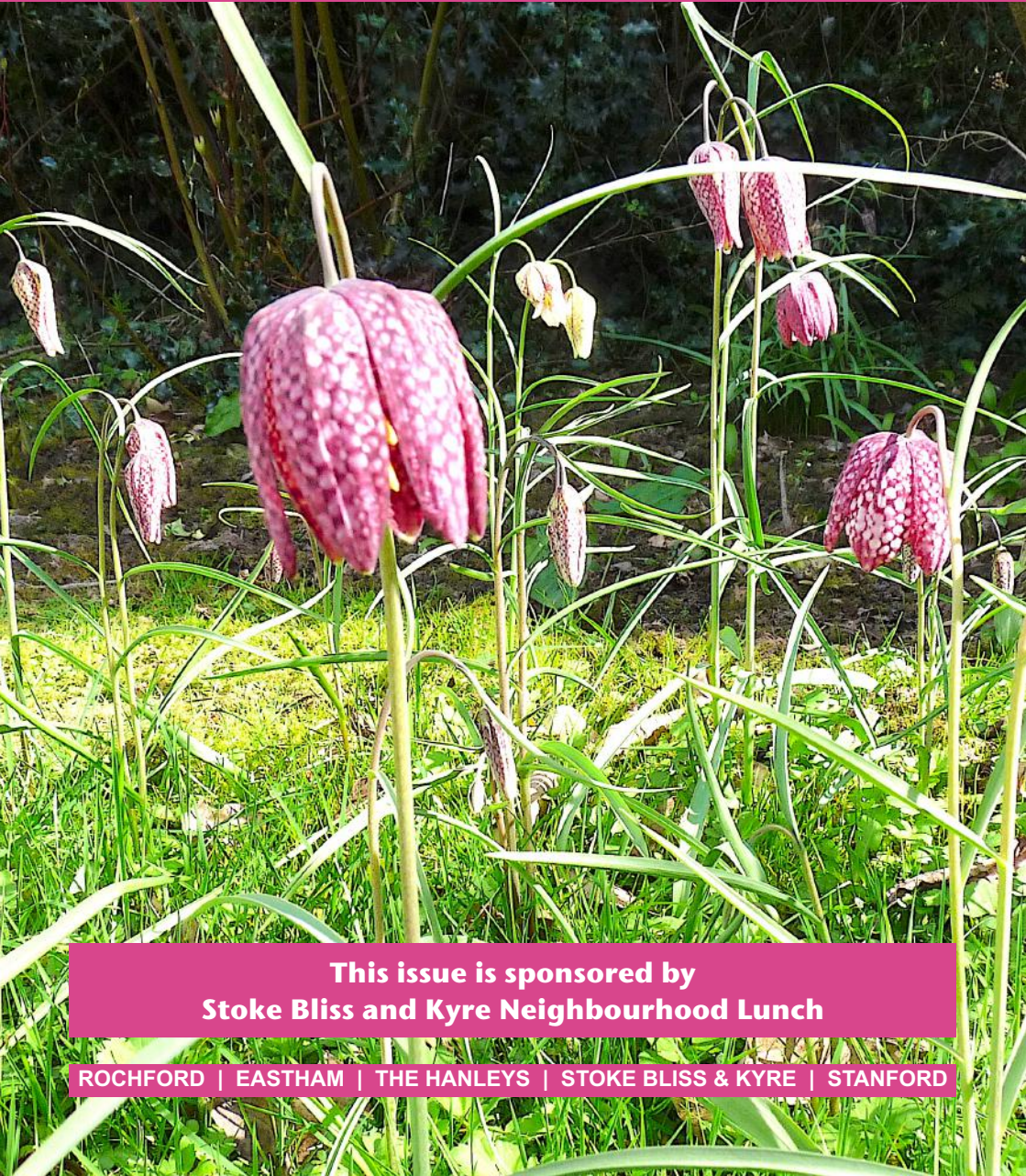


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May 2024



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TemeTalk

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A community going forward with God

May 2024

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

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Parish website

www.temevalleysouth.org.uk

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

Dear Readers

We have come through a dark, wet winter and early spring. Now we can look forward to warm, sunny days, good for land and spirit alike. The world beyond our green and pleasant parish has been suffering in all sorts of ways too and we can't help but feel the pain of conflict and disorder. We worry about what is in store.

It happens that among my family and friends there are several birthdays at this time of year. I am discovering that there is nothing like a party, a convivial gathering, to dispel the blues and lift the spirits. It's made me think. It doesn't have to be a birthday, though rites of passage work their own wonder. You can pick up the phone at any time and ask a friend around, or go for a walk with someone you don't often see. We need a change of mood, a change of pace – a cup of tea in the garden with a neighbour, a film at the Regal, a village hall event, a shared activity (you could try our new Iona Service at Hanley village hall), a bus ride – get off somewhere you've never been before.

Is it the prospect of summer that's making me skittish? I hope the mood is catching and that you, dear reader, will look up and find joy in small pleasures, come what may.

