

Temetalk

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August 2021

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

Inside this month's issue

**The birdbox that felled a tree • Cycling for her dad
Fêtes, music and fun on the beach
and all your parish news**

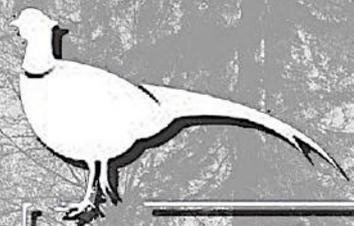
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TemeTalk

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A community going forward with God

August 2021

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

Designed and typeset by
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Printed by
Orphans Press, Leominster

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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

Having been away on holiday recently and discovered for the first time some of the delights of Pembrokeshire, the one thing that disappointed me a little was the local village church building. When I walked round to spend a quiet moment and pop my head round the door, I found it closed. Although St David's Cathedral was glorious and the Choral Evensong I attended on Father's Day was very moving, it would have been good to find a local place to go into to pray. Many of the 'Our Future: God's Church' questionnaire respondents agree with me. One of the top three things people valued were our church buildings and churchyards as 'a peaceful and spiritual place for quiet contemplation and meditation'.

Indeed, one of the many sadnesses of the recent pandemic is that we have had to keep our church buildings open for fewer hours than most of us would like. I am therefore delighted that we will be able to offer them once more as that daily open oasis of calm and spiritual presence in our communities. We will continue to offer hand sanitiser and do wear a mask if you wish to when in the buildings. Small acts that show kindness and respect for others.

So, this August when the summer sun is beating down – or if you need a place of shelter as the heavens open – do pop into one or more of our seven church buildings. When there, you may like to offer thanks, pray for a specific issue or for one of your family or friends. Or you may wish to reconnect with that sense of something beyond ourselves and draw breath – spending a moment as a human 'being' and not a human 'doing'. Enjoy!

Rev'd Julia

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TemeTalk

Deadline 18th August

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Parish news



Congratulations

Congratulations to Angelina and Mark Clayton who celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary with a service on 18th July at St Peter's, Stoke Bliss. We blessed a new coral and jade ring and they renewed their vows on a beautiful summer's day.

Services in TVS churches

We are now formally out of lockdown, but with ongoing high Covid case levels nationally, and so we start to learn to live with the disease. In TVS we will be adopting a cautious approach, with kindness and looking out for the safety of each other as our primary concern. At services we will be offering hand sanitiser.

Masks and social distancing during services will be preferred but optional. Please respect the choices of others.

Communion will be offered in the revised format we have been using for a number of months.

Congregational singing is back!

Services are as advertised later in this magazine and we will continue to produce some online services and pray daily on Zoom.

From the registers

We are looking forward to more Christenings during August, details to follow next month.

Hanley William – gate to cemetery

Please would anyone visiting graves or going into the fenced cemetery area close to the church be very careful to shut the gate and tie it up with the twine when you enter and leave. Whilst it is lovely to see sheep in the field next to the cemetery, they don't mix well with fresh flowers and pot plants. Just too delicious to resist if the gate is open. Thank you.

Forest Church

Many people discover their most profound spiritual moments are when they are outdoors with the natural world. Being in the natural world helps us to slow down from busy daily life and to reconnect with God and the earth. Forest Church has its roots in the long Christian tradition of engagement in nature, such as the Celtic and Franciscan approaches. The sessions as quite informal, they take place outdoors and help us to connect with God, nature and each other. We take inspiration from the natural world around us through a range of themed activities.

Forest Church is open to everyone but especially seeks to give a special welcome to individuals and families and here in Teme Valley South we are having a taster session for about 45 minutes at 10am on Saturday 7th August in the churchyard at Stoke Bliss. So we invite you to come along and find out more. If you have any questions or would like to be in the loop and are unable to join us on this date, please contact Jen on 07749 977821.

Service times and openings

Our church buildings are now open once more. 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.

Kyre Wyard will still be attended from 2pm to 5pm on Friday afternoons, with Take Breath, our silent prayer time, open to all from 4 to 4.30pm

Rev'd Julia

Rochford 49 Club Congratulations

to this month's £25 winners:

Wednesday winners

June 23rd No 16 Sue Gumley
June 30th No 32 Andrew Barbé
July 7th No 14 Dan Taylor
July 14th No 51 not sold

Saturday winners

June 19th No 14 Mrs Robinson
June 26th No 19 not sold
July 3rd No 23 Jean Harrison
July 10th No 1 not sold
July 17th No 1 not sold

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

Ring Gill Smith on
07815 030050

Teme Valley Tote

July's prize draw of the Tote (the second draw in this series) was decided when Rev'd Sally Jones rolled the dice on 3rd July to select the set of random numbers. Prizewinners are:

£50 – Mrs R Collings of Knighton (No 658)
£30 – Mr M Atherton of Stanford (No 543)
£20 – Jim Cumming of Eastham (No 263)

If you have any queries please contact Robin Dean on 01886 853295 or email robin.c.dean@gmail.com.

