TemeTalk online

January/February 2021

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

In this month's issue

Lockdown poems • Local talent • Delicious salmon
The perils of buying Christmas gifts
and all your parish news

A happy and healthy New Year to you all

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— THE —

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TemeTalk online

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

A community going forward with God

January/February 2021

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

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

Dear Villagers

Christmas may have been less elaborate for many of us, with last minute revisions to plans, but was I hope no less meaningful for that. Now, we move into a new year with a mix of expectations for 2021 and relief that 2020 has passed into history; no doubt to be remembered for a long time to come. This new year arrived cold, frosty and clear, with snow covering the Rectory garden. The quality of sunlight in January and February is always quite distinct and rather beautiful. Once more plans are being revised and normal service patterns tweaked in response to changes in tier structures and local demand, as advised by our churchwardens. Alongside this we are continuing to come together to pray daily on Zoom and use social media to communicate.

We are living through the least certain times I have ever known. Uncertainty, however, is nothing new in rural and church life. Robert Burns, traditionally celebrated on 25th January, wrote a poem about a field mouse, coping with uncertain times as its nest is at the mercy of the plough. Yet this little mouse was still considered by the bard to be blessed. Burns writes:

> But Mousie, thou art no thy lane,
> In proving *foresight* may be vain:
> The best-laid schemes o' *Mice* an' *Men*
> Gang aft agley*,
> An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,
> For promis'd joy!

Continued on page 3

This month's front cover photograph is by Stephanie Mocroft

For Sale

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(Unwanted Christmas gift, see page 12)

TemeTalk

Deadline 18th February

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

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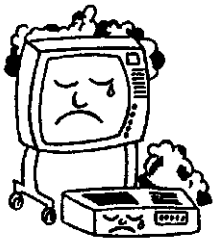

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Parish news

From the registers

Our prayers and sympathy are with the family and friends of Mick Pound. His funeral took place at Hereford Crematorium on 1st December.

Also with the family and friends of Joyce Spilsbury of Eastham, whose funeral took place at Wyre Forest Crematorium on a snowy 29th December.

May Mick and Joyce rest in peace.

Take Breath

Would you describe yourself as spiritual, but not religious? Then silent prayer may be for you.

Silence goes beyond words; beyond absolutes. It draws us towards something that is hard to define, yet the practice of holding silence in a small group can be a very powerful one.

With the start of a new year, I invite you to join with us at Kyre church to try a time of silent prayer and Take Breath. As we explore this together the time of silence will be gradually lengthened, but we will start by gathering for 30 minutes from 4pm on Friday 15th January. All welcome and we will observe Covid secure guidelines. Please bring a mask.

Continued from page 1

Still thou are blest, compared wi' me!
The *present* only toucheth thee:
But Och! I *backward* cast my e'e,
On prospects drear!
An' *forward*, tho' I cannot see,
I *guess* an' *fear!*
*(*Gang aft agley = Often go wrong)*

Unlike Robert Burns, let's go forward into 2021 with hope and expectation, making the best of the here and now, rather than guessing and fear of what the future might hold. Trusting that God who is with us, sustains and hold us when plans do go wrong in our eyes and when our lives turn out to be less than perfect.

For God sees the longer horizon, and loves us that far ... and way beyond.

Rev'd Julia

Service times and openings

Our church buildings remain open as below, but if you would like to visit outside of these times, please contact the churchwardens, who will do their best to accommodate this. You are very welcome to come and spend some time in these spaces to reflect, to pray and just to 'be' for a quiet moment.

St Peter & St Paul, Eastham	
Tuesday	9am to dusk
St Mary, Stanford on Teme	
Thursday	9am to dusk
St Mary, Kyre Wyard	
Friday	2.30pm to 5pm
Church to be attended	
St Michael, Rochford	
Wednesday and Sunday	9am to dusk
St Peter, Stoke Bliss	
Friday	10am to 4pm
All Saints, Hanley William	
Saturday	9am to 4pm

Thanks to all of you who are willing to air the churches and have offered to lock and unlock. Without you we could not re-open.

Rev'd Julia Curtis

Marika Harding
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Rochford 49 Club

Congratulations

to this month's £25 winners:

Wednesday winners

Nov 18th	No 45	Sarah Forsyth
Nov 25th	No 48	Ann Prosser
Dec 2nd	No 48	Ann Prosser
Dec 9th	No 26	not sold
Dec 16th	No 35	Garry Burns
Dec 23rd	No 21	not sold
Dec 30th	No 45	Sara Forsyth

Saturday winners

Nov 21st	No 47	Tina Lord
Nov 28th	No 32	Andrew Barbe
Dec 5th	No 18	not sold
Dec 12	No 59	not sold
Dec 19th	No 23	Jean Harrison
Dec 26th	No 6	Treena Jones
Dec 2nd	No 37	Ann Prosser

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

Ring Gill Smith on

07815 030050

Teme Valley Tote

December's prize draw of the Tote (the ninth in this series) was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 1st December to select the set of random numbers. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **Sharly Hughes** of Eastham (No 264)
£30 – **Neil Jackson** of Knighton (No 692)
£20 – **Janice Lucas** of Eastham (No 294)

January's prize draw of the Tote (the tenth in this series) was decided when Rev'd Julia Curtis rolled the dice on 2nd January to select the set of random numbers. Prizewinners are:

£50 – **Mr and Mrs Marriott** of Pensax (No 330)
£30 – **Lily Yarnold** of Stoke Bliss (No 758)
£20 – **Val Patrick** of Stoke Bliss (No 844)

(Interestingly Val asked that a previous prize be reinvested – and she has won on one of these tickets!)

