their owners traced. Whatever next on the Broadheath?

Anyone for tennis?

Did Wimbledon really make you want to get out the whites, restrung the racquets and find your tennis balls! This summer Margie Thorneycroft has again opened her tennis courts to anyone who wants to play, just give her a ring on 01885 410264 or 07796 081857 to book a time. Donations to leukaemia research.

Hanley Village Hall

Money raised through successful grant applications and fundraising activities is being used to give Hanley village hall a much needed facelift. The exterior has been jet washed and looks much brighter, there's new signage and a state of the art range cooker has been installed.

Sarah Geggie and her committee hope to have new windows in place soon and she tells me a fridge freezer is next on the list. They ask that we all try to join in their planned activities so that even more improvements can be made. These include produce bring and buy and afternoon tea on 12th August, children's clothing and toy sale on 22nd September and a race night on 6th October. If you can donate a prize for this last event please contact Lexi at ajmoorealexamoore@hotmail.com

Please see all listings for future events – there are so many planned.

It's all go at Hanley House

Hanley House car park was full last weekend, as pre-wedding drinks were served to celebrate the nuptials of Clare Kerby and George Morris. We wish them all the best for many happy years.

If you missed the Thai evening at Hanley house you missed a fantastic event. Congratulations to Ann Lawson on her culinary skills and to Anna and Tom (and mum and dad!) and delightful Poppy for the friendly atmosphere and service. More events are planned. Hanley House is a brilliant spot for family parties – the view, the bar and the decor will make your occasion really special.

Carol Gardner

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Are you a local business or individual wanting to host an event or class/group for the community?

Hire our hall for £30 per day (hourly rates negotiable)

Contact **Judy Bayliss on 01886 853813**

for more information

Raising funds for the village hall refurbishment

**Deadline for the September issue
of TemeTalk is 18th August**

Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

Services in Stanford

Sunday 6th August

Holy Communion with hymns at 10.30am

Praise Service at 4pm

Sunday 3rd September

Holy Communion with hymns at 10.30am

Praise Service at 4pm

Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)

A while ago I asked you to consider giving regularly to St Mary's church. I am again appealing for regular donations. We are part of the Church of England's Parish Giving Scheme. There are several ways to set up your payment.

Phone 0333 002 1271, give them our church number (420642278) and they can set up a direct debit. You will need your debit card details. If you pay tax, they will claim Gift Aid on our behalf. They will also ask you if you wish to index link your contribution on each anniversary.

You can also set up a payment from the PGS website, www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/stanford-with-orleton-st-mary-stanford-on-teme, or by using this QR code – again you will need your debit card details.



Future events

- We are planning a Harvest Lunch following our Harvest Service on Sunday 1st October.
- We hope to have another wine tasting evening.
- The sweater sale returns on 18th November.
- We hope to have another Christmas Tree Festival in December.

If you have any other ideas for events, please let me know.

Zed Yoga

Yoga classes at
Eastham Memorial Hall
For adults of all ages

Please contact Zoe Herington:
www.zedyoga.co.uk
Tel: 07962 981456

Supporting Tenbury Food Bank

The box in the lobby continues to be used – thank you to all who have contributed. Please keep your donations coming.

St Mary's church

St Mary's is now open every day from dawn to dusk. The front door will be open (please do not shut) and the main door will be closed but unlocked. Please visit and sign the visitors book and leave any donations you wish! We are getting visitors from all over the world and locally, who are delighted to have the church open and comment on its beauty.

Volunteers please – again

We still need volunteers for the area church committee and/or the village hall committee. Robin (01886 853295) is happy to explain what is involved and you are welcome to attend one of our meetings, so that you can see what it is like. We still need people to organise and assist.

Robin is particularly looking for a churchwarden to assist him and take over – dare you volunteer? While it would be great to have a volunteer from Stanford, you can come from anywhere in Teme Valley South. You should be confirmed!

Robin Dean

Marika Harding
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Hanley Broadheath

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TemeTalk deadline 18th August

Cellulitis can kill

When Liz Cattani noticed a rash on her arm and started to feel hot and shivery, she went to A&E and found herself in a hospital bed and on a drip for three days. She had cellulitis, a common bacterial skin infection that causes redness, swelling, and pain. If it spreads it can cause serious health problems.

