

TemeTalk

Delivered FREE to every household

September 2023



**Rev'd Julia and her husband John celebrate five years
in the Teme Valley this month**

In this issue

**Ploughing • Art • Horses • Music • Chats and Bots
and all your parish news**

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TemeTalk

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A community going forward with God

September 2023

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

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Printed by
Orphans Press, Leominster

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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

Some of you may have heard that due to financial constraints I have been asked to have priestly oversight of a further three parishes. These parishes are our near neighbours and include the churches of Shelsley Beauchamp, Shelsley Walsh, Clifton upon Teme, Harpley and the closed church at Lower Sapey. I will remain as priest in charge of the parish here in Teme Valley South, living in Hanley Rectory, so this is an additional responsibility.

Expanding my ministry is somewhat daunting and without doubt I will need to work differently. As I reflected about this, I thought back to the arrival of our second child. Each of our children is unique and loved individually. Welcoming a second child didn't diminish my feelings for the first. I found my heart expanding to love the two siblings because parental love isn't diluted when a new baby arrives. As Christians we believe love comes from God. This is an inexhaustible source, much like a spring that never runs dry even when there is no rain. Routines may change to encompass an expanded family however!

So when I am licensed as curate in charge of the new parishes on 22nd October in Clifton on Teme church, my prayer will be for an expanded heart. My five years here in Teme Valley South have been extraordinary, not least because of national events such as a pandemic, a 70th Jubilee, the death of our Queen and a coronation. There have been many changes in that time and I am sure the future will hold more. I am however confident, with the help of a gifted group of lay and ordained colleagues, that sharing God's love will continue to be the basis of all we do here and on the other side of the B4203 too!

Rev'd Julia

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The deadline for the next issue is
18th September



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Teme Valley South Contacts

Priest-in-charge: Julia Curtis 01886 853286

Associate Priest: Sally Jones 01584 819435

Reader: Pete Thorp 07917 783159

Churchwardens

Eastham: Celia Adams 01584 781258

Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Stoke Bliss & Kyre: Jen Jones 07749 977821

Hanleys: Ed Yarnold 07930 882728

Stanford: Robin Dean 01886 853295

Pastoral Team

Stanford: Lesley Dean 01886 853295

Hanleys:

Stoke Bliss:

Rochford: Ann Prosser 01584 781317

Jenny Barbé 01584 781298

Eastham: Mel Williams 01584 781284

Parish Safeguarding Officer: Sue Softly
01584 881342

Village Hall Bookings

Stoke Bliss & Kyre

Janet Powell, 01885 410598

stokeblisskyrevillagehall@gmail.com

Rochford – Ann Prosser, 01584 781317

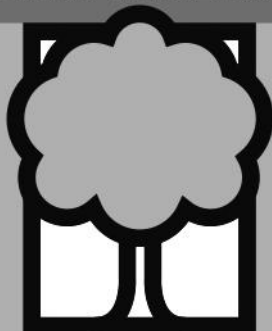
Eastham – Helen Matravers, 07580 158673

Hanley – Judy Bayliss, 01886 853813

Stanford – Catherine Mawby, 07831 303792

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Parish news

From the Registers

Funerals

Our sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of:

Jennie Jacks – funeral service at Wyre Forest Crematorium on 20th July

Maureen Beverley-Smith – funeral service at St Peter and St Paul Church, Eastham on 26th July followed by committal at Wyre Forest Crematorium

Robert (Bob) Bennett – burial of ashes at St Mary's churchyard, Kyre on 2nd August

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

John and Julia Curtis celebration

A reminder that on 17th September we will be celebrating five years in this beautiful place. There will be a celebratory church service at 11am in Eastham Church with Archdeacon Robert, followed by lunch at Eastham Memorial Hall from 12.15pm. The lunch will be free, but please book with assistantvspcc@gmail.com so we know how many to cater for. Everyone is very welcome to come along to the church or lunch, or better still both!

Bible study group

Our Bible study group restarts on 1st September from 10.30am to 12 noon and we will be tackling one of the most interesting (and challenging) books of the Bible – Revelation. Do get in touch with Rev'd Julia if you would like to join us.

Teme Valley Tots

Sessions begin again in Rochford village hall on 8th September after our summer break. The time will be moving to 10.30am until 12 noon. Everyone is very welcome.

Service times and openings

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

Dave Hughes

It was with huge sadness that we said goodbye to Dave Hughes, who died in Churchill House, Ludlow, on 27th July after a short illness. Many travelled from Teme Valley South to attend either his funeral service at St Edburgha's church, Yardley, on 22nd August, or his committal the following day at the Robin Hood Crematorium in Solihull.

