

CLIFTON VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN



2026

CVRA VILLAGE DIARY

Spanish Themed Wine Tasting
Village Hall

10th October
7.30pm

Remembrance Day Memorial
Dovecote Village Green

11th November
10.45am for 11am

Staying Safe Online
Notts Police Fraud Team
Village Hall

16th November
7.30pm

CHRISTMAS TREE AND CAROL
Cross Hill by the Christmas Tree

6th December
4pm

CHRISTMAS PARTY
Village Hall

13th December
1.00pm

CVRA AGM
Village Hall

19th April 2027
7.30pm

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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

Keep up to date with what is happening in the village

The CVRA have a village Facebook Page and active website presence. You can us at:

www.facebook.com/cliftonvillagenottingham

www.clifton-village.org.uk

Chairwoman's Message

Re- reading through our last newsletter, which I had started with looking forward to some sun to return after so much rain, I believe it is a case of be careful what you wish for! By now of course after such a scorching summer which turned lawns brown, it is always amazing how quickly everything turns green once more following welcome autumn rains ensuring that we are back to lawn mowing again.

Since the start of the year, the CVRA committee have held a Banger's and Mash quiz night on the 21st March organised by Ed Peterson. This was well supported and alongside the brain teaser of a quiz, I understand that the sausage and mash was particularly popular with I hear, some champion sausage eaters!

On April 20th we held a refresher defibrillator training session organised by Julie Reid who invited back the previous expert trainer Marijke Van Eerd. This will be an ongoing refresher course every two years so if you missed this year's hopefully you will be able to make the next one. It is a really important event as our defibrillator has already been vital in helping to save one of our resident's lives.

May the 18th saw our village AGM when all the current committee were invited to continue. Waiting to see if enough village residents would attend to fulfil quorum requirements, is always a bit nerve wracking so it was agreed by a unanimous vote to reduce the quorum number from 25 down to 15 and update the CVRA Constitution accordingly. For further information about this year's AGM it is possible to read the minutes on the new village website.

Hugh Evans, who has created the new version of our village website, has done a fantastic job so that it is now a go to site for all kinds of information both current as well as past events. The site also includes a page where there are local listings for companies who offer local services. Hugh would very much like to enlarge the listing of paid for advertisers so if you know of a company who would like to be included, please notify them. Hugh has had information cards printed which will soon be handed out by committee members.

Following the AGM our next village event was held in the church, as our village hall is increasingly booked up. This was an evening organised by Ed again where we were treated to a talk by sculptor Graeme Mitcheson. Graeme gave us an insight into his work with some fascinating stories to accompany some of his creations, some of which are sited at the Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

We held our summer garden party in early July this year which had a later start time than normal due to tables being needed at the village hall for a morning session. We will be back to normal times in future as the village hall committee have now purchased extra new tables. Obviously, the weather was great. We must thank John and Dorothy for the use of their garden once again and also thank our catering team lead by Glenys Blacknell and Kath Spencer once again and on a hot day we certainly needed to thank committee members who manned the bar.

You will be aware of the continuing deteriorating state of the dovecote. Following several meetings with city officers it was decided to hold a dovecote open evening and hold a meeting afterwards in the village hall for residents interested in helping to raise funds towards the dovecote and help form a Friends of the Dovecote group. The meeting was held on 11th August and was well attended by those interested not just in seeing inside the dovecote but also concerned that something be done to prevent further crumbling of the roof and walls. More from Ed Peterson, who has been the instigator of getting action from the council, further in the newsletter.

Following on from an earlier meeting with city officers, Jason Morden a county council expert on historic buildings has offered to run a lime mortaring course which is being run on the 21st and 22nd of Sept. where a hands-on lime mortaring exercise is carried out on the dovecote following a short training course.

The next CVRA event is to be held on 10th October in the village hall. This will be a Spanish themed wine tasting evening with accompanying Spanish tapas.

Many residents have been concerned over the state of the village greens so must have been mightily relieved when the greens received a much-needed tidy up. The council have only 5 staff covering the whole of the green areas in the greater Clifton area and 3 of those were on long term sick leave. The delay in

tidying the green meant waiting for other teams in other city areas to find time to come over to Clifton.

