



The Little Clifton Concealed Clog (see History Corner for more...)

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The new PC website is now up and running, at www.littlecliftonparishcouncil.org.uk

The Parish Council currently has eight members (see website for details). New regulations have reduced the maximum number of Councillors to nine, so there is still one vacancy – get in touch with the Chairman, Ian Elliott, on 01900 67301 if you're interested.

Play Areas

The PC has been pleased to see children making the most of the fine summer weather, spending time outdoors and using the play areas

on the Village Green and by the Village Hall, where there is a football net. Users are reminded to take any litter home or put it in the bins provided.

Village Memorial

Thanks to everyone who sent in ideas for a memorial to parishioners who have died in various conflicts. The PC is looking carefully at all your suggestions.

Hire the Hall –

The Village Hall is available to hire, for any event large or small, regular or one-off. To hire the hall for your family occasion, group meeting or regular class, contact Rev'd Judith Morgan, Parish Clerk on 01900 601146

GARDENER WANTED FOR VILLAGE HALL!

What nicer way to help your community than by doing a spot of gardening? The Parish Council is looking for someone to take on the care and maintenance of the four flower beds in the Village Hall Car Park. If you'd like to help, please contact Ian Elliott on 01900 67301.

BIRTHS MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

We are sad to report the recent deaths of Barry Hurst of Fell View, and Denise McCall (nee Lamb) of Valley View. They will both be missed by family, friends and neighbours.

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NEWS FROM CLIFTON CHURCHES

St Luke's continues to enjoy fortnightly services on Sundays at 9.30am – the Sunday of the month is Holy Communion and a less formal Morning Worship on the fourth Sunday – everyone welcome!

Alternate Tuesday mornings the church is open for anyone to look around – take some quiet time out – or have a chat and a cuppa. On the other alternate week we have our fortnightly coffee mornings at Bridgefoot Village Hall from 10am – watch out for the sign on the village hall railings! On Sunday 6th August we'll be having Hymns and Pimms at 4pm at church. Vote for your favourite hymn in advance – those with the most votes will be sung! Voting sheets will be around the village, at church and at coffee mornings. Do come along on the 6th – we'll be outside if it's fine so maybe bring a seat – and enjoy some singing, and some refreshments. Looking ahead, we'll be having Pie, Peas and Bingo for our harvest supper in September – watch out for further details.

HISTORY CORNER

You start a bit of DIY and the job just grows ... especially with an old house. Preparing to redecorate one room in January, we ended up re-plastering, replacing a rotted lintel over the window and repairing loose stones in the wall. The real shock came after using a hammer to tap a small, loose stone back into place with some fresh lime mortar. A section of the wall collapsed and bits of brick and dust spilled out, leaving more loose material that needed to be removed before the wall could be rebuilt. Something that looked like a piece of wood would have to come out too. This turned out to be the remains of a clog: wooden sole, leather upper with lace holes, and an iron heel cleat! Thankfully nothing else was hidden in what was a cavity within the thickness of the wall. Apparently putting footwear (or other things) within the structure of a building is a widespread phenomenon. The reasons for it are hazy, however. It might bring

good luck or fertility, or ward off evil.

The Little Clifton 2023 concealed clog discovery has been added to the Concealed Shoe Index that is kept by Northampton Museum. The Curator identified the clog as dating back to the late 1800s, which would be roughly when the building was converted into a dwelling from a barn.

The clog is now safely back in its hiding place; hopefully it will still work as originally intended!

– Dan Colley, Little Clifton

BLC ENERGY HUB NEWS

To join the Energy Hub WhatsApp group, a forum for discussing energy saving ideas, sharing experiences or asking for advice on anything concerning energy, text Fliss Watts on 07900 471205

Solar Made Easy

Back in April, Cumbria Action for Sustainability (CAfS) hosted a lively meeting of villagers from Little Clifton, Bridgefoot, Eaglesfield and Greysouthen at Little Clifton Village Hall. This is a project that aims to help home-owners find solar panel installers by joining with others in their area to form a group, turning many

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small jobs into one big job to make it more attractive to installers.