If you have any queries please contact the organiser, Robin Dean, on 01886 853295 or by email at robin.c.dean@gmail.com. A new series will start on 1st April – please save your £10s for this.

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Rochford

Coronavirus update

Happy New Year, and we look forward to 2021, vaccinations and a return to a more normal life with community activities and a big party when social distancing fades from our consciousness. In the meantime, as we get used to life in lockdown, if you are shielding and need assistance the Rochford coronavirus care group will continue to help out with collecting prescriptions, shopping and sharing online deliveries and local information. If you need help please ask.

Rochford has looked very cheerful this Christmas with Christmas lights throughout the village, and we have had some lovely comments on how festive it looked.

Thanks to everyone who has been involved in supporting our community this year, we are very fortunate to live in a caring community where neighbours help each other and we look forward to celebrating with community social activities in 2021.

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Christmas wasn't cancelled

On a very wet day Rochford carol service changed at the last minute from an outdoor service at the Old Forge, to a drive-in carol service, with very grateful thanks to David and Pam Powell for letting us use the car park behind the Old Rectory / St Marys school at very short notice. There were 20 cars and with a "home-spun" PA system we had carols and readings, and everyone could sing along in their cars. Thanks to everyone who was involved and also thanks to Rod and Di Rickets at the Old Forge, who had decorated their tree and garden for the outdoor service.

On Christmas Eve we had a moving service as we welcomed the birth of Jesus and looked forward with hope to a happy Christmas and a healthy new year.

Neighbourhood lunch

Because of Covid restrictions Ann will take a break from takeaway neighbourhood lunches in January and we will see what happens in February. Many thanks to Ann for all her hard work in preparing lunches during this difficult time and we look forward to their return in 2021.

Old Rochford residents

Jane Griffiths (née Adams) who used to live in Rochford, at New House Farm and Hazledene, was honoured with an MBE in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours list, for her work in her community in Llandrindod Wells. Many congratulations to Jane on her work and her award.

A few of you will remember John McCaull, who used to live in Dunstan Villa (Ann's old house) with his wife Brenda and family. John died recently and we express out condolences to his family and friends.

Once again we wish you all a happy and healthy 2021 and look forward to getting together again.

Andrew Barbé

TemeTalk
ronsmum@btconnect.com
01568 750665
The deadline for the next issue is 18th February

Stoke Bliss and Kyre

The history of your house

Maggie Kingston has researched the history of Stoke Bliss and Kyre over the years that she has lived here, so if you would like a house history or the history of your surname in the parish she will be happy to put one together for you – it would make a great present for someone!

Generous donation accepted in aid of Stoke Bliss and Kyre churches to help with the fund-raising needed for Stoke Bliss ceiling repair and the Lady chapel east window stonework repairs at Kyre.

Desperately seeking ...

We are looking for someone to take over from Jessica Middleton, who delivers the magazine from Parsons Hall Farm at the bottom of Kyre Bank right up to the Bockleton turning at the very top.

If you can help, please telephone Alison Tompsett on 01885 410640 or email alison_izod@icloud.com.

Our very grateful thanks to Jessica who has been responsible for these deliveries for over 20 years!

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Eastham Jottings

Coffee morning

The next coffee mornings will be on Wednesday 3rd February and Wednesday 3rd March at 10.30am by Zoom. Nicky Webb has volunteered to lead the discussions in February and Josie Ward in March.

If you would like to join and/or need help with Zoom, please call Celia Adams on 01584 781258 or email easthamcourt@icloud.com. Regulars will get an invite on the morning of the coffee morning.

Flowers, cleaning and sidesman

February – Stuart and Josie Ward
March – Celia Adams

Thanks to everyone who has helped in 2020. It has been an odd year with only four services in the church, but this didn't detract from the beautiful harvest and Christmas arrangements which were as fabulous as ever.

Let's hope we can get together for the annual spring clean of the churchyard and church in April – date to follow.

Eastham Riverside Fête

There is no formal meeting this month but the proceeds of the 2020 Flower and Produce Show have been distributed. Eastham Memorial Hall and St Peter and St Paul's Church each received £1,050. **Look out for further news on the 2021 Eastham Riverside Fête throughout the magazine!**

Poppy sales

We were delighted to donate £37.17 to the poppy appeal from the poppy box left in the old phone box in late October and November. Thanks to everyone who contributed. The district raised £1,593.33 in total.

Christmas card stamps

Please drop used stamps in the RNIB box in the old phone box. The box will be collected at the end of January 2021. Thanks to Tammy Starling for coordinating. We will try and get the box for Christmas 2021 stamps in the phone box earlier at the end of the year.

Christmas Day collection

A donation of £100 was collected at Eastham's Christmas service for St Richard's Hospice, in memory of Rachel Arnold, Ian Vaughan, Pete Moseley and Jeremy Hughes. Thanks to everyone who gave so generously to support the hospice.

Eastham Memorial Hall annual meeting

The annual meeting will take place on Zoom on 18th January at 7pm. The public meeting is open to all Eastham residents. If you wish to join the Zoom meeting please contact Celia Adams on 01584 781258 or email easthamcourt@icloud.com. The agenda is available from Celia Adams or can be viewed on the village notice boards at the hall and on the Highwood.

Eastham community garden

We were delighted to reach our target of £6,450. Thanks to everyone who made pledges which have all now been collected.

The fund will enable us to enhance the outside area around the hall to make it more private. We hope to start planning as soon as possible. If you would like to get involved please call Mike Palfrey on 07976 854267, email mike.palfrey@easthammemorialhall.org.uk.

