

The Clifton Chronicles



June 2024

Clifton D-Day Events:
6th & 9th June



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The Clifton Chronicles

June 2024

Clifton is once again pulling out all the stops for the national commemorations for the 80th anniversary of D-Day, come along to the Beacon Lighting on 6th and Service at the War Memorial on 10th which is followed by festivities for children with tea and cakes for the grown ups.



The **Clifton Chronicles** is published 11 times a year and distributed **free** to each of the 1700+ houses in Clifton entirely by a friendly team of over 60 volunteers. The Chronicles is funded mainly by its advertisers so do please look at the yellow pages and see the wealth of local businesses in and around our village, without them supporting us we couldn't deliver this magazine to your house each month.

All contributions and information from clubs, societies and general community interest items are welcome, the editor reserves the right to make decisions on content. Please e-mail contributions to: chronicles@clifton-beds.co.uk

As always the Chronicles is available on line: www.clifton-beds.co.uk

Kathy Blackmore, Editor

Next edition: July 2024, copy by: 14th June

Email: chronicles@clifton-beds.co.uk

P	Contents (Alphabetic)	P	Contents ctd
38	Advertising Index	10	Planning
32	All Saints Academy CASA		Police Statistics
8	Care Scheme now CGNS	6	Registers
6	Church Ministry Column	10, 16	CRA, Residents' Assn
16	Clifton Calendar	31	Samuel Whit. Academy
36, 37	Other Churches	4-5	Who's Who in Clifton
24, 36	Parish Council	35	WI

Who's Who in Clifton p1

All Saints' Church	Rector	Revd Caren Topley , 8 Rectory Close, Clifton. rector4clifton@gmail.com	01462 615499
	Churchwarden	Pat Wisby , 51 Pedley Lane	816451
	Readers	Robin Welsford , 13 Pedley Lane Peter Topley, The Rectory	811303 615499
	Organist & Choirmaster	Peter Maundrell , 24 Heron Close, Biggleswade	01767 314621
	PCC Treasurer	Philip Dawes , 58 Church Street	816074
	PCC Secretary	Pat Wisby , 51 Pedley Lane	816451
	Church Hall Bookings	Ruth and Kevin Gray 21 Fairground Way	812820
	Bell-ringing Cpt	Russell Brown 10 Arnhem Place, Shefford	631057
	Messy Church	Suzanne Stapleton , 811929; Ruth Gray 812820	

All Saints' Academy	Head-teacher	Miss Rebecca Byrne	628444
	School Governors	Chair: Milton Guffogg Vice-chair: Carol Weller	07717 155223 07557 949488
	School Bookings	School Office	628444
	PTA	Email: pta@cliftonallsaintsacademy.co.uk	

Elected Representatives	Parish Council Chairman	Steve Langton , 45 Church Street	07721 885672
	Clerk (Community Centre bookings)	Kerri Kilby clerk@cliftonbeds-pc.gov.uk	07547 129038
	MP: Alistair Strathearn	Alistair.strathearn.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 6004
	Councillors Henlow, Arleseey, Henlow Camp & Stondon	Richard Wenham , 2 Jordan Close, Henlow SG16 6PH, Drew Richardson David Shelvey	0300300 8563

Who's Who in Clifton p2

Chronicles	Editor	Kathy Blackmore , Hawarden Cottage, 47 Church Street, Clifton	646371
	Advertising	Advertising year runs May to April chronicles@clifton-beds.co.uk	646371
	Distribution	Ann Good , Pedley Lane, Clifton	812596

Other village organisations	Brownies, Rainbows & Rangers	www.girlguiding.org.uk	
	Cricket Club	Chairman: Daniel Good Email: cliftonbedscc@gmail.com V-Chair: Josh Scandrett : 07805 427129	07854 901069
	Friends All Saints Church	Keith Pledger , 2 Chapel Close k.pledger@ntlworld.com	629020
	Football Club	Jason Shacklock	816881
	Golf Society	(GLS) John Wall	07968 303340
	Good Neighbours	CGNS (CCS)	07817 614654
	Guides	firstcliftonguides@outlook.com	
	HATS Drama Group	Pete Winfield	07971 962411
	Langford Tennis Club	www.langfordtennisclub.org.uk Contact; Paul Metcalfe	700991
	Police Contact	The snr community officer: PS Adam Sugden, Based in Biggleswade	01234 842531
	Providence Baptist Church	cliftonpbchurch@gmail.com	
	Residents Association	Amy Gardiner CliftonRASecretary@gmail.com	07812 792 974
	Scouts (All ages)	gsl@henlowcliftonscoutgroup.co.uk	
	WI	Sue Hyde	504335
Woodlands	www.thewoodlandspreschool.co.uk office@thewoodlandspreschool.co.uk	811486	