You can still join if you wish, please contact Robin.

TemeTalk ronsmum@btconnect.com

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Rochford Rochford Rochford

The complete easing of Covid restrictions is still under review but hopefully this won't affect the outdoor activities we have planned. We will of course take all measures to be as Covid secure as possible, so please be sensible, use hand sanitisers provided, maintain social distance, wear masks when requested and obey self-isolation messages.

Rochford Open Gardens

Very many thanks to all the hosts who opened their gardens and everyone who helped with this highly successful event. The weather stayed dry and 78 people enjoyed the gardens and the cream teas and raised over £730 for village hall funds. We had some great feedback about the lovely selection of gardens and we look forward to doing it again next year with some extra gardens and a longer day for people to be able to visit all the gardens.

Village hall roof

As you will have noticed, work is well under way to fully repair the village hall roof. Unfortunately additional work is required to repair rotten woodwork where the roof has been leaking, which is significantly increasing the cost over and above the original quotation. Your help and support of village fund raising activities is therefore even more necessary than usual, so please do everything you can to help raise money for our village hall. Any fundraising ideas are very gratefully received. Any offers of help (physical and financial) with clearing, cleaning, painting and decorating following the roof works will be welcomed with open arms. If anyone can recommend a good plasterer, please let us know.

Big breakfast and neighbourhood lunches

Unfortunately, both neighbourhood lunches and the big breakfast are postponed until September while the hall roof is being done. The next neighbourhood lunch will be on 17th September.

Rochford Rocks

Rochford Rocks is on Saturday 21st August at Kyrewood Grange. Music from the Rock Shack Band, baked potatoes with a variety of delicious fillings (from Ann), homemade puds and a Pimms, wine and real ale/cider bar will all make this a really good party. Everyone is very welcome so please invite your friends and family and let's make it the best one yet. Please contact Andrew (07809 658484, Andrew.barbe@btinternet.com) or Ann (01584 781317) for tickets, as we need to know numbers for Covid and catering purposes. Again, all offers of help welcomed with open arms, from marketing and publicity, making puds, helping setting up and help on the night.

Rochford Fête and Fun Dog Show

Rochford Fête and Fun Dog Show is on Sunday 22nd August, again at Kyrewood Grange, by very kind permission of George and Louise Bennet. It is always an enjoyable afternoon with a range of stalls and competitions together with a grand draw and the **Rochford Bake Off** – see recipe on page 21. Please let us know if you are able to man a stall or if you can provide any donations for the tombola, white elephant, plant, cake and book stalls. All donations can be left with Ann.

Telephone box swap shop

Thanks to Tom Jones for preparing the old telephone box as a swap shop. Please donate anything of good quality that you think someone could use. Only items that can be kept inside the telephone box please – books, DVDs, plants, surplus veg from the garden etc. Please keep it tidy! If you put perishables in, please let people know through the parish WhatsApp group and if they aren't taken, please dispose of them.

If you are not in the parish WhatsApp group and would like to join, please send you name and mobile number to Andrew on 07809 658484.

Church services in Rochford

Physical church services (subject to Covid rules) are taking place again, at 6.30pm on the second Sunday and 10am on the fourth Sunday in the month. Everyone is very welcome.

Andrew Barbé

Stoke Bliss and Kyre

Stoke Bliss church cleaning day

Thanks to everyone who came to Stoke Bliss church on Saturday 17th July. A very efficient band of helpers had been organised by Jen Jones, our churchwarden, and despite the heat they worked hard from 10.30 to 2.30 with cakes and drinks organised by Marg Yarnold. The outside team strimmed paths through the churchyard and pruned the bushes whilst leaving areas to grow naturally so that wildlife could flourish. The inside team polished the Elizabethan wood with a delicious smelling old fashioned polish and cleaned the out-of-the-way corners. So thanks to Marg and Andrew, Maggie and Mike, Helen and Ann, Anna and Oliver, Paul, Maggie, John and Julia and, of course, to Jen Jones who inspired us all to keep going, ably assisted by her dog Jyn.

