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June 2023



**In this issue**

**Open gardens, Volante Strings, Countryside Evening  
and all your parish news**

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# TemeTalk

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*A community going forward with God*

**June 2023**

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

Designed and typeset by  
Sandra Griffiths  
Telephone 01568 750665  
ronsmum@btconnect.com

Printed by  
Orphans Press, Leominster

**Editor:**

Sandra Griffiths  
Grey Gables, St Michaels  
Tenbury Wells WR15 8TW  
Telephone 01568 750665  
ronsmum@btconnect.com

**Distribution:**

Alison and Keith Tompsett  
(Stoke Bliss & Kyre)  
Averil Opperman (The Hanleys,  
Eastham and Rochford)  
Sue Softly (Stanford)

**Priest-in-charge**

Rev'd Julia Curtis  
Telephone 01886 853286  
revjuliacurtis@gmail.com

**Parish website**

[www.temevalleysouth.org.uk](http://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

The shortest day is almost upon us, the sun has been shining and the delights of spring are giving way to the expectation of summer to come.

I am writing on Rogation Day when traditionally we beat the bounds of our parish and ask for blessings on the land and all who work to produce our food. We give thanks for the fruits of creation in all its abundance. And these days we promise to do all in our power to cherish these precious gifts and leave our mother earth in good shape for future generations.

This year we celebrated Rogation at our Sunday afternoon Café Church up on the Broadheath. Rectory Lane is right on top of the Teme Valley world. We walked and talked and stopped to pray and sing our way from Hanley village hall, around the Rectory garden and back again. We scattered prayer and song over fields and farms, woodland and meadow, orchard and veg patch. Singing lifted us even beyond the highest point in the parish ...

Of all the things that happened in the month of May the surprise moment for me was the Eurovision Song contest. It wasn't top of my list and then I switched on just for the fun of it and I found it completely captivating, joyous and energetic. All these countries, each so different, singing their hearts out, for fun and friendship.

What is it about music which so much lifts the spirits? I loved looking after our TVS Nomadic Singers all those years ago. About a dozen of us wandered about the parish singing at each of our churches from time to time at Easter, say, or Mothering Sunday or Harvest. A motley crowd. As the years went by our numbers decreased. Our last engagement was for a wedding at Kyre. We had a farewell picnic by the lake.

There are still a few of us around and last Christmas we were delighted to sing in a scratch choir at Stanford under the leadership of Chloe Evans, a professional musician who grew up in

*Continued on page 3*

This month's cover photograph is one of the many "Charles" scarecrows which decorated Rochford for the Coronation weekend.

King Charles playing polo was designed and built by Mark and Sue Bridge.



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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](mailto:stokeblisskyrevillagehall@gmail.com)

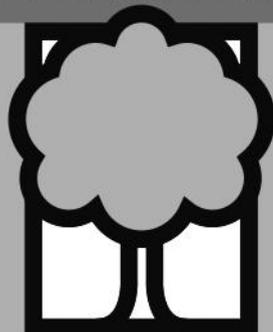
**Rochford** – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317

**Eastham** – Helen Matravers, 07580 158673

**Hanley** – Judy Bayliss, 01886 853813

**Stanford** – Robin Dean, 01886 853295

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# Parish news

*Continued from page 1*

Rochford and now lives in Hanley Childe. The really, really good news is that the parish is supporting her application for funding to lead a chamber choir in TVS to enrich our church music-making. There is the possibility, too, of finding funds for a Teme Valley community choir which would be great for people like me, who sing for the fun of it and to bring pleasure to those who come to listen or join in. We'll keep you posted.

May your summer be richly blessed,  
*Reverend Sally*

## From the Registers

### Funerals

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of Louise Shakespeare, whose funeral service took place at St Peter and St Paul, Eastham on 15th May followed by cremation at Wyre Forest crematorium.

Reunited with relatives and held in God's love. May she rest in peace.

## Teme Valley Tots

Thanks to our helpers for providing cake and a cuppa and for being on hand for play and stories. We will be meeting at Rochford Village Hall on Fridays from 1 to 2.30pm during June, except Friday 2nd June which is half term. We have had a kind donation which has helped fund some new storage and toys, so come and see what awaits!

## In celebration of volunteers

Our Café Church from 4 to 5pm on Sunday 11th June will be celebrating those who give their time freely to help keep our communities and organisations running. So many people are very generous with their time and talents, and we don't often stop to think about all the positive things that happen as a result. So come along to Hanley village hall for a cup of tea and a piece of cake and enjoy a chat about what you already do or ideas on what you might explore in the future.

## Service times and openings

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

## Coronation in Teme Valley South

At our combined parish service representatives from all our communities shared what they would be doing to celebrate the Coronation and we raised a glass to bless the weekend after the service finished. It was an inspiring and encouraging selection of events ranging from Ringing for the King (part of the Bromyard Bell Ringers round tour), planting an orchard, plays, lunches, scarecrow trails and afternoon teas. Such a wonderful effort.

Our photograph shows the people involved in the Stanford Community Orchard, with special thanks to Louise at Angel Gardens for sourcing the beautiful trees.