Dave was churchwarden at St Edburgha's church for over 25 years. During his retirement in the Teme Valley he served on the Rochford area church committee, as vice chairman of the parochial church council and on deanery synod. He played an enthusiastic part in our worship and prayer life here in these churches. He was a man of great integrity, faith and encouragement and a wonderful personal support to me since my licensing here as priest in charge. Dave was one of the first people John and I met after we moved in and the warm welcome we received set the tone for all our conversations together in the past few years. He will be greatly missed and our thoughts and prayers are very much with Dave's wife Jackie at this time.

Dave, may you rest in peace and rise in glory!

We hope to arrange a local thanksgiving service in the near future.

Rev'd Julia

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Rochford 49 Club

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

Wednesday winners

July 19th	No 40	Chris Cox
July 26th	No 33	Carol Powell
August 2nd	No 16	Sue Gumbley
August 9th	No 54	Not sold
August 16th	No 26	Not sold

Saturday winners

July 22nd	No 2	Sue Bridge
July 29th	No 25	Jan Winter
August 5th	No 2	Sue Bridge
August 12th	No 44	Dan Taylor

Remember, you must be in it to win it!

Ring Gill Smith on
07815 030050

For as long as I can remember, Dan Taylor has sent me the bonus ball results every week for TemeTalk, but now he has to give up and this is his last time. So I would like to thank him very much for all his hard work over the years and wish him all good things in the future – and how fitting that the last name on the list of winners is his!

Sandra Griffiths

Teme Valley Tote

August's draw, the fifth in this series, was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 6th August to select the set of random numbers. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **Maggie Downes** of Stoke Bliss (No 763)

£30 – **Mark Trigg** of Pensax (No 336)

£20 – **Janet Farmer** of Pensax (No 319)

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

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Rochford News

Afternoon tea among the dahlias

Despite a few rain showers, Colin and Tina Lord and their helpers put on a wonderful afternoon at Skipperley on 12th August, raising over £1,300 for Breast Cancer Now. Visitors were treated to a magnificent display of dahlias (see August's cover picture) in a beautiful and immaculate garden followed by a very tasty and elegantly presented afternoon tea, or a barbecue, tea and cake. Well done to Colin and Tina for such a tremendous effort.

The Big Breakfast

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

Teme Valley Tots

Teme Valley Tots will be back in Rochford village hall on Friday 8th September at the new time of 10.30am to 12 noon. This is a great community service and we look forward to welcoming old and new tots and their mums, dads and even grandparents. Please contact Julia if you would like to come along.

Condolences

Sincere condolences to Jackie Hughes and her family on Dave's very sad and untimely death. Dave and Jackie have made such a positive impact on Teme Valley South in the relatively short time that they have lived here. Dave will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of getting to know him.

Neighbourhood lunch

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

Five years in the Teme valley

A reminder that John and Julia Curtis are celebrating five years in the Teme valley with a church service at Eastham Church on Sunday 17th September at 11am followed by lunch at Eastham Memorial Hall. Everyone is welcome to either or both. **Please book** for the lunch with the TVS admin team by 10th September at the latest.

Dates for your diary

Sunday 8th October – Harvest festival at 5pm followed by **supper** at 6pm. Everyone welcome to either or both.

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

Friday 10th November – the ever-popular **Rochford Quiz** with supper

Church flower rota for September

Tina Lord, thank you!

Contacts: Ann on 01584 781317

Andrew on 07809 658484 or through the parish WhatsApp group

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TemeTalk deadline 18th September

Stoke Bliss and Kyre

It's h-Art again!

As part of h-Art, Maggie Kingston will again be exhibiting her nature inspired pottery at St Michaels Church in St Michaels, just past Oldwood Common on the A4112 from Tenbury to Leominster. h-Art runs from 2nd to 10th September and the venue is open from 10am daily. Visit www.h-art.org for more details.

Social & Pub Night

Friday 29th September

Friday 27th October

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

Neighbourhood Lunch



Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall

Thursday 14th September

Thursday 12th October

Welcome at 12.30pm

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lunchkasb@aol.com if you would like to come



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Churchwarden vacancy

It is with a mixture of sadness and delight that we find ourselves in need of a churchwarden for our two lovely historic churches of St Peter, Stoke Bliss and St Mary, Kyre Wyard.

This vacancy has arisen because we are excited to announce that our current churchwarden Jen Jones will be ordained on 24th September at Worcester Cathedral at 6.30pm and will serve as a curate for Teme Valley South under the guidance of Rev'd Julia. However, this news is tinged with sadness because this means she can no longer be our churchwarden.

