

July 2015

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All contributions and information from clubs, societies and general community interest items are welcome. Please send e-contributions to:

chronicles@clifton-beds.co.uk

Or via the website by clicking on 'Chronicles' and then 'contact'

Next edition: **August 2015**

Copy date: **July 10th**

**Kathy Blackmore 646371,
Clifton on the Web—www.clifton-beds.co.uk**

Who's Who

All Saints' Church	Rector	Revd Anne Hindle , 8 Rectory Close, Clifton revdanne@clifton-beds.co.uk	819436
	Churchwardens	Sue Welsford , 13 Pedley Lane Ann Sullivan , 7 KnollsWay	811303 817491
	Reader	Robin Welsford , 13 Pedley Lane	811303
	Organist & Choirmaster	Susan Sims choir@clifton-beds.co.uk	01525 404264
	PCC Treasurer	Frank Rivett 27 Purcell Way, Shefford	851816
	PCC Secretary	Philippa Whittington 27 Purcell Way	851816
	Church Hall Bookings	Dorothy Brown 1 Lychmead, Clifton	628982
	Bell-ringing Cpt	Stan Ashton , 15A Pedley Lane	813340
	Mothers' Union	Betsy Gray , 18 Hitchin Lane, Clifton	629690
	Messy Church	Suzanne Stapleton , 811929; Ruth Gray	812820

All Saints' Academy	Head-teacher	Mrs Carol Ward	628444
	School Governors	Chair: Philippa Whittington Vice-chair: Peter Blackmore	851816 646371
	School Bookings	Justine McCarthy ,	628444

Elected Representatives	Parish Council Chairman Clerk (Community Centre bookings)	Barry Livesey 75 Shefford Road, Sharon Kingham parish.council@clifton-beds.co.uk	811385 07547 129038
	MP Nadine Dorries ,	Constituency Office, St Michael's Close, High Street, Shefford	811992
	Councillors Henlow, Arlesey, Henlow Camp & Stondon	Rita Drinkwater , 41 Station Road, Lower Stondon SG16 6JN Richard Wenham , 2 Jordan Close, Henlow SG16 6PH, Ian Dalgarno , 172 High Street, Arlesey SG15 6TB,	01462 850493 0300 300 8563 735510

in Clifton

Chronicles	Editor	Kathy Blackmore , Hawarden Cottage, 47 Church Street, Clifton	646371
	Advertising	Advertising year runs May to April don-gray@ntlworld.com	629690
	Distribution	John Good , Pedley Lane, Clifton	812596

Other village organisations	Biggleswade Gardening Club	Mr A Gray www.biggleswade.gardenclub.care4free.net	01767 221428
	Brownies	firstcliftonbrownies@outlook.com www.girlguiding.org.uk	
	Care Scheme		07817 614654
	CIPS (Clifton Preservation)	Stuart Laing , Secretary	851819
	Cricket Club	Chair: Phil Jones Vice-chair: Ricky Monaghan 07528445888	629596
	Friends All Saints Church	Keith Pledger , 2 Chapel Close k.pledger@ntlworld.com	629020
	Football Club	Jason Shacklock ,	816881
	Guides	Jane Attenborough , 32 Knolls Way,	629063
	Langford Tennis Club	www.langfordtennisclub.org.uk Contact; Paul Metcalfe	700991
	Police Contact	The snr community officer: Sgt Gary Kidd	01234 842531
	Providence Baptist Church	Ron Cook	850643
	Rainbows	girlguiding.org.uk	
	Residents Association	BobSmith , Secretary 30 New Road	812336
	Scouts (All ages)	Mrs Georgina Oxtan (Membership Officer)	08456 046848
	Toddlers	Alison Reynolds , cliffontoddlers@gmail.com	811880
WI	Pat Wisby	814022	
Woodlands	Pre-School, Breakfast & After School Clubs www.thewoodlands.ik.org	811486	

Forward Planner

July	
1	WI Meeting Church Hall 7.30pm
5	Church Open, 2.00 – 5.00
10	Duck Race, Cricket Club, 6.00
11	Academy Working Party, 9.30-4.00
12	Living Well Prayer and Care healing service 6.30pm
14	WI Social 1.30pm Church Hall
17	End of Term
	Barn Dance, Clifton Bury Farm
21	GLGS Bourn 14.00
	MU, Outing to Museum at Stondon
26	Communion with the Bishop, 10.30 am
	Messy Church, Church Hall, 10.30
August	
5	WI Annual BBQ at Clifton Cricket Club
18	GLGS Wavendon 14.00
September	
7	New Term begins
15	GLGS Harpenden Common 14.00
	MU, Terry Sullivan - <i>Holiday in Alaska</i>
18	Happy School Bags, 9.00 am Academy Car Park

Providence Baptist Church – Clifton

Sunday Services

*10.30 am and 6.00 pm. A warm welcome is assured to all.
Communion following the service 3rd Sunday in the month

*The Sunday morning service for Providence Baptist Church, starting at 10.30 am will continue to be held at the Community Centre, Whiston Crescent, until further notice.