*Rev'd Julia*



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# Rochford 49 Club

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

## Wednesday winners

April 19th No 37 not sold  
April 26th No 17 not sold  
May 3rd No 25 Barbara Weaver  
May 10th No 12 Sheila Palmer  
May 17th No 17 not sold

## Saturday winners

April 22nd No 46 not sold  
April 29th No 59 not sold  
May 6th No 7 Jon Adams  
May 13th No 28 Bernard Reece

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

Because we didn't have a draw at the beginning of April, there are two draws this month. Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 4th May to select the random numbers and starting points for April and May.

## April draw (the first in this series)

Prizewinners are:

£50 – **David Pearson** of Stoke Bliss (No 832)

£30 – **Mr and Mrs Higginson** of Knighton  
(No 698)

£20 – **Sabine Aspinnall** of Pensax (No 387)

## May draw (the second in this series)

Prizewinners are:

£50 – **Peter Collings** of Knighton (No 646)

£30 – **Barney Clarke** of Stockton (No 427)

£20 – **Debbie and Mike Breakwell** of Pensax  
(No 321)

If you have any queries please contact Robin Dean on 01886 853295 or email [robin.c.dean@gmail.com](mailto:robin.c.dean@gmail.com).

## TemeTalk deadline 18th June

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](mailto:ronsmum@icloud.com) or 01568750665

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# Rochford News

## Rochford Coronation Celebrations

Thank you to everyone who got involved in the Coronation events – scarecrows (see cover picture) and the delicious bring and share lunch – which made it such a successful community celebration. I asked Jean Harrison to write an appreciation of the Coronation celebrations, which she did with her usual style and enthusiasm (see page 19).

## Teme Valley Tots

Teme Tots enjoyed a Coronation themed morning – many thanks to all the helpers (see photo on page 10). The tots went home with crowns they had made, pictures of King Charles and flags to wave. Mums and tots enjoyed Coronation cakes (thanks Ann). They ended by singing Coronation themed rhymes – Old King Cole, The Grand Old Duke of York and The Queen of Hearts.

## Rochford Open Gardens

On Sunday 4th June from 12 noon to 5pm Rochford will again be opening some of its lovely gardens. (*My apologies for the incorrect date last month, Ed.*) There will be refreshments and plants for sale, beautiful views and different styles and designs. Come and spend a relaxing afternoon in our early summer gardens. Maps and tickets will be available from the village hall. Jan Winter is organising this year's Open Gardens so please contact her if you can help with this event.

## Neighbourhood lunch

Dates for sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are 27th June, 25th July, 29th August, 26th September and 31st October. Everyone is welcome and booking for lunches is essential. Take-aways should be collected between 12.30 and 1pm. Please book with Ann on 01584 781317 at least the previous week.

## Pizza Girls

The Pizza Girls are back in Rochford on Thursday 29th June at Rochford Village Hall from 5.30 to 8pm. Pre-order on 07198941699 or just turn up and order on the night. (See WhatsApp for details).

**Deadline 18th June**  
[ronsmum@icloud.com](mailto:ronsmum@icloud.com)

## Rochford Fête

Rochford Fête and Fun Dog Show will be held on Sunday 16th July. It is always an enjoyable afternoon with a range of stalls and competitions together with a grand draw and cream teas. Please let us know if you have any ideas for the afternoon or if you can help with this event or provide any donations for the cake stall, tombola, white elephant, plant and book stalls.

## Dates for your diary

Saturday 30th September – **The Big Breakfast**

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

Friday 10th November – **Rochford Quiz**

## Church flower rota for June

Amy Jones, thank you!

Contacts: Ann on 01584 781317

Andrew on 07809 658484 or through the parish WhatsApp group

*Andrew Barbé*

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# Stoke Bliss and Kyre

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Village Hall**



Reserve your place with Julia  
on [sbkvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:sbkvillagehall@gmail.com)

## Social & Pub Night

**Friday 30th June**

**Bar opens at 7, supper served at 8pm  
Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall**

*Reserve your meal with Julia on  
[sbkvillagehall@gmail.com](mailto:sbkvillagehall@gmail.com) or 01885 410368*

## Neighbourhood Lunch



Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall  
**Thursday 8th June  
Thursday 13th July**  
Welcome at 12.30pm



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## Open Day at Hollow Meadow

Hollow Meadow will be open on Sunday 4th June  
from 2 to 5pm. The orchids, meadowsweet and all  
their companions will be pleased to welcome you  
to their home in the meadow and hope the  
weather is fine – but bring wellies and water-  
proofs just in case!

There will also be a display on the long term  
plans for the meadow.

Hollow Meadow is just off the B4214 after the  
turn to Stoke Bliss and the Hanleys, with parking  
in the next door field.

## Kyre church spring clean

We will be polishing the floor and weeding the  
borders on Friday 16th June from 10 am to 12  
noon and from 2 to 4pm, and Saturday 17th June  
from 10am to 12 noon. We need volunteers to  
move the pews and help with cleaning. If you  
have a carpet shampooer please bring it along, the  
carpet would benefit from a clean (after the pew  
moving of course).