For details see

<https://cafs.org.uk/solar-made-easy/>

CAfS will be buying some thermal imaging cameras for use by local groups, please contact Fliss Watts on 07900 471205 if you would be interested in making use of the camera to find the cold spots in your house.

Great Big Green Week: Bring, swap and share

The Energy Hub hosted its second swap and share on Sunday 11th June. There was an excellent turnout, with a steady supply of plants, games, children's toys and books changing hands, all at no cost. The cakes were especially good; many thanks to everyone who took part.

Rural community heat network

Prospus Group, in collaboration with eQuality Heat, are developing a model for a rural community heat network, linking participating homeowners to shared boreholes and using ground source heat pumps to heat their properties. The company is bidding for funding for pilot schemes and is looking for communities to work with. If you're interested, please contact Fliss Watts on

07900 471205, and for more information see www.equalityheat.co.uk

SEWAGE MATTERS

River water quality has been much in the national news recently, with widespread reports of pollutants entering our rivers from agricultural runoff and sewage discharges by water companies. In 2022 our own sewage works spilled 81 times for a total of 746.27 hours, discharging directly into the River Marron (Source – The Rivers Trust)

LOCAL HERO

Andrew Richardson of Fell View has dispatched over 40 grey squirrels in the last five years. It is thanks to Andrew and others like him that we still have our small population of red squirrels. If you spot a grey squirrel in the area, or would like advice on setting up a feeding station for red squirrels, contact Andrew on 07554 509635.

CONTRIBUTE...

If you have news, views, opinions or comments, a local hero you'd like to nominate or things you'd like to learn more about, you can contribute to the next Newsletter by emailing the Editor at stkp@sky.com

NATURE CORNER



Elephant Hawk Moths have been seen in several gardens this month – these spectacular moths feed at night on nectar from the flowers of honeysuckle and other tubular flowers. The caterpillars, which have huge 'eye' spots to deter predators, feed on willowherbs, enchanter's nightshade, Himalayan balsam and fuchsias, and overwinter as pupae in fragile cocoons at the base of plants in loose plant debris/litter, or just below the surface of the ground.



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TRAFFIC ISSUES

Recently, there have been discussions at Parish Council meetings over the issue of traffic speed in the village. It is the opinion of some residents that the existing speed limit should be lowered.

Currently, the situation is that a 30mph limit is in force from the high point on Oldfield Road down into the centre of Bridgefoot. In Bridgefoot itself, the 30mph limit extends from Chapel Brow (opposite the first house) to a point just past the old railway bridge (near Station Terrace), where it then becomes a 40mph limit up to the junction just past Marron Lane.

The issues:

- High volumes of HGVs, particularly trucks from Tendley Quarry, constitute a hazard to pedestrians, especially given the lack of pavement in some areas. The danger from fast-moving vehicles discourages people from walking short distances within the village. This makes people more likely to take to their cars thus

increasing the amount of vehicular traffic.

- Speeding vehicles constitute a danger to cyclists, for example when travelling over the old railway bridge and turning right into Station Terrace or when passing parked cars on Chapel Terrace.

- HGVs travelling at speed appear to be causing vibration damage to buildings and bridges.

- Residents exiting in vehicles from side entrances are put at greater danger from through-traffic travelling at speed. This is especially true for the residents of Marron Lane, where the sight-lines are poor and through-traffic vehicles are routinely accelerating to well over the current speed limit.

- Vehicles travelling at 30mph very close to house entrances where there is no pavement pose a serious risk. In the case of two houses within the village, the limit is 40mph and the lack of pavement results in 40 ton trucks passing within a hair's breadth of the residents' front door.

- Vehicles have been regularly observed exceeding speed limits.

The Parish Council would like to know the views of Bridgefoot and Little Clifton residents on this issue.

1. Do you want to see the speed limits lowered?

2. Do you have an opinion on where the speed limit boundaries should be fixed?

3. Do you have any thoughts on deploying traffic calming measures? Eg Traffic lights, speed cameras, speed bumps, chicanes (setting up artificial bends or obstacles to slow traffic, as in the entrance to Kirkland).

Email replies to:
edheslam@gmail.com

Paper replies to: Village Hall post box, just inside the metal gates at the entrance to the Hall.

THANKS...

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