Rev'd Sally

Yoga class

at Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall
Tuesday mornings from 10 to 11am
Please contact Karen on 07789 913425

TemeTalk deadline 18th May



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Teme Valley South Contacts

Priest-in-charge: Julia Curtis 01886 853286

Assistant Curate: Jen Jones 07749 977821

LLM Reader: Pete Thorp 07917 783159

Retired clergy: Robert Barlow, Sally Jones

Churchwardens

Eastham: Celia Adams 01584 781258

Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Stoke Bliss & Kyre:

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

Village Hall Bookings

Stoke Bliss & Kyre

Janet Powell, 01885 410598

stokeblisskyrevillagehall@gmail.com

Rochford – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317

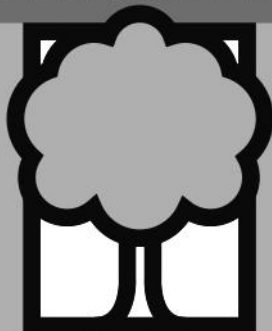
Eastham – Helen Matravers, 07580 158673

Hanley – Judy Bayliss, 01886 853813

Stanford – Catherine Mawby, 07831 303792

stanfordwithorletonvillagehall@gmail.com

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Parish news

From the Registers

Funeral

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of

Penelope Audrey Henderson, burial of ashes on Saturday 20th April at St Peter and St Paul Church, Eastham, at 12 noon

May the souls of the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace

Iona inspired services

We loved our pilgrimage to Iona last September and wanted to bring a little of Iona to the Teme Valley. So you are invited to join us at Hanley Village Hall, WR15 8QU, for the second of our Iona style services on 12th May at 4pm where you will find a warm welcome. These services involve a pattern of prayer, singing and imaginative engagement with scripture that reflects our life together as community as we celebrate God's presence in our lives. Do give them a try.

Teme Valley Tots

Sessions are run weekly in Rochford Village Hall on Fridays from 10.30am to 12 noon. All are most welcome. We will not meet on 31st May as it is during half-term.

Confirmation

We are hoping to have a confirmation service at a church in the rural mission area this summer. If you are interested in taking this step or if you have any children (usually 10 years and older) who would like to be confirmed do get in touch with Rev'd Julia in person on 01886 853286 or by email at revjuliacurtis9@gmail.com to find out more.

Annual meeting of the Parish of Teme Valley South

The annual meeting of parishioners, on Saturday 18th May at 9.30am at Rochford Village Hall, is open to anyone who lives in Teme Valley South and the main item of business is election of churchwardens (a maximum of two can be nominated from each parish church).

This is quickly followed by the annual church meeting, which is open to anyone on the electoral roll and the meeting receives the annual accounts and reports of what has been happening in our churches over the past year.

Rev'd Julia

Many thanks to Stephanie Mcroft for this month's front cover photograph of snakeshead fritillaries

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Rochford 49 Club

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

Wednesday winners

20th March	No 32	Andrew Barbé
27th March	No 9	Jennifer Gledhill
3rd April	No 40	Chris Cox
10th April	No 55	Not sold
17th April	No 40	Chris Cox

Saturday winners

23rd March	No 28	Bernard Reece
30th March	No 17	Not sold
6th April	No 33	Not sold
13th April	No 47	Tina Lord

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

TemeTalk

deadline for the June issue is 18th May

Teme Valley Tote

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

Marika Harding

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Easter in Rochford

Easter in Rochford was celebrated with a very successful and well attended Good Friday children's craft morning. Members of the Tots group together with older siblings and other children enjoyed a range of activities. Decorating hot cross buns was very popular and everyone enjoyed tea and cakes. Thanks to Helen Barlow for organising all the activities and thanks to the everyone who helped and of course Ann for the refreshments.

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

Garden party

We are planning a garden party with a champagne afternoon tea this summer. Set in a beautiful Rochford garden, enjoy an afternoon stroll around the garden followed by a delicious afternoon tea and add a glass of fizz for a little extra luxury. Hoping to have serene live music to complete a quintessential summer garden party. Date and location to be confirmed so watch this space!

Neighbourhood lunch

Dates for sit down and takeaway neighbourhood lunches are 28th May, 25th June, 30th July, 27th August and 24th September. Everyone is welcome. Booking for lunches is essential and takeaways should be collected between 12.30 and 1pm. Please book with Ann on 01584 781317 at least the previous week.

Church services in Rochford

In addition to the normal All Age Service on the fourth Sunday of the month (26th May) we are very fortunate to have a Choral Evensong on 5th May at 4pm with the newly formed TVS choir led by former Rochford girl Chloe Kenrick (née Evans). Under Chloes's enthusiastic directorship the talented choir delivers a beautiful choral service, which is a really different experience and well worth listening to. The service will be followed by time to chat over tea and cake.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 14th July – Rochford Village Fête, venue yet to be agreed. Offers of help or ideas for the fête would be greatly appreciated.

Saturday 5th October – the ever popular Big Breakfast

Sunday 13th October – Harvest Festival: church service at 5pm and harvest supper at 6.30pm

Friday November 8th – Rochford Quiz

Saturday 30th November – Musical evening

Church flower rota

Pam Powell and Norma Goodall, 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

Tenth anniversary of the village hall

We will be celebrating the tenth anniversary of the opening of Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall on Saturday 1st June at 4pm at the hall. Please join us for a barbecue, live music, children's games and a cash bar. There will be a free glass of bubbles too! Please let us know if you are coming at sbkvillagehall@gmail.com or 01885 410368.