Dear Friends,

This month across the nation many people will be Remembering D-Day and the Battle of Normandy. These D-Day landings took place 80 years ago on the 6 June 1944. Some of us are too young to recall this event or may not even have heard of it! I have learned from listening to my parents, my history lessons at school and reading about this on the British Legion webpage that it was the largest seaborne invasion in history. It involved associated airborne operations and it marked the beginning of the liberation of France and Western Europe.



There is still so much unrest in our world and people are challenged to live peacefully together, may we be mindful of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in order to bring an end to the Second World War. Without the courage of all those we remember on our War Memorial, PEACE, may never had been an option. Courage is a value our children are taught at our primary school at Clifton Academy (Cof E VA) along with, Respect, Love, Koinonia (Community). We can all uphold these are values regardless of creed etc.

On June the 6th when the bells will be rung and beacons are lit, services held across the country 6th June -9th June. Let us remember and give thanks once again to those who took part or lost their lives on D Day in order to keep others safe.



'No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. (John 15:13)

With every blessing, Revd Caren

All Saints' Church, Clifton From the Registers

Wedding:

23rd May

Ellie Welch and Joshua Fox



Toddler Group
All Saints' Church, Clifton
Every Monday 2.00—3.00



Messy Church—23rd June

Church Hall, 10:30 am

- ✓ 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!

Always on 4th Sunday of the month

Benefice Service—5th Sunday

30th June @ 10.00 am

Holy Communion

All Saints' Church, Clifton



All Saints' Church Clifton Services

Sundays:

11.00 am Parish Communion 1st, 3rd
Family Service, 2nd
Morning Prayer, 4th

10.30 am Messy Church 4th Sunday (Church Hall)

6.30 pm Evensong, 3rd Sunday

10.00 am Benefice Service 5th Sunday at Clifton, Haynes or Southill

Wednesdays:

10.00 am Holy Communion or Morning Prayer

For details of church services see: <https://www.clifton-beds.co.uk/>



CLIFTON GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

This is a last attempt for a while to try and persuade you to join the ranks of the CGNS volunteers. On 26th June 2024 at 4.15 pm immediately following the Tea & Chat session we are inviting those of you who may be thinking about becoming a volunteer to come along to the Church Hall to hear more about the Scheme and the sort of things volunteers are asked to do. Volunteering is very rewarding especially so when its folk from your local community that you are helping to overcome a particular difficulty or situation. Those that we are able to assist are extremely grateful for the help . Please make a note of the date and time and join us in our attempt to swell the rank of volunteers.

Fingers crossed that summer has arrived and the opportunity to spend sometime outdoors has arrived with family and friends. But remember not to leave windows and doors open in vulnerable situations as these can be tempting to those who might wish to relieve you of some of your possessions and spoil your fun.

"If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or if you need our help just call.....

07817 614654

..... and one of our co-ordinators will do their best to help. To assist us in meeting requests please try and give at least 24 hours notice of your requirements.

CGNS Tea & Chat on Wednesdays

Church Hall, Stanford Lane, 2.00 - 4.00



- 12th June
- 26th June, followed by volunteer recruitment
- 10th July



2nd & 4th Wednesdays each month

For help with transport ring: **07817 614654**

Afternoon Concert

Saturday, 22nd June

3.00 pm

All Saints' Church, Clifton, Beds



- Adrian Cosker - flute and clarinet
- Hilary Drinkall - 'cello
- Peter Maundrell - piano

To include music for flute trio by Vivaldi and Haydn, music for clarinet and piano by Donizetti and the celebrated Polka and Viennese Waltz for 'cello and piano by Carl Bohm.