Liz had been hedge cutting and picking up the clippings without wearing thick gloves. It's likely that a sharp twig had pierced her thumb allowing bacteria to enter her blood stream. She had surgery on her thumb to remove the poison and three different types of antibiotics to prevent the infection spreading.

Cellulitis is scary and can kill if left untreated, so take care when gardening – remember, prevention is better than cure.



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Eastham Fête Fun Dog Show

Is your dog glum? Why not take one of ten chances to turn his day around and enter him in the Fun Dog Show to be held as part of Eastham Fête on Sunday 20th August at Eastham Memorial Hall?

Classes are

1. Cutest puppy (up to 12 months)
2. Prettiest bitch
3. Most handsome dog
4. Most obedient
5. Golden oldie (over 9 years)
6. Best crossbreed
7. Best retriever
8. Best trick
9. Best young handler (under 14)
10. Best in show wins a prize



Entries from 1pm, £2 per entry

Rosettes awarded up to 6th place

Contact easthamfete@yahoo.co.uk

All dogs must be kept on a lead and under control during the fête and dog show.

Please clean up after your dog.

Children under 14 must be supervised and assisted by an adult.



Richard Haines

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Sunday 27th August 4-8pm

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Gourmet burger, trimmings & slaw
Pint or Pimms included

Child ticket £9

Book at:
Hanleyhouse.co.uk

Afternoon tea among the dahlias

Colin and Tina Lord open their beautiful garden to support Breast Cancer Now

When Colin and Tina Lord moved to Skipperley in Rochford nearly twenty years ago, in November 2003, the garden was a blank canvas. The couple, who are both keen gardeners, worked hard to establish extensive borders, both formal and informal. Perennial planting was foremost, followed by shrubs, so the garden always has colour, style and structure throughout the year.

More recently Tina has fallen in love with dahlias and now has over 270 plants covering more than 100 varieties – that's some collection.

In March 2021 Tina was diagnosed with breast cancer and needed chemotherapy. As she says, "I managed to get my head around this with a lot of help from family and friends, and also from the charity Breast Cancer Now."

Five months of chemotherapy shrank the cancer. Surgery, radiotherapy and more scans followed. Breast Cancer Now helped her to understand what was happening and to find help when it was needed. Tina is currently cancer free.

Breast Cancer Now, the UK's largest breast cancer charity, was formed in 2015 by the merger of Breast Cancer Campaign and Breakthrough Breast Cancer. Its declared action plan is "by 2050 everyone who develops breast cancer will live".

Now Colin and Tina would like to give something back to the charity which helped them so much, so on Saturday 12th August they are opening their garden for everyone to enjoy and hosting an afternoon tea, with quiches, sandwiches, cakes and scones.

Come along to Skipperley (WR15 8SL) between 12 noon and 5pm. The cost for afternoon tea is £10 per head to include a choice of drinks. To just visit the garden is £5. To book afternoon tea please text Tina on 07919 340294 or call 01584 781578 during office hours.

Their beautiful garden was and still is Tina's sanctuary, so please help Colin and Tina support this wonderful charity.



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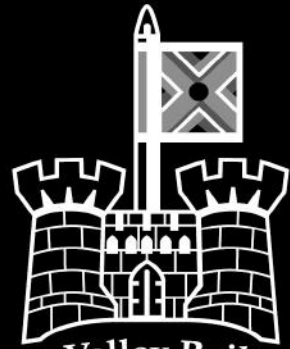
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A talk by Heather Edwards about her time at Windsor as groom to Queen Elizabeth II's horses

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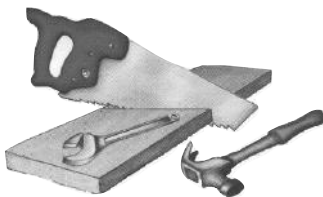
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Films at Hanley Village Hall

Saturday 2nd September, 7pm

The Fabelmans

Growing up in post-World War II era Arizona, young Sammy Fabelman aspires to become a filmmaker as he reaches adolescence, but soon discovers a shattering family secret and explores how the power of films can help him see the truth.