Wish list for donations

There are still some items on the list, for example wall lights at £50 each (four are needed), and a specialist storage loft ladder at £500 Please contact Mike on 07976 854267 or email mike.palfrey@easthammemorialhall.org.uk.

Celia Adams

See Memorial Hall update on page 14

Eastham Residents Association

The AGM of Eastham Residents Association will take place via Zoom on Thursday 18th February at 7.30pm

If you are an Eastham resident and wish to attend please contact Sally Jones on revsally@live.com

Hanley HappeningS

Looking forward with optimism

First can I wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year. So much has happened since our last note written in mid November, and although I had hoped that by Easter we might have been in a much better place this now looks unrealistic. But I do still feel optimistic about the latter half of 2021.

We have all been uplifted by the sight of Christmas decorations outside houses right across the benefice and the ingenuity of those who have been able to organise events either in reality or online.

Every one of us has an obligation to look out for our neighbours without being overbearing.In my role as the pastoral visitor for the Hanleys I can only respond if I am made aware of need so please feel free to contact me on 07836 733072.

Macmillan Marathon

Several people responded to Carole's walking marathon challenge between 1st December and 2nd January and over £800 has been raised to date – a great result at a time when we all needed a focus to end a pretty difficult year. Carole would like to say a big thank you to everybody who rose to the challenge and who might be fitter now than they were on 1st December.

Hanley Parish Council

There is currently a vacancy on Hanley Parish Council. If you are interested in joining, please contact the parish clerk, Mrs Margaret Yarnold on 01885 410453 or 07531 665200 or by email at courtfarmhanley@hotmail.com.

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Carols at Hanley Childe

On the Sunday before Christmas 15 brave souls joined Pete Thorpe and Julia for an outside carol and readings service. The weather was kind and the whole experience was intimate and heart warming. Not many churches can have such a wonderful view as we sang looking down the valley towards Ludlow and the Long Mynd, so thanks to Ed and Pete and all the readers, especially those of us whose eyesight is possibly not what it was!

Village Hall

The hall will be closed until the Covid situation becomes clearer, probably not before Easter. The plans for the proposed extension are displayed on the noticeboard outside the hall but I understand no one has yet commented on them so in due course a planning application will be prepared and submitted. If you have any comments please contact Ed Yarnold, chairman of the hall committee (07930 882728).

Peter Thorneycroft

See page 11 for this month's local talent, cellist Corinne Frost.

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Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

Where to begin again?

Firstly a Happy New Year to all our readers! We pray for a more normal world after Covid and Brexit!

At the time of writing (2nd January) we had just moved into tier 3, but three days later as we go to press, we are in national lockdown again.

Some while ago, I was a lecturer in management and computing at Herefordshire Technical College. I used to deliver a course on statistics to a variety of audiences – I started each course with the book by Darrell Huff entitled *How to Lie with Statistics* and with the quotation "There are three kinds of lies: lies, dammed lies and statistics" which Mark Twain appears to attribute to Benjamin Disraeli! So what – we are bombarded with statistics and opinions which are mutually exclusive – beware of fake news! I hope that you treat unexpected calls from Amazon or Microsoft or your bank with scepticism as they are probably a scam – some of the statistics we are receiving are misleading!

The new normal

Holy Communion is at St Mary's at 10am on 7th February.

Assuming that we are still able hold public services, social distancing measures will be in place during the services. Masks should be worn at all times unless if you are doing a reading or prayers. We also need to collect your names and details for contact tracing – these lists will be destroyed after 21 days. We will continue to try to stream services or record them and we will continue to record special services and publish them on Facebook and the TVS parish website.

St Mary's

In Stanford we will open St Mary's for private prayer from 9am to dusk every Thursday during January. There will be a continued need for social distancing when in the church and you will be asked to use the provided hand sanitiser both on entering the church and on leaving. Thanks to Anthony for opening up each Thursday.

Thanks

Thanks to David Lane for floodlighting the church and supplying a Christmas tree – we are really grateful for this reminder of Christmas – beamed to anyone who can see the church.

Thanks to Cate for her daily advent calendar on Facebook.

Thanks to everyone involved in organising the virtual Christmas Tree Festival – £202 was raised to share between the Maggs Day Centre and Acorns Children's Hospice. Well done to everyone who participated!

Communications

I put this section in October, November and December's TemeTalk but I received no response so I assume that no one is interested. However, I repeat it below.

In these uncertain times it is not always possible to communicate immediately through TemeTalk which is published once a month. Therefore if you wish to be kept in the 'village loop', please let me have an email address if you have one? If you do not, please let me know and we will try to phone you. Alexandra and Cecilia are maintaining a Stanford page on Facebook which will have the latest information and there is a Teme Valley South website and a Teme Valley South Facebook page.

Volunteers please – again

People have recently joined both the church committee and the village hall committee but we would welcome some more, especially when the crisis is over. What should we do to celebrate the end of the crisis? Robin (01886 853295) is happy to explain what is involved and you are welcome to one of our meetings when they restart so that you can see what it is like. We need people to organise events and assist.

Robin Dean

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Lent Reflections

We invite you to join us during Lent as we reflect on the images in the following publication which is widely available online to order as a paperback or in kindle format :

"The Art of Lent" by Sister Wendy Beckett

We will meet weekly at 7.45 pm on Zoom beginning Monday 22nd February to share our thoughts on the paintings and artwork from the previous week.