Please rest assured that Jen, who will continue to live in Kyre, will still be supporting us with the new roof and ceiling project for St Peters by writing grant applications and supporting us at fundraising events. We are however looking for someone who can spare a few hours each month to support the general running of things such as organising a team to clean prior to baptisms, weddings and funerals, filling in a monthly maintenance log book, attending quarterly area church committee meetings.

For more information please contact Rev'd Julia on 01886 853286 or Jen Jones on 07749 977821.

Step into the Past Day

The annual Step into the Past Day is on Saturday 7th October from 1.30 to 5.30pm. As usual there will be tea and cakes. The theme this year will be "Stoke Bliss Church through the ages" and donations will be for the church roof renovation which is currently needed. You can sponsor a tile for £5 each – sponsor as many as you like as there are about 1,600 tiles on the roof! Phone Maggie Kingston on 01885 410431 if you have any queries – we look forward to meeting you all again.

Dates for your diary

22nd October, 4pm – Stoke Bliss Harvest Festival
12th November, 10.50am – Service of Remembrance at Kyre

Saturday 14th October – church and churchyard tidying at St Peter, Stoke Bliss, 10am to 12.30pm

Saturday 4th November – church and churchyard tidying at St Mary, Kyre, 10.30am to 12.30pm and 1.30 to 3.30pm.

Maggie Kingston

Eastham Jottings

Church flowers and cleaning

September – Mel Cumming

October – Rhiannon Chapman

Thanks to those who have volunteered for the spare months. There's always room for more volunteers.

Eastham Coffee Morning

This month's coffee morning is on Wednesday 6th September at 10.30am at Eastham Memorial Hall. The rota is

Wednesday 6th September – Ann Hadfield

Wednesday 4th October – Joint effort for Macmillan Cancer Support

Eastham's 55th Riverside Fête

Thanks to everyone for their help at the 2023 fête – those who provided items to sell, joined in with the Produce Show or supported in many other ways. We hope that you had a great time, ate too much, found a bargain and won a prize at something. And hopefully met up with old friends and had a good chat. Many thanks too to everyone who made it happen, far too many to mention – it would not happen without you. Well done, another successful year, see you all again next time.

Five years in the Teme Valley

Rev'd Julia and her husband John celebrate five years in the Teme valley with a service at Eastham Church on Sunday 17th September at 11am followed by lunch at Eastham Memorial Hall. Everyone is welcome – come to either or both. Lunch is free but please book with the TVS admin team by 10th September.

The Filling Station

Our next meeting is on Thursday 21st September at Eastham Memorial Hall at 7.15 for a 7.30pm start when Rev'd Dudley Anderson will be speaking. Dudley is the pastor of Cornerstone Family Church in Stourport-on-Severn and is involved with a radio station ministry called God-tracker.

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.

Eastham Pub Night

Come along for a drink and a catch up on Friday 22nd September at 7pm at Eastham Memorial Hall. Everyone welcome. Look for the banner.

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

- Pilates, contact Sue on 07974 343609, sue579@icloud.com for details or a taster session. From 12th September on Tuesdays at 1pm and 2.15pm.
- Yoga, ring Zoe on 07962 981456 or see www.zedyoga.co.uk. From Wednesday 13th September at 10am. Taster sessions available.
- Zumba Gold, Lucia on 07709 301030, lu.500@live.co.uk. 12 noon, just turn up.
- Kung Fu, Adam on 07720 643524, for youngsters on Saturdays at 9.30am.

Autumn clean of church and churchyard

Please come along on Saturday 21st October at any time from 10am to 1pm with gardening tools to tackle the churchyard. Everyone welcome, whatever your skills. We will also be cleaning the inside of the church and finishing the flower arrangements ready for harvest festival.

Barbecue, tea and cakes all day.

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Hanley Happenings

Bring and buy afternoon tea

It was good to see so many local folk and friends enjoying a cuppa and cake at the recent afternoon tea and produce sale. It's events like this that bring us closer together and allow us to share the produce from our gardens – and what a lot there was! Sarah's lamb and beef was much in demand, as were the quiches and ham from Gladwins of Bromyard. The vegetables had to be seen to be believed and the few that were left over could be found at the gate for people to help themselves.

The event raised £300 for the village hall refurbishment; well done to Sarah who worked tirelessly to make the event a success. Chris Dalton rolled up her sleeves to help with teas and cake, what a star!