Last year we completed it all in a record time of  
four hours so more helpers means less time taken.  
Refreshments will be provided.

Please let Maggie Kingston know what you can  
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# Eastham Jottings

## Church flowers and cleaning

June – Helen Matravers

July – Adrian and Joanna Worsley

More helpers are needed – there's always an opportunity to join the rota. You don't have to be a great flower arranger! Please ring Celia Adams, 01584 781258 or email easthamcourt@icloud.com.

## Eastham Coffee Morning

This month's coffee morning is on Wednesday 7th June at 10.30am at Eastham Memorial Hall. The rota for May and June:

Wednesday 7th June – Nicky Webb

Wednesday 5th July – Celia Adams

Wednesday 2nd August – Jane Yarnold

Thanks to everyone who brought memorabilia for the Coronation coffee morning on 3rd May: Coronation mugs from 1953 and before, Coronation tea cups from 1937 (King George VI and Queen Elizabeth) and even an original dress worn on Coronation Day 1953. Thanks to Helen Matravers for the lovely red, white and blue scones.

## Coronation Big Lunch

On Coronation Sunday, 7th May, the sun shone after the rain the previous day. Thanks to everyone who turned out on in advance to help with preparations and then on Friday to put up tents, fetch chairs, carry tables and generally assist. Thanks to the Saturday crew and then thanks to the whole village (far too many names to mention) who came up trumps to come along on Coronation Sunday when the sun shone all afternoon so everyone could enjoy the music of Blue Moon, have plenty of food and drink, support the raffle and help raise a special Eastham Coronation donation for Amber Beverley-Smith. Very special thanks to Beryl and Liann for organising such a successful Coronation Big Lunch celebration.

## Eastham Memorial Hall AGM

This took place on 16th May. The accounts were presented with the report of the independent examiner Barbara Selkirk ACCA. For a copy of the annual report, please visit the Eastham Memorial Hall website. The trustees for the forthcoming year are Mike Palfrey, Simon Neary, Beryl Lewis and Celia Adams. The Parish Council Trustee is Michael Adams.

## Planning application

A planning application has been lodged with Malvern Hills District Council for an extension to the rear of the Memorial Hall to provide an additional storage area. More to follow.

## Community Coronation Ramble

This has been rearranged and will be on Sunday 2nd July at 1pm. Organised by Teme Valley Walkers (see page 16).

## Eastham Riverside Fête

Eastham fête organisers remind you to hold open the date, 20th August from 12 noon, for our annual fête and flower show. All the normal fun and games will be there, plenty to see and do for the whole family to have a great day out without breaking the bank.

If you would like to see the day from both sides and join in the fun of helping in some way, setting up or helping on the day, please get in touch with the organisers. There will be plenty to do. If you fancy entering the produce show there are loads of cups to compete for and if you have not had a schedule yet, please let us know at easthamfete@gmail.com or phone David on 01584 781505.

## Ring for the King

Thanks to the Bromyard bell ringers, pictured below, who rang out the bells at Eastham at 10am on Coronation Day before moving on to a packed day ringing at Bredenburg, Pencombe, Stoke Lacy, Much Cowarne, Bishops Frome and Whitbourne. A small group welcomed the ringers with prosecco and cucumber sandwiches to send them on their way to Herefordshire after ringing the Eastham bells with gusto!

*Celia Adams*



*Photo by Martin Bennett, Axiom Pictures*

# Hanley Happenings

## Village Committee

The next meeting is on 13th June at 7.30pm at The Fox. The meeting is open to the public and we encourage you to join – let's create a fun and eventful village!

Donations of cakes or tray bakes for the Countryside Evening would be gratefully received.

If you can't come to the meeting please get in touch with Sarah at [hcyarnold@hotmail.com](mailto:hcyarnold@hotmail.com) or 07796 170949.

## Hanley Open Gardens

Things are gearing up for this event on the afternoon of 10th June. Margie Thorneycroft is compiling a list of the gardens that will be open and will produce a map for visitors. If you are willing to open your garden please let Margie know as soon as you can. I will be sharing my weed infested, pot holed (thanks Percy!) work in progress. Come and have a look, maybe give advice and admire my shed!

Garden tickets are £5. Cream teas, also £5, will be available at Margie's later in the afternoon. All proceeds will go to leukaemia research.

## Hanley House

Things move on apace at Hanley House, the hedge is growing and there is blossom on the trees. The pop-up restaurant opens on 8th July with a Thai meal prepared by local chef Ann Lawson. A few tables remain so contact Anna and Tom as soon as you can to enjoy a first class meal and have a look inside. The bar opens at 6 and dining is at 7.30.

As part of the open gardens event Anna and Tom will be hosting a display of hand stitched and machine quilted bed covers, wall hangings and Christmas decorations by our own Chris Dalton who lives on Bell Lane. They must be seen to be believed! Another skilled and talented resident of The Hanleys.

