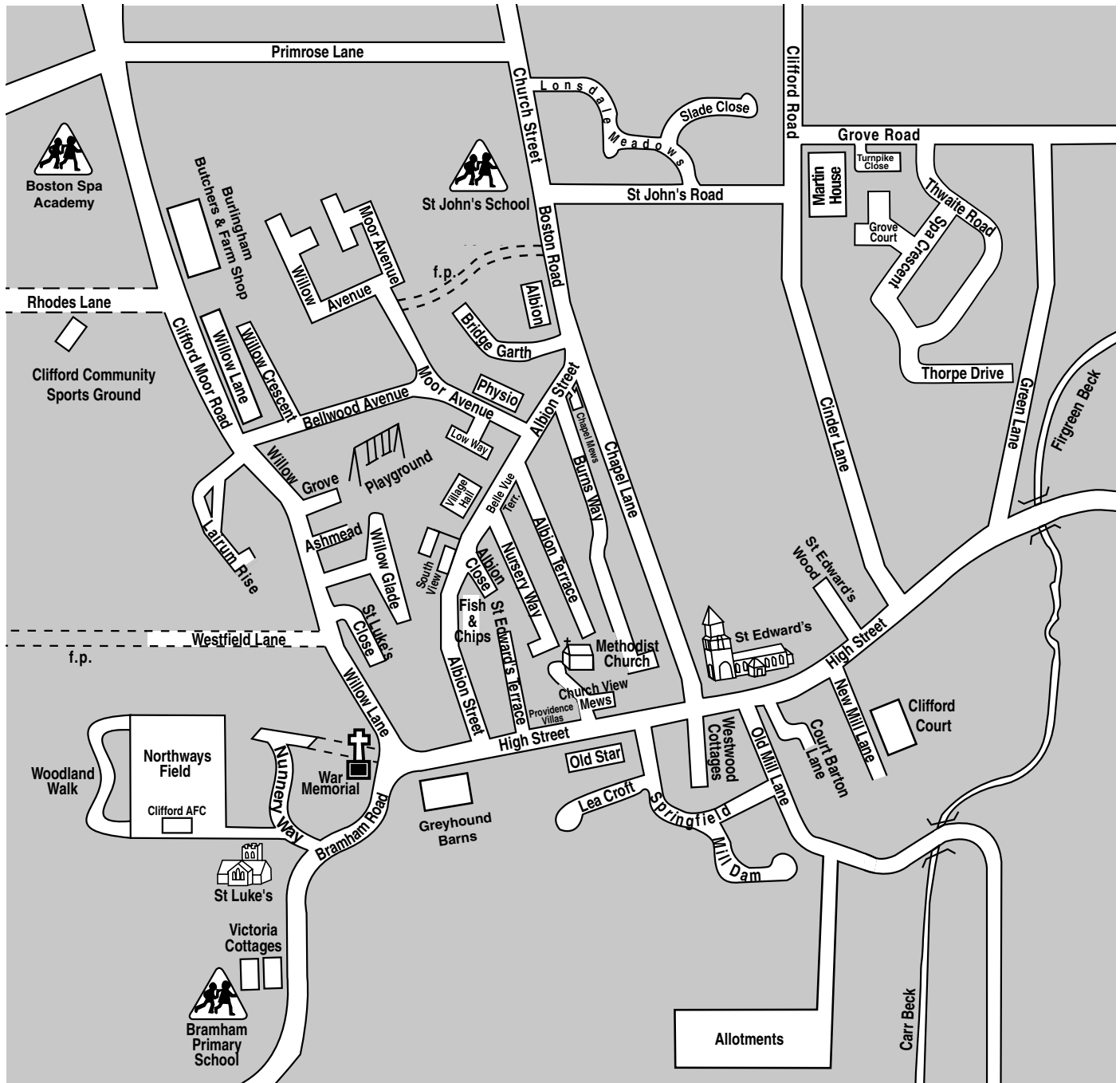


OUTLOOK

Issue 566

January 2023



The Magazine for the People of Clifford



Clifford Parish Council

Meetings held in Clifford Village Hall
at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of the month.

Attendance by residents is warmly welcomed and contributions during the public participation session at the start of the meeting encouraged.

Meeting Dates for 2023:

18th January	17th May	20th September
15th February	21st June	18th October
15th March	19th July	15th November
19th April	August - No Meeting	20th December

Any changes to these dates will be published in OUTLOOK and on the council website.