A night at the races

The race night on 6th October, raising money for MND, is nearly fully booked so contact Lexi quickly if you want to join in the fun. She is looking for donations of prizes for the event so please see what you can do – bottles and chocolate preferably, call 07471 192649.

Dates for your diary

A **Christmas bingo night** is being planned for 17th December, look out for details.

Hanley House supper events;

Moroccan tagine night on Friday 29th September
British pie night on Friday 20th October

Carole Gardner

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20th October British pie night

3rd November Mexican chilli night



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Services in Stanford

Sunday 3rd September

Holy Communion with hymns at 10am

Praise Service at 4pm

Sunday 1st October

Said Holy Communion at 8.30am

Harvest Festival Service at Noverton at 11 for 11.5am (see page 13)

Harvest Lunch

Our Harvest Lunch will be at midday on Sunday 1st October at Noverton – see page 13 for details.

Future events

- We hope to have another wine tasting evening.
- The sweater sale returns on 18th November.
- We are planning another Christmas Tree Festival on 2nd and 3rd December.

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

Stanford with Orleton village hall news

The village hall had its first committee meeting on 20th July. David Lane was elected chairman with a full quota of committee members. Although we are not actively seeking new volunteers, if you are interested in joining please do speak with David

A big thank you to all those involved in looking after the Coronation Orchard and helping with the building of the new shed. A special thank you goes to our much younger parishioners for their help with watering. It is so good to see the next generation taking an interest and helping. Once the shed is completed we intend to have a Grand Opening!

We are starting whist drives again in the autumn (19th September, 17th October, 21st November at 7.30pm). These are very low key fun events with beginners very welcome. We will not be charging but a donation towards the heating and lighting will be gratefully received. Refreshments at half time. If we have any younger children who would like to give it a go but can only stay until half time we would love to see you.

The Stanford Suppers start again on the last Saturday in October and we intend to repeat our 40 for 40 before Christmas.

Supporting Tenbury Food Bank

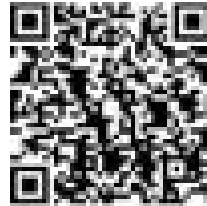
The box in the lobby continues to be used – thank you to all who have contributed. Please keep your donations coming.

Parish Giving Scheme (PGS)

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

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

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



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

TemeTalk deadline 18th September

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Tea, cake and ... art

The 21st Herefordshire Art Week (h-Art) will be back from 2nd to 10th September.

Local artist Shelly Perkins has taken part in the event for ten years and it's one that has become extremely important in her annual round of exhibitions. She will be opening her home and studio, The Old Post Office at Hanley Broadheath, and showcasing this year's collection of her wildlife art. Shelly derives huge pleasure from showing her work within her community and sharing her creative process as well as the place where she practises it! Historically

artists have been hugely influenced by their homes and surrounding area and getting an insight into the artist's studio remains one of the highlights for many h-Art pilgrims. Shelly says that the Teme valley has had plenty of influence on her own portfolio, along with wider travels!

Last year Shelly welcomed so many people from the surrounding area through the door: she hopes that neighbours from the local villages as well as people from farther afield will again feel welcomed into the space to share a little of what she has been getting up to this year and to chat about wildlife, travels and art!

The week makes itself known around the county and its extremities by its vibrant pink signs as well as a widely distributed free catalogue and map which is available from many local shops.



There is a cluster of exhibitors who will be opening their doors in Stoke Bliss and Collington this year, including the incredibly talented mother/daughter duo Willow with Roots showing at the Netherwood Estate.

In Shelly's studio will be videos of her process, her sketchbooks and her recently published book about her travels, photography and artwork from Africa. She will be joined by Sarah Kinnersley of Skylark Jewellery who will be showing her exquisite gold and silver jewellery inspired by natural forms and textures. And of

course there will be complimentary tea and cake for all visitors. Shelly's studio is on the B4204 in Broadheath, two houses from The Fox and opposite the phone box – look out for the unmistakable pink signs! It's an 'open house' from 11am to 5pm during the nine days of the event.

For more information about h-Art please email artbysshelly@gmail.com or visit www.h-art.org.



Top: Giraffes by Shelly Perkins

Above: Bracelet and earrings by Sarah Kinnersley

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Chloe May Evans – conductor and composer



Chloe is a determined person.

In August's TemeTalk she was congratulated for swimming the length of Ullswater, with a picture of her, goggles pushed on her forehead, medal on display. This time she is at the Proms displaying her passion for music.

