

CLIFTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

SPRING



2025

CVRA VILLAGE DIARY

**Clifton Village Hall – New Development
Official Opening**

**26th April 2025
12.00pm**

VE 80th Anniversary Celebrations

**5th May 2025 - 12.30pm
17th May 2025 – 7.30pm**

**CVRA AGM
Village Hall**

**19th May 2025
7.30pm**

**Summer Garden Party
Holly House, Village Road**

**2nd August
12.30pm**

**Autumn Quiz Evening / Wine Tasting
Village Hall**

**8th November
time TBC**

Produced by Clifton Village Residents Association

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Clifton Village Residents Association Committee

Chair
Pat Rice

Treasurer
Helen Huffer

Secretary
Graeme Barker



Committee Members: Philip Bull, Christine Dalby, Julie Reid, James Royston and John Woodall

www.clifton-village.org.uk

Keep up to date with what is happening in the village

The CVRA have a village Facebook Page. You can either search for 'Clifton Village' from your Facebook homepage or find us at:

www.facebook.com/cliftonvillagenottingham

Chairwoman's Message

Currently our village is looking fantastic as the daffodils are in full flower, as are camellias and magnolias dotted about in residents gardens. With the cherry blossom coming out Spring has definitely arrived! The committee hope that everyone is beginning to shake off those winter blues after long dull days and are looking forward to our many and varied village activities. Christmas seems a long time ago now that we are in April.

The village Christmas party had a different slant last year partly due to being in a village hall which was in an unfinished state. It made for interesting ways to cater, using small mobile hotplates to heat up the mulled wine that Francis Buck makes every year along with food that needed heating. Ed Peterson took charge of the menu this year aided by the Barker family. Swedish meat balls and a cooked ham made a delicious change to our usual tasty food and the Barkers chocolate brownies were equally devoured with relish by those attending. A huge thank you to everyone who helped with the food and drink and with the after-meal entertainment.

Not to be outdone, Jill Barker kicked off our seasonal activities in the week before by playing her violin to accompany the carol singing, as the Christmas tree lights were switched on. As before, Carol singers walked around the village with lit candles to sing for residents who are housebound. It wouldn't be our village if we didn't have more mulled wine for the occasion prepared by Ruth Nettleship. Maggie Royston roasted chestnuts and Clare Ashton ensured that mince pies were nicely warmed. Of course, you can't have tree lighting without the lights and a tree. Julie Reid had sourced the tree from Bardill's garden centre while Jonathan Blacknell looked after the lights. We are lucky to be able to use the electricity for the lights from the nearby garage for which we thank Christine Youlden for agreeing to this once again.

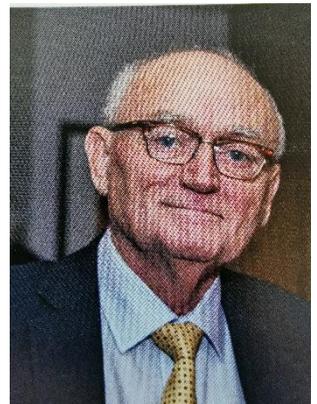
This year on January 10th a few village residents went to a meeting at Barton in Fabis where we listened to Julian Coles give an update to the quarry situation. Our MP Lilian Greenwood was there to give her support as was James Naish the new MP for Rushcliffe. He commented on how impressed he was with the campaign as he had experience of similar actions against a quarry where he lives in North Notts which didn't compare at all to the Barton campaign. To date

there have been well over 1000 objections from residents in the surrounding areas and still counting as it takes time for each submission to be read. Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust have also put in a very strong objection as a quarry would have a huge impact on Attenborough nature reserve. I do hope that you found time to write in with your objections and if you did thank you, as a quarry would blight everyone's lives in our area. To date there are no details as to when the quarry application will go before the county council. With local elections in county areas in May, this could be delayed even further. I understand that a successful Ceilidh was held in St. Mary's church in February. Sadly, since then we been saddened to hear that two well-loved village residents have passed away.