Stars Paul Dano, Michelle Williams
Director Steven Spielberg

£6 per person, wine and canapés

Please book with Trace on 07972 183164



Celebrating ten years of films at Hanley Village Hall

Rural Reels became affiliated with Arts Alive and Flicks in the Sticks ten years ago on 6th September 2013. Hanley Village Hall became a member at the start, has shown almost 70 films to date and raised just under £4,000 for the village hall. This could not have been achieved without the help, hard work and dedication of our technician Robin, Lesley who serves wine, my sous-chef Sue and head of house Bern. The farthest anyone has travelled to support was from Canada, and the closest is Peggy across the road. Pete came to almost 50 films until I forgot to display the banner. Many friends, both new and longstanding, have been made during this time.

At a recent meeting it was decided that to celebrate the anniversary, all member village halls would show the film *The Fabelmans*. This award winning film (28 wins and 271 nominations) tells the story of a young Steven Spielberg – a semi-autobiographical story of childhood starring Paul Dano and Michelle Williams.

Wine and canapés will be served on Saturday 2nd September at Hanley Village Hall to celebrate this ten-year anniversary, starting at 7pm to allow time before the film to eat, drink and mingle. Tickets are £6 per person, cash on the door – we look forward to your continuing support.

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Aubergine moussaka rolls

Moussaka is a labour of love which is totally worth it when you have the time. But when you don't, these rolls are the answer. Transforming the big layered oven-baked dish into a slightly lighter snackable affair, this recipe is great for bringing to a friend's house as it just needs a quick blast under the grill before serving.

Serves 4-6



Ingredients

Olive oil for brushing and frying
1 red onion, finely chopped
250g lamb mince
1 garlic clove, crushed
1 tbsp tomato purée
100ml red wine
227g tin chopped tomatoes
Pinch ground cinnamon
2 large aubergines
30g unsalted butter
2 tbsp plain flour
350ml whole milk
1 medium egg yolk, lightly beaten
Freshly grated nutmeg to serve
15g parmesan or other hard cheese, finely grated

Method

Heat a large pan over a medium-high heat and add a little oil. Add the onion with a pinch of salt and fry until softened and light golden. Stir in the mince, breaking it up with a wooden spoon. After a few minutes, once it's started to brown, add the garlic and tomato purée and cook for another minute or so.

Pour in the wine and bubble for a few minutes until reduced to almost nothing, then add the chopped tomatoes and cinnamon. Bring to a simmer and bubble for at least 30 minutes, stirring regularly, until the sauce has reduced so it just coats the meat.

Meanwhile, cut the aubergines lengthways into 5mm thick slices. Heat a griddle pan over a high heat, brush the slices with a little oil and cook for a few minutes on each side, until lightly charred. You'll need to do this in batches. Lay the slices on a tray or board.

For the bechamel, heat the butter in a medium pan. Once melted, stir in the flour and cook for a few minutes. Gradually add the milk, stirring constantly to make a creamy sauce. Once it's all combined, gently cook for 5 minutes over a medium heat to thicken. Remove from the heat, stir in the egg yolk, grate over some nutmeg and season.

Heat the grill to high. Pour the bechamel into a baking dish. Add a spoonful of the meat filling near the bottom end of an aubergine slice, then wrap the aubergine around it to create a little stuffed roll. Nestle the roll in the bechamel sauce seam-side down. Repeat until all the meat and aubergine is used up. Sprinkle over the parmesan and pop under a hot grill for a few minutes until everything is golden and bubbling.

SG

(with thanks to *Delicious magazine*)

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A Bunch of Amateurs

The Regal Community Theatre's very professional performance

An amateur dramatics group staging a play about an amateur dramatics group staging a production of Shakespeare's King Lear – what could possibly go wrong? But when fading Hollywood action hero Jefferson Steele arrived, believing he was to play King Lear at the RSC in Stratford only to find that he was with the Stratford Players in a sleepy Worcestershire town, things did indeed go very awry.