Mondays (term time)

Mums and Tots – 10.00 am
5 Up Club – 7.00 pm to 8.00 pm.

Wednesdays

Weekly bible study and prayer meetings – ring for details.

Thursday's

11.30 am—1.00 pm – coffee pot at the church, feel free to drop in for a drink.

Fridays (term time)

10.00 am: Mums and Tots.

Secretary: Ron Cook 01462 850643

Clifton
Chronicles



Submitting local
organisation news to
the Clifton Chronicles

We are pleased to include news and information from
local organisations.

Please ask for a FAQ sheet about how to submit information by
emailing: chronicles@clifton-beds.co.uk

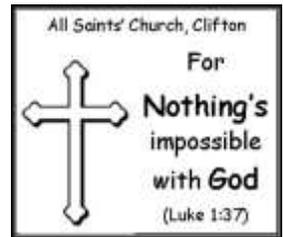
The Clifton Chronicles is produced each month entirely by
volunteers, it drops free on each of the 1300 doormats in Clifton
11 times each year—magic!

Ministry Team Letter

Calling Clifton,

We are fortunate in Clifton that our church stands in the centre of the village. I expect most of us pass it daily but how many appreciate just what a gem we have, so here follows a few facts, some major, some minor and some plain mysterious.

- The oldest thing in the church is the 13th century bowl in the font , amazing to think that this may have been used for baptisms for 8 centuries.
- The south side and porch date from the 14th century as does the tower but completed later possibly because the Black Death stopped work.
- The carillon is the only working one in Bedfordshire.
- Three of the bells were hung in 1590 so span the reigns of Elizabeth 1st and Elizabeth 2nd.
- As regards the most valuable item in the church, well I couldn't possibly say, but when the police arrested a gang of ecclesiastical burglars about 20 years ago, it was on their bucket list. Nobody knows how the 14th century Rood Screen came to All Saints or the 16th century alabaster tomb of Sir Thomas Lucy originally in a London church. He died in Greyfriars but his family came from Northamptonshire, so he didn't quite make it all the way home. We can tell it's been here since 1807 as the then Rector's son H. Olivier carved his name on it. Presumably his descendent, Laurence, knew better.
- The Victorian Reverend Miles was a veritable dynamo, not only reroofing the church, rebuilding the north aisle and remodelling the interior but also building the rectory (demolished in the 1970s), curate's house, school, school master's house and cottages in Church Street. Perhaps he deserved more than just having a Drive named after him.
- In the porch, the statute of Jesus was rescued in fragments from a bomb site in London and restored.
- The church itself was used by BBC radio for a wartime broadcast.
- And my final fact; the rector returns from her extended study leave on August 1st.



Marjorie Cakebread, Church Warden

All Saints Church Services

(for dates see sidespersons' rota at back of magazine)

Sundays:

- 8.00 Communion, 2nd & 4th Sundays (2nd BCP)
10.30 Family Communion 1st Sunday
Parish Communion 2nd, 3rd & 5th Sundays
Morning Worship (non-communion) 4th Sunday
Messy Church 4th Sunday (Church Hall)
6.30 Evensong

Wednesdays: 10.00 am—Communion

Church Open every Monday 10.00-12.00
And 1st Sunday of the month 2.00-5.00

All Saints' Church From the Registers



Weddings:

- 22nd May 2015 Mark James Read and Leane Hilditch
6th June 2015 Oliver David Groom and Sarah Elizabeth Graham

Baptism:

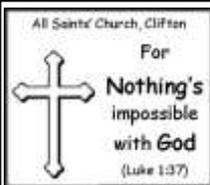
- 31st May 2015 Eleanor Helen Marie Churms

Burial of Ashes:

- 3rd May 2015 Jean Gwendoline Bowler
Edward Bowler
5th June 2015 Audrey Elsyse Townsend

Funerals:

- 12th June 2015 David Michael Ritchie



All Saints' Church

Special services
in the next few weeks



12th July—Living Well
Prayer and Care healing service
6.30 pm

26th July- Parish Communion
Service - 10.30 am



Come and meet the Bishop!