The first of those in February, was Geoff Matthews who lived in Milldale Close. Geoff was the person who you may have come across as he walked with his distinctive stick and you would certainly have met him if you owned a dog as he always had a biscuit or two for them on his walk down by the Trent going towards Barton. Geoff had lived in the village for a long time and had been a lecturer at the university. Theresa has asked if we could thank everyone who went to St. Mary's and to the village hall afterwards and to thank everyone for their contributions to the chosen charity.

Shortly afterwards we were further saddened to hear that John Spencer, who lived in Gervase Gardens with his wife Kath, had also passed away after many years of ill health. John had been the village Neighbourhood Watch representative for many years until his deteriorating health meant that he had to step back from that role. This didn't stop him attending village events when he was able to or to stop him from keeping a keen interest in what was happening in the village. Everyone who knew John will miss him for the true gentleman that he was.





They say that things happen in threes and sadly that seems to be the case for us in the village, when we heard of the passing of another well-loved village resident who has died more recently. Diva Bonney lived on Village Road and was another active village resident when she spent summer months here. Diva died back in her home country of Brazil. Unexpected, her passing was a shock to those who knew her. She and Maurice her husband used to hold a late summer picnic garden party in their garden which many of us used to enjoy. We will miss all three of them and send our sincere condolences to their families.

Moving on from such very sad news life continues with our usual village activities. The first of those is the Residents Association AGM on 19th May in the village hall. It is important that as many of you as possible go along as it is your opportunity to have your voice heard on things that concern you together with the opportunity to select your representatives on the committee.

We are hoping to hold an event to commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE day which is actually on Thursday 8th May. We have the Village Hall booked for the 5th May for this event and will follow up with details.

Our annual summer garden party will be held on the 2nd of August this year. This as always will be held in the garden of John and Dorothy Woodall at Holly House on Village Road. We hope many of you will be able to attend and we look forward to meeting many of you there. So, several activities for everyone to look forward to in the village. We hope that you will be able to come along and enjoy some of these if not all. Look out for further news of the VE day celebrations in May.

Pat Rice

30th March 2025

Village Notes

The Dovecote: An update

Although Nottingham City is responsible for the upkeep of the Clifton Village Dovecote, having a long-term lease from the Clifton family, it has constantly refused to help with any funding.

The CVRA have made every effort to embarrass the City into providing funds, to no avail. The CVRA is aiming to find money from other sources to repair the roof, gable ends and coping stones.

There are various charitable bodies that provide funding for such projects. The starting point is to have an up-to-date survey of the building. This can be used to obtain quotes for the necessary work and then to apply for grants to carry this out. A survey was carried out in 2015, and a copy can be found on the village website.

We have contact with Chris Matthews, the Heritage Officer for Nottingham City, and one of his colleagues, Adam Huckerby. Adam has sourced various Trust funds that could help with the cost of the initial structural survey and assessment of work needed. The cost of this initial survey would be in the region of £8,000. This was quoted by Marrons of Nottingham who have a department specialising in Heritage buildings. Work is in place to access funds from one of the Trusts that offer viability grants.

The long-term hope is to have the roof repaired, coupled with gable ends and coping stones. With the roof in a better state, we could be assured of the longer-term future of the building.

As an aside, the CVRA committee visited the Dovecote in Wollaton last year. This building has been able to house educational material for local schools to visit and use as a local history resource. It is open to visitors from May to September and groups, individuals, including walking groups, can have access. Should anyone wish to visit that Dovecote and see what can be achieved then please contact me and I will arrange.

It is hoped that our own Dovecote could also become a local resource and equally be open, with prior arrangement, to visitors, local walking groups or schools. *Ed Peterson*

Barton in Fabis – Quarry Application

We understand that the application is not on the County council's planning agenda for this month and so is not likely to be raised until the summer after local elections. Council officers are still working their way through our objection letters so if you haven't had an acknowledgement, you will eventually. They have received over 1100 letters of objection and at the same time powerful, official objections from Notts Wildlife Trust and Holme Pit Action Group in addition to those from our MPs, councillors and the Barton in Fabis group.