## Countryside Evening

On Saturday 24th June at 6pm at Court Farm, Hanley Childe (for and on behalf of the village hall). Raffle, bonfire, bar, food, tea and cake, children's entertainment – and the panoramic view! If wet the venue will change to the village hall. (See p13)

## Books, books – whoops!

My apologies to everyone who turned up to visit the mobile library at Hanley Village Hall and found that it had gone! I made an error with the times, it's only there from 12.10 to 12.40 – half an hour to peruse the selection of titles.

## Road works

Well done to all residents and visitors who had to negotiate intermittently closed sections of the B4204 on the Broadheath in May. Some journeys took twice as long as normal and ice-cream bought at Baileys at Stanford Bridge had melted by the time I got home!

The works are now complete and in the long term we will all benefit.

*Carole Gardner*

**Deadline for the July issue  
of TemeTalk is 18th June**

*Richard Haines*

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## Services in Stanford

### Sunday 4th June – Trinity Sunday

Holy Communion with hymns at 10.30am

Praise Service – **this will now be held at 3pm**

at Skipperley, Rochford WR15 8SL

### Sunday 2nd July

Holy Communion with hymns at 10.30am

Praise Service at 4pm

## Village Hall Committee AGM

The AGM of Stanford with Orleton Village Hall Committee will be held in the village hall at 8pm on 8th June. All who wish to attend will be very welcome. There will be elections for the secretary, the booking secretary and the treasurer – we need nominations for these.

## Volante Strings

St Mary's is hosting another concert at 7.30pm on 9th June. See page 14 for full details.

## Coronation Orchard Planting

Thanks to David Smith whose idea it was to plant an orchard on Sunday 7th May. Thanks also to Louise who supplied 50 trees (apple, pear, cherry and plum) and Jonte who drilled the holes.

The day after a wet Coronation Day, we were blessed with super weather (not too hot). We were able to choose our fruit tree and Jane Smith noted our choice and directed us to the previously drilled hole (the intention is that there will be a map showing who planted the trees). There we were assisted in planting the tree by David Smith and Chris Wall.

After all the physical exercise we were rewarded with wine or lager and quiche or a ham bap. Thanks to Sue, Tina, Catherine, Ann and others for supplying the food and drink. Also thank you to everyone who was involved in the organisation of the day.

Lovely idea – lovely day!

## Supporting Tenbury Food Bank

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

## Teme Valley Tote

We made two draws, for April and May, at the beginning of May. You can still join by contacting Alexandra or Robin.

## Sad news

Brian Mills died on 11th May. He came with Janet to Stanford in 1977. Since then he was a member of the Stanford PCC and then ACC – he was treasurer and chairman of both and also treasurer of the newly formed Teme Valley South PCC. He was a leading light in obtaining grants to improve St Mary's – today we have dry feet and a magnificent building because of his efforts. We pray for him, Janet, Milly and Paul and the grandchildren.

John Nicklin died last month. While John lived in Martley, he was our main contact for Martley Webmesh (a radio based internet connection delivered locally from St Mary's). He was also a keen local geologist and paths warden. We'll miss his good humour and can-do personality.

## 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*



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## The Filling Station

Our next meeting is on Thursday 15th June at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start when Tony Hyams will be speaking to us. Tony is an evangelist who has ministered abroad as well as conducting tent missions in the UK. He is married with one daughter.

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 or details about our meetings please contact me on [kate.harley6@gmail.com](mailto:kate.harley6@gmail.com)

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### TEME VALLEY TOTS!



Every Friday  
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## Tots celebrate Coronation



Teme Valley Tots helpers at a Coronation themed session on Friday 5th May. Back row, left to right, Jane Bull and Tina Lord, middle row Jenny Barbé, Ann Prosser and Helen Barlow, and in front Julia Curtis.



HANLEY HOUSE

TEME VALLEY

## Thai pop up July 8<sup>th</sup> with Ann Lawson

Email to reserve,  
more details to follow

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# HANLEY HOUSE



Hi, Anna and Tom here, with our children George and Harry

We moved to Teme Valley a year ago after finding our dream business in the heart of a fantastic country community that we wanted to be part of.

We have spent the last year pouring our blood, sweat and tears into the old Tally Ho pub.

We have renovated three (nearly four) of the eight rooms with lots of colour and quirk, and the bar into a characterful events space. Anna would say she has an eye for design and Tom would say he makes it all work practically and together we make a great team. We've thoroughly enjoyed bringing Hanley House to life.

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Our beautiful event space is able to seat approximately 40 and is available for hire.

Look out for our pop up restaurant events advertised here and online. Each will be different with guest chefs from around the world.

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# A Countryside Evening



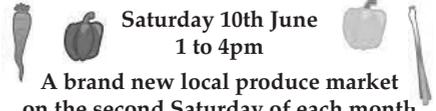
Saturday 24th June  
at 6pm  
Court Farm, Hanley Childe  
WR15 8QY

Raffle • Bonfire • Bar • Food  
Tea and Cake  
Children's entertainment  
... and the panoramic view!