When Chloe was 8 years old she told her music teacher at Abberley Hall School that she wanted to be a composer when she grew up. Advised to get a proper job first and encouraged by a gifted teacher she pressed on, practising and studying

piano, cello, voice and all the rest, until she graduated with a first class degree in music. She sang in the Queen's College Cambridge Chapel Choir and obtained a PGCE teaching qualification. Off she went to London to get that proper job. She became head of music at Eaton Square School and choir manager of the Pimlico Musical Foundation, offering music to children throughout the borough. Then she came closer to home as head of music at Bedstone College. All the time conducting and composing.

Now she will bring music to the Teme valley as director of music in Teme Valley South. She brings with her all her skill, passion and determination.

Chloe's first ambition is to establish a small choir to bring high quality singing to our churches for monthly evensong and for special celebrations such as Christmas, Easter and harvest festivals. In addition, over time, she would like to bring musical events of various kinds to our villages, to encourage singers and instrumentalists of all ages. This is a vision we share and look forward to developing.

Chloe grew up in Rochford and has come here to settle in Hanley Childe. In September she will be married to fellow composer Hilgrove Kenrick at St Mary's, Stanford. We wish them every happiness.

Rev'd Sally Jones

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on Sunday 1st October

by kind invitation of David and Michelle Evington

This year we will be celebrating
Stanford's Harvest Festival service in a barn at Noverton
Please arrive at 11am for the service to start at 11.15am

During the service Nabil Jamous will talk about the work of Farmers Overseas Action Group (FOAG), a local charity supporting farmers and rural communities in Uganda.

There will be a collection for FOAG during the service.
Pay by cash or card (we hope to have a card reader available)

Lunch with sweets and soft drinks at about midday
provided by the Evingtons

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Friday 8th September
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Sale of children's toys and clothes and dinner party

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Hanley Village Hall

A healthy hot meal and a bedtime story
for the children

Donations of second hand toys and clothes
are needed - please drop them off at the
village hall and text Sarah on 07527 063044
Raising funds for the village hall refurbishment

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The Big Breakfast



at Rochford Village Hall
Saturday 30th September at 9.30am

All welcome – come along and enjoy one of Ann's breakfasts: fruit juice, cereal, full English (with vegetarian option), toast, tea and coffee

Followed by an optional walk – if you are feeling up to it!

A Night at the Races



Place your bets!

Friday 6th October, 7pm at Hanley Village Hall

Nibbles - please bring your own booze

£10 per person or £80 per table of ten

Booking essential with Judy 07890 988706

Cash only

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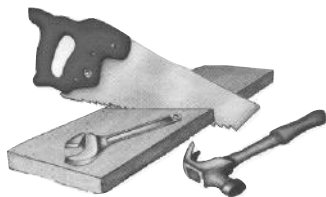
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Andrew on 01885 410519

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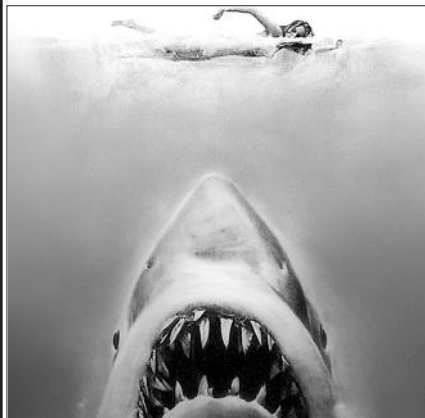
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Saturday 30th September, 7.30pm

Jaws

When a killer shark unleashes chaos on a beach community off Cape Cod, it's up to a local sheriff, a marine biologist and an old seafarer to hunt the beast down.

Stars Roy Schneider, Robert Shaw, Richard Dreyfuss
Director Steven Spielberg

1970s themed dinner £15 per person
Please bring your own booze

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I know what you're going to say. "She's a dinosaur, the kind of old person who gives old people a bad name".

Last week I was in an NCP car park in Banbury. I had gone there to meet a friend for lunch – she lives in Bedfordshire so it's kind of half way. The last time we had lunch the car park was a normal pay-on-exit one but now ... eek! ... it was ticketless. Fine if you have a proper smart phone and can download the app and pay, but my phone is pay-as-you-go with no internet access without wifi.

What to do? I left the car park without paying, went home and googled NCP. I found a page called "pay later" and entered my car's registration number. I pressed "search" and the answer came back – "no invoices found". How to pay?

So into the chat room I went and explained my

dilemma to a robot who promised that a real person would respond within 48 hours. This was a bit of a problem because apparently I only had 24 hours to pay before being hit with a £100 fine.