There will be interval refreshments and a retiring collection shared between St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger, and All Saints' Church.

Admission is by programme available beforehand from: Peter Maundrell, tel. 01767 314621, peterdmaundrell@hotmail.co.uk, or at the door.



**Because no one
should face death
or grief alone**



Church Floodlighting Sponsors: June

Sponsor	Dedication
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Clifton Planning Applications Update

Central Beds Decisions at 13th May 2024



CB/24/00948/FULL - 3rd April – 11, Herberts Meadow, SG17 5FU. Single storey side extension, **Awaiting Decision.**

CB/24/00938/FULL – 2nd April – 107, Clifton Road SG17 5AG. Loft extension, rear dormer, rear balcony and roof lights. **Consultation Period.**

CB/24/00788/FULL 22nd March – 64, Church Street, SG17 5EY. Single storey side extension. **Granted.**

CB/24/00575/FULL – 11th March – 28, Church Stret, SG17 5ET. Single storey new dwelling. **Awaiting Decision.**

CB/24/00532/FULL - 1st March – 13, Whiston Crescent, SG17 5HJ. Single storey rear extension and new front porch. **Granted.**

CB/24/00528/FULL – 27th February - 65, Shefford Road, SG17 5RQ. Single storey rear building. **Awaiting Decision.**

CB/23/03567/FULL 15th November – 39, Shefford Road, SG17 5RQ. Erection of new 2 bed bungalow. **Awaiting Decision.**

Tony Hyde – Clifton Residents Association

Churchyard Working Parties

We are planning regular working parties on the second Saturday of each month between March and October. In these sessions we aim to tidy different areas of the Churchyard and Graveyard to help them be a welcoming and tranquil place for all who visit.



Saturday 8th June
9:30am -12:30 pm

Do come and join us, please bring any tools
Refreshments will be served ..





Music Lessons

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Vicki Eagles MCFHP < MAFHP

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Clifton Hogs do LEJOG



Those chaps who brought you the Ouse the Daddy canoe extravaganza, travelling from Clifton to Kings Lynn in 2022, whilst raising over £8000 for Movember, are back!

This time, our journey takes us from Lands' End to John O'Groats on eight classic Honda C90 motorbikes. Top speed of these roaring machines is around 40mph, but that's downhill with a gale force wind behind us! Our average speed will be around 25mph, taking in the sights and sounds of our wonderful country with the odd hiccup here and there no doubt! Travelling 8 days, from 13th July with an average 130 miles a day. Overnight stops at Truro, Bridgewater, Bewdley, Ashton on Ribble, Lockerbie, Dunkeld, Alnes and then Wick after finally completing the trip at John o' Groats.

The team consist of Jules (President) Boothby, Neil Blannin, Steve Nott, Ian Saunders, Wayne (Taff) Morgan, Neil Panton, Andrew Thorn plus Rob Cooke. We will be supported by our highly un-skilled, non-mechanical engineers, Martin Kemp & his sidekick, Jason Shacklock, in their support and recovery van. What could possibly go wrong?!!

Our two chosen charities are both local ones which we hope you will be able to support in whatever way you can:

- The Bedford MS Therapy Centre, who support patients with MS, Parkinson's and other neurological diseases. [Beds and Northants MS Therapy Centre \(mscentrebedsandnorthants.com\)](http://mscentrebedsandnorthants.com)
- Serv Herts & Beds BloodBikers charity, covering our local hospitals, plus St John's Hospice, Moggerhanger and Keech Hospice Care in Luton, with urgent blood deliveries by motorbike. [What we do — SERV Herts & Beds \(servhertsbeds.org.uk\)](http://servhertsbeds.org.uk)

Our Fundraising page:

www.givewheel.com/fundraising/3302/clifton-hogs-do-lands-end-to-john-o-groats/



Light Up Clifton

Saturday 7th December 2024



For the past six years Light Up Clifton has been an ever more popular part of Clifton's social calendar. Each time it has been just a little bit better than the time before. (For the purposes of our argument, we are going to pretend that Covid never happened!). The planning and preparation for December 2024 started in January and we are committed to make the evening better than ever - we've already started spending money!