As it happened this was the day before a 35 year wedding anniversary blessing for Mark and Angie, who have visited Wigley Orchard Caravan Park for many years and wanted to celebrate the day here. So the final touch was added when their flowers arrived to complete the refreshing of the church. All the best to Mark and Angie – may they enjoy another 35 years together.

An inspiring read

If you want to be inspired about the potential for restoring our wildlife through achievable visions read *Rebirthing: Rewilding Britain and its Birds* by Benedict Macdonald! Benedict writes about the need for wildlife corridor connections rather than isolated islands that trap the colonies of all creatures.

A thought for our area – how would it be if we look at linking areas of ‘messy scrub’ in the way of wide hedges and along our many streams to enable corridors of movement and therefore diversification.

I was up at dawn and although the birdsong was lovely it struck me that now I get excited if I see a rabbit – just one – when in my childhood they were common and could be seen grazing at dawn. In the words of Carly Simon’s song, we don’t know what we’ve got till it’s gone.

Book Launch

The History of Kyre Manor and Church will be launched at St Mary’s Kyre on Saturday 2nd October from 2.30pm to 4.30pm where author Maggie Kingston will sign your book with a (short) personal message.

Maggie Kingston has now completed the first part of the history of Stoke Bliss and Kyre. The profits after publishing costs from sales of these books will benefit their respective churches: St Mary’s, Kyre towards the repairs to the Lady Chapel east window and St Peter’s, Stoke Bliss for the ceiling repairs. (Gift Aided additional donations are gratefully received.)

Advance booking will reserve your signed copy with a deposit of £5 (the full cost will be £12.50-£15). Please contact Maggie on 01885 410431 or mdk46@phonecoop.coop for the BACS details. This will help with publishing costs in advance of the launch.

Maggie will be holding more book signing events in the run up to Christmas at indoor venues.

Maggie Kingston

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Eastham Jottings

Coffee morning

Make a date – Wednesday 4th August at 10.30am – to join our first coffee morning facilitated by Jane Yarnold without Covid restrictions. It is very special as it will be the leaving party for David and Jean Harrison who are moving to Norfolk in September. David and Jean have been great supporters of our coffee morning for many years and will be greatly missed.

Zumba Gold at Eastham Memorial Hall

Thanks to all who attended the taster Zumba Gold class on Wednesday 14th July. We are continuing with classes each Wednesday at 1pm. To join call Lucia Becci, 07709 301030, email lu.500@live.co.uk or Celia Adams, 01584 781258, email easthamcourt@icloud.com. Please bring strong trainers, a towel and a bottle of water.

If you are interested in an evening Zumba class please contact Lu as soon as possible. When there are enough she will run a class on Mondays at 7.45pm at the hall.

Eastham Riverside Fête

Bring friends, bring family, bring your dog and support the 53rd fête on Sunday 15th August. Starting at 12 noon in and around the newly rebuilt hall there will be free Shetland pony rides, a fun dog show and scurry run as well as teas and plants for sale. You can enter either plants or handicrafts in the produce show and there are many other attractions including tombola, bric-a-brac, books and brass band. There will be a barbecue, teas and a bar and cakes to buy to take away, and plenty of activities to keep the whole family entertained. With parking and entry and some attractions free it's a great way to have a fun afternoon.

Donations for the fête

Donations are still happily received up to Friday 13th August including bric-a-brac, plants, cakes and items for the tombola such as single bottles or a selection box. If you are not sure where to take your donations, please contact Celia on 01584 781258.

Raffle tickets for cash prizes

The raffle is one of the best money earners at the fête and you can't win if you don't get a ticket! The more you buy, the better your chance. Please collect and return books and takings to Celia Adams (01584 781258) – there are lots to be sold so make sure you have your quota.

Children's activity day

Come to the beach at Eastham Memorial Hall on Wednesday 11th August (10 am to 3pm) and join in the fun. There will be paddling pools, sand and volleyball with crafts and games for all. Bring swimwear, buckets and spades. Georgina Painter Black will be running a special art session. Come for an hour or for the day (bring a packed lunch for a picnic on the beach). For more information contact admin@eastham-memorialhall.org.uk or call or text 07815 833892.

Eastham Community Garden

The hard work is starting to pay off. Strawberries are now available in the community garden, free to whoever gets there first. Be quick before the birds get them. The tomatoes will be ready soon. Very special thanks to Margaret for all the watering.

Pilates at Eastham Memorial Hall

Pilates will be running every Tuesday at 1pm from 7th September. There will be a seated pilates class at 2pm (depending on take up) for people who would rather not use the floor. Taster sessions can be arranged with Sue on 7th or 14th September – for more information please contact Sue on 07974 343609 or email sue579@icloud.com.