Clerk (part-time): Ms Nancy Fairbairn

Contact Details:

Email: clerk@cliffordparishcouncil.gov.uk Website: www.cliffordparishcouncil.gov.uk
Tel: 07789567801

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fionaharris44@gmail.com

From the Parish Council November 2022

The Parish Council meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm at Clifford Village Hall.

The meeting dates for 2023 are: January 18th, February 15th, March 15th, April 19th, May 17th, June 21st, July 19th, August – no meeting, September 20th, October 18th, November 15th and December 20th.

The agenda, and minutes of past meeting, are available at: www.cliffordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Public Participation Residents are welcome to attend Parish Council Meetings. There is a public participation session at the start of each meeting during which they can comment on any items on the agenda or raise issues they would like the Council to consider at a subsequent meeting.

If you are not able to attend in person any comments or questions should be sent to clerk@cliffordparishcouncil.gov.uk

War Memorial

Quotes are being obtained to undertake improvements to the site. It was planned to install a footpath in front of the War Memorial to enable easier access to the memorial, but it is not certain whether LCC Highways will permit this for safety reasons. The tree by the memorial has been cut back. The Clifford History Group have advised that the wording on the commemorative plaque on the tree is incorrect and a replacement is being obtained.

Remembrance Sunday Cllr Fawcett thanked all the residents who attended the Remembrance Sunday service at the War Memorial. £348.98 was raised for the Royal British Legion.

Highways flooding There has been an ongoing problem with flooding at the corner of Chapel Lane & Boston Road and at the corner of St Johns Road & Cinder Lane. LCC have undertaken drainage work at both locations, but this has not resolved the issue. A site meeting has been arranged with Ward Cllr Richards and LCC Highways to consider what further work is needed.

LCC are responsible for clearing blocked gullies and drains and any problems can be reported to online to LCC at <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/>

Footpath improvements The Council has organised a working group of volunteers to remove vegetation that has encroached on to the footpath from Clifford to Bramham Primary School. This will help widen the path and improve safety on the planned safe walking route to the school. The work will take place early in the New Year. The Ward Councillors are funding a skip to remove the vegetation.

Reduction to bus services There are ongoing concerns about the cuts to local bus services in the Wetherby area. The issue was considered at the Town and County Parish Forum and Ward Cllr Richards has met with Transdev to discuss the impact on residents across the Wetherby Ward

Coronation of King Charles III the Council has provisionally booked the Village Hall over the coronation weekend of 6th and 7th May 2023 for a village event to mark the coronation. Further details will be published later in the year.

Christmas Tree

The Council would like to thank the local resident who, once again, generously donated the village Christmas tree.

*The Council would like to wish all the residents of Clifford a
Happy New Year for 2023.*

Contacting the Parish Council

If you have any questions or comments for the Parish Council, please contact the clerk at clerk@cliffordparishcouncil.gov.uk Website: www.cliffordparishcouncil.gov.uk

Subscribe to the website to receive news updates and the meeting agenda each month.

Trying to grow my own fruit and vegetables – an amateur’s approach

I’ve never had green fingers, despite my dad being a market gardener. But this year, spurred on by winning a month-by-month gardening book at a quiz night, and ever-rising food prices, I thought I’d have a go at growing some fruit and veg in the garden. I’m relying on the book to guide me through the year, and I’m trying to do something that’s achievable rather than top-of-the-range ‘Gardner’s World’ standard. Apologies to the expert gardeners who will no doubt spot my many mistakes.

We’ve already got a couple of apple and plum trees which can be relied on to produce fruit, so we’ve got a bit of a head start. I’ve never properly got the hang of pruning, but I’m going to pay more attention this year for a winter-prune to remove older wood. January is a good time to do this apparently. We’ve also got some fruit bushes. The gooseberry bushes had a good 2022 and I’ve already pruned and tied them up with canes following Monty Don’s instructions. The blackcurrant bushes had a mixed year, so we’re going to prune those. The redcurrants did nothing, are probably in the wrong place, and may well be on the way out – they’re pretty old. I’ve cut them right back as a last-ditch revival attempt.

On the vegetable side, it’s more about working out where to site the veg patch. There’s a sunny spot that we’ve identified, but it needs a lot of work, so this will probably be the main activity for January. I’d love to put in place some impressive raised beds, but I reckon that’s beyond my woodworking skills, so I’m going to mark out an area and plant some canes in the ground as a boundary. Then it’s down to a lot of digging as long as it’s not too wet or frozen, to aerate the soil. We’ve already got some good home-produced compost, and some bought-in horse manure, so I need to work that in or spread it on the ground.