But here's the thing. Like all village events, it isn't organised by magic, or even, in our case, Santa's elves. It takes careful preparation and although in some respects it gets easier as we become more experienced, in others it can be more challenging. We're all getting older for a start!

The whole thing is organised by just three people. Yes, really! Of course, on the night we have another dozen or so people who kindly volunteer their time to help set up, break down, supervise games, and generally help us out. Thank you to them all.

You have heard the phrase, "use it or lose it", and as we all get older there is a very real possibility that Light Up Clifton will no longer have enough people with the drive to make it happen. If you have a couple of hours to spare every six weeks or so perhaps you might consider helping us to get Clifton's Christmas festivities off to a great start. Honesty compels us to admit it's a little more work in the final month of preparation - but not much. There's no "committee", no agenda nor minutes, it's all very informal but it works and that's the way we like it. On the plus side, (and it's a big plus), there are invariably chocolate hobnobs provided at each meeting... We are looking for "doers" who want to roll up their sleeves and muck in.

We could also do with a few more helpers on the night starting mid-afternoon until 5.00pm and also helping with the clear up for an hour from 7.00pm.

If you think you can help, please email lightupclifton@gmail.com
Thank you for whatever time and energy you can spare. It's what the Spirit of Clifton is all about.

CLIFTON
PARISH COUNCIL



LAMP LIGHT OF PEACE

THURSDAY 6TH JUNE 2024

You are invited to ignite a
'Lamp Light of Peace' to coincide with
local and national beacon lightings in
commemoration of the D-Day Landings

*For more information visit
[Facebook.com/CliftonSpecialEvents](https://www.facebook.com/CliftonSpecialEvents)*



REPRESENTING THE 'LIGHT OF PEACE'
THAT EMERGED FROM THE DARKNESS OF WAR





CLIFTON
PARISH COUNCIL



COMMEMORATIVE BEACON LIGHTING

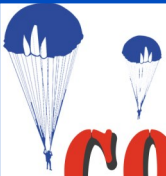


THURSDAY 6TH JUNE 2024
FROM 7:30PM

ON THE GREEN OPPOSITE THE DUCK POND, GRANGE STREET

BEACON LIGHTING AT 9:15PM





SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION

SUNDAY 9TH JUNE 2024



**CLIFTON WAR MEMORIAL
GRANGE STREET**

**AT 3 PM
(ASSEMBLY)
(FROM 2:45 PM)**

Followed by

CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES AT ALL SAINTS CHURCH



*Including zip-lining teddies
and light refreshments*



*For more information
visit: [Facebook.com/
CliftonSpecialEvents](https://www.facebook.com/CliftonSpecialEvents)*





Clifton in Bloom

13th & 14th July



Scan here to
Enter online

Clifton in Bloom is a competition open to all residents, so get decorating your front gardens or create a beautiful flower display to celebrate the festival of flowers in your village.

Choose which categories you wish to enter

- A** *Front Gardens and Flower Beds*
- B** *Hanging Baskets and planters*
- C** *Tallest sunflower*

- To enter grab an entry form from the Community Centre, scan the QR code, or look in the latest copy of the Clifton Chronicles
- Voting forms with maps will be available from the Community Centre from the 8th of July or from the church throughout the weekend
- Tea and Coffee will be available at the church where they will also be holding a flower festival

Prizes for 1st place in each category 

Closing date
4th July 2024

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Clifton in Bloom!
13 & 14 July
Celebration of
Garden Flowers!

All Saints' Church
2.00—5.00 pm

Celebrate
gardening & flower
arranging skills

Adult and Junior Classes
People's Voting & Guest Judging

Tea and Cake



Scan here to
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Clifton in Bloom

13th & 14th July

Rules



Scan here to Enter online

- Entry is free
- Maps and voting forms will be free and made available from 8th July
- Entries must be visible from the road or pathway
- Sunflowers will be measured on the 14/07/24 by the Clifton in Bloom team
- You may enter more than once
- Props may be used but please remember this is to celebrate flowers
- Have fun!