Director Peter Hayter did a fine job of bringing *A Bunch of Amateurs*, with its sparkling script by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman, to the Regal Theatre's stage at the end of June.

David Spragg as the brash, demanding Jefferson Steele, complete with American accent, captured the actor's swagger and egotism, and his growing humility as events unfolded. Jefferson's sparring partner, the unbearably pompous Nigel Dewbury who believed he was the only true actor in the town, was played with great panache by John Bryan.

Jane Bull was outstanding as Dorothy Nettle, the director determined to save the Stratford Players' fortunes: the perfect calming influence on all the other characters. And Anne Churchill was delightful as the glamorous Mary Plunkett, in awe of Jefferson and hoping to give him more than just bed and breakfast! Her brief turn as a flamenco dancer, complete with castanets, nearly brought the (very full) house down!

Steve Gray was clownish Dennis Dobbins, the handyman cum thespian, with great comic timing, keeping the laughs coming with his witty dialogue and clever props.

The arrival of Jefferson's daughter Jessica, played by the engaging Lucy Smith with another convincing American accent, had a profound effect on her estranged father. Lauren Bell, breezy PR guru, physiotherapist and wife of the group's sponsor, who also had a profound effect not only on Jefferson but on the whole plot, was played with great verve by Rachel Packard.

And finally Jeremy Boaz, Colin Love, Gavin McEwan, Alison Pelling, Just Raymond and John Sly added atmosphere to the performance as a gaggle of journalists hot on Jefferson's trail.

Peter Hayter was ably assisted by producer Cathy Warburton and by the excellent set design, sound and lighting. The programme warned of "occasional loud bangs" – it wasn't wrong!

Everything turned out all right in the end, as it usually does! The Stratford Players finally produced an accomplished performance of King Lear, Jefferson found his true vocation – and his true love – and was reunited with Jessica, and the Stratford Players were invited to the real Stratford to perform King Lear.

A very professional performance for a bunch of amateurs!

SG

*A very professional
performance for a bunch
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Garfield Morris

This is part of the eulogy for Garfield Morris who was buried at St Michael's Church, Rochford on 29th June.

Garfield Morris (Garf) was born on 11th October 1947 and brought up at The Caulders in Rochford, the only child of Harold and Connie Morris. Garf had to overcome a lot of physical challenges when he was a child – he was born with a club foot which was a great struggle for him when learning to walk but he never moaned about it or let it get him down. His cousin Malcolm helped him learn to ride his bike, running beside him as he found his balance and later helped him learn to drive the first of his many cars, his beloved white mini.

Garf's first job was storeman and salesman with F H Burgess, the local agricultural engineers in Tenbury. He was very well respected at his job and was loyal to Burgess at the Tenbury, Bromyard and Worcester depots until they all closed in 1991. He went on to work at Martley Power Tools as a garden machinery salesman and then transferred to Midland Power Tools doing telesales which he really enjoyed.

Garf always thought he was going to be a bachelor forever and never have a family of his own but in 1981 he met Stella who was working at F H Burgess in Tewkesbury as a receptionist. After chatting for a few months on the phone they went out on a date and Stella told him to look out for a lady wearing a velvet skirt with a nice brooch.

However there were a few ladies out that evening in Cheltenham wearing that same sort of skirt and brooch and he started chatting to another lady before he soon realised it wasn't Stella and made a quick exit!

The date went well and Garf and Stella were married on 7th May 1982. They had two daughters, Alison and Louise, which made his life complete.

He was a true family man and the girls have so many happy memories of the family together, summers in the garden playing football, holidays to Newquay in Wales, Cornwall and Devon, visiting animal parks and theme parks, racing go carts and whizzing down water tunnels on inflatables. Garf was proud of his family and his grandchildren Mya and James were the apple of his eye.



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Tractors help to raise the roof

22 tractors took part in the Baiting House Tractor Club's tractor run on Sunday 2nd July, travelling by a circuitous route from the Baiting House via Stoke Bliss, Whitbourne and Bringsty Common to Lulsley for lunch and back to the New Inn at Clifton by an equally circuitous route, a total journey of 26 miles.