Flowers, cleaning and sidesman

August – Diana Clarke

September – Alison Brookes

Celia Adams

See page 12 for **Eastham Fête Dog Show** classes. Remember that all dogs must be on a lead at the fête and dog show and you must clean up after your dog.

Hanley Happenings

Greet and meet tea party

As I mentioned last month a traditional village cream tea party has been arranged for 11th September 11th between 4 and 6pm in the village hall. All Hanley residents are invited and I hope this will provide an opportunity for some of our new residents to meet new friends, as the last eighteen months has obviously been very difficult for getting out and about.

All families are welcome and there will be games and competitions for the children. In addition I hope some of our local talent might be persuaded to show off their work which is truly amazing and deserves to be seen. This event is entirely free to Hanley residents so it would be good to see you there – a formal invitation will be sent out with the September TemeTalk. Any Covid advice at the time will be followed

Village Hall

Activities in the hall are back in full swing, not only table tennis on Monday evenings but also art classes on Wednesday evenings and it is hoped that Pilates will restart in the near future.



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Anyone for tennis?

The tennis court at Town Farm has had a makeover so is available to anyone who wants to play. A tournament has been suggested, which sounds a great idea. Do just ring first on 07836 733072 to avoid disappointment!

New arrivals

We welcome David and Donna Diamond who have moved from Devon to Steep Top in Hanley Childe, taking over from Pat Grant who lived there for twenty years. David is a recently retired farmer, if there is ever such a person, so will be well used to living deep in the country!

Peter Thorneycroft

Carole is raising money for Macmillan and Air Ambulance

After a two-year postponement, Carole Gardner will be hosting a coffee morning for the Air Ambulance and Macmillan on behalf of the ladies of the Friday Market. The morning will actually extend into two mornings, from 10 until 4 on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th September and as in the past there will be a raffle. It will be open house at Tally Ho Cottage – Carole says she may even weed and dust!! If you don't like coffee she can offer hot chocolate or tea.

There will be a bric-a-brac stall and a produce stall so fingers crossed for fair weather!

Any donations to the raffle, cakes or items for the stalls will be much appreciated and can be left at Tally Ho Cottage in advance or on the Friday. The last event raised over £2,000 which was divided between the two deserving causes. Carole would love to reach an equal amount!

Carole is looking forward to seeing you all. Masks will still be optional unless things take a turn for the worse.

Art Classes

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 join.

Stanford • Stanford • Stanford

Where to begin again?

At the time of writing (17th July), we have Freedom Day on 19th July. It is not currently clear what this means for our churches and services. It is suggested that we will need to continue to wear masks on public transport and in some shops although it will no longer be a legal requirement. Rev'd Julia outlines what it will mean for our churches on page 3.

The new normal

We have returned to our normal schedule of services in Teme Valley South with a Holy Communion service at St Mary's at 10am on the first Sunday in the month (1st August and 5th September). Hymns will be allowed and John Lloyd is very keen to come back and play the organ for us! 1st August is Lammas Day – my churchwarden's diary says "Lammas (loaf mass), the Feast of the First Fruits, traditionally marks the beginning of the harvest. In rural parishes loaves of bread made from the first ripened corn are taken to church to be blessed". We hope that we will have made some Lammas Bread the previous day.

St Mary's

St Mary's Church is now open every day from dawn to dusk. In a change to the guidelines from the Church of England as a result of 'freedom day', we are allowed to open all our churches every day. The doors will be closed but there will be a notice to say we are open and unlocked. Please visit and sign the visitors book and leave any donations you wish! There will still be hand sanitiser in the porch which you are encouraged to use. If we are told that someone with Covid has visited the church it will be necessary to close the church for 48 hours.

After lockdown

We should be planning a village event – any ideas to Robin please? Nobody responded to this question in May and June's TemeTalk but I got a really comprehensive reply from Brian as a result of my appeal in July's TemeTalk – thank you. We have a village hall management meeting on 27th July and an area church committee in the next few weeks – if you have any further ideas, please let me know and I will find out where and when?

Win a hamper

As an apology for the problems changing our signing mandate, which involved a letter to their Chief Executive, Barclays have given us a hamper of sweets (worth about £30) and a Fortnum & Mason hamper (worth about £100). I would like to raffle them separately with all proceeds going to St Mary's. I was thinking of £5 per ticket with as many tickets as you wish – please let me know if you would be interested (01886 853295). No-one responded to this item in July – wake up Stanford.