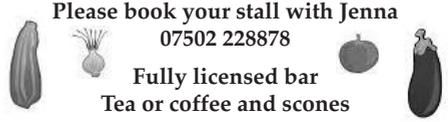
*Raising funds on behalf of Hanley Village Hall  
If wet the event will move to the Village Hall*

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Saturday 10th June  
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Friday 9th June  
7.30pm

Tickets £12.50 children free  
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Saturday 10th June  
from 1pm

Cream teas at  
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from 3.30pm

Please collect your map  
from Town Farm  
Gardens £5  
Cream teas £5

Parking available

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# Rochford Open Gardens

Sunday 4th June  
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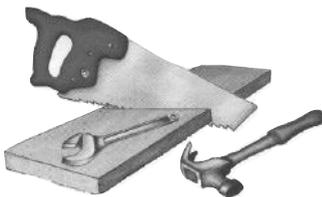
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## *The Gardens of Wichenford*

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# Louise Shakespeare

The village of Eastham was blessed to have Cliff and Louise Shakespeare amongst its residents. They moved here in 1972 and from then until Louise moved into Tenbury after Cliff's death, they made a huge contribution to village life.

They both loved living in the unspoilt beauty of the Teme valley at The Dingle on the Highwood, protected by beautiful trees and shrubs and with a wonderful view of the Clee Hills. A quiet and gentle couple, they enjoyed nature and embraced the countryside.

They saw above and beyond what many of us see through the eyes of their camera lenses and have left a wonderful legacy in their beautiful photograph albums. They took many of the photographs for Eastham's millennium book, *Eastham: Within Living Memory* capturing the essence of life in Eastham perfectly.

Louise was an only child, born to Doris and Arch Hunter in 1935 in Camberwell in the London borough of 'Suthick' (Southwark). In her teens Louise became a secretary in London and then decided to follow in her grandmother's footsteps and visit Canada. On the boat she met a handsome, dashing young man. They fell hopelessly in love and were married on board!

They explored Canada together and worked hard. Cliff was determined to make enough money to return to the UK, buy a home and open a mechanic's workshop. All of which he did at The Dingle.

Louise loved painting all her life; flowers were a particular favourite. She used to love visiting all the galleries in London, so perhaps it was a natural progression from painting to photography for

Louise. She and Cliff could be so funny about their work – both claiming to have taken a particular picture! They were madly competitive yet equally talented. Often I think Cliff was just winding her up!

Theirs was a rich and colourful life together. When Cliff died at The Dingle in 2011, Louise was understandably lost. Her health had started to decline further although she continued her long happy walks. She tried to live on her own but found it lonely. Although Cliff loved his cars, Louise had never learned to drive so she was isolated on the Highwood and moved to Cralves Mead in Tenbury. From here she continued her walks, made regular visits to The Spotty Dog café and frequently took the bus to Worcester or Ludlow to explore.

But she was still lonely. Eventually she just couldn't cope and moved into the Old Rectory in June 2017 where she became as loved by the staff as she was by everyone. They became like a family to her. She was always cheerful and grateful, and had that beautiful smile on her face and her infectious laugh – right up to the morning she died.

A friend who cared for Lou at the Old Rectory said that during the night Lou had told a nurse that soon she would be joining her dear husband. Then her face lit up and she said, "Ah, there he is!" Hours later she died peacefully in her sleep.

An era has ended in Eastham but we are all the richer for our own Shakespearean period.

*From the eulogy given by Averil Opperman at Louise Shakespeare's funeral on Monday 15th May.*

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## How sweet to be a cloud ....

The recent unsettled weather, veering between fitful sunshine, blustery winds and downpours, has been a perfect time for admiring the magnificent clouds in fascinating shapes which can sometimes look strangely familiar. Shakespeare described them in Anthony and Cleopatra: *"Sometimes we see a cloud that's dragonish/A vapour sometime like a bear or lion/A towered citadel, a pendent rock"*.

It's human nature to let the imagination run wild and look for familiar patterns, whether it's the man in the moon, castles floating by in clouds or a slice of toast.

This urge to see patterns has a name – pareidolia – and it seems to be hard-wired into the brain. Clouds are a particularly good place for pareidolia, which may explain why the Cloud Appreciation Society has grown into a hugely popular international body since it was founded by Gavin Pretor-Pinney in the UK in 2005.

Go to [cloudappreciationsociety.org](http://cloudappreciationsociety.org) to find today's cloud, the cloud of the month, recent clouds, cloud art, cloud music, cloud poetry – there's even a shop for cloudy things!

## Making a splash for Amber

A fabulous fundraiser at Spilsbury & Jones Tap House on Sunday 14th May raised over £7,000 for Amber Beverley-Smith and her family.

The event, organised by Tom and Amber Spilsbury, included a duck race and an auction of promises.

11-year-old Amber has already beaten cancer once and her parents, Simon and Tracy, were devastated when they learnt last November that her cancer had returned and that the treatment would be even more brutal than before.

As Simon says, "In true British fashion we're too proud to ask for help but we are so grateful to Amber and Tom Spilsbury for organising this awesome fundraiser, at a loss to themselves ... true heroes.