Caravans on Riverside Walk – Clifton Woods

You may be aware that two caravans had set up residence in Clifton Woods below Clifton Hall some weeks ago. The CVRA have been in discussion with our local councillors since this time on having these removed. As ever Councillors Andrew Rule and Hayley Spain have been very supportive, and we have recently received the following update from them: *“Greenspace Contracts and Technical Team Leader visited the area yesterday to look at both caravans, they are both fit for destruction only so we have decided to dispose of both vans on site, expecting to have completed the works by Wednesday/Thursday of next week (10/05/25).”*

CVRA Membership

The cost of membership for the Clifton Village Residents' Association [CVRA] will continue at £5.00 per household and £2.50 where there is just one adult. We hope that you will continue to enjoy the many benefits that membership conveys.

We hope you appreciate the hard work of the committee members who work tirelessly behind the scenes, busy with village matters, liaising along with our councillors and neighbourhood officer. The work that our committee does and has done in the past is what makes our village a special place to live. Membership subscriptions are due to be collected in early May. Please, please continue to

support our Village through subscriptions. We need your help to keep our Village a happy, successful, and supportive community.

CVRA - Annual General Meeting – 19th May 2025 Clifton Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm

Minutes from last year’s AGM held are available on the CVRA website: www.clifton-village.org.uk, or in hard copy by contacting the Secretary Graeme Barker at 10 Nethergate. Copies of these Minutes and the Agenda for AGM 2025 will be available at the meeting. You will find below a Nomination Form for any CVRA members who would like to put themselves forward for nomination for any of the positions mentioned. The committee is looking forward to your attendance.

Graeme Barker, Secretary, Clifton Village Residents Association

Nomination Form

I wish to be nominated to join the
Clifton Village Residents Association Committee

Position:
(i.e. Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Member)

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Proposer:

Seconded:

Please return the form to the Secretary:
Graeme Barker, 10 Nethergate, Clifton Village by Wednesday 14th May 2025

Summer Garden Party

Saturday 2nd August 12.30pm

Holly House on Village Road

(Village Hall if bad weather)

Adults £12

Children £6

Complimentary drink and buffet lunch in picturesque surroundings
Ticket Sellers will be calling on all households. Please bring your own garden chairs



VE DAY[©]

80TH ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

8 M A Y 2 0 2 5

Monday 5th May

12.30pm

Bank Holiday event

Village Hall – details to follow

Saturday 17th May

7.30pm

Evening Event – Themed Quiz and Musical Entertainment Evening

Tickets £10 for adults and £5 children

Ticket prices include a plate of something suitably VE Day themed and two drinks at the bar. Tickets sellers will be calling in the next few weeks.

Joseph Woolley – A village resident over 200 years ago

Have you ever wondered what life was like here in the village 200 years ago? We normally read about the wealthy and landed gentry but Joseph Woolley kept diaries about ordinary residents both here and in Barton, Wilford and Ruddington. They were more of a 'downstairs' diary. His diaries give details not of himself but of those around him, their birth's deaths and marriages, all told with interesting stories. These were stories about farm labourers, framework knitters, tradesmen and cottagers. He also had things to say about the Clifton family and the Rectors which gave a fascinating insight into village life. He described amusing events involving village cricket matches, love affairs, harvest suppers and volunteers' preparations in readiness for Napoleon's expected invasion of England. He also kept financial records that tell us about the cost of food and beer and the way in which ordinary people earned their living.

Clifton Village 200 years ago was a closed village consisting of the hall where the Lord of the manor, Sir Gervase Clifton lived. The village church was, as it is today, opposite the hall and had a Rector who was given some land, 150 acres to farm or let as he wished. The Hall had a Home Farm and the remainder of the land around the village was let to small holders and small farmers, evidence of which can still be spotted around the village, even if it is just a remaining gatepost or house name.

Joseph Woolley was born in 1773 and his parents ran a smallholding rented from the Rector. Samuel, his father was also Parish Clerk. Hence Joseph and his brothers were literate but his sisters were not. Joseph went to school with a Martha Burnham who rented a cottage in the village from the Rector and she gave him a basic education, the 3 Rs.

In 1801 Joseph wrote his first diary and he seemed to have been a servant of the Rector, the Reverend Collin Launder who referred to as his 'marster'. Because there was a curate Joseph may have been employed at the Rector's house in Nottingham. By 1801 however he was definitely living here in Clifton, probably at the Rectory. The Rector died in 1803 when perhaps the Rector's late wife took

over as Joseph's 'mistress' he was certainly living at the Rectory when he caught Clifford Aram trying to steal the Rector's bricks. Joseph's accounts showed that he paid for board only.