Volunteers please – again

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

Robin Dean

TemeTalk

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Bike ride for Macmillan in memory of Karl Lacks



Caroline Cockshott will be leaving home in Ripley, North Yorkshire at 4am on Friday 6th August and cycling to her dad's grave in Kyre. The journey of around 180 miles is expected to take approximately 15 hours.

She chose 6th August as it would have been her father Karl's 65th birthday. Karl died from bowel cancer in October 2017, five years after his initial diagnosis. The family spent a lot of time together during those five years and managed to make plenty of memories. However, it didn't make losing a loved one to this indiscriminate disease any easier.

As a way of honouring his memory, Caroline is taking on a number of endurance events this year including standard distance triathlons, half marathons, the London Marathon, and this 180-mile epic bike ride, all to raise much needed funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Caroline's mother Janet says, "We

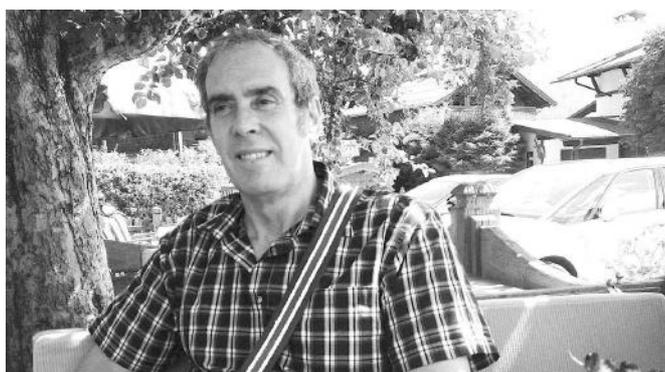
will be forever grateful for the care they provided to Karl and the rest of our family, and want to help ensure this vital support will long continue.

"Karl was a hardworking man, devoted to his family, who enjoyed the simple things in life, and he had a heart of gold. He loved gardening and creating things in his shed. He loved drinking tea, eating cake and having a laugh with his family. We miss him every day."

To support Caroline with a donation to Macmillan Cancer Support, please go to www.virginmoneygiving.com/caroline-cockshott.

Everyone is welcome at a little gathering, with light refreshments, in Kyre Church at about 7pm on 6th August to welcome Caroline.

(Above) Caroline and (below) her father Karl






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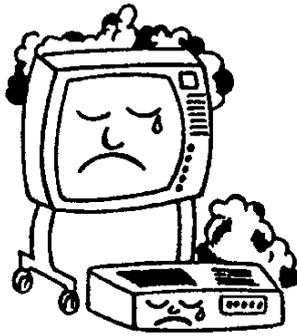
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The birdbox that felled a tree



We were asked, along with others, if we would place a bird box in St Peter's churchyard. We wandered around looking for a suitable site and felt we had found a perfect place for a home for a family of small birds. A very large and very beautiful

horse chestnut tree seemed to fit the bill.

We sited the birdbox in the right direction and my husband secured it really well, saying "that won't come down in a hurry!" Having ensured that all was well, we went home. Shortly afterwards we had a telephone call to say that an extremely large and very long limb of the tree had broken off – what had we done? It was perfectly alright before we had put the birdbox up! I'm forever telling my husband that he is too heavy handed!

So, what to do? An insurance claim was out of the question and although, luckily, the fall

had caused very little damage, there were certain repairs to be carried out and of course this large amount of wood needed to be moved.

Well, the community came together and the tree limb was cut into suitable sizes for logs for wood burners etc, the fence was repaired and gravestones were put upright. For legal reasons wet/ green logs cannot be sold for firewood, but donations and promises have been made which will help boost St Peter's ceiling fund.

Finally, it is planned to retain twelve of the larger pieces as seats for Forest Church activities – more on that to come!

Maggie Downes



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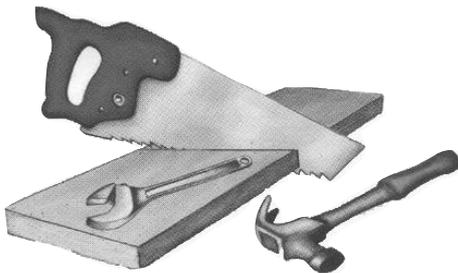
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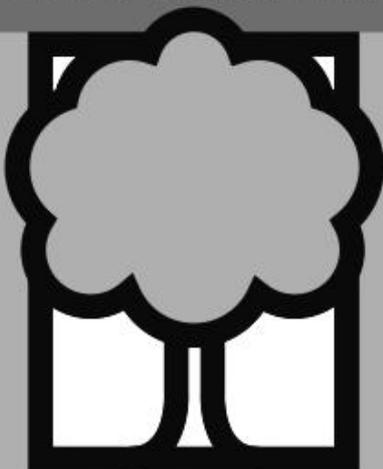
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Sport in the time of Covid

I quite like sport, particularly rugby and cricket, but I am not entirely comfortable with so much going on especially during this Covid-19 pandemic and in front of such large crowded gatherings

Karl Marx wrote that religion was the opium of the people. Now that fewer people are involved in regular church going perhaps sport has become the opiate he was thinking about in our public life.