Then we need to decide what to grow. I’m reading the book to work out what’s going to be the most straight-forward option. It tells me to buy seed potatoes for the year, so I’d better get that done. Then I need to start “chitting” them. This really is unfamiliar territory for me. The advice is to spread them out in single layers in egg boxes or seed trays and store them somewhere cool and light; then in a few weeks the eyes will begin to sprout and form new shoots called “chits”. Otherwise, it seems to be that the sowing and planting begins when winter starts to recede, so around March probably.

There are two other jobs listed for January. The first is “forcing rhubarb” – placing some form of container over the crown before the first shoots appear to block out the light, to encourage it to produce shoots a few weeks earlier. We’ve got some uncared-for rhubarb, so I’ll give that a go. The second is cleaning pots and seed trays, so I suppose I’d better get on with that as well.

Wish me luck!

The Inconsistent Gardener – January 2023

OUT AND ABOUT IN CLIFFORD

Lighting up

Early in December, and in some parts even sooner, the seasonal lights began to appear. The Christmas tree this year is one of the most splendid we have had, courtesy of the anonymous resident who has provided one for several years now. The splendid lights express a bright welcome to those entering the village from the south. Although we don’t have formal lights as in Bramham, residents are putting up their own. This is all in addition to the more organised list published in the December issue of OUTLOOK. That has taken a different turn this year when all those who joined that scheme have their lights on for the whole of the festive season. So, taking all the different efforts, the village, at the time of writing, was beginning to express a brilliant community feel.

Solar panels

These seem to be ‘popping up’ around the village as residents are catching up on the idea of generating their own electricity at affordable prices. It’s not the best return at this time of the year when, approaching the solstice, the sun is low in the sky and the days are short. Generation figures for the summer solstice can be five times as much. Some folk in the village have had panels for several years but the more up-to-date systems come with lithium-ion batteries so when there is more generated than can be used in daytime it can be stored to use at night.

Damaged wall

Near to Muddy Lane on Old Mill Lane part of the wall to the field on which sheep are often seen grazing has either collapsed or been damaged by a collision. It’s one of the many vernacular style of walls around our village which give our surroundings their distinctive character. There are many such walls around and, earlier this year, one on the corner opposite the war memorial was lovingly re-pointed using the proper material - lime mortar - to go with our distinctive limestone. Our Neighbourhood Plan makes it clear that such a wall should be preserved and it’s good to see residents upholding this.

Greenery

The field on the corner of Primrose Lane and Church Street has once again been drilled and seeded with the crop looking well, giving us that rural feel on the edge of the village. The rainfall at the end of the long drought came just in time for the seed to germinate quickly. As this is being written Clifford, like everywhere, is feeling the cold but, looking at the reservoirs which supply our water, we need more of the wet stuff ready for next year.

It’s been noticeable how many of the deciduous trees in the village have still been carrying leaves well into late November and even early December. This didn’t used to be the norm and Clifford trees aren’t alone in this. Is it evidence for just the long dry summer being followed by some rain or a longer effect of climate change?

Season's Greetings in Outlook 2022/2023

I'm delighted to announce that together we raised £250 for St Gemma's Hospice.

I have received the following from them:

'Thank you so much for your recent donation of £250 to St Gemma's Hospice, which I understand is in lieu of Christmas cards. We are incredibly grateful to you, and all the Clifford villagers that donated for such a wonderful contribution! Having people like yourself on our side means that we will be able to continue providing the highest quality of care for our patients and their loved ones - so thank you again for choosing to support us. We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.'

With many thanks to all who contributed.

The long hot Summer (remembering 2022)

by Shirley White

It's been a long hot summer. The clouds have stayed away.

It was a novelty at first. No rain to spoil our day.

We sat out in the Sunshine, a never-ending thrill.

All gardens looking green and bright, our water butts to fill.

We opened up the curtains, the blue sky all above,

Too hot to make much effort, but then what's not to love.

A summer to remember. We relished it with glee.

The Buddleia with the butterflies, the Lavender with the bee.

No rain today, no storm clouds but still no need to worry

And though the lawns were dying, our flowers looking sorry,

We had our hose pipes there to use, our watering cans were busy.

And still the long hot summer, continued with no hurry.