For more information or to book a place please call Jen on 07749977821

Churches Together in the Teme Valley

Explore the parable of The Good Samaritan through a series of Zoom talks:

"The Good Samaritan – equality, diversity and all that"

- Wednesday 13th January
- Wednesday 20th January
- Wednesday 27th January
- Wednesday 3rd February

The evenings will be run on Zoom, starting at 7.30pm and finishing at 9pm. Please register your interest with Jill Smith on jill.together@gmail.com We hope you can join us!

If you have any concerns about Zoom, please contact us.

British Legion Poppy Appeal 2020

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's Appeal from Abberley, Great Witley, Stockton, Stanford, Shelsley Beauchamp, Eastham, Hanley, Stoke Bliss and Rochford. We raised over £1,500 – this was a magnificent effort considering the restrictions on our collections. Thank you to all the schools, shops and pubs and the all the individuals involved. We are looking for collectors for next year's appeal – please contact me on 01886 853295 if you would like to be involved.

Robin Dean
Poppy Appeal Organiser for
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Local talent – Corinne Frost

For this month's feature on local talent we turn to the cellist, Corinne Frost, also known to many of you by her married name, Corinne Skerrett. Corinne moved to Hanley Broadheath with her husband, Richard, in 2014 and has since played an active part in local musical life.

A Suffolk girl by birth, Corinne started playing the cello at the age of five! At the age of 17 she won a scholarship to the Royal Academy and after graduation went on to study with the celebrated French cellist, Pierre Fournier. She joined the distinguished Philharmonia Orchestra in London, playing under the baton of some of the world's most eminent conductors, travelling all over the world. In 1993 she moved to Worcestershire, initially living just down the road in Clifton-on-Teme. She became an Associate Member of the world-famous City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (CBSO) for 23 years and the chances are that if you have been to a concert in Symphony Hall you will have heard Corinne play. She also became co-principal cellist of the English Symphony Orchestra (ESO) which is based in Worcestershire, and she still holds that role as she does for the Orchestra Pro Anima. Corinne is a governor of the Elgar School of Music in Worcester and teaches both there and at Marlborough College.

Corinne is Musical Director of Volante Strings, a local string orchestra which has regularly played at St Mary's, Stanford. She gives recitals with pianist Janine Parsons and poet and composer Helena Cavan, and as Downside Up with Stephen Warner (double bass and guitar) she gave us a memorable evening at Hanley Village Hall. She also gives a one-woman show, *An audience with Corinne,* which has been enjoyed by Worcestershire WIs and audiences at Elgar's birthplace. In recent years she has had a passion for bringing music to care and dementia homes and has also developed her unique skills of improvisation and creating musical portraits of individuals. She is part of a classical group called Epiphany which specialises in improvisation, and also plays by request at birthdays, weddings, funerals and special events.

So what impact has the virus had on Corinne's life and work? Inevitably orchestra work, recitals and care home visits have all had to be put on hold, and there are serious questions as to how live music will survive. But Corinne has taken opportunities to perform online for care homes and to take part in ESO video recordings, and she even managed to give two live recitals in Malvern and play on Pitchcroft in Worcester as part of the Luke Jerram installation commemorating those who died from Covid and celebrating the work of the NHS. She offers the use of Zoom to teach and has recently extended her teaching to piano and worship guitar. She also specialises in problem solving, technical issues, breathing and posture for musicians.

If you are interested in finding out more you can visit Corinne's website, www.corinnefrost.com, or contact her by email on corinnefrost@gmail.com or by phone on 01886 853099. She will be very pleased to hear from you.

Eastham Riverside Fête

Last year's restrictions resulted in no fête but we managed to put on a successful Produce Show with over 40 people exhibiting and significant funds were raised through sponsorship and the tote organised by Robin and Celia. Funds raised have been distributed to Eastham Memorial Hall and Eastham church.

Christmas presents – the perils

I set out with the very best of intentions to buy my wife a Christmas present, so on 8th December I went online to order the gift from John Lewis & Partners (never knowingly undersold!). Their email confirmed all was well and delivery was expected shortly.

After a week I started to worry but getting further information would involve a telephone call, waiting and lots of questions to answer so I left it a day or so.

On 18th December I plucked up courage and called John Lewis & Partners. Within 20 minutes I had been passed from first base to distribution and then to a supervisor.

The parcel was lost.

Even worse, they had no more in stock – at least not until after Christmas. They would refund my payment so with just a week to go I was back on the starting line.

At this point I lost my presence of mind.

I googled the item and at the top of the list was a co.uk website offering exactly the same thing for about £40 less than John Lewis.

Result!

Without another thought except that I had to get the present by Christmas, I clicked "buy" and entered my card details. Optimistic to the end – seven days should be enough to get it delivered and wrapped. Not so. More online research revealed this supplier was actually based in the far east with lots of negative feed back about non delivery or very very late delivery and lots of grumpy customers.

So after a positive start early in the month, 23rd December came and I had no present and serious doubts about the present I had ordered ever arriving.

I shared my concerns with my wife at breakfast. I told her she could call me a prat and explained my hopeless situation.

Diligent to the end, and hating myself for doing it, I went to Amazon and they had one available ... but even with Prime it couldn't be delivered until Sunday 27th. I plunged again into the world of online shopping and the present duly arrived – two days late but it is what she wanted and it does work.

The tail of this long tale is that two days later, on 29th December, a parcel arrived from the orient.

We now have a spare Apple iPad mini, available for sale at a very reasonable price.