How else to explain the ability of top performers to travel the globe virtually at will whilst mere mortals like you and me have to stay at home, self isolate, wear our masks and generally follow the rules.

Cheltenham races drew thousands early last year to get the outbreak under way; since then we have had Euro 2020, cricket, Rugby Union and League finals in London, golfers from all points of the compass in Kent and tennis at Wimbledon, all with large crowds

The British and Irish Lions are in South Africa and a French side is playing a series in Australia; in France the cyclists have been touring nearly the whole country with crowds lin-

ing the route.

In contrast my sister-in-law, who lives in New Zealand, made a short business trip to Australia in the middle of June, just as the city went into lockdown. So she has been locked in a hotel in Sydney for a month (she was allowed to use the swimming pool but only if she wore a mask!) and has

now returned to New Zealand where she must self isolate in a hotel for two more weeks before she can go home to her husband. It makes the leper colonies of old seem not so bad!

We haven't seen our grandchildren in the USA for nearly two years because we're not allowed to go there. And if our son visits us he will have to quarantine because although he's been double vaccinated, it wasn't done in this country.

So why is sport permitted so much leeway? Perhaps the authorities think that with so much normal activity forbidden, people need to have an outlet for energies that might otherwise be deemed too anti-social for the greater good.

WBG

People need to have an outlet for energies deemed too anti-social ...



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Stanford History Group is back

Yes, after our compulsory rest last year, subject only to the indoor social restrictions and mask wearing being relaxed, we will be restarting our autumn history course on 4th October at 7.30pm in Stanford Village Hall. Please do join us – you can be sure of a warm welcome! Join us for the whole ten lectures, or whichever ones interest you.

This year we have a very interesting program covering subjects from around the world, entitled 'Some World Troublespots'.

We start with a history of the diplomacy between all the European powers in the aftermath of the first World War, and leading up to the outbreak of the second World War. Who said what to whom?

Then we have a history of the Balkans, those

former countries of the Ottoman Empire, who each followed their own path through the first and second World Wars and into their wars of independence in the 1990s.

We then turn to Japan and understand their changes and turmoil from an enclosed state up to 1850, right up to the early 1950s, from the Japanese viewpoint.

Next is a history of political thought and ideas – how did our key values develop, is there an ideal system?

Just £10 per lecture, or £65 for the 10 lecture course

We look forward to welcoming you!

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Some World Troublespots Stanford History Group 2021 programme

4th October

Diplomacy 1918-35: Peace-making and the road to war

Dr Dan Whittingham, University of Birmingham

11th October

Diplomacy 1935-40: Appeasement and war

Dr Dan Whittingham

18th October

Imperial legacies and nation-building: the Balkans to 1939

Dr Anca Mandru, University of Birmingham

25th October

Blocs, wars and transitions: the Balkans since the Second World War

Dr Anca Mandru

1st November

Japan and the nineteenth century world

Dr Wendy Toon, University of Worcester

8th November

Japan and the early twentieth century world

Dr Wendy Toon

15th November

Does history show us an ideal system in politics?

Dr Sotirios Zartaloudis, University of Birmingham

22nd November

The role and evolution of ideas in politics

Dr Sotirios Zartaloudis

29th November

The first 70 years of the PR China, post Mao – an overview

Assistant Professor Weiqun Wang, University of Nottingham

6th December

The first 70 years of the PR China – the people's view

Assistant Professor Weiqun Wang

13th December

End of term party: discussion evening

Monday evenings at 7.30, Stanford Village Hall, Stanford Bridge
£65 for the full course or £10 per lecture

Mel Williams – at home and away

Local figurative artist Mel Williams will be exhibiting her paintings at St George's Hall, Bewdley from 10th to 30th August.

She will also be opening her studio at The Old Forge, Eastham from Saturday 28th to Monday 30th August from 10.30am to 6pm as part of Worcester Open Studios. She will be showing both old and new work and everyone is welcome.