Almost exactly 48 hours later Fidelis, allegedly a real person, joined the chat and explained that the Banbury car park "does not support pay later functionality. Payment should be processed upon entry using the NCP app".

Well, that was a fat lot of good now.

So I asked again how I should pay, and Khecy joined the chat and asked for my car registration number, date and time of the parking session, landline number, mobile phone number, inside leg measurement and the colour of my grandmother's eyes. He then told me that "as a gesture of goodwill" I would receive a phone call to collect the payment of £4.95. "But" added Khecy, "for future reference please make sure to contact us within the day because this car park has only 24 hours grace period for you to make a payment from the time of exit."

I could have pointed out that their system didn't allow this but by now I had lost the will to live. Khecy's final message apologised for the inconvenience, thanked me for "reaching out" and exhorted me to "have a great day and take care".

Was he a real person or another robot?

SG



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Maureen "Mo" Beverley Smith



Maureen was born on 21st March 1950 in Birmingham. She was the youngest of five children, and had a "meat and two veg" childhood.

As a single parent she worked tirelessly to ensure that family life was good. Strong and inde-

pendent, caring and loving, she provided a good home for her children.

Working in the Nag's Head pub in Eardiston and then later at the Railway Tavern in Newnham Bridge, she was always a key part of the staff, valued and respected by colleagues and customers alike. It was while working at the Nags Head that she met her partner Pete James and they moved to Eastham where they lived for many years.

She was mother to Claire and Simon, partner to Pete, and grandmother to Alex and Amber. The church was full for her funeral, showing the high regard in which she was held by so many people.

The retiring collection was donated to Birmingham Children's Hospital and Cancer Research.

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Marty Wilde comes to Tenbury



A chance to see one of the only original rock'n'roll pioneers performing in the world today live on stage – Marty Wilde is coming to the Regal, Tenbury Wells on Saturday 16th September at 7.30pm.

Marty's career began in 1957. He was one of the first British singers to play a leading part in those early formative and groundbreaking rock'n'roll years – today he celebrates eight decades as a hit recording artist and songwriter.

With his many hits, including *Teenager in Love*, *Endless Sleep*, *Donna*, *Sea of Love*, *Bad Boy*, *Rubber Ball* and *Jezebel*, plus a host of other wonderful songs from that era, Marty Wilde and his fabulous band the Wildcats take you back through some of the most exciting musical times this country has ever experienced.

Marty was awarded the MBE by the Queen for services to music in 2017 and in May 2019 made a welcome return to the British music charts with his top ten hits CD, *Dreamboats & Petticoats presents The Very Best Of Marty Wilde*. In October 2020 he made the UK album charts with all-new material on his *Running Together* project which was issued on CD and limited edition vinyl.

In December 2020 he wrote, recorded and produced his first-ever Christmas double-A-sided single *Christmas Fantasia/Christmas All Over The World* with his daughters Kim and Roxanne Wilde.

So get ready for a stunning musical roller coaster as Marty Wilde and the Wildcats bring you this much-acclaimed show that has been rocking audiences around the country.

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Cows, horses, chats and bots

Do you ever wake up filled with enthusiasm to take on the day's challenges? No? Me neither. But recently I dragged myself out of bed to check the headlines on my iPad and felt inspired by a BBC prompt to learn about AI and bots.

Easy, I thought.

When I was a child AI referred to revolutionary new farming techniques to inseminate cattle and horses artificially. I was too young to think this might be a bit unsporting but old enough to get the gist. Easy.

Chat was what our mothers and their friends seemed to enjoy endlessly. Easy.

And, well, bots was short for bottoms which were threatened now and then with a wallop if bad behaviour didn't stop immediately. Easy.

The BBC drew me into a mind-boggling new world – definitely not easy. AI in the 21st century involves feeding a computer huge amounts of information and “training” it to identify patterns so it can make predictions, solve problems, even learn from its own mistakes. It can act and respond “almost as if it was a human”. Ridiculous, you might think, until you realise that we have all been using this new AI for years.

If you use a smart phone, BBC iPlayer, Amazon, You Tube, Netflix, supermarket loyalty cards, Spotify, Siri, Alexa, Snapchat, X (formerly Twitter) or Facebook they all use AI to a degree. And AI combined with a programme called Chatbot can “talk” to humans via text. Hence chatbots and bots.

Some experts have warned that AI chatbots

could become more intelligent than humans. And there are dangers that AI might already have interfered in elections. The UK has ruled out a dedicated AI regulator at present as it feels the existing bodies should be responsible for their actions. And Goldman Sachs, the investment bank, thinks that AI might replace around 300 million full-time jobs across the world in time as different jobs and tasks become automated.