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GARDEN CENTRE

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BICKERDIKES
Garden Centre



Closing date

4th July 2024



Clifton in Bloom

13th & 14th July



<https://cliftonbeds-pc.gov.uk>
More details available online



Please select from the categories below, you may enter more than one.

Entry Form

Closing Date 4th July

- A) Front gardens and flower beds
- B) Hanging baskets and planters
- C) Tallest sunflower
- E) Adult Group
- F) Junior individual
- G) Junior group

Flower arrangements to be displayed at the Church

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Please return to Clifton Community Centre
or Email Clerk@cliftonbeds-pc.gov.uk



SOUTH HILL SAWMILLS
GARDEN CENTRE

Timber, Building, Fencing & Landscaping Supplies
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PARISH COUNCIL
Presents



CLIFTON PLAYING FIELD
First Friday of the Month
4pm to 8pm

**FOOD
TRUCKS**
ENTERTAINMENT

BAR

2024 Dates:
5th July
2nd August
6th September



Free Entry

For more information visit facebook.com/CliftonSpecialEvents

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Village Events 2024

Month	Date	Event
May	18	Plant Swap
June	6	D-Day Beacon Lighting Event
	9	Service of Commemoration, 3.00
July	5	Field Good Friday
	12	Duck Race, Cricket Club
	13&14	Clifton in Bloom
August	2	Field Good Friday
	4, 11, 18, 25	Sunday Afternoon Teas, Church Hall
September	2	Sunday Afternoon Teas, Church Hall
	6	Field Good Friday
	14/15	Scarecrow Festival
	29	Farm Run
November	10	Remembrance Sunday
December	7	Light Up Clifton

If you are organising a Village Event
let us know and we will add you to our calendar.

Call 0300-123-3023 or e mail: thewanderbus@gmail.com f
or more info or to book your seat.

Date	DESTINATIONS	Venue Entry + Bus Fare pp
27 June	Kelmarsh Hall & Gardens , Northants.	Entry Fee £12.00 Hall & Gardens. Bus Fare £15.00
Elegant country house surrounded by award winning historic gardens including the wonderful Walled Garden, Long and Double Borders, Sunken Garden, Philadelphus Garden, Fan Rose Garden, the Wilderness, Fairy Walk in the Woodland and Lakeside areas.		
25 July	Elton Hall , nr Peterborough (pm only)	Entry Fee £15.00 House & Gardens. Bus Fare £15.00
The house has been extensively restored as have the gardens and enhanced with new borders, hedges, topiary, an Orangery, Shell Seat, modern fountain and many interesting plants.		
22 August	Stowe House & Gardens , Bucks.	Entry Fee £24.00 House & Gardens. Bus Fare £12.50
Included in the £24.00 entry fee - House Tour Cost incl. Tea/Coffee & Biscuits. After House Tour we will drive to the Gardens entrance where there is a café for refreshments. National Trust members get free entry to the Gardens (Saving £13.00 – mention when booking)		
26 September	Bletchley Park , MK	Entry Fee £ 19.50. Bus Fare £10.00
Bletchley Park is an English county house and estate, Bletchley, Milton Keynes that became the principal centre of Allied code-breaking during the World War 2. Guided tour available foc.		
24 October	Rushden Lakes Centre , Rushden, Northants.	No entry charge. Bus Fare £15.00
From big brand fashion to local independents, Rushden Lakes has something for everyone. Everyday essentials meet fashion favourites, and all of this is combined with lots of delicious places to eat, drink and relax. A walk around the lakes or a large Waitrose just over the bridge with Rushden Town Centre a short walk away.		
28 November	Christmas Market TBA	TBA

Record Breaker

Gavin Reynolds, our local friendly butcher, recently broke the **Guinness World Record** for the number of sausages made in 1 minute.

He had to fill them and link them in 1 minute all measuring a minimum of 4 inches and he managed 83 beating the previous record of 78.

And now a television star to boot!

Well done, Gavin



Celebrating Clifton's Poppy People

Poppy Appeal Awards

I was honoured to present Long service awards this year to some amazing people. Charmaine Rogers who has been a volunteer selling poppies for 50 years and Jean Peacock for 30 years.