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h-Art week 4th to 12th September

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Someone's carved a stone to see;
There's dragons flying really free
And lots of paint to splosh.

It's h-art week,
Come and roll some felt with me
Then thread the beads, now look and see
What we have made from scrap and wool to
beautify the home.

It's h-art week,
It only comes round once a year,
So poke and prod and gaze and peer
To wonder how it's done.

It's h-art week,
So open up your purse and say
I'd like that one you've made today
And keep the artist's bank draft clear
So they can play all day.

It's h-art week,
Thanks to those who plan and strive
To show their skill and lift our eyes
To beauties near and far.

Maggie Kingston and 13 others will be at **St Michaels church** at St Michaels, Tenbury Wells from 4th to 12th September, 10am to 5pm each day. Willow, jewellery, paintings, alpacas ...

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Citizens Advice South Worcestershire

Private renting – sorting out repair issues

Hello, I've been living in my privately rented flat for years. I generally have a good relationship with my landlord but I just can't get him to carry out various repairs that have built up. How can I get him to act – and what exactly does he have to do?

This must be a very frustrating situation but sadly a not uncommon one. The law states that your landlord must provide accommodation that is safe, healthy and free from things that could cause serious harm.

You don't say exactly what repairs are needed. If you have problems such as electrical wiring that you think might be faulty, or there's damp, or an infestation by pests, the landlord has a legal obligation to put things right.

In England, landlords are also legally responsible for the maintenance of the general structure, and fittings such as boilers and radiators, basins, baths and toilets and the drains and cannot avoid this.

The first step is to contact your landlord again, in writing. Include photographs of the problems. Keep a record of all communications and evidence relating to the disrepair.

If that doesn't prompt any action, housing advisors at Citizens Advice can help with next steps. These could include contacting your local council (who will have dedicated officers for dealing with disrepair in private rented properties) or asking for a visit by the environmental health team.

Tenants can take their landlords to court to force them to carry out repairs. However, it's worth getting some advice and thinking carefully before embarking on this route.

For further information contact your local Citizens Advice South Worcestershire office by telephoning 01684 563611, or visit www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

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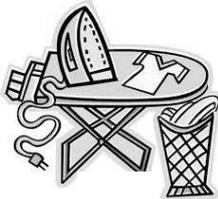
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Rochford Bake Off returns

The Rochford Bake Off is returning to Rochford Fête on Sunday 22nd August. This year's competition is for a boiled fruit cake – here is the recipe.

Good luck!

Ingredients

8in round cake tin or 2lb loaf tin, lined
1lb (450g) mixed fruit
2oz (50g) mixed peel
6oz (175g) soft brown sugar
4oz (110g) margarine
2 teaspoons mixed spice
½ teaspoon bicarbonate of soda
10 fl oz (300 ml) milk
12oz (350g) self raising flour
2 eggs, beaten

Method

Put the milk, sugar, fruit, margarine and peel into a large pan, bring to the boil, stirring frequently and simmer for 5 minutes.



Remove from the heat and leave to cool. Add the sifted flour, spice and bicarbonate of soda along with the eggs and mix thoroughly, pour into the cake tin and level the top.

Cook in a preheated oven 160°C or 320°F for 50 minutes to an hour. Test to see if it is cooked. Leave to cool before turning out of the tin.



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**The deadline for the September issue of TemeTalk is 18th August
Don't forget – the sooner you send in your copy,
the more likely it is to be included**

Seven days to celebrate in August

5th August is National Underwear Day
9th August is National Fresh Breath Day
10th August is National Beer Day
12th August is National Middle Child Day
13th August is International Left Handers Day
26th August is National Dog Day
28th August is National Bow Tie Day

Have fun!

TemeTalk

Deadline 18th August

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

Please send items for inclusion to
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Teme Valley Wildlife

Like many people, I enjoy seeing birds coming into our garden to collect the food and water we put out for them. We have suspended two feeders in the cherry tree on the grass in front of the house, one for sunflower hearts, the other for peanuts, and put clear plastic domes on top to protect them from crafty squirrels. This method works, but may divert these furry friends elsewhere, as I discovered earlier this week. One of my raised beds had been neatly decorated with a line of green strawberry "stars". My husband spotted the brazen culprit, at which I asked "did it have the strawberry in its paws?", "No, in its mouth" he replied, but I digress.



One of the bird-feeder visitors who is less welcome to some garden owners is the sparrowhawk. Sometimes I spot one making a

swift curving swoop into our cherry tree, scattering the small birds amidst a frenzy of alarm calls. He or she may fly away with a catch, chase it down onto the ground or, just as likely, end up empty-handed with big golden eyes staring out onto the empty scene.