The next neighbourhood lunch will be on
Thursday 9th May

at **Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall**

and on the second Thursday of every month

12.30pm welcome, lunch served at 1pm

Two courses plus refreshments

To book your place please call 07396 813137
or email sbklunch@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you

A job vacancy

After several years Nick Wall, who has done an excellent job of mowing Kyre cemetery, is having to step back and after this first mow we will need someone to take over. Please offer to help or encourage someone you know to do so.

We would welcome help at Kyre church on a semi-regular basis for flowers, vacuuming and tidying the church and general occasional help. If Kyre occupies a special place in your heart and you would like to play a part in keeping it welcoming, could you please volunteer! (Maggie Kingston is getting older and her successor will be needed soon!)

Deadline 18th May
ronsmum@icloud.com

Open afternoons at Hollow Meadow

Hollow Meadow orchid weekend is on 1st and 2nd June from 2 to 5pm each day. If the meadow is still very wet it will be cancelled so please let Maggie know if you hope to come and she can contact you. Last year there were 350 marsh orchids on the meadow and hopefully we will have a similar show this year if they have not gone over or are still to come by then. In any event there are plenty of other flowers in the meadow to enjoy in your stroll around.

On Friday 31st May Rev'd Jen Jones will be leading a service of blessing for the meadow and the formation of Guardians of Hollow Meadow CIC. The time is still to be finalised so if you would like to come please contact Maggie at hollowmeadow23@gmail.com or on 01885 410431 and she will give you the details.

Robert Thomas

Robert Thomas died on 11th March 2024 aged 80. He was the son of the Rev'd John Halliday Keble Thomas who was rector of Stoke Bliss and Kyre from 1943 to 1952. Robert Thomas recently wrote his autobiography, *Farming Parson, Farming Son* and in it he speaks with pleasure of his early life at Stoke Bliss rectory and his memories of that time. In his eulogy his sister Ruth also spoke of their fond memories of their time in Stoke Bliss and their returns to greet old friends and make new ones. Robert continued to support us here with visits and correspondence with the 'Step into Past' annual events. (Maggie Kingston has a copy of the book and the eulogy if you would like to see them.)

Arthur Jenkins

We also remember Arthur Jenkins of Kyre who lived all his life in this area and whose funeral was on 23rd April – a man who loved the countryside and his work on the farms.

Maggie Kingston

Social & Pub Night

Friday 28th June

Bar opens at 7, supper served at 8pm

Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

Supper £5 (optional), dessert £2.50 (optional)

Reserve your meal with Julia on

sbkvillagehall@gmail.com or 01885 410368

Eastham Jottings

Church flowers and cleaning

May – Tammy Starling
June – Helen Matravers

Eastham Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday 1st May at 10.30am at Eastham Memorial Hall. Come along and have a cup of coffee, win a raffle prize and have a catch up. This month's special activity is a card swap. Do you have unwanted greetings cards? Bring them along to swap. Any surplus can be sold for funds. Bring unused wrapping paper to swap too.

The rota is

Wednesday 1st May – Diana Clarke

Wednesday 5th June – Nicky Webb

Church and churchyard spring clean

Thanks to everyone who helped on Saturday 27th April, and special thanks to Reg for persevering with the early mows despite the rain.

Eastham Pub Night

Friday 17th May at 7pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Make a date for this informal get together. June's pub night will be ...

Longest day barbecue

There will be a barbecue on Friday 21st June at 6.30pm in the garden at Eastham Memorial Hall, organised by the Friends of the Fête. Burgers and a cash bar – please bring a pudding.

Eastham Memorial Hall AGM

on Tuesday 21st May at 7pm. This public meeting is open to all Eastham residents, and there will be a Zoom/Teams link for those not able to attend in person. Please contact Celia Adams in advance for the link details. The accounts will be posted on the website in advance of the AGM when Barbara Selkirk ACMA has completed the independent examination.

Villagers wishing to join as trustees should contact Mike Palfrey (07976 854267) or Celia Adams (01584 781258) or email admin@easthammemorialhall.org.uk for an information pack. Nominations are required by 6th May (14 days in advance of the AGM).

Eastham Parish Council Annual Meeting

on Tuesday 28th May at 7.30pm. This is the annual meeting of the parish council.

Hall committees' open evening

There will be a follow-up meeting open to all Hereford and Worcester hall committees and trustees at Pencombe Village Hall on Thursday 9th May at 7pm. Richard Timney of Community First will be updating on new initiatives. To register for the meeting email palcph@gmail.com or ring Celia Adams on 01584 781258.

Eastham Village Craft Fair

at Eastham Memorial Hall on Sunday 26th May from 10am to 4pm. There will be indoor and outdoor stalls, a cash bar and hot food. If you are interested in having a stall, please email events@easthammemorialhall.org.uk or phone Beryl on 01584 781920.