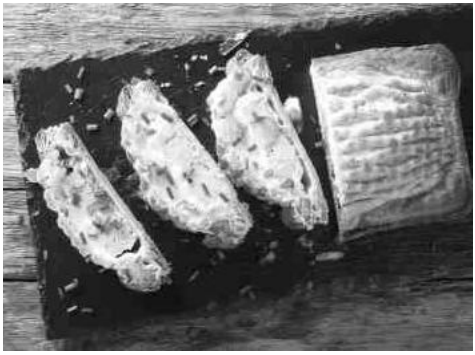
WBG

On Christmas Day he gave me my other present, a wooden spoon, so that was nice!– SG

Salmon wellington with a champagne sauce

The Boss and I had this for dinner on Christmas Eve and it is absolutely delicious, a real celebration dish – and there'll surely be something to celebrate soon! I used champagne for the sauce but I'm sure any sparkling white wine would be fine. The recipe is for four people but can easily be halved – I used two boneless and skinless salmon fillets from the supermarket.

Ingredients



600g salmon fillet, skinned
450g puff pastry
1 egg, beaten

For the tarragon butter
180g unsalted butter, softened
1 tbsp fresh tarragon, chopped
½ teaspoon salt
4 turns of the peppermill
Juice from a quarter of a lemon

For the champagne sauce
300ml fish stock
120ml champagne
15g mushrooms
15g onions, chopped
180ml double cream
1tbsp chopped fines herbes (parsley, chives, tarragon, chervil)

Method

Make the tarragon butter by mixing the tarragon, butter, salt, pepper and lemon juice.

Cut the fillet into four portions, then cut a pocket in the side of each, trying to make this as deep as possible without cutting through to the other side of the fillet. Divide the tarragon butter into four and put a piece in each of the pockets.

Roll out the puff pastry to no more than 4mm thick. Cut a piece of pastry about 15cm square, depending on the size of the fillet. Lightly brush the surface with water, place the fillet along one edge of the pastry, ensuring that there is spare pastry on either side. Roll the fillet over, lifting the pastry up and over too until the near edge touches the pastry on the other side. Press down to seal and cut away any surplus. Brush the fillets with egg wash and chill for at least half an hour.

Preheat the oven to 200ºC/gas 6. To make the sauce, put the fish stock, champagne, mushrooms and onions in a small saucepan and reduce by half. Add 120ml of the cream and reduce it until it coats the back of a spoon. Pass through a sieve, then keep warm. Whisk the remaining cream in a bowl until it starts to thicken.

Bake the salmon for 12 minutes. Slice each portion into four or five pieces slightly diagonally, so that when you place them on four warm places each slice lies against the next. Move the slices apart a little so that you can see the salmon inside the pastry; it should be moist and slightly pink.

Finish the champagne sauce by adding the chopped herbs and whisk in the whipped cream just before serving. Pour some over the salmon and serve the rest separately.

Recipe from *English Seafood Cookery* by Rick Stein

Eastham Riverside Fête

You may say that it's too early to even think about the 2021 Eastham Riverside Fête but here we go again with the preparation.

We hope to put on a successful fête for the first time in the newly rebuilt Memorial Hall. So put the date into your diary, **Sunday 15th August** starting at 12 noon, and prepare for a great day in the new hall.

Work progresses on Eastham's new village hall

The new hall is progressing well with the completion date anticipated at the end of January. Updates and construction plan can be found by visiting the website https://easthammemorialhall.org.uk/news/new-hall-build-project.html and Facebook page Teme Eastham.

Photographs by Keith Gluyas

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the white pheasant

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The pleasure of a visit…

Calling all those who knew Cliff and Louise Shakespeare when they lived in Eastham.

After Cliff died Louise, a non-driver, went to live in Tenbury. For some years now she has been a resident at the Old Rectory care home in Tenbury. Throughout the pandemic the home has never stopped residents from seeing family and friends. At first, there were window visits. Now there is a tent by a window which, when open, is protected by a perspex screen.

Just before Christmas, I went to see Louise and give her a gift and one of the nurses said that mine was the only visit she had received. She is getting frail now but loves a chat and distraction. Mostly she loves to talk about old times.

If you want to visit her, call the Old Rectory on 01584 810249. I'm sure she would be delighted to see you.

AO

Eastham Riverside Fête

In the next few weeks we will be putting together the new schedule for the Produce Show and if you have any requests for classes or suggestions please get in touch with David Clarke. The schedule will be printed in the second week of March. It's already time to think about starting off plants for the 2021 show, plant your tomato seeds (under cover) on Valentine's Day.

Desperate measures ...

... for a hug with Grandma this Christmas!

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I've fallen behind on my bills and the debts are building up, and I am worried that I won't be able to manage in the New Year and I don't know where to start.

You've already taken a great first step by asking for help, and it's important to know you don't need to face this alone. You can contact your nearest Citizens Advice for help.

In the meantime here are four steps you can take to get started:

1. **Work out how much you owe** Make a list of whom you owe money to and add up how much you need to pay each month. If you don't have your most recent statements, contact your creditor to find out what you owe. Some creditors will have special arrangements for people with Covid-related arrears.

2. **Prioritise your debts** Your rent or mortgage, energy and council tax are called priority debts as there can be serious consequences if you don't pay them. Separate these and work out how much you owe. Again, you can ask the companies or council what support might be available during the pandemic.

3. **Work out how much you can pay** Create a budget by adding up your essential living costs, such as food and housing, and taking these away from your income. The Citizens Advice budgeting tool can help.

Any money you have spare can be put towards your debts, starting with the priority debts first.

If you have any money left after paying priority debts, but not enough to make your usual payments on other debts, consider getting advice on the best way for you to start getting on top of them. Or contact your creditors and offer them what you can afford to pay.

