

CLIFTON VILLAGE

OUR COMMUNITY

AUTUMN



2020

General update from the CVRA

Village Events:

There are no planned activities and we will notify everyone once such events become possible.

AGM:

The CVRA AGM has been cancelled until such time that we can safely convene at the village hall. Our constitution allows for the current committee and key posts of Treasurer, Chair and Secretary to be carried forward for a further period and the election of members will be held as soon as it is safe to hold the AGM.

Membership for 2020-21

Due to the current situation the committee has agreed that it is best not to collect funds for the coming year as it requires door to door visits, which we are keen to minimise for everyone. We are instead planning on gathering a double membership fee from residents in 2021 to cover for two years.

Want us to keep you informed digitally – rather than by post? Just email graemebarker@virginmedia.com and we will email you all further updates and newsletter electronically

Produced by Clifton Village Residents Association

Chairwoman's Message

Now that it is officially autumn, we tend to turn our thoughts to the end of the year. Sadly, this is going to be an autumn and winter season with a difference thanks to the Covid 19 situation that we still find ourselves in. With only six people being able to gather together outdoors we find ourselves with restrictions that we have never had before at this time of year.

Given the current situation the Remembrance Day will be observed by the simple laying of a wreath and observance of a two-minute silence at the Dovecote on behalf of everyone. Sadly, the next event on our usual calendar of events is also deemed too risky to go ahead and that is the carol singing and lighting of the Christmas tree. We will still be able to have our tree and it will have lights going on but there will be no official switch on with celebration with carols. If you feel able to help erect the tree please let one of the committee members know. We need some younger members of the village to step up and help. If you are available at 9.30 am on Saturday 5th December please let myself or a committee member know.



The planned autumn fun evening and our well attended Christmas lunch in the village hall will sadly also have to be cancelled this year.

It has certainly been a quieter time for the village hall with only a small number of activities having restarted. This has naturally resulted in a downturn of income for the hall just when planning permission has been granted for a new entrance area and an extension beyond the kitchen. This of course will cost a considerable sum of money. The hall committee have been busy raising the necessary funds which are still somewhat short of the required amount. Those of you who have bought calendars over the last six years have actually already been contributing to the redevelopment fund, as after costs, any profits

from the calendar have been split between the village hall fund and the garden group funds. The garden group of course have not been able to meet since February and so their expenses have been minimal. With this in mind it has been decided to donate their part of the profits to a dementia charity this year. Many of us either know of someone with the condition or have lost a loved one because of it, therefore it seemed an appropriate charity to choose.

We hope that you will be willing to buy what will be our seventh village calendar.

Committee members will be in touch by email or telephone to ask if you would like to order one, if they haven't already. The cost should remain at £6 per calendar but if you wished to pay over that amount you know that the monies



will be going to two good causes. If you would like to see some of the images selected for next year's calendar do look on the noticeboard or on the Clifton Village website where six of the images can be viewed.

During the lockdown even though the village seemed a quiet place to live, there were residents busying themselves with activities to benefit us all. I would like to mention a few here.

You may have noticed a smarter looking bench by the dovecote. That is thanks to one of our newer residents, Michael Atherton. Needing something to keep himself busy he offered to refurbish the bench and other areas of the village that he could put his skills to. So, a huge 'Thank You' Michael for noticing and taking the time to put those skills to good use. We really appreciate that you care.

Alongside the bench Michael has also cut back the grass around the planters, a job that the council generally leave. The planters themselves have also been looked after by Gary and Christine of Village Road. They have taken the trouble to provide plants for the summer planting in all planters around the village and also some more permanent plantings that will help the planters to stay smart while the annuals die back. So, a huge 'Thank You' to you both as well. Clare has been helping them when her busy schedule permits. As churchwarden, chair of the village hall committee and many other local projects including our village library she is another resident who deserves our many thanks.

Speaking of smart, many residents were concerned that the areas between the bollards remained uncut and was looking untidy, so thank you to Ed Peterson for arranging for these areas to be strimmed, out of his own pocket.