New pictures for the Memorial Hall

Entries are invited for pictures of Eastham to be judged in the summer with the winners being made into canvasses to decorate the hall. Get snapping. More to follow.

Eastham Fête

Schedules for Eastham fête produce show on 18th August are included for all Eastham residents with this issue of TemeTalk.

You don't have to live in Eastham to take part so if you have not received a schedule or would like a copy please let us know on easthamfete@gmail.com. It's not too late to start planting and there is plenty of time to practise your baking. Please join in and help to keep up the tradition.

The schedule includes the classes for this year's fun dog show which is one of the biggest draws at the fête and open to all.

If you would like to help with setting up or on the day please let us know and we will find something for you to do.

Celia Adams



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Hanley Happenings

Plant Sale

Hanley Open Gardens has been postponed because of the terrible weather. Instead there will be a charity plant sale on Saturday 18th May at the village hall. The village hall committee and Margie Thornycroft are hoping that anyone who is finally able to get out into the paddy fields that we lovingly call our gardens will be able to donate cuttings and splittings. The afternoon teas will be worth the visit!

Table top and craft sale

Search out all your unwanted items and book a table for the sale on 25th May: remember the old adage, "your rubbish is someone else's treasure"!

Even better, if you are a keen crafter please come along with a selection of your work. There is always a market for homemade goods.

Save the date!

6th June – D-Day Beacon event

18th August – Pop-up Waffle Van

21st September – Pakory Shakory Indian Pop-up Takeaway and Bar

5th October – Alfie's Kitchen Pop-up Takeaway and Bar

Carole Gardner



Art course

Hanley Village Hall

Four sessions on Wednesdays

1st, 8th, 22nd and 29th May from 7 to 8.30pm

Theme: Country garden

Tutor Jim the postman has over 20 years' experience – materials and refreshments are included

£40 per person payable in advance

Book with Sarah on 07796 170949



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.

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17TH MAY - £25.75

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Starter

Spring greens spanakopita

Main

Pork souvlaki served with tzatziki,
Greek salad and flatbreads

Vegan main: vegetable souvlaki served
with houmous, Greek salad and flatbreads

Sweet treat

Greek honey cake

Reserve at www.hanleyhouse.co.uk

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

Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

Services in Stanford

Sunday 5th May

Holy Communion with hymns at 9am (note the earlier time)

Choral Evensong will be at **Rochford** at 4pm

Thursday 9th May

Ascension Day Service at 7.30pm

Sunday 2nd June

Holy Communion with hymns at 10am

Evensong at 4pm (possibly at Great Witley)

AGM of ACC

All parishioners on the civil electoral roll are invited to the Annual General Meeting of the Stanford with Orleton Area Church Committee at 7pm on Thursday 2nd May – put the date in your diary and try to attend. As an added incentive refreshments will be served!

APCM

Don't forget the Teme Valley South Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) at Rochford Village Hall at 9.30 on 18th May – this is your opportunity to hear about all the activities being undertaken in Teme Valley South.

AGM of Stanford with Orleton Parish Meeting

This will be held at Stanford Village Hall at 8pm on Thursday 30th May. We are one of the few parish meetings in the county – this means that we do not have councillors and all our meetings are open and anyone on the parish civil electoral roll is entitled to attend and vote (this is the closest we can get to democracy in this country). Currently Robin Dean is the chairman, Lesley Dean is the clerk and Clem Softly is the treasurer. We are looking for volunteers to take on these roles – please contact Robin before the meeting if you would like to find out more or be considered for one of the roles.

Dawn service on Easter Day

About 25 people gathered around the brazier (supplied by David Lane) outside the church at 6am British Summer Time (the clocks went forward that morning so we were at 5am GMT!). Thanks to Andy and Cecilia who managed the fire. Thanks to Julia and Jen who organised the service. Thanks to Mary, who played the organ. After the service 14 of us went to the Den at Mill Farm to enjoy a full English breakfast – thanks to Steve who cooked and his colleague who served.

Thanks

Thanks to Andy Nicol who filled in the potholes in the church drive in the week before Easter.

Future events

We have several events in mind for the spring including a wine tasting. If you have any other ideas for events, please let me know.

Teme Valley Tote

If you want to take part and have not yet entered please contact Robin. Draws will be taken for April and May in early May, once we have reconciled all the subscriptions.

Payaz debit/credit card reader

We have had a Payaz debit/credit card reader on loan from the Diocese since January. By the time you read this, we will have installed our own – the Diocese has granted us money from the Kingdom Fund to purchase it. You are able to make donations to St Mary's at any time that the church is open (not just after services). We welcome any comments you may have about the machine. You can still put cash donations in the collection box beside the visitors' book. During services we will have a retiring collection when you can put cash on the plate or use the Payaz machine.

Tenbury Food Bank

The box in the lobby continues to be used – thank you for 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 in cash or by using the Payaz Card Reader. We are getting visitors from all over the world 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. 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. Perhaps you would like to take over the writing of this page each month?