He may not have been employed full time because he also received payments for work he did for his father and other farmers. However, in 1803 he became a framework knitter and remained one for the rest of his life. To begin with he obviously didn't like it very much. He described the beginning with no enthusiasm.

'It was about one o'clock, and I did one hose and crossed one needle over. Then I gave over!' He must have persevered but at the same time continued to help his father and to deputise for him as Parish Clerk on occasions.

So, what did Joseph actually put in his diaries. They were difficult to read due to poor spelling and no punctuation but here is an essence of what he wrote around this time of year in 1813. Punctuation has been added by the archivists! Spelling has been left as written.

Aug the 20 Sir Ger Clifton Bar. Arrived at Clifton after being away very near eleven months

Mr Hopwell led the first corn this harvest. It was oats out of the Wareing Close and Mr Thorp was the first that got all down and all in. They had their harvest supper Friday Sept the 3

Oct the 25 as Mr Edward Feacon of Wilford was a shooting with a friend in Wilford Liberty, his gun went off by axedant and he shot is friend in the bowels and he dies in a few days after. Is name was Cooke. He was a officer in the Navey and a man of verey good benevolent caratcer and was wel respected by all who knew him.

Joseph goes on to write how on the same day there was to be a cricket match at Wilford but it had to be cancelled but instead, certain named villagers including the butcher went to a Mr Carvers and got drunk instead. They broke several windows which they denied but cost them 'about five shillings to make it up'.

Nov the 1st Mr Sadler assended with is blooln out of the companeys warf, Nottingham, about alf past too oclock in the afternoon amongst the largest crowd of spectators I ever saw in my life on aney occasion.

This is a small sample of what Joseph wrote. He became a member of Ruddington Friendly Society which met at the White hart in Ruddington and was acting clerk for them in 1804. Joseph never married and died in 1850 aged 77 years. His diaries are kept in the Nottingham Archives on Castle Meadow Road.

Pat Rice Sept 2024

Clifton Village Hall

The hall is almost back to working as it was prior to the commencement of the building works. The new building works have been very well received by all those who have used them and people have been amazed at the difference with the kitchen! Well done to all involved! The painting and decorating and fitting of the kitchen have been a real team effort involving Trustees and other Villagers.

We will be hosting an official opening of the hall at 12pm on Saturday 26th April to celebrate all that has been achieved. MP Lilian Greenwood and the local groups who continue to support the hall through their patronage will be there on the day. We would like to invite the wider village community to join us for this occasion where drinks and nibbles will be available to accompany the event.

The kitchen is now fully equipped including a new oven donated anonymously, a tall larder fridge mainly funded by the Rainbows & Brownies, who wanted to contribute to the hall, a second-hand dishwasher from the Rice family, and a water heater which does provide hot water! The cupboards under the bar top in the main hall now only contain almost all the glasses – for wine, beer, champagne etc.

The new hall is working well, not only as a stand-alone function room, but as a place to layout food for parties. We have left 3 white tables and 12 pine-coloured chairs permanently in this room together with a clothes stand donated by Kevin McCormick.

The old lockable storeroom, originally accessible through the ladies toilets, is now accessible from the small hall. It has been painted and has new shelving. Hall users are now required to store as many of their items in labelled plastic boxes to ensure where possible the storeroom is kept as tidy as possible – this

does seem to be working! The new storeroom is currently being used to store our smaller tables and newer trestle tables as well as, on a temporary basis, some gazebos.

Thank you to all those who attended the extra-ordinary AGM of the Trust on 11th November – we had an excellent turnout and there was unanimous support for the Trust to convert to a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). Work is continuing on this process and will enable us to secure a loan from the Charity Bank to finance the outstanding amount for the new building works.

Clare Ashton, Chair of Trustees

For future bookings or enquiries - please contact Clare on the Village Hall mobile number 07982 830120. Please also see poster on the Village Noticeboard, Village Facebook page, or Village website for more up to date details.