Keeping the village tidy in general takes us on to thank Alma Davies and her team of litter pickers who go out on a regular basis to keep our village free of rubbish that less caring people can't be bothered to put in the numerous litter bins provided around key points in the area. This is something that we can all involve ourselves in if we safely collect litter on our local walks.

Thank you also to all those residents who continue to help those who are or have been housebound. You are all what makes our village such a special place to live. THANK YOU all!

Finally, we must all remember to keep washing our hands, stay a safe two metres apart and wear facemasks when and where necessary. Anyone who has downloaded the NHS Test and Trace app will have noticed that NG11 is a medium risk area so we need to take care and stay safe. Enjoy the autumn colours, keep positive and look forward to whatever winter activities we are allowed to partake in.

Pat Rice

September 28th 2020

Covid 19 Update

Although the village have stopped patrols of earlier in the year, the support that they offered is still there for those that need it. If you live with others but become unwell or have any other need, it is important that you follow the Government guidance, but please do also call your warden if there is anything that the village can help you with.

We are aware that there are quite a few people who live alone and that it is important that we still look out for you. If you would like someone to look out for you daily, whether you live alone or not, please phone your local area representative below and we will ensure that this is followed up.

Glenys Blacknell	9214494
Phil Bull	9848089
Helen Huffer	9841316
Ed Peterson	9843229
Pat Rice	9140759
James Royston	07747 114421
John Woodall	9211567

[Help for odd jobs](#)

A continued thank you to the many in the village who have volunteered with various errands including, helping with shopping, collecting prescriptions, running errands and doing odd jobs. Please, if you need help with something (even changing a light bulb), please contact the CVRA members noted above and help will arrive.

Overall, please continue to be vigilant, please continue to look out for each other and always, please remember hand washing and social distancing.

Our On-line Community

For the digitally connected amongst you look for further announcements on the village Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/cliftonvillagenottingham/>

Regular updates on the Village co-ordinated response to the virus can be found on our Facebook page.

can either search for 'Clifton Village' from your Facebook homepage or find us at:

www.facebook.com/cliftonvillagenottingham

Village Notes

The Old Rectory Development

The refurbishment of the Old Rectory buildings seems to be developing at a steady pace now that building has been allowed to restart. The new homes in the grounds have reached the roof tops with roof tiles matching the Old Rectory being put in place. The development should be completed by the beginning of next year, with new residents to welcome in at least two of the properties to date.

Housing Development behind Barton Green

There have been no further developments to date to our knowledge.

Proposed sand and gravel extraction at Barton in Fabis

Hearing sessions to be held in April will now be held in the week beginning October 26th. They will be streamed live through the County Council's website. The hearings encompass all areas of the Nottinghamshire Mineral Plan of which the Barton in Fabis site is just one part. At the end of the week the inspector will give his judgement so we just have to hope that the thorough Barton in Fabis residents' objections win through and the quarry application for the area will be dropped.

The Village Heritage Sign

Proposed village sign
for
Clifton Village



Since our last newsletter an order has been placed with the Village Sign People. As they are a busy company, with a full order book, this will take probably up to next autumn before it is delivered. We have Phil Bull to thank for all his hard work in getting us to this stage. Permissions are in place and thanks to an extremely generous member of our village, who wishes to remain anonymous, we have the funds in place as well. We must say a huge “Thank You” to this person for their extremely generous gift.

Village Library

We must say a big thank you to Clare Ashton for offering her barn as a library facility and also a thank you to those who donated books, jigsaws and games for residents to borrow. Clare opened the library every afternoon for people to drop in and exchange books and chat during the height of the pandemic. Now that the city libraries are open again there is less need to have a daily opening. This has been a huge commitment for Clare to open daily and just shows more of her dedication to village life amongst all her other activities.