Messy Church
26th July, Church Hall, 10.30
See page 14

Clifton Forum

At our June meeting we welcomed a new member and discussed Democracy (in all its forms).

Our next meeting is on Monday 3rd August at 7pm. The subject this time is Information Technology.

Bob Smith, 30 New Road 01462 812336



Clifton All Saints Academy

July - All Values



At the time of writing we still have a few weeks of the summer term left of which many would have passed by the time you read this. As usual this has been a very busy term.

PTA

We are very grateful to all of the hard work the PTA and other volunteers put in to organising our summer fayre which was on the 13th June. Funds from the PTA have recently purchased a new computerised library system, library books and a new Maypole. As well as contributing towards coach travel for our school trips which help keep the cost down considerably to our parents.

PGL

Mrs Ward, Mrs Undrell and Mrs Hepburn will be accompanying the year 4 children on their PGL residential during the last weekend of the term. This is a very busy and fun packed weekend and the children (and adults) come back shattered! Luckily there will only be one week left to go when we return. Let's hope the weather is kind to us all.

Leavers

We would like to wish all of our leavers the very best of luck and success in their new schools. We sincerely hope they have many happy memories from being pupils at Clifton All Saints Academy. We always like to hear how our pupils get on so please keep in touch and let us know!

Work Share afternoon

Parents/carers are invited to a 'Work Share' afternoon on Tuesday 7th July, 1.45-3.20pm. The afternoon will give you the chance to come in and see your child's work and also take part in an organised activity with your son or daughter. We look forward to seeing as many parents/carers as possible at this open afternoon.

Meet & Greet for Parents & children

On Tuesday 7th July between 3.20 – 3.45pm parents and children will have an opportunity to meet their new class teacher for September. This is a very informal session allowing parents and children to have a chat with their new teacher and ask any questions they may have.

(Continued on page 10)

Working Party

As some of you will know we ran a couple of work days last summer to do some work in the Robins area. These days worked very well with a large amount of work being carried out by the small army of willing volunteers that came out to help. We are going to do the same again this year on weekends during this half term and see what we can get done. Then if needed we will publish some dates during the summer break later in the term. We have a nice list of jobs that have been identified for us to do, including fence painting, some internal painting, re clipping some loose cabling and trunking. We would also like to do something with the wooded area to make it a nice outdoor learning space. I'm sure when we start we will find some more areas needing attention too! If the school were to pay contractors to do these jobs it would cost many hundreds of pounds and they really are jobs that anybody can help with. You do not need any building experience to do these works, just a little spare time and some willing hands. As a group we can save the school a lot of money that can then be spent on items more beneficial to our children's education.

Please let me know on the email below if you can help on Saturday 11th July just so we can put together an action plan. I will be there from 9.30 - 4.00 on these days and any time you can give to help out is appreciated even if it's just an hour, it all helps. Thanks in advance
Paul Bellamy Paulbellamyuk@hotmail.com

General

The gates will be open some of the time due to contractual work and sports club lettings in the summer holidays. This does not mean it can be used as a walk through; please remind your children that they are trespassing if they enter the school grounds during the summer break.

Please can our local community be extra vigilant over the summer break. If you see anything or anyone suspicious around the school perimeter, or in the school grounds please contact our local police officers on 01234 842515

The last day of term is Friday 17th July and the children return to school on Monday 7th September. We hope you all have a very enjoyable and safe summer break.

We look forward to a new term in September and welcoming new children and their families to the Academy and local community.

Website—Our website address is: cliftonallsaintsacademy.co.uk



woodlands

pre-school

As we fast approach the end of this academic term we have lots of exciting things coming up. We will be continuing with our theme this term which is all about “Books” and we will be learning about specific stories and their characters.

We hope everyone had a lovely time at our Fun Day which was held on Sunday 28th June. Thank you to everyone that came and supported us.

Well done to all the children who participated in our Sports Day and all the parents, grandparents and friends who turned up to support the children. We hope you all had as much fun watching the races as the children did who took part.