Robin Dean

Ludlow Rotary Club launches duck race



From 11am on Bank Holiday Monday, 27th May, some 2,000 bright yellow plastic ducks will be launched from Dinham Bridge in Ludlow to race down the River Teme. This fun event is being arranged by Ludlow Rotary Club to raise funds for Ludlow Rotary Cares, the club's community grants scheme.

There will be four duck races. Everyone who sponsors a duck for £2 will have the chance of winning £100 if theirs is the first across the winning line.

There will be plenty of opportunity to cheer on the ducks from the banks of the river on the day. The races will also be filmed to watch afterwards on the Ludlow Rotary Club website.

Adrian Carter of Ludlow Rotary explained "Planning a duck race is no mean feat. The ducks

have to be corralled into pens of 500 then decanted into boxes of 100. Each box of 100 ducks is then put into numbered bags, checked and double checked to make sure each ticket we sell is allocated to a duck. When all the ducks are sorted, they are stored in bags ready for the big day. We also have to ensure that all the ducks are collected at the end of each race. During this process we expect there to be a lot of cleaning of ducks, laughing and counting."

Ducks are available to sponsor on line at www.ludlowrotaryclub.org.uk or from the Rotary stall in the market place on Sunday 26th May.

On the Line raises money for Great Ormond Street

The film *On the Line*, directed by Oliver Pearn, was shown at Hanley Village Hall on 24th March and the evening raised the magnificent sum of £178 for Great Ormond Street Hospital charity. Many thanks to everyone for your generosity.

Jackie Pearn



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The Filling Station

Our next meeting is on Thursday 16th May 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 participated in a number of tent missions and has also ministered abroad. We look forward to hearing his message to us.

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.

Harriett Baldwin MP

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Stoke Bliss & Kyre Neighbourhood Lunch

... from a kitchen table to the village hall

It all began around Jessica Middleton's kitchen table at Bank Farm. In the autumn of 2011, after losing her husband, Jessica began to realise the loneliness that several people she knew, particularly farmers living alone, must feel. So she invited four of them to lunch and they all enjoyed excellent camaraderie over the meal. Then the vicar said that she should open it up to everybody, so she did and it became a regular monthly event. The Neighbourhood Lunch was born.

Numbers gradually built up; the meetings were obviously enjoyed by all, and it filled a need in the community that was not covered by any other initiative. It was a great success. And then, to cap it all and generate formal recognition, they were awarded a Group MBE in Her Majesty's Honours List.

At its zenith about 70 meals were served; the cooks coped, but rather reduced numbers today of between 30 and 40 make it much easier for everyone and some days, like Christmas and Easter, can be made even more special with cards, flowers and small gifts. Everyone enjoys each other's company and a good home cooked meal, over which stories of the past are recalled and new friendships

formed. For most it is the highlight of the month.

During the covid lockdown of course the lunches had to be discontinued to the sorrow of all, but the team managed to keep the group together by producing a small monthly magazine of light hearted prose and poetry for their enjoyment. To keep postage down Jessica walked miles to deliver copies, much to the satisfaction of her dogs (!) and it also inspired Mr Thom to increase his distributions to the elderly.

The original area covered Stoke Bliss and Kyre but today there are souls from Tenbury Wells and Bromyard as well. Friends from from Sutton Coldfield have also visited! The cooks can cater for dietary anomalies – gluten free, vegetarian etc – provided they are given enough notice. At (currently) £8.50 a two course meal, a glass of an alcoholic nature or other beverage and a cup of coffee or tea is excellent value.

But it is the friendship, the bonhomie and the social connections that are the primary function of this regular event. For some, the second Thursday of each month is a highlight to look forward to and the group does its best to keep it that way. As Jessica says, "If you are a regular and know anybody who would benefit please bring them along; after thirteen years we feel that we must have got it right and filled a significant need in our scattered community.

"If you feel in any way interested, either as a guest or as a volunteer (and we could use another one or two of these!) please contact Jessica Middleton either by telephone on 07771 600672, or by email at jessicamiddleton1942@icloud.com and we can have a chat."



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Rhubarb cakes

Make the most of tender new rhubarb with these zingy cakes, which also make great desserts.

Ingredients

300 g rhubarb
Juice of ½ lemon
165 g self-raising flour
175 g unsalted butter, softened, plus extra for greasing
175 g caster sugar
3 large free-range eggs
2 tsp vanilla extract

For the topping

25 g unsalted butter
2 tbsp self-raising flour
1 tbsp caster sugar
2 tsp ground ginger
1 tbsp icing sugar, to dust
4 tbsp crème fraîche, to serve
2 tbsp clear honey, to serve

Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C/gas mark 4. Grease a 23cm square cake tin and line with baking parchment.

Trim the rhubarb and chop into 3cm pieces. Place



in a bowl with the lemon juice. In a separate bowl, beat together the flour, butter, sugar, eggs and vanilla extract. Fold in half the rhubarb and spoon the mixture into the bottom of the tin, spreading it out with a spatula. Scatter over the remaining rhubarb.

For the topping, rub the butter into the flour, then stir in the sugar and ginger. Sprinkle over the cake mixture and bake for 40-50 minutes. Leave to cool for 10 minutes, then remove from the tin. Dust with icing sugar, then slice into squares.