Notes from Clifton East and West Council Meeting

September 24th 2020

This ZOOM meeting was attended by Clare Ashton and Ed Peterson. Ed reports with an extract as follows

Local Police report

Sergeant Nigel Bradley commented that Clifton has seen an 8.7% reduction in crime compared to last year, partially helped by the lockdown. This includes reductions in violence, burglary, vehicle theft and drug offences. Anti-social behaviour has increased, reflecting the picture nationally, and shop theft is still a local problem.

Wearing face coverings in the appropriate situations will begin to be enforced more strongly, although compliance in Clifton is relatively good accepting there will always be objecting militants. The police have been working with NET to police the tram network after a rise in anti-social behaviour and refusal to wear face coverings.

Operation Reacher is to be introduced in Clifton. This is a proactive approach to policing that has been implemented in Bestwood with excellent results. The process involves being a lot more in touch with what is happening 'on the street' and thereby able to step in before matters deteriorate or crimes happen.

Clifton Town Centre Development

The overall conclusion is that retail in general needs help and Mark Armstrong (Neighbourhood Investment Specialist) has been assisting Market Traders, as well as local shops in Clifton, to obtain Grants to be able to survive. The shop premises in Clifton are all occupied. The feeling is that people are shopping locally in preference to going into Nottingham, owing to Covid. This helps to hold together the overall social fabric of Clifton.

Students are just filtering back and this may help again with retail turn-over.

Prairie Bryant (Neighbourhood Development Officer)

Prairie highlighted various aspects of the Clifton community, including Clifton Village, and activities during the Covid restrictions including the 'Good Companions' initiative which involves some individuals from Clifton Village, organised monthly parcels with activities to engage people. This proved very popular, and they delivered 150 afternoon teas in July. 20 additional users joined the scheme during lockdown.

Clifton Village Bollards to The Green

Prairie Bryant, representing the village as the council liaison officer sought approval for, amongst other items, funds of £24,100 to be used for installation of Bollards to the remaining sections of the Clifton Village Green (N.B. awaiting landowners approval i.e. The Clifton Family.). This was voted on and approved.

VE Day Celebrations

Having read with interests Jean Griffith's account of her memories of VE day we also have an account of another village resident's memories of growing up during that period including the recently commemorated Battle of Britain.

A letter to my Granddaughter

During WW2 there was a period known as the Blitz, when German bombers flew regularly over the South of England to the London area where they dropped their loads in an attempt to disrupt the railways and other industrial activities. They were attacked by RAF planes' anti-aircraft guns from the ground and if it came too "hot" for them they would turn back before they had discharged all their bombs on the dedicated target. They would then drop their bombs anywhere on the way home so that they could be rid of them.

I lived in a town situated just to the south of London, with your great-grandma, great-grandad, my brother Owen, sister Audrey and Frances and baby brother Peter. We could hear the bombers flying over every night, and we would cheer when we heard an RAF fighter plane.

Every night we would sleep in a shelter at the bottom of the garden. It was not very large and when I look back on it now, I find it difficult to imagine how we all managed to fit in it. All six of us! Of course, baby Peter was a baby and didn't take up too much room

and with Frances at about three years old I don't suppose she needed much room either.



Anyway, one night we heard a whizzing sound and my father said, "Phew! That was a near one!" He stood up and looked out of the shelter. He looked at our house at the other end of the garden. It had no chimney. "It's our house!" he exclaimed.

I don't remember all the details but it turned out that a delayed action bomb, that would explode after a time delay, had gone through our roof, through the bathroom into the kitchen and through the suitcase containing all of our clothes which was sat on the kitchen table. So, we all tramped off in our nightclothes to a local hall which had been set up to receive people like us who had been bombed out of their houses. A few days later the bomb exploded and blew our house and the house next door to pieces.

The result of this was that my mother (your great grandmother) evacuated us all off to a place called Morthoe near Ilfracombe, while my father stayed "I know not where" somewhere in London since he was a newspaperman and had to continue working in London. I was only eight years old and can't remember so much about this period: - the train journey seemed to take forever and I remember a fat sweaty woman on the train who wanted to cuddle me, much to my chagrin!