"The money raised means that we can concentrate on Amber's recovery rather than worrying about losing Tracy's salary while she cares for Amber. But more than this, knowing that we have the support of so many friends, family and complete strangers means the world to us."

If you would like to help please go to [www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Amber-lily](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Amber-lily) and give what you can so that Simon and Tracy can concentrate on making Amber more comfortable.



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## Rochford's Coronation Celebrations

I cannot allow the events of Coronation Sunday in Rochford to pass without a few comments of acclaim and gratitude to all who contributed to what turned out to be a veritable *tour de force* of successful organisation and stage management in every sense.

Initially the preparation and coordination of the Big Lunch was impeccable and special congratulations must go to the Master of Ceremonies, Andrew Barbé, who piloted the smooth running of everything, with the help of Jenny and Ann and a team of helpers. Thanks to everyone who brought food which provided a sumptuous and varied meal enjoyed by all.

The presentation of well-deserved awards to all entrants of the scarecrow competition was followed by the performance of a very ingenious play, written and performed by Taresh and Emma. How fortunate we are to have such talented actors living in our midst!

This multi-faceted play, based on the events at the time of King Charles III's birth in 1948, embraced many historical and literary components, so that the ghosts from Dickens' Christmas Carol were able to show the versatility of both actors as masters of mime. Speedy transition of characters

and accents, aided by the use of simple props, was skilfully executed. Who would believe that a rolling pin used with skilful miming could produce such a convincing bicycle.

Even the youngest members of the audience were spell-bound and cleverly drawn into the plot by being invited to take part in the sporting events of the 1948 Olympics. At the same time the adults were given a reminder of the historical facts and personalities of the time. All in all, this was a triumph for which Emma and Taresh are to be congratulated.

We toasted our new King Charles III in a joyously appropriate manner and I would suggest that Rochford's whole afternoon of events fulfilled the King's desire that we should all pull together in unity and love.

Jean Harrison

**TemTalk deadline 18th June**  
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# REGAL JUNE EVENTS\*

TENBURY WELLS

\*programme as of 15/05/23



### NTLive: Best of Enemies (15)

1 June at 7pm

David Harewood (Homeland) and Zachary Quinto (Star Trek) play feuding political rivals.

Live Broadcast

### The Animal Man presents Party Animals

2 June at 2pm

Join Corner Exotics for an interactive, entertaining and educational fact-filled animal show. Raising money for the Regal School of Creative Arts.

Live Family Show

### Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3 (PG)

2 & 3 June 7pm, 3 & 4 June, 2pm

Still reeling from the loss of Gamora, Peter Quill must rally his team to defend the universe and protect one of their own.

Family Film

### Air (15)

5, 6, 8 June at 7pm, Monday matinee 5 June at 2pm

Based on true events about the origin of Air Jordan.

Stars Matt Damon, Ben Affleck, Jason Bateman, Marton Wayans

Film



#VolunteersWeek

### Summer Fete & Volunteer Recruitment Open Day

3 June at 10am - 1pm

Featuring stalls such as homemade crafts, floristry, pickles, plants, cakes and more and learn more about volunteering at the Regal.

### Save the Cinema (12)

7 June at 7pm

FREE film for ALL local Tenbury volunteers marking the end of Volunteers' Week. Come & join us to thank all those who make a difference in our local community.

Film

### Book Club: The Next Chapter (PG)

9, 10 & 12 June at 7pm, Monday matinee 12 June at 2pm

Four best friends take their book club to Italy for the fun girls trip they never had. Stars Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda, Candice Bergen & Mary Steenburgen

### My Romantic History (15)

10 June at 7.30pm (contains strong language)

Students from Hereford College of Arts in conjunction with One Night Stand Productions present a dark comic play by D.C. Jackson.

### ROH Opera: IL Trovatore

13 June at 7.15 PM

A devastating curse rises from the ashes in Verdi's monumental tale of superstition and rivalry.

### NTLive: Fleabag (15)

15 June at 7pm

A dry-witted woman, known only as Fleabag, has no filter as she navigates life and love in London. Written and performed by Phoebe Waller-Bridge

### Are you there god? It's me, Margaret. (PG)

16 & 19 June at 7pm, 18 and 19 (Monday matinee) June at 2pm

A coming of age movie based on the much loved book by Judy Blume.

Stars Abby Ryder Fortson, Rachel McAdams, Kathy Bates

### All or Nothing Experience

17 June at 7.30pm

Celebrating the Small Faces' journey through their unique and electrifying sound. Including the hits What'cha Gonna Do About It, Itchycoo Park & more.

### 'A Bunch of Amateurs'

29, 30, June & 1 July at 7.30pm & 1 July at 2.30pm

A comic play written by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman presented by the Regal in partnership with the Regal Community Theatre.

Film

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Film

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## A BUNCH OF AMATEURS

The Regal, in partnership with the Regal Community Theatre group, is delighted to present 'A Bunch of Amateurs', a sparkling comedy written by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman.