Every day the same now. The sky still blue and cloudless.

But lawns now parched and yellow, gardens looking such a mess.

And we are getting worried, the joy of summer now a bore.

Water's rationed, taps run dry. And it's all against the law.

So let the rains fall from the skies, the sun have its' days of rest.

The reservoirs begin to rise. We shall be surely blessed.

Marie Murphy

Catherine and Phillip would like to thank everyone who attended our mother's wonderful memorial service at St Edwards, Clifford, on 18th November.

The collection raised over £750 for MacMillan.

CLIFFORD WALKING GROUP

The next walk will be on Thursday 19th January 2023. It will be a linear walk led by David and Anne Hovell, and will start at Stockeld Park. Walkers will catch the 0940 bus from Clifford and return by bus. (Car use is not advisable as the walk will not finish at the starting point).

If you are new to the group, please contact 01937 842768 in case any there are any changes

There is no report from the November walk as, unfortunately, the weather took a turn for the worse and we had to cancel it – the December report will be in the February issue of Outlook.



January 2023

7th – Savannah Jazz Band. The traditional start to the New Year with Yorkshire's premier jazz band sadly without our long standing friend and its leader, John Meehan.

21st – Big Easy Swing Band. An energetic swing band of seven young musicians from Leeds, a lively session is guaranteed.

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Happy New Year from the OUTLOOK team to all our contributors, distributors, readers and advertisers

Clifford Local History Group Clifford Water Borehole Problem – 1980

Residents living in Clifford in the summer of 1980 may well remember the time of the borehole problem and one they would rather forget. It also affected a number of surrounding villages.

As an increasing number of residents in the areas became unwell it was identified that the source of the problem was Bramham Borehole. Following its closure and the sterilisation of the distribution system formerly supplied from the source extensive sampling was taken by Leeds Department of Environmental Health and the Yorkshire Water Authority. Areas were then supplied from alternative sources and a new water main was to be fitted from Bramham cross-roads to introduce a new permanent supply from Eccup Treatment Works in Leeds.

Residents who had been absent from their property at that time were advised to run all cold taps for at least 15 minutes before using the water.

A newsletter from Yorkshire Water Authority (August 1980) summarised an inquiry to find out whether the incident could have been foreseen and prevented, if there had been any negligence and recommendations for the future, including lessons learnt from the way in which the operation was handled.

The report concluded that evidence pointed fairly strongly to suggest the problem was caused by Carr Beck being polluted sometime after 15th July 1980 and it was likely this was due to a sewer blockage which occurred in Low Way Bramham. Sewage overflowed to Carr Beck opposite Stone Croft, just below the water pumping station.

Unfortunately, it was sufficient to give high bacteriological counts and resulted in many residents suffering a severe bout of gastroenteritis.

The incident was well recorded at the time with Radio Leeds and the Yorkshire Post both reporting on it.

As a result of the incident Yorkshire Water Authority agreed for individual household claims of up to £7.50 in respect of increased fuel costs the need to boil water, additional washing costs (clothing/bedding soiled as a result of the illness), wasted food costs help to complete the claim form was offered by the Parish Council.

Fortunately, there has been no reoccurrence of the incident and Clifford maintains a healthy water supply!



CLIFFORD LADIES

Thursday 9 February 2023

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Jackie 843422; Gill 842694

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ANSWERS TO CLIFFORD CHRISTMAS QUIZ 2022 FROM LAST MONTH'S OUTLOOK

1. Four ghosts – Jacob Marley, and the spirits of Christmas past, present and future.
2. An angel got his wings.
3. Indian Ocean.
4. Cupid.
5. Donald Trump.
6. Green.
7. 122 feet, built in Maine USA in 2008.
8. George V in 1932.
9. Moby Dick.
10. A 50 pence piece.
11. White Christmas by Bing Crosby
12. The Old Star – reference the Star of Bethlehem.

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Please contact:
The Group Administrator at St Mary's Parish Church, Boston Spa
☎ 844402 Monday to Thursday – 09.30 am to 12.30 pm
email: bramhambenefice@outlook.com

St. Edward's Roman Catholic Church, Clifford

Mass: Thursday 10am
Saturday Vigil for Sunday. 5pm
Sunday. 11am
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Email: pp.stedward@dioceseofleeds.org.uk

Clifford Methodist Chapel

Sunday Service 10.30am
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stephen.jakeman@methodist.org.uk