We stayed on a farm near the sea, from where one could hear a lighthouse foghorn blaring out when there was a fog: - which seemed to happen pretty frequently, as I remember. The farmer was a grumpy old man, not liked by any of us. We used to gather mussels from the sea-beach which my mother and the farmer's wife cooked up in big boiling saucepans on a big wood burning stove.

We did not go to school and I remember long, happy days playing in the nearby woods and beaches with the local boys, who saw me, with my southern accent, as a bit of an oddity. My sister Audrey, two years older than me and a bit bossy tried to join in our games but we, all boys together would have none of it, and sent her away!

It was good for me, who had only lived up to then, in the one, limiting, rather urban setting, to experience the countryside and the sea. I think we only stayed there for about three months and my mother told me later that she hated it, since she felt cut off from the world and had to look after all us young children on her own.

We returned to London, to a new house in the same area, which my father had found whilst we were away, and resumed our normal life. The “Battle of Britain” was over then and there were less air raids.

After a while, however, it was officially decided to evacuate all the children to safer areas of the country. This, I believe was organised through the schools. Accordingly, Audrey, Frances and I gathered together with a host of other children to be separated off into job lots for dispatch to various parts of the land. Everyone was labelled with a brown luggage type label and furnished with their gas mask in a brown cardboard box (you must have seen pictures of this) I can't remember much about the journey, other than that we were first driven off in coaches and taken to a station where we took a train.



The train journey seemed to take forever, trains were a lot slower in those days, and during the war there was a lot of shunting backwards and forwards. However, we eventually arrived at a place called Dewsbury in Yorkshire, where we were collected in groups. The intention was that children would then be sent to live with various families living in Dewsbury. The allocation was haphazard to say the least. I felt it was a bit like a slave market. The children were grouped on one

side and the would -be foster parents on the other. The memory that I have is that the locals would point and choose, rather like when teams were chosen for sporting events at school.

“I’ll have that one”

“You’ll have to have his sister and younger brother as well”

“Can’t take them both”

“Well, choose another then”

And so, it went on. We were Catholics and my mother wanted us to stay with a Catholic family. Well, catholic families were thin on the ground, so time passed, and time passed and no-one was suitable or if suitable didn't want us.



Eventually it was decided to split us up. My sisters went to an elderly *catholic* couple who were childless and had no experience of children. I was allocated to a couple (nominally catholic) who lived in a nearby street and had a son about one year younger than me.

You must understand that this was before television and even radio had not been going for many years. As a result, I'd never really heard a Yorkshire accent before: - to me, it was a foreign language and it took a while before I could understand properly what was said. One phrase which does stick in my head is: "I'll bat thee," chiefly because the local Yorkshire folk were fond of saying it!

At that time, education in the North was very much behind that of the South, so I was put at school into classes with children two years older than myself and even then, I was repeating work that I had already done.

On the whole I enjoyed my days in Dewsbury. The family I was with didn't seem to care very much what I did and where I did it. They were fussy about their own son but probably saw me as a cockney (which I wasn't). At that time (and still some places today), if you were from the South everyone thought that you were a Londoner.

To be continued –

Find out what our village grandfather got up to next in our Spring newsletter. Who knew he got up to such things, to be revealed in the further account to come!!!

Clifton Village Hall & School House Trust

The Clifton Village Hall reopened at the end of July with one worshipping group followed later by other regular users. However, not all groups have returned due to the limitations on numbers permitted under COVID Government guidelines. This is likely to be the situation for the foreseeable future given the current circumstances. The reduced hall activity has had a severe impact on our income but we have managed to obtain a grant available to community halls to offset the financial implications of the COVID pandemic.

During the summer, additional insulation has been installed in the larger hall roof. However, the really good news is that our planning application for the new

hall development for a new entrance (for which we already have planning permission), a new multiuse room & extensions to the kitchen has been finally approved. An application for a grant towards the development costs has been submitted & the outcome is awaited.