The final preparations are being made for our Leavers Concert which will be held in the Church Hall on Wednesday 15th July. The staff and children have been working really hard preparing for the concert and we hope as many parents / carers of leaver children, will be able to attend and join in with the fun. Children who are not leavers and generally attend a Wednesday afternoon session should attend the pre-school as normal.

Transition day is Friday 3rd July. This is where children that are moving onto school move into their new classes for the morning. Our latest newsletter had further details and more specific times.

If you have a child that is 2 years 6 months or over and you would be interested in them attending the Pre-School this September, please contact the office on 01462 811486 as soon as possible.

Our last day for this term will be Friday 17th July.

May we take this opportunity to wish all our children and families that are moving on from us all the very best for the future and we would like to wish everyone a very happy, sunny, summer holidays. We return to school on Monday 7th September 2015.

All Saints Clifton



Sunday 26 July

Come and meet -

The Bishop of St Albans

who will be visiting our Messy Church!

Church Hall Stanford Lane, Clifton

10:30am

- ★ Craft activities for all the family
 - ★ Stories and songs
 - ★ Hot lunch
- ★ No fixed cost- donations welcome
 - ★ No need to book

Come and join the fun!

Clifton W.I.



The June meeting was attended by 46 members and 2 visitors, Pat welcomed everyone present and Jerusalem was sung.

The minutes of the May meeting were read, agreed and signed. An invitation was received from Henlow WI for two members to join them at their 93rd birthday party on Thursday June 11. Mary Newman enjoyed the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on 2nd June where she represented Clifton W.I. along with a representative from most WIs in the country. Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall and Princess Alexandra were in attendance.

Sally Noon was our delegate at the Royal Albert Hall on 4th June where the 100th AGM of the W.I. was held in the presence of HM The Queen, Princess Anne and Sophie Wessex.

Diary Dates: End of Season Ladies Clothes Sale at Flitwick Village Hall July 4; Afternoon Boat Trip August 7; Kathy Brown's Garden July 10; WI Day Mystery Outing September 16; Visit to Tiptree Jam Factory and RHS Garden Hyde Hall September 23; Outing to National Arboretum September 30; Guided Tour of Jordans Mill August 20 @ 3pm. Coach Trip to MK Theatre November 25 to see Vincent & Flavia; Afternoon WI on July 14 will commence at 1.30pm and the third afternoon WI will be on October 13 both in the Church Hall. £2 to include refreshments; BBQ August 5 (tickets on sale £8 at July 1 meeting).

Birthday cards for June were handed out, the raffle was drawn and the next committee meeting arranged for Monday June 15.

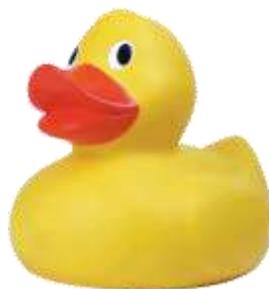
Our speaker was Geoff Lambert 'Dog Detectives' who brought along Buddy, who was trained to detect cancer. Geoff is a member of Medical Detection Dogs who prefer to train mongrels rather than pedigree dogs as they usually live longer. MDD has been in existence since 2008 and they train dogs to detect smells we cannot. They are good at detecting diabetes and diabetics will be warned by their dog if their sugar levels drop. A good speaker enjoyed by all.

Next Meeting Wednesday, July 1, the speaker Mark Steinhardt on 'Story Telling'. Visitors welcome £4.

Katherine Edwards 816334

Clifton Cricket Club's

Annual Duck Race



Friday 10th July 2015

Doors open 6.00 pm

★ Bar

★ Barbecue and Bouncy Castle

★ All welcome



Prizes include:

- £100 for the winner
- £50 for second place
- £20 for third and
- 3 further prizes of £10.

Clifton



Barn Dance

The Grain Barn
Clifton Bury Farm

Friday 17 July 2015
7.30pm - 11.30 pm

Dancing to The Live Band

“BRICKS AND BRUSSELS”

Hog Roast / Licensed bar

£20.00 Incl Hog Roast

Admission By Ticket Only

Price includes a voluntary Donation of £10
available from Jim Peacock Tel : 812514
or Julie-Anne Clark Tel : 851400

By kind permission of Mr & Mrs D A Brace & Mr J Wall

PROCEEDS TO ALL SAINTS' ACADEMY & ALL SAINTS' CHURCH CLIFTON

CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clifton Community Centre

We are fortunate in Clifton to have a new, spacious, well-equipped community centre with floodlit parking for 60 cars.