4. **If you can't pay your debts** If you've got little or no money spare to pay your priority debts seek advice from Citizens Advice straight away. If you're struggling to pay for basics like food, seek help immediately to see what support might be available to you. Some regions are also helped by a range of localized Welfare Support Schemes. If you can't pay off other debts, such as credit cards and loans, it would also be worth contacting your nearest Citizens Advice.

For further information and advice, contact your local Citizens Advice Bureau or see www.adviceguide.org.uk.

Due to guidance on Covid-19 we have suspended our face-to-face sessions. Our volunteers will be providing advice by telephone and email as follows:

Malvern – to speak to an adviser, please ring **01684 563611 option 1**, or email **enquiries.malvern@citizensadvicesw.org.uk.**

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Enjoying our beautiful countryside

How lucky we are in England to have so many public footpaths and bridleways to explore, particularly in these difficult times.

There are 140,000 miles of footpaths and bridleways in England and Wales, of which over 3,000 are in Worcestershire. The Malvern Hills alone has 100 miles and we also have Wyre Forest and Shrawley Woods nearby. What could be nicer than to pack up family and pets and go for a tramp, with a picnic in the car to look forward to afterwards?

Of course we all need to remember the Countryside Code: dogs on leads, clean up after them (use council dog bins or take waste home to dispose of it) and leave gates as you found them. Use common sense if you find someone ahead of you has left a gate open and there is stock in the field. Loose stock on the roads can cause serious accidents – and farmers lose their livelihoods. Never leave gates open.

And be prepared for the weather. Experienced riders know that in wet weather, no matter how long it continues, they must keep to roads, lanes and tracks and off the grass. It's a bore but it has to be done – would you like horse hoof divots out of your lawn? Apart from the appearance, the deep holes can cause twisted ankles and damage mowers.

If you are new to the countryside, welcome! Read the Countryside Code and if you plan to walk or ride, acquire the OS (Ordnance Survey) maps. On the OS Explorer maps, footpaths are shown as dashed green lines; on the OS Landranger maps, they are smaller dashed pink lines. The law requires you to stick firmly to the designated paths/bridleways, no matter how narrow. There are footpaths, bridleways, byways, restricted byways, recreational routes, National Trail and Scotland's Great Trails, traffic-free cycle routes, managed access areas, open access land, coastal margins and permissive paths and bridleways!

Continued on page 18

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Continued from page 17

You may need to cross private land in which case common sense and sensitivity are required. Walkers and riders have responsibilities just as much as landowners. The latter must mark the rights of way through their land and clear blockages like fallen trees. Walkers and riders must respect the fact that they are, in some cases, walking through people's gardens. Would you want strangers walking through your garden at dusk or dawn talking at the tops of their voices, dropping litter and dog waste? Of course you wouldn't.

Many of the paths through private land were created over 100 years ago, in very different times, when everyone knew each other. Often paths were created by the local vicar as he walked to visit his parishioners. Or they were tracks used by neighbours as a shortcut on their way to pick fruit or hops. In time, they became established paths. Many were rarely used until recent years and now, when we are all more security conscious, the presence of strangers throughout the day is unsettling for householders who must keep checking who's around.

So let's all enjoy the countryside and be respectful of others – walkers, riders and landowners.

Eastham Riverside Fête

Sunday 15th August
at 12 noon
at the new Eastham Memorial Hall
Put the date in your diary now!

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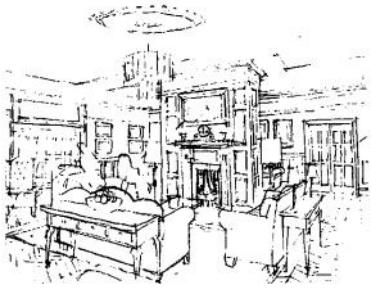

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Poems from lockdown

We all have our own ways of dealing with lockdown. Here are some poems which reflect the writers' feelings ...

... The value of Nothing

Nothing to do.
I wake in the morning and stare at the wall.
My job's in the freezer, my coat's in the hall.
I've books on the shelf but where should I start?
My clubs are all shut, I don't have the heart

No-one to meet.
My family is scattered, I see them on Zoom
But it isn't the same when they're not in the room.
My friends are on WhatsApp, we circulate snaps.
I could meet some outside but the weather is crap.

Nowhere to go.
There's no point in travelling, it isn't allowed
And the pubs are all closed so they don't draw a crowd.
There's no pleasure in shopping, I do it online.
I can't see this stopping before Christmastime.

No-one in charge.
Trump's in the White House, it's each for his own,
And the government's damned if they do or they don't.
Scientists say there's so much we don't know,
And the right-wingers think we should let the old go.

Nothing but Life.
I look through the window and there are the trees.
The sunlight is catching the red/gold/green leaves.
The world's full of beauty and I am alive,
And disasters we fear often do not arrive.
We make our own meaning in life every day,
So nothing should stop me from finding *my* way.
And *Nothing* gives space when life moves so fast.
For nothing lasts long and this too shall pass.

Trevor Ponman
20th November 2020, from lockdown

A walk on Oldwood Common

The common is mine,
No-one in sight but a man and his dog far away.
The morning dew shining in the grass
Like tiny shards of glass,
The sun breaking through the autumn mist,
Already warm, promising a lovely day to come,
The well-worn path through the tussocky grass,
All this is mine.
The plunge into the deep dark wood,
The path criss-crossed with tree roots,
The birdsong, the tiny crashes
Of unseen creatures in the bushes and ferns,
The old plank bridge, worn and wobbly,
All this is mine.
The shade of the old oak tree,
The acorns crunching underfoot,
The dew still shimmering on the grass.
All this is mine.
This time is mine.