Serve warm or cold with crème fraîche, drizzled with honey.

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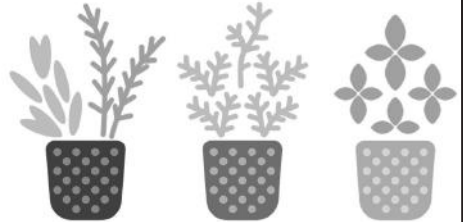
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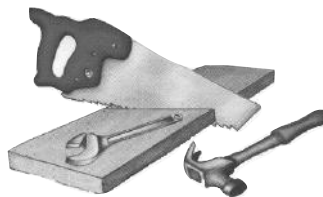
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Cricket – balls, batters and a soggy ground

Now the monsoon has relented and spring is on the way we have seen the Boat Race and the Grand National. And best of all the cricket season has started.

It's a bit odd this year.

Normally the pitches are sticky wickets, the ball holds back after bouncing and batters (no longer batsmen) play too early and spoon the ball in the air to be caught. Not this year though – runs have been plentiful and bowlers exhausted. A chap named Northeast (who comes originally from Kent in the south east but now plays for Glamorgan in the south west) made a score of 335 not out at Lords in the first week of April.

The main problem is that if you cannot bowl out a team you cannot win a match. There are 18 first class county teams and each has played two games, so there have been 18 games so far. To date one team has won one game and one team has lost one game. All 17 other games have ended in draws.

“Oh, the weather has been bad” I hear you say – but no. Most games have achieved at least three days’ play despite weather interruptions. The explanation, I understand, is the new ball. It is called a Kookaburra.

Kookaburra is an Australian sports equipment company based in Melbourne, Australia. The com-

pany was founded in 1890 and makes equipment for Australian rules football, cricket and field hockey. The company is named after the Australian bird, the kookaburra. Their ball replaces the Duke ball which has been used in county cricket for over 100 years.

The Kookaburra ball is made in a factory by machines whereas the Duke ball is hand made by English artisans; it is made in London by British Cricket Balls Ltd, a sports equipment company currently owned by Indian businessman Dilip Jajodia. The ball was first manufactured by the Duke family in around 1760.

The critical difference is that the seam is higher on the Duke ball so bowlers may swing their deliveries in the air and gain some small advantage over the batters. This is more interesting than trying to watch drawn games in cold weather wrapped in many layers of clothing.

Locally, the Worcester ground is now free of water and may be ready for play by June. There is some effort to move the whole enterprise to higher ground away from the shadow of the cathedral. Meanwhile home games are to be played in Kidderminster

Here’s hoping for a dry summer.

WBG



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 <p>LIVE MUSIC The Manfreds: <i>Hits & More in '24</i> Sat 4 May, 8pm</p>	 <p>LIVE MUSIC The D-Day Darlings Thu 30 May, 7.30pm</p>	 <p>SENSATION <small>THE OFFICIAL ABBA TRIBUTE BAND</small> LIVE MUSIC ABBA Sensation Fri 7 Jun, 7.30pm</p>
 <p>LIVE MUSIC The Midnight Soul Sisters Sat 11 May, 7pm</p>	 <p>LIVE MUSIC A NIGHT AT THE OPERA, opera & musical theatre hits sung LIVE. Sat 1 Jun, 7.30pm</p>	 <p>LIVE COMEDY Shazia Mirza Sat 8 Jun, 8pm</p>



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- 2nd May 8pm Andy Parsons: Bafflingly Optimistic
4th May 8pm The Manfreds: Hits and More in '24
11th May 7pm The Midnight Soul Sisters
18th May 7pm Tenbury Town Band: Music from Stage and Screen
25th May 7pm Lee Lard is Peter Kay

Films

- 3rd May 7pm Star Wars: Episode 1 – The Phantom Menace (U)
6th May 7pm Star Wars: Episode 1 – The Phantom Menace (U)
9th May 7pm Throwback Thursdays – Dirty Dancing (12)
10th May 7pm The Trouble with Jessica (12)
17th May 7pm Back to Black (15)
24th May 7pm American Society of Magical Negroes
31st May 7pm The Fall Guy (12A)

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Look out! Teenagers in the house Driving lessons and graduation dresses

We've just spent a week in New Jersey with our teenage grandchildren. They are generally delightful but they all have very loud voices and spend a good deal of time shouting at each other. They all speak very quickly with American accents and when they are all shouting together we just have no idea what's going on.

Henry turned 16 while we were there and the big thing in his life, apart from playing soccer and following the English premier league, is now driving.

He had already completed the written driving test at school and now has three two-hour driving lessons on consecutive days, so after six hours behind the wheel he will get his permit. This allows him to drive with a competent adult over 21, preferably his mum or dad, until he is 17 when he takes his test and becomes a qualified driver.

The sad thing is that his father has traded in his beloved top-of-the-range BMW for a Volvo which coincidentally is the same as mine. Lucky we live on different continents. There's no street cred in driving the same car as your grandma!

But this Volvo comes with two keys. One is programmable to restrict the speed of the vehicle and the number of passengers and to only allow the car to move when all the seat belts are fas-

tened. This is Henry's key!