For information on the facilities available, and to see just how easy and inexpensive it is to use this hall see:

[www.clifton-beds.co.uk/halls for hire/Community Centre](http://www.clifton-beds.co.uk/halls%20for%20hire/Community%20Centre)

To check availability and make a booking, please email:

parish-council@clifton-beds.co.uk

or phone:

Sharon Kingham 07547 129038 or

Bob Anderson on 07546 239784

Booking forms and conditions of hire can be downloaded from the website.



GOLDEN LION GOLF SOCIETY

Our May competition was played at **St Ives (Hunts) GC**, competing for the **President's Cup**. The weather was very challenging indeed, we endured several heavy rain showers plus a hail shower, and in between bright sunshine. All this on a difficult course! The tricky conditions are reflected in the low scoring. Unusually, all our leaders had the same score, so all the places had to be determined on count back. Our winners were:

- 1st with 26 pts OCB – **Neill Hucklesby**
 - 2nd with 26 pts OCB – **Roger Manning**
 - 3rd with 26 pts OCB – **Colin Paine**
 - 4th with 26 pts OCB – **John Whitbread**
- Longest Drive – **Neill Hucklesby**
Nearest the Pin – **Fred Dibley**



See Forward Planner for our next competition.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact, Harvey Price on 01462 812781 or John Wall on 01462 814097.

Clifton Street Watch



Last month I was suggesting we appeared to be missed by those unscrupulous people that want to damage and spoil our residents' lives, maybe I spoke to soon, for this month activities by these villains has doubled against the same period last year.

Some 14 crimes have been recorded for the period 09/04/15 – 12/05/15, these involve a number of assaults as detailed:- 24/4 – New Rd person injured; 18/4 - 3 assaults in Bilberry Rd also 13/4 – an assault in Broad St, these assaults were without injury.

We then had 3 burglaries from dwellings in New Road on three separate dates between 9th & 13th April. Initially, an unknown offender gained entry through a side door and removed a cement mixer from the premises. 3 days later an offender, who was later located and arrested, had removed various items from the property. Just 24 hours later unknown offenders walked into a property but left, it's not known if anything was taken. An additional burglary later in the month 30/4 involved unknown offenders stealing various items including a generator from location a in Grange Street.

We have also had two separate incidents of theft on the 9th & 15th of April, these involved a known suspect stealing a safe from a location that contained a large amount of money. Just a few days earlier a known offender stole a bank card from a victim & withdrew money.

A member of the public was apprehended by police officers in Church Street on 16th April, officers conducted a search of the person, some white powder and wraps were found. The offender was arrested and taken into custody. I know many of our residents have advised what appear to be drug dealings happening in this area, our Police colleagues have acted upon this information to secured this arrest.

Our police contacts can offer advice and support should any residents especially feel vulnerable or have any security concerns, ask for PCSO 3659 Gill Richardson on 101 or at Shefford, Stotfold & Arlesley Local Policing Team, Biggleswade Police Station 01234 842 515

Gary Edwards – 01462 816334



Clifton Residents Association

Hi Everyone

Summer is here, and we all look toward the weather for our Summer enjoyment. We had our open meeting on 20th May and we were entertained with a knowledgeable presentation by staff from Healthwatch Central Beds. This makes us more aware of just what care and medical attention is available in our area.

Aragon Housing Association are taking nominations for their '**Star of Aragon**' awards later in the year.

There are five community awards:

- 1) Good Neighbour (someone who helps out their neighbours)
- 2) Best kept area or street (communal area, shop, pond etc.)
- 3) Best environmental idea (something that helps the environment eg. allotment, litter picking.)
- 4) Volunteer award (a person or group who volunteers in their local area with a project or group)
- 5) Best community project (community safety, youth group etc.)

Aragon Awards:

- 1) Young person of the year (who has contributed a lot / made a difference)
- 2) Involved customer of the year (who has contributed a lot / made a difference)

Special Award

Personal journey award (somebody who has overcome adversity in their life)

To nominate:

Ring Sasha McGregor at Aragon on 01 525 844510.

Closing date 31st July 2015.

Someone out there needs your nomination, stay lucky, Den Fensome

Clifton Planning Applications Central Beds decisions to 9th June 2015



CB/15/02089/FULL – 8th June 2015 – 47 Pedley Lane, SH17 5QT Two story rear extension and adjoining garage. – Consultation period.

CB/15/01947/FULL – 4th June 2015 – 16 Hitchin Lane, SG17 5RS Proposed single storey rear extension following demolition of existing extensions. – Consultation period.