Although many people feel betrayed when the creatures they have helped to feed fall victim to a predator, I feel that the ability to support the top bird in a food-chain is indicative of a thriving bird population which is doing well enough to sustain the occasional loss.

Sparrowhawks are woodland birds, the female is the size of a wood pigeon, the male a little larger than a blackbird. Both have horizontal dark bars, the males are reddish, across a white front. Their sole food is other birds, the only British bird of prey to rely on their relatives in this way. They are also given the name "hedge hawk" and anyone who has seen one hunting along the side of a road, darting from side to side just above and below the hedge-top will agree that this is a good name.

I was surprised to see one recently striding across the grass to stand under the cherry tree and look around curiously. I presume it to have been a youngster, as this is not the usual method of approach. Indeed, at first I thought it was a wood pigeon, only its possession of a determined gait leading me to reach for the binoculars. I hope it can hone its hunting skills sooner rather than later.

A further interesting encounter came last winter after a lengthy period of utterly torrential rain. As the rain stopped, a sparrowhawk landed on a dead branch which arches out across our pond. Wondering if it was going to try its hand at fishing, I realised that it was

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Continued on page 24

Continued from page 23

holding its wings out stiffly behind it and allowing the rain to slide off its feathers. After quite some minutes standing in this odd pose it felt dry enough to take to the air again and up it flew.

My final note is of a story I found, and



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rather liked, about an invasion of sparrows into Joseph Paxton's monumental Crystal Palace which he had built for the Great Exhibition of 1851. Queen Victoria was apparently vexed by them and called in the Duke of Wellington to do something about it. No sabres flashing, instead "Sparrowhawks, Ma'am", he is reported to have advised.

The next meeting of the Teme Valley Wildlife Group, on Thursday 12th August, is scheduled to be a talk on The Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty by Cath Landles who is their Community and Landscape Officer. For details of how to join please consult our website or Facebook page. Everyone is most welcome.

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



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For more information please contact the Pre-School on 01584 881647
or visit us at www.lindridgepreschool.org.uk

What's on in Teme Valley South

August

- 4th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
11th Wednesday Children's activity day, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10am to 3pm
15th Sunday Eastham Riverside Fête, Eastham Memorial Hall, 12 noon
21st Saturday Rochford Rocks, Kyrewood Grange, 7.30pm
22nd Sunday Rochford Fête and Fun Dog Show, Kyrewood Grange, 2.30pm

September

- 1st Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
4th-12th h-Art Week
11th Saturday Meet and Greet Tea Party, Hanley Village Hall, 4pm
17th Friday Rochford Neighbourhood Lunch
24th Friday and 25th Saturday Coffee Morning for Macmillan and Air Ambulance, Tally Ho Cottage, Hanley, 10am

October

- 4th Monday Stanford History Group, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm
6th Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
11th Monday Stanford History Group, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm
18th Monday Stanford History Group, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm

November

- 1st Monday Stanford History Group, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm
3rd Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
8th Monday Stanford History Group, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm
15th Monday Stanford History Group, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm
19th Friday Rochford Quiz, Rochford Village Hall
22nd Monday Stanford History Group, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm

December

- 1st Wednesday Eastham Coffee Morning, Eastham Memorial Hall, 10.30am
6th Monday Stanford History Group, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm
13th Monday Stanford History Group, Stanford Village Hall, 7.30pm

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

Services

August/September 2021

We are continuing with prayer 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

Facemasks for services inside a church are preferred but optional

Sunday 1st August

	Online	Lammas
10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion
6.30pm	Stoke Bliss	Evening Prayer

Saturday 7th August

10.00am	Stoke Bliss churchyard	Forest Church taster session
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Sunday 8th August

10.00am	Hanley William	Holy Communion
2.00pm	Eastham	Christening
6.30pm	Rochford	Evening Service

Sunday 15th August

10.00am	Eastham	Holy Communion
2.00pm		Walking Church
6.30pm	Hanley Childe	Evening Prayer

Sunday 22nd August

10.00am	Rochford	All Age Service and Holy Communion
2.00pm	Hanley Childe	Christening
6.30pm	Kyre	Holy Communion

Sunday 29th August

10.00am	Hanley Village Hall	Café Church
10.00am	Great Witley Tea Room	Deanery Outdoor Communion Service

Sunday 5th September

10.00am	Stanford	Holy Communion
6.30pm	Stoke Bliss	Evening Prayer

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