Organisers Neil Sparey and John Griffiths would like to thank Jim and Hazel Farrant for allowing the tractors to go through Underley Farm. Thanks also to all the tractor drivers for taking part, and to Neil Sparey for devising the route. The event raised a total of £220 which is to be donated to the Stoke Bliss church roof restoration fund.



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Arts Society Teme Valley needs new members

All societies which are recruiting want younger members. The young are the future. However the Arts Society Teme Valley takes a pragmatic view. While arts are life enhancing for people of all ages, younger people have commitments on Wednesday afternoons. They have jobs or children to be collected from school. But the retired are free to devote a Wednesday afternoon once a month to attending a lecture on an arts subject.

Arts Society lectures are on the third Wednesday of the month in autumn, winter and spring. They start at 2.15 pm in Ludlow Assembly Rooms. For more information phone 07801 178846 or see www.theartsocietytemevalley.org.uk.

Some arts societies have waiting lists for members and no room for visitors. ASTV is privileged to hold lectures in the Assembly Rooms in Ludlow with plenty of space for members and visitors.

The knowledge and enthusiasm of nationally recognised lecturers make lectures enjoyable and mentally stimulating. Arts Society lectures are good for you. Lecture subjects range from Caravaggio to Banksy and post war fashion.

Visitors are welcome for £8 paid at the door. So you can come and see what we are like without committing to membership. After the lecture enjoy tea or coffee and cake with chat. What's not to like? Please do come.



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Teme Valley Wildlife

Have you been suffering from hay fever lately? If so, you are not alone because nearly half of the population succumbs to itchy, watery eyes and noses at some time or another. This year's high pollen counts have made it more common than ever. Pollen from trees, grasses and weeds trigger the symptoms. All the main culprits produce masses of tiny grains which are carried on the wind and thus have the potential to be breathed in and cause a reaction. Wind-pollinated plants produce very light grains that can travel many miles, so you don't even need to be close by to suffer their effects.

What are pollen grains and what are they for? They are tiny structures by which male DNA is conveyed to female DNA within plants. They range in size from 15 to 100 microns and are usually round or oval. Their surfaces can be smooth, grooved, granular or spined, and these characteristics help to identify which species they belong to. The study of pollen is called palynology and experts at Worcester University compile national pollen counts and, in conjunction with the Met Of-



fice, daily pollen forecasts between mid-March and early October. The first allergenic pollen of the year is tree pollen, followed by grass and nettles. 95% of hay fever sufferers are affected by grass pollen, 20% by tree pollen. Of the latter birch and plane trees cause the most trouble. Birch produces a bumper crop of pollen one year,

then a lesser one the next.

Pollen grains possess a tough outer coating made from a substance called sporocellulin. This can survive for centuries, particularly in water, peat or lake sediments. This quality has made them important to archaeologists who look for them in pottery, tools and fabrics found at archaeological sites. Pollen dating, in which particular groupings of pollen types known from specific eras are compared with a test sample, can be used to date artefacts in times much earlier than those amenable to radiocarbon dating. Archaeologists also use such information to judge changes in climate, land use and forestation. The presence of pollen from cornfield weeds has been employed

Continued on page 24

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Continued from page 23

to track the spread of agriculture during the Neolithic period.

As wildlife enthusiasts, we are frequently encouraged to plant flowers to attract pollinators. These are the insects (and occasionally other creatures) who transport pollen for flowering plants. It is amazing that flowering plants only produce

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attractive flowers in order to entice insects to do a better pollinating job than the wind. Pollen from one flower, if transferred to the female organs of a different flower of the same species, ensures health and vigour within a plant population. Flowering plants also came up with the idea of providing nectar to reward their helpers. Without them there would be no honeybees. Unlike the pollen produced by wind-pollinated plants, flowering plant pollen is sticky and clump-forming to help it adhere to insects. Some flowers, notably orchids, have special sacs of pollen called pollinia which the plants ensure go through elaborate manoeuvres in order to facilitate exact transfer from one plant to the next. Clever plants.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at Stoke Bliss and Kyre village hall on Thursday 10th August at 7.30pm. Our speaker is Eric Davies whose talk will be about the birds and bees of the eastern Algarve. Everyone is most welcome and it is just £2 on the door.