CB/15/01657/OUT – 19th May 2015 - Samuel Whitbread Community College, Shefford Road, SG17 5QS Outline Application: enhancement of sporting facilities including new '4G' floodlit pitch, tennis courts, improved grass pitches and new changing rooms. Construction of up to 64 new homes on land south west of the main school buildings and new access from Hitchin Road. – Consultation period.

CB/15/01563/FULL – 27th April 2015 – 21 Fairground Way, SG17 5JN The erection of a single story rear and side extension and alterations to the existing house. – Awaiting Decision..

CB/15/01543/FULL – 23rd April 2015 – 53 Broad Street, SG17 5RL Two story side and single story rear extension – Awaiting decision.

CB/15/01302/FULL – 16th April 2015 – The Cottage, 1 Pedley Lane, SG17 5EN Change of use from joinery workshop to residential annex - replace garage doors with window & door to front elevation & insert roof light to side elevation roof slope & internal alterations. Change of use from joinery workshop to residential annex - replace garage doors with window & door to front elevation & insert roof light to side elevation roof slope & internal alterations. – Awaiting decision.

CB/15/01186/FULL – 2nd April 2015 – 91 Broad Street, SG17 5RP Two storey rear extension and entrance porch to the front. – Granted.

CB/15/00845/FULL – 19th March 2015 – 79 & 81 Broad Street, SG17 5RP Erection of two detached bungalows with parking and access – Granted.

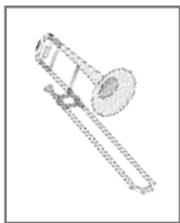
(Continued on page 20)

CB/15/00992/FULL – 17th March 2015 – Land at Chapel Close, SG17 5YG Retention of existing low level emergency lighting column and hard surfacing associated with existing pumping station (in addition to the provision of a new permitted development 1 m high close boarded fence, gate and bollard and the planting of a new hornbeam hedge to screen enclosure) (Resubmission of planning application CB/14/02134/ FULL) – Granted.

CB/15/00832/FULL – 11th March 2015 – Land off Hitchin Lane, Land use for grazing, the erection of a stable block with associated hard standing and fencing. Granted.

WANTED!

Shefford Band needs new players...



If you play the drums or a wind/brass instrument, please get in touch!

We meet on Thursdays, 19:45–21:45, at Shefford Methodist Church.

The band plays a wide range of music and welcomes players of all ages.

Contact: Vic Parker (Conductor) – 01525 713202 – or find us on Facebook.



Keeping Clifton Tidy



I have a rule:
every time I walk anywhere in Clifton
I have to pick up at least
one piece of litter.

If everyone picks up litter directly outside their own homes and challenges anyone they see dropping litter we would all be a lot tidier. I live on Brickle Place and a van stopped opposite my home, cleared their car out and dumped their rubbish on the road. I collected the rubbish and it all led back to a business, I rang and reported them to their manager.

Even my 2 children, aged 1 and 5, pick discarded rubbish up and put it in the bin. Although I must say dog mess is still an issue on the walk to All Saints School.

I don't think the litter is too bad compared to some places and some of it **is by accident when its windy and people's** bins are full up, or after the bin men have been and some gets dropped. I believe its all our responsibility to keep our village clean and teach our children respect for their environment, I'm not sure this message is being filtered down.



Many thanks

CLIFTON CARE SCHEME



THE REAL VALUE OF CARING

A couple of months past I quoted a political report that volunteering is worth twenty-four billion pounds to the **economy. As I write this in 'carers week' I learn that the** value of the economic contribution that carers make in our society is estimated at one-hundred-and-nineteen billion pounds per annum. **That's more than the budget for our** entire NHS. Carers often spend years constantly struggling with the stress of coping with the demands of caring for a parent, sibling, partner or dependant.

It's not just the economic contribution that's important, it is emotional support of someone close who really cares that makes a huge difference to the sufferers life. Yet, how many of us care enough about someone living in our street for whom a regular couple of hour companionship would be such a relief. If you know of a carer near you and you could help by befriending them or getting some shopping, why wait to be asked just make the first move.

The Clifton Care Scheme does offer befriending as part of our service and this can be arranged if only carers would let us know their needs.

IF YOU NEED OUR HELP

We are here to serve everyone so if you or someone you know needs a helping hand, just call us on

07817 614654

. and we'll do our best to help.

Sandy and Biggleswade Lions

A Question of Balance?