Sandra Griffiths, September 2020

Continued on page 20

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Poems from lockdown

2020 – The Covid Year

What a year this has been, so full of the news –
But how to unravel the various views;
Of how many people infected – or dead.
The plague is upon us and fills us with dread.

Yet, hope too has been there as folks rally round
Ensuring the shielded are kept safe and sound.
By doing the shopping and ringing to chat
About things important, or just this or that.

The absence of hugs and a smile you can see
Has hit us all hard in the way we can be.
We've learnt how to value the quiet that descends
As cars are all silenced and planes don't ascend,

To savour the seasons, sow seeds in a row,
Listen to birdsong and watch as plants grow.
Take time just to be and assess where I'm at,
Freed from the need to get on with that ...

In gaps between lockdowns I've welcomed my friends
But kept at a distance lest rules I offend.
So what will I keep from a year that's so strange
But pleasure at being at home on the range.

Growing the veg and eating it too
Or turning it in to a great veggie stew.
I said at the start, I'll give this a while
To heal up the ankle, then do things in style.

Well the ankle has healed with help from my friends
But the afternoon tea got lost round the bends
Of u-turns and backtracks and dealing with numbers
that depend on whose counting and if there are blunders.

Decisions to make when no outcome is clear
And results depending on people (oh dear!)
We aren't all the same and will go our own way
Whatever we're told and whatever we say.

But I'm sure we'll look back and new lessons have learnt.
Seen how green is my valley and what can be burnt
For renewable energy or used one more time,
Reducing the landfill and mountains of slime!

Maggie Kingston

TemeTalk deadline for the March issue is 18th February

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Evelyn Joyce Spilsbury

of Oakhill, Eastham, 14th June 1932 to 10th December 2020

Joyce was born at Hall Farm, Stottesdon on 14th June 1932, the third child of Tom and May Beddoes. She later attended Kidderminster High School where she met David's sister, Olwen, and began visiting Eastham Park.

Joyce married David in 1953 and in 1955 they took over at Eastham Park, farming in partnership there for 40 years before moving to Oakhill in 1996.

Joyce embraced Eastham, village, and community life to the full. She was in the WI, on the fête and patronal festival committees, she was part of the church cleaning and decorating team. She ran the tea tent with fabulous efficiency for 40 years, doing it for the last time at the age of 80. She organised the pudding tent at the village barbecue, she made and served thousands of cakes over the years and as one lovely card said, she enjoyed many lovely times and poured many cups of tea!

Joyce was someone who just got on with it. If it needed doing, she did it, without any fuss. From the largest to the smallest thing, she did it with love and care, with precision, and she did it well!

She is widely and affectionately remembered by so many for her cooking. She made and iced exquisitely detailed and intricate wedding, anniversary and birthday cakes, as well as Christmas cakes to give away and for prizes in the Christmas raffle at Eastham.

She was a cornerstone of the village coffee morning. Taking a basketful of home produce, she'd be gently mobbed as she stepped through the door, everyone eager to see what Joyce had brought!

She loved gardening and was a member of the gardening club for many years.

Always busy, always working, always smiling and happy, she was a powerhouse of energy. She'd always find time to help, or stop and chat. She never really retired at Oakhill.

So many people appreciated the easy warmth of her welcome, her twinkly smile, her kindness and generosity to family, friends, neighbours and strangers alike ... whether jams, cake, eggs, fruit and veg, plants or cuttings, she wanted to give you something.

It was a full life, well lived. We have received many kind and lovely messages sharing love and appreciation for Joyce, referring to her as a pillar of the community, not just in Eastham but in the district as well. Thank you all for your messages, kindness, love and support, and for your donations in memory of Joyce.

Our special thanks to all who braved the snow to pay their respects to Joyce along the route from Oakhill to Eastham village hall, and those who gathered there. We were deeply touched and grateful.

Daily Hope – a new way of bringing worship and prayer to people's homes

Recently the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, launched Daily Hope, a free phone line offering hymns, prayers and reflections 24 hours a day during the lockdown. The line received more than 6,000 calls in the first 48 hours of its launch.

The free phone number is: 0800 804 8044

It opens with a greeting from the Archbishop followed by a number of options:

* To listen to a full message from the Archbishop of Canterbury

1 Hymns We Love

2 Hymns line – for some uplifting hymns

3 Prayer line specific and relevant for coronavirus times

4 For more options which are as follows;

5 Daily Church of England service

6 Morning and evening prayers

7 Covid-19 advice

Word of the month: plethora

Noun, singular, mid 16th century (in the medical sense): via late Latin from Greek plēthōrē, from plēthein 'be full'

This is my new favourite joke.

A woman is sitting in church at her husband's funeral when a man approaches her and says, "Would you let me say a word?" "Of course," replies the woman. So the man stands by the coffin, faces the congregation and says "Plethora." As he returns to his seat, the widow says, "Thank you. That means a lot."

And that's my word of the month, *plethora*.

But *plethora* doesn't just mean a lot. It means a very large amount of something, especially a greater amount than you need, want, or can deal with, or an excess of bodily fluid, particularly blood.

My husband recently stopped me using the word to describe the effect that coronavirus had on our business, particularly the very large number of systems we had to put in place to make sure our letting caravans were not only clean but also sanitised at every changeover. "It's a bit pretentious," he said, "Just say *many*."

Pretentious, moi? Like the widow in my joke, I think it's a good word that should be used more often.

SG

David Ward
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Teme Valley Wildlife

Happy New Year – I wonder what 2021 will bring? A return to normal for our Teme Valley Wildlife group meetings, I hope. One of the talks we had to postpone last year was about a project to re-introduce beavers into a number of sites in Wales, so I thought I would write about the increasing use of this method to boost wildlife numbers in the British Isles.