Keen to boost his flagging career, fading Hollywood action hero Jefferson Steele arrives in England to play King Lear in Stratford – only to find that this is not the birthplace of the Bard, but a sleepy Worcestershire town. And instead of Kenneth Branagh and Dame Judi Dench, the cast are a bunch of amateurs trying to save their theatre from developers. Jefferson's monstrous ego, vanity and insecurity are tested to the limit by the enthusiastic am-dram thespians. As acting worlds collide and Jefferson's career implodes, he discovers some truths about himself – along with his inner King Lear!

**Thursday 29th June, 7.30 pm**

**Friday 30th June, 7.30 pm**

**Saturday 1st July, 2.30 p.m. and 7.30 pm**

Tickets are available from the Regal Box Office  
**01584 811442**

and online at [www.regaltenbury.co.uk/events](http://www.regaltenbury.co.uk/events)  
[www.facebook.com/RegalCommunityTheatre](http://www.facebook.com/RegalCommunityTheatre)



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- Yoga on Wednesday mornings, suitable for adults of all ages. Call Zoe on 07962 981456, [info@zedyoga.co.uk](mailto:info@zedyoga.co.uk).
- Zumba Gold on Wednesdays at 1pm. Call Lucia on 07709 301030, [lu.500@live.co.uk](mailto:lu.500@live.co.uk).
- Kung Fu for youngsters on Saturdays at 9.30am. Call Adam on 07720 643524.

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at Hanley Village Hall

Please contact Ange Jordan on 07830 914430  
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## Getting a service put right

**I've just had my bathroom retiled, but I'm not happy with the work.**

At first, things seemed to be going well, but then the tradesperson left to do another job and I had to chase them for updates. They did eventually come back and finish the job, but the work was pretty rough around the edges. They also left all the old tiles and plaster for me to dispose of, which I wasn't expecting. I've now got the invoice, but I don't think the price reflects the the service I got. Can I challenge this?

It's always frustrating when you run into problems with home improvements.

You mention that the job looked "rough round the edges". If this is to a degree you could consider the job unfinished or unsafe, you should be able to get the tiler to come back to fix it. You could also suggest removing the old tiles might be considered as part of finishing the job.

If the tiler considers the work complete, it's worth knowing you're protected by the Consumer Rights Act 2015, which says the tiler should have completed the work with "reasonable care and skill". If they haven't done this, they've broken the law. The Act means you're legally entitled to ask the tiler to fix the problem (if they provided the

tiles as well as the service) or get money refunded (if they just provided the service and you bought the tiles). They should fix the problem or refund you in a reasonable amount of time, without causing too much inconvenience. As you've received the invoice for the work but not paid yet, now would be a good time to ask them to fix the issue or you can negotiate a lower price for the work.

Let the tiler know you understand what you're entitled to. Speak to them in person, or contact them in writing, there are template letters on the Citizens Advice website. Either way make sure you have a written copy of anything agreed. Before you contact them, it's a good idea to take photographs to use as evidence of the problem. Make notes about what happened, including dates and times. You should also gather any paperwork and receipts – was there any prior written agreement about who would dispose of the old tiles? Was the final cost in line with estimates or quotes given to you at the outset of the work. If not, there is advice on the Citizens Advice website about steps you can take.

*For further information and advice, please contact your local Citizens Advice South Worcestershire office on 01684 563611 or [www.citizensadvice.co.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.co.uk)*



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# Teme Valley Wildlife

I visited my local church for a service on Good Friday and was struck by the simple beauty of a branch of pussy willow placed in a plain vase in front of the porch window. The rest of the church was unadorned, waiting to be filled with the Easter flowers of resurrection.

Palm Sunday has traditionally been the day for pussy willow, more properly named goat willow or *Salix caprea*, to enter churches. Willow sprays were once used as a substitute for palms on Palm Sunday and some churchgoers wore willow sprigs in their lapels when attending services on that special day.

Goat willow is a plant of damp places and is the commonest and most widespread type of willow growing in the British Isles. The graceful silvery buds that we call pussy willows are soft and tactile and go on to develop into catkins. The buds appear in January and by March the male form opens into a cloud of yellow pollen. Whilst in this stage they have been dubbed "goslings" because



of their resemblance to newly hatched geese. The plant gained the name "Gosling-tree" in Wiltshire for this reason. Known elsewhere as the great willow or saugh-tree, in our local three counties it is more commonly referred to as the sally.

The tree comes in separate male and female forms. The buds open before the oval leaves, which have a pointed tip, hairy stalks and a grey-green colour. Their matt upper surface is darker than the silvery underside. Most willows are pollinated by the wind, but the pussy willow produces nectar to attract bees and flies. These insects aid the process and find the goat willow to be an important early source of both nectar and pollen. Later in the year and in the south of England, it acts as the food-plant for the caterpillars of the rare purple emperor butterfly.