On the up side, medicine and science welcome AI for its ability to help spot some cancers and develop new antibiotics. But not everyone is excited about AI in the surgery assisting nurses and doctors with patients. No doubt it will come and if it helps our overstretched NHS safely, perhaps it should be welcomed.

On the emotional side, if you are feeling lonely or have had a tiff with your partner you could always join an AI dating app. Some people even become addicted to the online “perfect friends” or “partners” they have created for themselves and who claim unconditional “love”. No danger of wokeism but will their humans ever match up to such perfection?

How glad I am that I grew up in simpler times. It must be difficult for younger generations growing up immersed in this confusing technology. From now on I will have a lie-in without checking the headlines, hug my real life partner, enjoy our chats and even the occasional affectionate pat on the bot.

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C Buckingham-Bawden – for the winner in Class A Nos 1-5	Tina Lord
Lilly Lanman Memorial Rose Bowl – for the best display of roses in Class A No 11	Pip McConnlage
Miss F Morris Cup – for the most points in Class B	Mel Cummings
Eastham Men's Club Cup – for the most points in Class C	Colin Lord
George Hipkiss Memorial Cup – for the most points in the bean classes Nos 24, 25, 45	Colin Lord
Mr B Leason Memorial Cup – for the most points in the onion classes Nos 38, 40, 46	Colin Lord
Mr Moseley Cup – for the most points in Class D	Rachel Lavender
Eastham Parish Cup – for the most points in Class E	Deborah Rochelle
Molly Yarnold Cup – for the most points in Class F, children 10-16	Isabell Andrews
Nora Edwards Memorial Cup – for the best exhibit in show	Rosie Sprag
Mr C Norman MBE Memorial Cup – for the best container of sweet peas, Class A No 7	Mr Worsley

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Teme Valley Wildlife

September always seems a sober month. Warm, relaxing summer days fade from our minds as we turn to new challenges and more serious tasks, preparing for winter and laying up stores to get us through. Many animals are looking ahead too, to a time of scarce food and harsh conditions, and many have busily gathered and cached food in preparation. One such is the red squirrel, which I had the pleasure of watching during the summer.

It is thought that only 30,000 or so breeding pairs remain in England today. They were once spread across the whole country, but are now restricted to specific small areas. They once lived here in the Teme valley, but an East-ham resident with an excellent memory tells me that he hasn't seen one since 1938. It is well known that the diseases introduced by imported grey squirrels have heavily impacted our native populations. Fortunately, there are places where they can still be spotted.

Red squirrels do well in conifer plantations and in the north of England "red squirrel refuges" are managed at 17 different locations in an attempt

to give them the best possible conditions in which to thrive. The Yorkshire Dales town of Hawes is very proud of its local squirrel wood and provides a bus service to take visitors to Snaizeholme valley where a woodland trail leads to a viewing area at

which they may often be seen. I expected a fleeting glimpse of a bushy red tail disappearing up a tree as the most likely positive outcome to my visit, but I was entranced to see many squirrels in close-up, foraging, sprinting across the ground, running along branches, sitting on tree-stumps, perching on walls and scampering up trees. What a delight!

Red squirrels are about half the size of the more familiar greys.

They sport tufty ears and a smart reddish-brown coat and live in dreys, which are nests of twigs, leaves and moss. They have litters of three to four kittens, breeding between January and April, but can produce a second litter in a year in which food is plentiful. They don't hibernate over the winter. They favour seeds from pinecones as food, which is why coniferous forests provide



Continued on page 24

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Continued from page 23

such good habitat for them. In pine woods they maintain an advantage over greys because, being lighter, they can reach cones which hang at the ends of branches. They also eat other seeds, a variety of nuts and berries and, perhaps surprisingly, are known to store fungi to snack on during the winter.

Other places where they can be seen include islands from which grey squirrels can readily be kept away. One such is Brownsea Island in Poole harbour, Dorset; another is Tresco, one of the Isles of Scilly. Our own native reds need a little help but they are holding on and, for such appealing creatures, such help will surely be forthcoming.

Arts Society Teme Valley

Arts Society lectures are on some Wednesdays starting at 2.15pm in Ludlow Assembly Rooms. See www.artssocietytemevalley.org.uk or telephone 07801 78846 for more information.

The knowledge and enthusiasm of the nationally recognised lecturers make lectures enjoyable and mentally stimulating. Arts Society lectures are good for you. Lecture subjects range from Caravaggio to Banksy and post war fashion. Visitors are welcome for £8 paid at the door, so you can come and see what we are like without committing to membership.