One of the most successful and certainly most obvious wildlife reintroductions has been that of the red kite (above). In 1989 Spanish birds were set free in the Chilterns and later in three other areas, including, nearest to us, the hills of mid-Wales. Anyone who has taken a Chiltern Line train or driven down the M40 will have noticed how they have prospered since. We now enjoy seeing these beautiful birds powering up and down the Teme valley, although they fly with such grace and precision that they are never in view for long. Other introductions, of great bustards to Salisbury Plain, storks to the West Sussex Knepp estate, cranes to the Somerset Levels and golden eagles from the Highlands to southern Scotland, prove that breeding animals in captivity, or relocating them from countries where they are abundant, can boost or replace populations that in other places are in decline.

Of course, the availability of suitable habitat is key to these projects and wildlife organisations make detailed plans to ensure that their subjects have the greatest chance of success. Last year I saw a report of a golden eagle (rather unprosaically dubbed "Beaky" and recently moved to lowland Scotland) taking a 90-mile flight to check out the Pennines. This was the first English sighting for many a long year, and as she was female, it is to be hoped that she was looking for somewhere suitable to build a nest here.

Mammals are finding themselves being assisted into new territories too. Hazel dormice (below) and water voles bred in captivity are currently being released into many habitats from which they had previously been lost. Pine martens, larger animals who thrive in the north of Britain, have recently been released in Wales

Continued on page 24

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Eastham Riverside Fête

If you would like to help out with the organising, putting up and taking down or running a stall at this year's fête on **Sunday 15th August**, please get in touch (the earlier the better) with either Jane Yarnold, Celia Adams or David Clarke and we will gladly find you something to do.

Continued from page 23

and in the Forest of Dean. These elusive characters have already begun to breed in their new homes. Beavers are a bit controversial, hence our hoped-for talk, but the need to alleviate flood risks has given them and their pond-creation activities a boost and some animals illegally re-introduced have recently been given permission to remain.

Insects have also benefited from naturalists' attentions. The large blue butterfly has been successfully re-introduced to former sites, although it's early days yet to determine success. Often a considerable amount of research needs to be done to establish the exact conditions for creatures to thrive. The large blue requires the presence of particular ant colonies and grass grazed to a specific height before it can settle happily into a new home. What complex requirements!

Watch this space for the Welsh beaver story, which we hope to bring you later in the year.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group is being planned as a joint venue/Zoom event at Lindridge's Covid-secure village hall. Please look out for details as they're not yet finalised. There will be no entrance fee for attendance in person, but pre-booking will be required.

Stephanie Mocroft

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 holds meetings on the second Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Contact us by telephone on 01568 750413 or by email at tvwg@outlook.com.

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meets on the 4th Wednesday of every month from 10.30 am to 12 noon at Penlu Sports Centre

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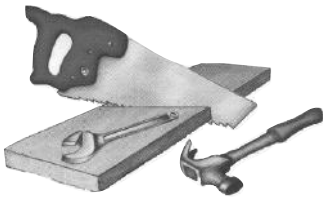

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What's on in Teme Valley South

January

15th	Friday	Take Breath, via Zoom, 4pm
18th	Monday	Eastham Memorial Hall annual meeting, via Zoom, 7.00pm

February

3rd	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, via Zoom, 10.30am
18th	Thursday	Eastham Residents Association AGM, via Zoom, 7.30pm

March

3rd	Wednesday	Eastham Coffee Morning, via Zoom, 10.30am

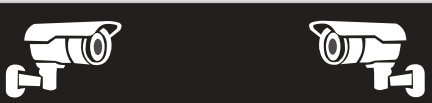
May

8th	Saturday	Plant Sale, Hanley Court Gardens, Hanley William, 10am

August

15th	Sunday	Eastham Riverside Fête, Eastham MemorialHall, 12 noon

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



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Services
January/February 2021

We are praying online daily via Zoom so do email Rev'd Julia if you would like to join us. If you have a prayer request to be included please ring or email Rev'd Julia or your local pastoral team member – see Teme Valley South Contacts on page 2.

The Blessings Group continues to meet weekly and is coordinated by Richard Skerrett who can be contacted on 01886 853099 for details.

Online Sunday services continue. For details see:

- Teme Valley South Churches Facebook page
- Our website, www.temevalleysouth.org
- Google 'A Church Near You' and put in your postcode to find us
- The Church of England has a pre-recorded weekly online service: search Church of England weekly services or go to www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/church-online/weekly-online-services

Sunday Services

(Subject to change – check with your churchwarden or Rev'd Julia)
Please bring a facemask for services inside a church building

Sunday 10th January		
3.30pm	Rochford	Evening Service
Sunday 17th January		
	Online	Zoom Morning Prayer
2.00pm		Walking Church
Sunday 24th January		
	Online	Plough Sunday service
10.00am	Rochford	All-age Service and Communion
Sunday 31st January		**Candlemas**
	Online	Zoom Café Church, *contact Rev'd Julia for the link*
Sunday 7th February		
10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion
Sunday 14th February		
	Online	Snowdrops Songs of Praise
10.00am	Hanley William	Holy Communion
3.30pm	Rochford	Evening Service
Wednesday 17th February		**Ash Wednesday**
7.30pm	Online	Service to mark the start of Lent
Sunday 21st February		
10.00am	Eastham	All-age Service and Communion
2.00pm		Walking Church
3.30pm	Hanley Childe	Evening Service
Sunday 28th February		
10.00am	Rochford	All-age Service and Communion

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