Our twin granddaughters, aged nearly 14, have quite different concerns. In early June they graduate from their Catholic middle school and for the graduation mass they have to wear white dresses with their white gowns and white mortarboards. The internet is full of white dresses, all very short with puff sleeves or straps and often backless ("It doesn't matter about the back because we'll have our gowns on!"). I spent hours last week watching Megan scroll through hundreds of dresses - "That one's cute!" "Oh no, that one is so ugly!" What's the difference? Well, anything her mum likes is "ugly"! She likes one patterned with tiny blue flowers. Her mum says it looks like a nightie; it only makes her like it more.

Annabel was doing the same, but in the privacy of her room.

On our last morning, as I was packing, my daughter-in-law came into my room to tell me that she had finally ordered two white dresses, so providing they arrive on time and fit and meet with the girls' approval, the white dress saga is finally over. Now the girls just have to choose dresses for the graduation dinner. Not white. Oh, and shoes. But that's a whole other story!

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On June 23rd Rev'd David Morris will be riding the Dartmoor Classic Sportive and will be raising funds for Abberley Care Farm. The Care Farm says about itself:

“Abberley Care Farm is a small alternative provision for children who struggle to cope in school by providing therapeutic animal assisted interventions. Many of our children have faced trauma or loss, have special educational needs, many are autistic and struggle with the social demands of the wider world. The children attend the farm to learn life skills, how to care for animals, participate in art and crafts, learn land based skills and they also run the community pop-up teashop in St Mary’s Church, Abberley. All of these activities

help our children feel a part of the care farm family which helps them to develop self-confidence and be a part of something special for as long as they need it, often well after they have left school.

“Rev'd David has kindly offered to raise funds for the children and after lots of discussion we have concluded that we could help our children even more by supporting them to enjoy some special social activities and give them the opportunity to have fun with their friends in a safe environment supported by the staff they trust in addition to their normal farm day. The children have lots of ideas – maybe a trip to the seaside, the cinema, or a barbecue and party at the farm...”

Any money raised for the Care Farm will go directly towards funding those special social things which cannot be covered via normal means. If you would like to support Rev'd David go to:

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A new piano album from Chloe May Evans



Chloe May Evans has just released her latest piano album, *Vespera*.

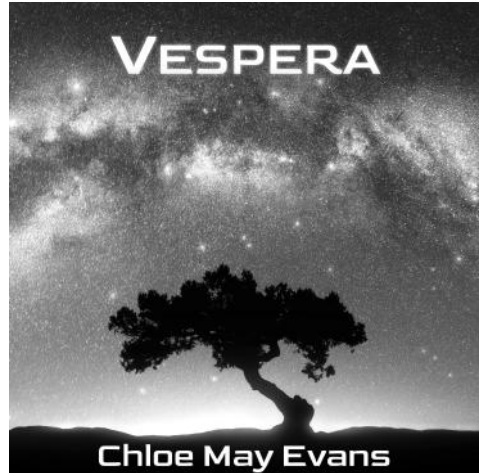
Vespera is her third album and the first of purely solo piano works. The project was inspired by her dormant track *Free the Mind* which came together and led to the composition of the rest of the album. *Vespera* means *evening star*, beautifully evoked by the lyrical melodies that characterise each track and are heard through the album, transporting the listener to a place of freedom, rest and relaxation away from the hustle and bustle of day-to-day life.

Chloe May Evans is a local composer and multi-instrumentalist, former soprano in Queen's Cambridge Chapel Choir and University Cham-

ber Choir and one part of Kindiva. She composed *The Holy See Gets it* for artist Ian Wolter, awarded the Arte Laguna Performance Prize in Venice in 2016.

She is also Director of Music of the newly formed and very successful Teme Valley South Churches Choir.

You can listen to Chloe's music on platforms including Spotify, Apple Music, Amazon Music, Deezer and YouTube.



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Many people will not be aware that there are changes to rules around statutory flexible working requests coming into force on 6th April 2024.

Under the new rules, if you make a statutory request (which can be done from day one of starting work):

- The employer has two months to make a decision, unless otherwise agreed with the employee
- Employees can make two requests in a twelve month period
- The employee will no longer have to explain the effect they think the request will have on the employer, and how any such effect might be dealt with
- An employer can't refuse a request unless the

employee has been consulted

Your employer should write to you to explain why they've turned down your request. They should also tell you about their appeals process if they have one.

It's best to use your employer's appeal process if you can. If your employer doesn't have an appeals process, you can raise a grievance or you can ask them to review their decision. If your employer doesn't change their decision, you might be able to take your employer to an employment tribunal.

For further information and advice contact your local Citizens Advice South Worcestershire office on 01684 563611 or visit www.citizensadvice.co.uk



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Teme Valley Wildlife

The patch of grass in front of my house slopes down to the hedge bordering the village lane. It is regularly mowed but can in no way be described as a lawn. It is irregular, uneven and never likely to host Wimbledon-style stripes. Instead, daisies, buttercups and dandelions flourish there and multiple colonies of yellow meadow ants labour ceaselessly to raise their tumps above its surface. The area is damp and waterlogged and its greenness owes more to moss than grass.



is also a useful place to hang feeders filled with nuts and seeds to attract other avian visitors.