Charmaine started helping her father whilst she was still at school in Hitchin and has continued to volunteer ever since. Not only does she help every year in Clifton but also volunteers selling poppies in Letchworth. Charmaine is proud to volunteer and the British Legion are extremely grateful to the time she has dedicated to the poppy appeals. Thank you Charmaine for your support.

Jean started helping with her lovely husband, Jim 30 years ago. Her parents had always volunteered with the appeal and Jean wanted to continue their support to the British Legion. She is also very proud to be a volunteer and supporter of the Poppy Appeal and we thank her so much for all her help.



Denise Panton



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The exams are now in full swing with Art and Textiles GCSEs, along with several BTEC Music assessments for Sixth Form. The Year 10 mock exams are also underway and the students have been excellent in both their attitude and conduct.

Recently we had our first ever 12-hour continuous sponsored Performing Arts-a-thon. Over 50 students took part in the event, which raised funds for new resources in Performing Arts. During the day they worked together in groups to write, choreograph and rehearse five short plays based on well-known musicals. At the end of the day, they performed the musicals for each other in the theatre to well-deserved applause. It was a fantastic initiative, and I'm sure it will become an annual event in the school calendar.

Finally, I have been incredibly proud of the student leadership team this term, who have organised a whole programme of events to raise funds for Aaron in Year 13, including a sports-themed non-uniform day, cake sale, raffle and a silent auction. The week ended with a charity rugby match between our 1st XV and Ampthill at the rugby club, who have been incredibly supportive of the whole fundraising campaign. The support from the community, including parents, students, staff, sports clubs, local companies, the police commissioner and our local MP has been truly heartwarming! We have been touched by the contributions to the online appeal, which has exceeded the £40k target and have gratefully received generous donations to the raffle and silent auction.

Nick Martin, Principal

Do you enjoy SINGING?

If you do, there is a welcome for you in Clifton Church Choir. There are vacancies for singers of all voices, particularly sopranos and altos. We sing primarily at the 11 00 a.m. Communion service on the 1st. and 3rd Sundays of the month.

Choir practices are held in church, during school term time, on Thursdays from 7.30 to 8.45 p.m.



We'd love to see you!

If you would like to join us, please contact the organist, Peter, on: peterdmaundrell@hotmail.co.uk, or telephone 01767 314621.



Clifton All Saints Academy's

CASA CUP

Charity Golf Day

Friday 27th September 2024

Cainhoe Wood Golf Club

Bacon roll, tea & coffee on arrival
Teams of 4 to play 18 hole Florida Scramble

followed by
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£28 per person (Cainhoe Wood members)
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Clifton Neighbourhood Plan

Thursday 9th May 2024 was a big day.

Not just any old big day, but a very big day for those of us directly involved with producing the Clifton Neighbourhood Plan. A day worthy indeed of a celebratory chocolate hobnob with our morning coffee!



Your Neighbourhood Plan was, finally, submitted to CBC under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. (We merely tell you that to impress you with our knowledge of arcane planning laws...). We have requested that CBC now move the Plan to Regulation 16.

This means CBC now undertake further consultations with parties the Plan may affect, after which it may require redrafting. Again. This is a big step towards getting our Plan adopted into law.

Meanwhile, please take a look at the Regulation 16 draft of the Plan and associated documents on the Clifton Parish Council website. We are confident you know the address by heart, but just in case it's...

<https://cliftonbeds-pc.gov.uk>

If you like to send your comments, good or bad, we would be delighted to receive them at:

planforclifton@gmail.com

or you can call us on **07711 687456**.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks from your Clifton Neighbourhood Plan team!

Clifton Boys Group

You may be aware that this Group has been running for about 7 years now. It is, in fact, a Breakfast group that meets twice a month on the first and third Thursdays.



The average age is 75 and there are usually between 8 and 12 of us. Breakfast is at 9.30 and those who just want a coffee/tea etc join the others at 10am. The venue is the Bistro at the Mount Pleasant Golf Club at Lower Stondon.

With about 500 years experience between us there is rarely a pause in the chat! I email the week before just as a reminder.