Please note that we are still taking future bookings and enquiries – mobile number 07982 830120.

Village library

As the local Clifton library is now open, fewer people are continuing to use the Village Library. Therefore, whilst the library remains in the Barn at 48, Village Rd, its' use is now by appointment only. Please contact me, Clare Ashton, on mobile 07775 902385 or email clare31337@btinternet.com



The Village Christmas Tree



Will be lit at 4pm on Sunday 6th December

Unfortunately, due to the Covid 19 pandemic there will be no Carol Singing or festive food and drinks this year.

The CVRA would however welcome your help to erect the tree from 9.30am on Saturday 5th December – please let the CVRA know if you able to help

St Mary's Church

Welcome to our new Team Rector - Lydia Cartwright and family

It is lovely to be able to say a formal "Hello", to you all!



My family and I moved into Clifton in February 2020 to take on the role of Team Rector of the Parish. Despite the complexities of the last few months, it has been a good time to get to know the area and I have been fortunate enough to meet many of you out and about, or in church, over the last few months.

I am here with my husband, Drew, who manages an outdoor centre for Nottinghamshire County Council, our three children, Daisy (15), Isaac (13) and Hannah (11) and our border collie, Scout (8) who you may see taking me for a run in a morning! It hasn't quite been the start to Clifton we anticipated, but we have settled in well and are really delighted to be here!

Even during lockdown, it was obvious that St Mary's Church is a much loved and very special place. Before you even step inside you get a sense of the history of faith on the site and when you enter to pray, you become very aware that your prayers are joining with the many, many prayers of Christians down the centuries. We are so fortunate to have such a beautiful building in our care.

The church buildings may have been closed for a while this year, but the church was still active – checking in on those living alone and producing home worship packs for people to use. Then, over the summer it became possible to reopen and we have run a combination of private prayer and some fun summer services

for all ages outside. Now the weather has turned we are back in the building, but with all the covid safety measures you would expect – you are very welcome to come along.

I am looking forward to getting to know you all and seeing how the church can serve and work with the local community around it. The coronavirus may be thwarting some of the ways that would usually happen, but I am hopeful that new things will emerge in due course.

Given all that is going on, it is hard to say what Christmas at St Mary's will look like this year, but we are keeping an eye on the evolving guidance, and I would love to hear from you about what is important to you at Christmas time – do get in touch on the email address below. Whatever happens, information will come out on the notice board outside St Mary's, on the parish Facebook page: "Church of England in Clifton, Nottingham" and on the website: <http://cliftonchurchofengland.weebly.com/>, but if you would like to keep up to date with church news and events, please drop me an email and you can get a weekly newsletter to your inbox.

Do stop me and say "hello" if you see me out and about.... More often it will be jogging with the dog – we love to run and pray around a different part of the parish each morning, but we're always grateful for a break!

Lydia Rev.lydiacartwright@gmail.com

St Mary's Church Notes

We were delighted that our new curate, Rev Esther Hutchinson, was ordained on Sunday 27th September at Southwell Minister. She & her husband, Sam, are now settling down in the Parish and in their new home in 1, Osprey Close, Barton Green. We look forward to working with them over the next few years.

Fortunately, places of worship were permitted to reopen in the summer but under strict COVID regulations. Initially, St Mary's was open for private prayer each Sunday - then Garden Church was introduced on alternate Sundays, held outside at the back of the church – and were blessed with good weather for

these services. As we have moved into Autumn, since the beginning of October, these church services have moved inside. It is planned to hold a church service each week as from the beginning of November with provision for private prayer at another time for those who prefer not to attend a service.

At the present time, it is not clear what services will be held at Christmas but these details will be circulated nearer the time. Unfortunately, our Ceilidh this year had to be cancelled but has been rebooked for next year – more details nearer the time.

Neighbourhood Watch



Neighbourhood Sergeant: Sgt 1083 Nigel Bradley
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Please see the website for further contact details for your local beat team
http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/local/nottingham_city/the_meadows_and_clifton/clifton_and_meadows/