Regardless of its rough and ready appearance, the grass provides plenty of opportunities to watch wildlife. In March, I spotted a grey squirrel raking up moss with its paws, gathering large bundles into its mouth, then scaling the trunk of our holly tree where a drey was in the making. He was up and down many times, busily working away at his task. Then I noticed a mistle

In old maps the patch is described as an orchard and pig-run. The pigsty is still there but sadly most of the fruit trees are long since gone. One forlorn cherry remains, although last year's late snowfall took out one of its main branches. The tree no longer bears fruit and is well into the process of decay, but it is kept because of the enjoyment of watching tree creepers and nuthatches searching for insects in the crevices of its bark. It

thrush collecting strands of moss in its beak. He, or she, disappeared into our large yew bush, clearly intent on nest-building too. Meanwhile, behind our house, in a steep sloping orchard grazed by sheep, jackdaws were also at work. These cheeky characters were standing on my ewes' backs shamelessly pulling out wool by the beakful, presumably preferring warm wool to line

Continued on page 24

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Continued from page 23

their nests.

Soon, I shall look forward to seeing the ant tumps in the front grass attract the attention of green woodpeckers. These large birds employ long sticky tongues to slurp up myriads of ants. They are majestic creatures and so brightly coloured that they seem more suited to a tropical environment than to the homely surroundings of the Teme valley. But they love old meadows and old orchards which is why they are here.

Another exotic-looking character, which can be encouraged to thrive in a boggy patch of old grass, is the snakeshead fritillary. This lovely box-shaped flower is not native to Britain, but the jewelled petals which hang down from a slender stalk

add a curious beauty to grass in the early spring. A few years ago, inspired by seeing meadows filled with them in Oxford's Magdalen College grounds, I planted some bulbs in a persistently damp corner. They have thrived, despite being attacked by both pheasants and lily beetles, and they continue to multiply and enjoy the less-than-perfect conditions of my grass that is not a lawn.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 9th May at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall. We welcome Steve Woodison who will be inviting us to "Meet the owls" – he will be bringing his feathered friends to tell us all about them. Everyone is most welcome and it is just £3 on the door.

Stephanie Mcroft

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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 twgw@outlook.com.

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What's on in Teme Valley South

May

- 1st Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
2nd Thursday AGM of Stanford with Orleton Area Church Committee, 7pm
9th Thursday Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
Hall Committees' Open Evening, Pencombe Village Hall, 7pm
11th Saturday Kyre Valley Railway, 2 to 5pm
12th Sunday Iona Worship, Hanley Village Hall, 4pm
Craft Fair, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10am
16th Thursday The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.15pm
17th Friday Relaxation Evening, Hanley Village Hall, 6.30pm
Eastham Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
18th Saturday Teme Valley South APCM, Rochford Village Hall, 9.30am
Charity Plant Sale, Hanley Village Hall, 2pm
21st Tuesday Eastham Memorial Hall AGM, 7pm
25th Saturday Table Top and Craft Sale, Hanley Village Hall, 10am
26th Sunday Eastham Village Craft Fair, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10am
28th Tuesday Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
Eastham Parish Council Annual Meeting, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7.30pm
30th Thursday AGM of Stanford with Orleton Parish Meeting, Village Hall, 8pm

June

- 1st Saturday 10th Anniversary Barbecue, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 4pm
1st and 2nd Hollow Meadow Orchid Weekend, Stoke Bliss, 2pm
5th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
6th Thursday Family Fête, Hanley Village Hall, 5pm
13th Thursday Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
21st Friday Longest Day Barbecue, Eastham Memorial Hall, 6.30pm
25th Tuesday Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

July

- 3rd Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
14th Sunday Rochford Village Fête
18th Thursday Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
30th Tuesday 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**

Deadline for the June issue of TemeTalk is 18th May

Please note this is the *last* day for contributions – the sooner you send your items to the editor, the more chance there is that they will be included

Services

May/June 2024

Daily prayer continues at 9am and 7pm on Zoom, contact Rev Julia if you would like to join us. The blessings group meets regularly and is co-ordinated by Richard Skerrett who can be contacted on 01886 853099 for 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 5th May

9.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion with Hymns
10.30am	Clifton	Combined Rogation Service at New House Farm, Clifton, with refreshments afterwards
4.00pm	Rochford	Choral Evensong

Thursday 9th May

7.30pm	Stanford	Ascension Day Holy Communion
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9th to 19th May

12th to 18th May		Thy Kingdom Come Week for Christian Aid
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Saturday 11th May

10.00am	Stanford	Thy Kingdom Come Service
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Sunday 12th May

10.00am	Hanley William	Holy Communion
4.00pm	Hanley Village Hall	Iona Service

Wednesday 15th May

6.30 for 7.00pm	Great Witley	Diocese Rogation at The Goodmans
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Sunday 19th May

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

Sunday 26th May

10.00am	Rochford	All Age Service and Holy Communion
4.00pm	Kyre	Celtic Evening Prayer

Sunday 2nd June

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

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