Bob Smith 01462812336

Alistair Strathern MP—Update

Updates from Alistair Strathern MP, standing up for Clifton and our local towns and villages



It's been a busy few months for me since settling into life as our MP. One of the real pleasures of being our MP is getting to represent communities that take such an active interest in their local area, and Clifton is absolutely no exception! I'm grateful to everyone who has taken the time to engage with me, from inviting me to their events, to coming along to my surgeries and open discussion forums, to simply stopping me in the street to share your views!

I wanted to update on a few areas of particular concern and interest to Clifton:

GP provision

I know at times people in Clifton have faced real issues seeing a GP. While this is a national issue, it's a particular challenge locally where housing growth hasn't been matched by expanded capacity. That's why I am in regular conversations with our ICB (the local NHS body responsible for funding GPs) and Central Bedfordshire Council to try and progress local funding, while also raising in Parliament nationally how challenging GP provision has become for rural communities like ours.

Planning reform

From the lack of infrastructure investment alongside new housing, to issues with estate adoption and management, it's clear our current planning system isn't working for communities like Clifton. Locally, I am pushing for CBC to take on a more proactive role, and nationally, I am campaigning for significant reform. If you have an issue to share to inform this work, please do get in touch.

Neighbourhood policing

Following a number of local incidents, I know residents are keen to see more of a neighbourhood policing presence in Clifton. Our new Police and Crime Commissioner John Tizard has made neighbourhood policing one of his priorities, and I'll be looking to work closely with him to ensure this is delivered.

As our MP it's my job to pick up on issues big and small, so if you ever want to raise anything with me, or just keep in touch about any of the above, please do! My team can be contacted at:

alistair.strathern.mp@parliament.uk

Clifton WI



How lucky am I to have been able to hear two inspirational speakers in one week?

At the Annual council Meeting, the first was “Esme Young” a judge on The Sewing Bee. Esme went to school and was brought up in Bedford. She was encouraged by the Nuns with her interest in art and design. From a very young age she was making up clothes for her and her sister. At age 16 she put on a fashion show, whilst at school which was a great success. Esme then attended Central St Martins in London, where she continued with her interest in fashion design. On leaving she put on a fashion show with three friends. They subsequently opened a boutique shop “Swanky Modes” making one-off designs from many types of materials, such as shower curtains, car upholstery fabric and were the first to use sportswear lycra. Her famous ‘Amorphous Dress’ is in the V & A collection. Esme dressed many celebrities including Grace Jones, Bryan Ferry, Renee Zellweger and Grayson Perry. She is still teaching at Central St Martins.



The second Speaker was Caroline Coster MBE. What a truly inspirational lady. Caroline told us of her COVID journey, and her fight back to recovery to her present level of independence this was to be a great motivation. Focusing on what she can do rather than what she can't. A lesson to me and many others. She has achieved many amazing things, hot-air ballooning, walking on snow in the Arctic, cruising and travelling independently into London on the train and buses. Caroline recently campaigned for other disabled users of Manned Ticket Offices, which has been successful. Hopefully she will be back with us next year on completion of their training, with her Assistance Dog to tell us the next chapter of her life and new achievements.



Reminders of things to come:

- **Afternoon Tea** and jam taste-test in Gill Brown's garden 5th June.
- **Ascot Ladies Day**, Mount Pleasant Golf Club 20th June.
- 5th July **Scams and Safety Online**. We all need to be aware of these!! Visitors welcome

Lesley Burton 07722357542

CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clifton Community Centre

We are fortunate in Clifton to have a modern, 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.cliftonbeds-pc.gov.uk

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Kerri Kilby 07547 129038 or

Kevin Warren on 07546 239784



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*The 10.30 a.m. Sunday morning service will continue to be held at the Community Centre, Whiston Crescent, Clifton.

Mondays (term time)

Mums & Tots 10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. at the Church

Explorers 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. (for Reception to Year 4) at Church

Wednesdays (term time)

Coffeepot 12.00 noon - 1.30 pm at the Church

Fridays (term time)

Mums & Tots 10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. at the Church

Website: www.cliftonpbchurch.org.uk

Contact: cliftonpbchurch@gmail.com

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Sunday Services

Mass 9.00 am

Saturday Service

TBA

Shefford Methodist Church

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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

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Contact: 01462-731072

Sunday Services: 10.30 am

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