“It’s all a question of balance” said the man on the unicycle and of course these wise words can be applied to many current issues. Biggleswade Sandy Lions is a local club and our main concern and the bulk of our expenditure is to help local people and local organisations in Biggleswade, Sandy and the surrounding villages. However we are a part of an international organisation and we do give support to Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) which was founded in 1968. It operates in two ways firstly to support ongoing projects and secondly to help with disasters and emergencies. In the early days of Lionism Helen Keller who was blind and deaf urged Lions to be “Knights of the Blind”. One of the early results was the establishment of the white stick now a universal indication of blindness. Later on came the funding of “eye camps” providing cataract removal to people with no other access to optical services. A main concern is the fact that the biggest cause of preventable blindness now is untreated Diabetes and regular newspaper headlines highlight current and future problems in many countries including Britain.

The work with international disasters usually takes the form of a substantial LCIF grant and an appeal to Clubs around the world to help. This is what took place after the disaster in Nepal and our club made a donation. We remembered that Nepali Gurkhas have served in our Army for many years and given their lives fighting for us in two world wars, in the Falklands War and in Afghanistan. We felt that they deserved our support in their hours of need.

Some of them won the VC and surviving holders were invited to the Queens Golden Jubilee. There was film showing a veteran no longer able to walk being carried on his sons back from the high mountain village where he lived to the nearest transport. When asked if his load was heavy the moving response was “of course he is not heavy he’s my father”.

There is a justified worry that much of the charity money sent abroad is syphoned off in bribes, back handers and downright theft. LCIF aims to prevent this happening to “Lions Money” by working only through trusted Lions contacts on the ground and of course in our local work

our aim is that every penny is spent carefully. We work very hard through the year to bring in the money and when you support us by playing skittles or golf on one of our stalls or buying a lucky dip etc and we accept that you are putting your trust in us to spend your money carefully and get the balance right. Nobody in Biggleswade Sandy Lions gets paid.

We will be enjoying ourselves this summer with fund raising stalls coming up at fetes in Sandy, Biggleswade, Arlesey, Letchworth, Old Warden, Caldecote. Do come and see us, have a chat and maybe you might like to get involved!

For more information about Biggleswade Sandy Lions, call Dave or Judi Hagger, 01462 814693 .



YOU CAN RELY ON LIONS

CLIFTON MOTHERS' UNION GROUP

We continue to meet every third Tuesday of the month. All our members are now Diocesan Members plus two extra members. Our programme is full of interesting speakers, including 'History of Stondon Museum', 'Nursery School in Scotland' and 'Places to visit in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire'.

We had an outing to Swiss Gardens. A planned visit to Stondon Museum was arranged but the museum has now closed so we will decide at our next meeting where to go for our outing in July. Future speakers will be on 'Holiday in Alaska' on September 15th and 'Christmas Flower Arrangements' on November 17th.

In May we held a coffee morning in aid of the Church funds, £205 was raised and we would like to thank everyone who made cakes and all who came to support us.

We meet in the Church Hall at 2.pm & everyone is welcome to join us.



Health warning for ducks!

Bird-lovers are running the risk of killing ducks, geese and swans – **with kindness**.

By being fed bread the birds can develop a health condition which can prevent them from flying. As a result, victims might be unable to seek out more nutritious natural food, and could eventually starve to death.



Bird experts are warning well-meaning families to stop throwing starchy scraps to ducks, geese and swans on park ponds, lakes and rivers in the region.

They say that it is much better to give them properly balanced food which is easy and cheap to buy.

Grahame Madge, of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) said: “Feeding ducks on the pond – or geese and swans on rivers – has become a long-established favourite pastime for many people, especially parents with young children. It is an excellent way for the public to have contact with birdlife and for toddlers to learn to appreciate ducks, geese and swans later in life. But feeding bread – or we’ve often seen chips – to birds can lead to them developing health problems. Food thrown into the water, but not eaten, can also cause difficulties with nutrient build-up in the water, especially in closed water like ponds and lakes.

We don’t want to stop people from feeding ducks, geese and swans but they should consider buying properly balanced food which is available from pet shops or from vets (or in Clifton the Butchers). They are even partial to pieces of cut-up green vegetables, which are good for them and which people can take from home.”

The major health problem to birds caused by over-feeding with bread is a condition known as Angel Wing – deformed wing growth which stops birds from flying. Too much bread or chips also causes bloating, making the birds lethargic and ill-looking.