After the lecture enjoy tea or coffee and cake with chat. What's not to like? Please do come.



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The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group will be at Stoke Bliss and Kyre Village Hall on Thursday 8th September at 7.30pm. Our speaker will be Carol Wood, who will be giving us an update on swifts in Shropshire. 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 our website www.temevalleywildlife.co.uk We normally hold meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by email at twwg@outlook.com.

Stanford History Group

Stanford History Group meets on Monday evenings in autumn at Sapey Village Hall.

We have another interesting program of ten lectures in five subject areas. You can come for any one or all. This year we have expert lecturers from Birmingham and Worcester Universities.

Do come and join us – there's coffee, biscuits and discussion too! We start on 2nd October at 7.30pm, £60 for the ten lecture course or £10 per lecture, all payable at the door.

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Kyre Park, Tenbury Wells WR15 8RW

Art classes at Hanley

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

Table tennis at Hanley

If you would like to join in the fun
come along to Hanley Village Hall
on Monday evenings at 7pm.
Bats and balls are provided, your first taster
session is free, then it's just £3 per evening.

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What's on in Teme Valley South

September

- 2nd Saturday Film Night at Hanley Village Hall, *The Fabelmans*, 7pm
- 3rd Sunday Judging of The Hanleys Scarecrow Competition
- 6th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
- 8th Friday All the Queen's Horses, talk by Heather Edwards, Stoke Bliss & Kyre VH, 7.30pm
- 14th Thursday Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
- 16th Saturday Ploughing Match, Wolferlow Court, 10am
- 17th Sunday John and Julia Curtis' five-year anniversary service, Eastham Church, 11am and lunch Eastham Memorial Hall, 12.15pm
- 19th Tuesday Whist Drive, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 21st Thursday The Filling Station, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
- 22nd Friday Sale of children's toys and clothes and dinner party, Hanley Village Hall, 3.30pm
Eastham Pub Night, Eastham Memorial Hall, 7pm
- 26th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm
- 29th Friday Social and Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm
- 30th Saturday The Big Breakfast, Rochford Village Hall, 9.30am
Film Night at Hanley Village Hall, *Jaws*, 7.30pm

October

- 1st Sunday Harvest Service and Harvest Lunch, Noverton Farm, Stanford, 11am
- 4th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
- 6th Friday A Night at the Races, Hanley Village Hall, 7pm
- 7th Saturday Step into the Past Day, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 1.30pm
- 8th Sunday Rochford Harvest Festival, Rochford Church, 5pm, followed by supper, 6pm
- 12th Thursday Neighbourhood Lunch, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 12.30pm
- 14th Saturday Quiz Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm
- 17th Tuesday Whist Drive, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 21st Saturday Fix! Live music at Rochford Village Hall
- 22nd Sunday Stoke Bliss & Kyre Harvest Festival, 4pm
- 27th Friday Social and Pub Night, Stoke Bliss & Kyre Village Hall, 7pm
- 31st Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

November

- 1st Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
- 4th Saturday Film Night at Hanley Village Hall, *Little Miss Sunshine*, 7.30pm
- 10th Friday Rochford Quiz with supper
- 12th Sunday Service of Remembrance, St Mary's Kyre, 10.50am
- 18th Saturday Sweater Sale, Stanford Village Hall
- 21st Tuesday Whist Drive, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm
- 28th Tuesday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch, Rochford Village Hall, 12.30pm

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

Services

September/October 2023

Daily prayer continues at 9am and 7pm on Zoom, please contact Rev Julia if you would like to join us.

The blessings group meets regularly and is co-ordinated by Richard Skerrett who can be contacted on 01886 853099 for details.

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

Services Schedule

Sunday 3rd September

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

Sunday 10th September

10.00am	Hanley William	Holy Communion
4.00pm	Hanley Village Hall	Café Church

Sunday 17th September

11.00am	Eastham	Special five-year celebration of Rev'd Julia as priest in Teme Valley South, followed by Celebration Lunch
12.15pm	Eastham Memorial Hall	Walking Church
3.00pm		

Sunday 24th September

10.00am	Rochford	All Age and Holy Communion
6.30pm	Worcester Cathedral	Auxiliary Pathway Ordinations

Sunday 1st October

8.30am	Stanford	Said Holy Communion
11.00am	Stanford	Harvest Festival and lunch at Noverton
4.00pm	Stanford	Praise Service
6.30pm	Worcester Cathedral	Diocesan Harvest Service



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