Goat willow is a native tree and is known as a pioneer species – one which quickly colonises a

*Continued on page 24*

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Continued from page 23

newly cleared area. Alongside birch and aspen, it was one of the first trees to grow in the tundra of Britain after the last ice age. It makes either a large shrub or a tree ten metres or so in height, and if cut down rapidly sends up new shoots. These can grow by two inches a day and can reach a height of 11 feet in the first season after felling. Goat willow wood makes good charcoal and was formerly valued by makers of gunpowder. However, it is not good as firewood because it crackles violently when burnt. It was used for wattle, part of the "wattle and daub" of latter-day house construction, and tannin and salicin, a source of aspirin, were once extracted from its bark.

Finally, where did the name goat willow come from? It apparently refers to its first known illustration, printed in a herbal by Hieronymus Bock in 1546. He gave a description of the plant and the

accompanying woodcut shows a small tree being grazed by a goat.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will take place at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall on Thursday 8th June at 7.30pm. We welcome Alison Wakeman whose talk is called "Awareness of bees and their importance in the environment". Everyone is most welcome and it is just £2 on the door.

*Stephanie Mcroft*

*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 the website [www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk](http://www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk) We normally hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by email at [twvg@outlook.com](mailto:twvg@outlook.com)*

	<h3>Caspian Wood Lakeside Glamping in Eastham</h3> <p>Enjoy a relaxing peaceful stay in our Treehouse (sleeps 6) Lakehouse (sleeps 2-4) or Shepherd Hut (sleeps 2-4) Set in secluded woodland surrounding a freshwater lake, the perfect family getaway for you or visiting friends</p>	<h3>Wellbeing at Caspian Wood brings you equine therapy for adults and children</h3> <p>I specialise in working with children with SEN and their families Being out in nature and around horses brings calm and balance to a busy mind. Great for reducing anxiety, increasing confidence and self belief.</p> <p><b>Call Nicky for more information 07487 868952 or find us on Facebook</b></p>
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<h2>Lindridge</h2> <h3>Pre-School</h3>	<p><b>“ Lindridge pre-school is attentive to the needs of children and places priority on helping children settle and gain confidence ”</b></p> <p>Ofsted 2017</p> <p>Situated in the beautiful Teme Valley amidst stunning countryside, our small and friendly Pre-school is the perfect setting for your child's early development.</p> <p>Holding the highest level of accreditation by the Pre-School Learning Alliance in their Quality Assurance Scheme, we encourage learning through educational play in our indoor and outdoor classrooms and outdoor 'muddy area'.</p> <p>An independent charity run pre-school set in the grounds of Lindridge Primary School, we enjoy close links with the school, enabling a crossover of learning opportunities as well as facilitating an easy transition into primary school life within the local area.</p> <p>We take children from 2 to 4 years of age and we are open from Monday to Friday, 8.50am to 3pm.</p> <p>For more information please contact the Pre-School on 01584 881647 or visit us at <a href="http://www.lindridge-pre-school.co.uk">www.lindridge-pre-school.co.uk</a></p>
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# What's on in Teme Valley South

## June

3rd	Saturday	Summer Barbecue, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 4pm
4th	Sunday	Rochford Open Gardens, 12 noon Open Day at Hollow Meadow, Stoke Bliss, 2pm
7th	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
8th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm Stanford with Orleton Village Hall Committee, Stanford Village Hall, 8pm
9th	Friday	Volante Strings, St Mary's Church Stanford, 7.30pm
10th	Saturday	Hanley Open Gardens, 1pm Local Produce Market, Eastham Memorial Hall, 1pm
13th	Tuesday	Hanley Village Committee meeting, The Fox, 7.30pm
15th	Thursday	The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm
16th	Friday	Kyre church spring clean, 10am and 2pm Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
24th	Saturday	Countryside Evening, Court Farm, Hanley Childe, 6pm
25th	Sunday	Stoke Bliss Open Gardens, 2pm
27th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
29th	Thursday	The Pizza Girls, Rochford Village Hall, 5.30 to 8pm
30th	Friday	Social and Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm

## July

2nd	Sunday	Community Coronation Ramble, Eastham Memorial Hall, 1pm
5th	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
13th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
16th	Sunday	Rochford Fête and Fun Dog Show
21st	Friday	Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
25th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

## August

2nd	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
10th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
20th	Sunday	Eastham Riverside Fête
29th	Tuesday	Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

## September

5th	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
14th	Thursday	Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
30th	Saturday	The Big Breakfast, Rochford

**Send items for inclusion to Sandra Griffiths  
by 18th of the previous month  
telephone 01568 750665 or email [ronsmum@icloud.com](mailto:ronsmum@icloud.com)**

# Services

## June/July 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](http://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online/weekly-online-services)

### Services Schedule

#### Sunday 4th June

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion with hymns
3.00pm	<b>Skipperley, Rochford</b> <b>WR15 8LS</b>	Praise Service

#### Sunday 11th June

10.00am	Hanley Childe	Holy Communion
4.00pm	Hanley Village Hall	Café Church – in celebration of volunteers

#### Sunday 18th June

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

#### Sunday 25th June

10.00am	Rochford	All Age Service and Holy Communion
4.00pm	Stoke Bliss	Evening Prayer

#### Sunday 2nd July

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



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