The imbalance of protein and carbohydrates in the diet is passed on by adult birds to ducklings, goslings and cygnets as they develop in the egg, and causes deformed wings as they grow up. Significantly, the condition is unknown in areas where humans do not feed birds.



RSPB The Lodge nature reserve & gardens

The RSPB Lodge reserve is open every day of the week, from dawn to dusk, for everyone to enjoy and there are plenty of organised events: just ring to book. Entry is included in the car-parking fee - £5 a car for non-members, free if you are members or just visiting the shop. The shop (01767 680541) is open every day (9.00-5.00 weekdays and 10.00-5.00 weekends and Bank Holidays) and has everything for people who love nature.

Our website; www.rspb.org.uk/thelodge is the place to look for all of the events you can enjoy here at RSPB The Lodge this year. Check our Facebook page, facebook.com/RSPBthreecounties for all of the latest news and wildlife sightings.

**RSPB The Lodge nature reserve and gardens,
Potton Road, Sandy, SG192DL, 01767 680541**

Children's summer activities begin with:

Mini-beast Safari

Tuesday 28 July, 10.30—12.00

Ring to book and for more details



**01767
680541**

Clifton Residents' Association - Public Meeting

The Association had their Public Meeting on 20th May in Clifton Church Hall. The attendance from the public was disappointing but not unusual compared with other year's meetings. Our speaker was the Chief Executive Officer for HealthWatch Central Bedfordshire. As well as HealthWatch England we learned that there are 152 local authority HealthWatches - they are our consumer champion in health and social care. They have significant statutory powers to ensure the voice of the consumer is strengthened and heard by those who commission, deliver and regulate health and care services. They are keen to have more volunteers to join the 40 local members in Central Bedfordshire.

Bob Smith, Secretary, 01462 812336

Church Services Rotas July

Date	Time	Welcomers	Readers	Intercessors	Chalice Ass's	Crucifer
5th	10:30	Mrs L Burton Mrs L Patch		Mr B Livelysey	Mr K Gray Mrs R Gray	
	6:30	Mrs M Cake- bread	Mrs M Cakebread Romans 14:1-17	Officiate		
	8:00	Mrs K Whitcher				
12th	10:30	Mr & Mrs K Pledger	Mr J Gray Amos 7:7-15	Mr R Welsford	Mr K Pledger Mrs S Collins	Mr J Gray
	6:30	Mrs Killick	Mrs A Sullivan Romans 15:14-29	Officiate		
	10:30	Mrs P Wisby Mrs J Dann	Mr A Good Jeremiah 23:1-6	Mr A Clarke	Mr B Livelysey Mr R Parker	Mr K Pledger
19th	6:30	Mrs F Kendall	Mr R Watson Hebrews 2:5-18	Officiate		
	8:00	Mrs P Heath				
	10:30	Mrs S Collins Mrs K Black- more	Mrs L Dawes 2 Kings 4:42-44	Mrs K Black- more	Mrs A Sullivan Mrs J Glenister	
26th	6:30	Mrs N Gifford	Mrs J Pavey Hebrews 8	Officiate		
	10:30	Mr & Mrs R Welsford		Mrs J Pavey	Mrs K Blackmore Mr C Brown	
	6:30	Mrs K Black- more	Mrs K Blackmore 2 Peter 1:1-15	Officiate		

A copy of this rota is on the Vestry notice board. If you are unable to participate on the date given, please try to swap with someone else and inform a Churchwarden and the webmaster or amend the Vestry copy. This rota is also available at: www.clifton-beds.co.uk.

ABOUT OUR FRIENDS



St Francis of Assisi, Roman Catholic Church, Shefford

Father	Canon Bennie Noonan	813436
Deacon	Rev Peter Hyde	711702
Parish Secretary	Rose Boulton	811547
	Sr Margaret	814079

Sunday Services

St Francis 9.00 am 5.15 pm

Saturday Service

St Andrew's RAF Henlow 6.00 pm

Shefford Methodist Church

Minister	Dave Haseldine	813284
Steward	Elsbeth	817199
Bookings	Chris & Peter	815069

Sunday Service

9.30 am Worship for all, plus Junior Church, crèche facilities & refreshments afterwards

Other activities see the notice-board & www.sheffordmethodist.org.uk

Salvation Army, Stotfold

Captain Alison Stone 01462-731072

Sunday Services: 10.30 am, 6 pm
Sunday School 11.15