Village Hall New Extension Sponsorship

The four categories of sponsorship, and their associated costs, are:-

- 1 New Extension Sponsor: £60
- 2 Silver New Extension Sponsor: £200
- 3 Gold New Extension Sponsor: £500 (or more)
- 4 Amount not specified: a donation of any amount, where the donor is willing to have their name on a plaque, but does not want the amount given to be known (a semi-anonymous donation).

There will be a different style of plaque for each donations.

If you would like to donate to the future of your village hall please complete the form below, and return it to Joe Rice as soon as possible. If you have any questions on this matter please do not hesitate to speak to one of the Trustees of the Village Hall: Clare Ashton, Glenys Blacknell, Joe Rice, Francis Buck, John Hooley, Dan Garnon, Graeme Barker or Gary Dykes.

I/We would like to be a Sponsor for the New Extension to Clifton Village Hall

Name of individual or Group

.....
.....
.....

Wording for Plaque on Sponsor Wall (max 80 letters including spaces).....

.....
.....
.....

Category of Sponsorship.....

.....

Bank Transfer or Cheque.....

.....

Contact details (phone or email address).....

.....
.....

You can donate by bank transfer to account: Clifton Village Hall Trust, NatWest Bank, sort code: 54-21-07, account number: 21440379, (please give your name as a reference) or by cheque made out to Clifton Village Hall Trust.

Please send the completed Sponsorship Form and any cheques to: Joe Rice, Treasurer, Clifton Village Hall Trust, 9 Leabrook Close, Clifton Village, Nottingham NG11 8NW

St Mary's Church

Services during Holy Week and Easter

Maundy Thursday 17th April 2pm Holy Communion Service Holy Trinity with St Francis

7.30pm Holy Communion Service - St Mary's

Good Friday 18th April

10am An Hour at the Cross – reflective, meditative service – Holy Trinity with St Francis

2pm An Hour at the Cross – reflective, meditative service – St Mary’s
4-5.30pm Messy Easter - Holy Trinity with St Francis

Easter Day 20th April

5.45am Sunrise Service (followed by breakfast) – St Mary’s
9.30am Easter Holy Communion – Holy Trinity with St Francis
11am All Age Easter Holy Communion – St Mary’s
4pm All Age Easter Fun @ 4! – Holy Trinity with St Francis

Easter Monday 21st April

2 – 4pm Easter Fun – with Easter egg hunt, tea/cakes, children’s trail, church history, fun activities

All are most welcome

If you would like to come to the Sunrise Service, would you please let me know for catering purposes – thank you.

Contact:- Clare Ashton 07775 902385 or email <clare31337@btinternet.com> or Rev Esther Hutchinson 07305 793858 or email <rev.estherhutchinson@outlook.com>

St Mary’s Church update

During the last few months, church services have continued as usual with a regular service at 11am with ‘Shooting Stars’ for 3- 11 year olds as well as a regular coffee morning 10-12 midday on the last Friday of the month. Everyone is most welcome to these and all the other activities taking place in the Clifton Parish (See www.cliftonparish.co.uk for further information). It was lovely to see so many people at our Christmas Community Candlelit Carol Service as well as to other services over Christmas. We also welcomed several schools into church leading up to Christmas. Plans are now in place for Easter – please see list of services and Easter Monday Fun Day in this newsletter.

Thank you to all those who came to the superb concert by the Nottingham Chamber Orchestra at the end of October, and also to the Ceilidh in February – an enjoyable time

was had by all – dancing to a new band ‘Bash Street Band’. We plan to book them again next February.

In October, a new boiler was finally installed in the Vestry (thankfully covered by our insurance) and has made a huge difference to the heating in church. Work on the drainage system began in January and is expected to be finished at the end of April with work on the path leading from the gate to the main door taking place in May. A new kitchen was installed in February funded through a grant available to churches. For information concerning services, weddings, baptisms, funerals etc please contact Rev Esther Hutchinson on 07305 793858 or rev.estherhutchinson@outlook.com Rev Esther Hutchinson / Clare Ashton

Bin Collection Calendar

April 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	1	2	3

May 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

July 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2

August 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

September 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

October 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1

November 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

December 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	1	2	3

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