Stephanie Microft

For up-to-date information on what wildlife is being seen in the area, or to give us your sightings or comments, 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 twwg@outlook.com

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Kyre Park Garden



The Park consists of five lakes, waterfalls, follies, a Grade II listed Jacobean barn, a ruin and a Norman dovecote

Open daily 10am to 5pm

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

Art classes at Hanley

Art classes are on Wednesday evenings
from 7 to 8.30 pm
at Hanley Village Hall
Please contact Ange Jordan on 07830 914430
if you would like to come

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.

Tenbury Transport Trust

Patron Angela Brinton, Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire (Rtd)

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Are you struggling to use public transport?

Or perhaps you don't have access to public transport?

Then we may be able to help

Established as a charity in 2014, Tenbury Transport Trust aims to meet
the transport needs of **all ages and abilities** in Tenbury Wells and the surrounding area
We use cars and **wheelchair accessible mini buses** and provide a safe door-to-door service

It costs just £5 per person per year to become a member so give us a ring today on

01584 810491

Our office is at 34 Teme Street, Tenbury Wells, WR15 8AA

We are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm

email admin@ttrust.org.uk website www.ttrust.org.uk Follow us on Facebook

**If you would like to become part of this amazing organisation as a volunteer
please get in touch on 01584 810491**

Farm Community Network

Confidential phone line 7am to 11pm

0845 367 9990

Samaritans

01905 21121/0345 909090

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Tenbury & District Carers Support Group

meets on the 4th Wednesday of every
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What's on in Teme Valley South

August

- 2nd Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
10th Thursday Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
12th Saturday Produce Bring and Buy and Afternoon Tea, Hanley Village Hall, 3pm
Open Garden and Afternoon Tea, Skipperley, Rochford, 12 noon
18th Friday Eastham Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
19th Saturday Train Day at Kyre Valley Railway, The Hyde, Stoke Bliss, 2pm
20th Sunday Eastham Fête and Flower Show, Eastham Memorial Hall, 12 noon
25th Friday Summer Barbecue, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 6pm
29th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm (provisional)

September

- 2nd Saturday Film Night at Hanley Village Hall, *The Fabelmans*, 7pm
3rd Sunday Judging of the Hanleys Scarecrow Competition
6th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
8th Friday All the Queen's Horses, talk by Heather Edwards, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 7.30pm
14th Thursday Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
16th Saturday Ploughing Match, Wolferlow Court, 10am
17th Sunday John and Julia Curtis' five-year anniversary service and lunch, 11am
22nd Friday Sale of children's toys and clothes and dinner party, Hanley Village Hall, 3.30pm
26th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
29th Friday Social and Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm
30th Saturday The Big Breakfast, Rochford, 9.30am

October

- 1st Sunday Harvest Service and Harvest Lunch, St Mary's, Stanford
4th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
6th Friday A Night at the Races, Hanley Village Hall, 7pm
12th Thursday Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
14th Saturday Quiz Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall
21st Saturday Fix! Live music at Rochford Village Hall
31st Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

November

- 1st Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
10th Friday Rochford Quiz
18th Saturday Sweater Sale, Stanford Village Hall
28th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

Send items for inclusion to Sandra Griffiths
by 18th of the previous month
telephone 01568 750665 or email ronsmum@icloud.com

Services

August/September 2023

Daily prayer continues at 9am and 7pm on Zoom, please 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 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 6th August

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion and hymns
4.00pm	Stanford	Praise Service

Sunday 13th August

10.00am	Stoke Bliss	Holy Communion
4.00pm	Stoke Bliss	Café Church for Lammas at Hollow Meadow, The Retreat, Stoke Bliss

Sunday 20th August

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

Sunday 27th August

10.00am	Rochford	All Age Worship and Holy Communion
4.00pm	Hanley Childe	Evening Service

Sunday 3rd September

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion and hymns
4.00pm	Stanford	Praise Service

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