You will no doubt have seen the recent flurry of activity surrounding the Barton in Fabis Gravel Pit and the need for further need to make representations, this time to the City Council for the small portion of the site that lies in the City boundary. The Council meeting is to be hosted on the 23rd September, and we will publish the results to everyone as soon as we know them by our digital media channels. In the meantime, a big thank-you to everyone that has written in to make a representation. Beyond this, Land Logical, the applicant, has appealed against the county council's decision to turn the application down. The appeal is likely to be heard later this year or maybe in early 2027. Barton in Fabis residents will be carrying out a fund-raising exercise in order to pay for legal support at the appeal.

That just about completes my report so I can now turn my attention to preparing our Village calendar for 2027. If anyone has a village photo that they would like to be considered for the calendar, please send it to me at

particiabrice@hotmail.com

Pat Rice, 18th September 2026

Village Notes

Clifton Village Dovecote

There was a gathering at the Dovecote on Tuesday August 10th, and people were able to look inside to view the state of the building. A meeting was held afterwards in the village hall and approximately 40 people attended, including Counsellors Andrew Rule and Hayley Spain and Claire McCurdy who is the Clifton Town Board Programme Manager. The purpose of this meeting was to outline steps taken so far and what for the future.

The CVRA Chair Pat Rice introduced Ed Peterson, Graeme Barker and a guest speaker, Ninya Mikhaila who is Chair for the Wollaton Historical and Preservation Society that includes the Wollaton Dovecote.

There was a review of the work to date in contacting city employees over the past 6/7 years in relation to the Dovecote. Also meeting with English Heritage (Tim Allen) and Historic England (Jane Holt) both giving advice about how to achieve funding for the building and what can be done to enhance the use for local benefit.

Considerable effort has been made to build bridges and embarrass the city council into action to spend funds on the structure of the building. But always there have been two stumbling blocks to progress:

- **Reduced available funds and reluctance to help, as confirmed by a negative response to a request put to the chamber in 2025.**
- **A lack of direction within the city itself and its employees owing to re-structuring and coping with its own financial demise.**

There was consensus in the meeting to move things forward and take the issue into our own hands before the building deteriorates further with the real possibility of roof-collapse. It was proposed that a Charitable Trust be established which would offer a framework to raise funds and gain tax relief. This was agreed on and volunteers offered to move this forward. This is now being acted upon.

Graeme Barker pointed out that the rendering to the gable ends on the Dovecote had been removed around the Covid years with resulting security fencing in place. This had exposed the building to more serious potential damage. The rendering, although faulty, had been protecting the Purlin roof timbers. With water ingress around these important structural timbers, causing rot, more serious structural damage could occur.

With the future in mind, and possible use of the Clifton Village Dovecote, Ninya Mikhaila from Wollaton described the building she looks after, with her team. Her description of the Wollaton Dovecote reinforced that it is worth a visit to see how a building such as ours could be used for the benefit of Clifton Village and surrounding area.

Several people within the audience raised their hands, or spoke afterwards, to offer help. Your names have been noted, and we will be calling on you sometime. Thank you so much for your offer to help and be involved. It is very much appreciated.

Following the Meeting

Bonsers, Heritage Builders from Newark, have provided quotes to the CVRA for the essential and immediate work. To re-build the parapets and coping stones, to remove and re-build brickwork and thereby waterproof the gables around affected purlins. *Cost of £15,000 plus VAT*

In addition, cost of a new roof in slates rather than replace the wood shingles. *Cost £34,000 plus VAT. (Slate agreed by Heritage England)*

These quotes have been passed to Nottingham City.

A copy of the Lease has been Found

Until now we have been working blind without a copy of the Lease to examine the responsibilities of the NCC. An FOI letter was being considered.

A verified copy of the Lease found by Clare Ashton showing the Lease agreement between the Clifton Family and Nottingham city confirms there is approximately 35 years of the Lease remaining.

The content of the Lease includes an important covenant which asserts:

At all times during the said term to keep the Dovecote on the demised premises in good and substantial repair and condition.

Anyone assuming that this is the means to force the hand of the council should consider:

1. There is no practical requirement, with reference to the above clause, for the council to meet its obligations that is enforceable. The two parties to the Lease are the Clifton Family and the Nottingham City (NCC). From experience the Clifton Family, at best, has shown only marginal interest. Any suggestion that it spend money with its expensive Lawyers to enforce the covenant would, in my opinion, be ignored.

2. Separately, there is a duty of the council to serve statutory notice under the 1990 Act relating to heritage property in a conservation area - but is it going to serve notice on itself? If the building was owned by any other party the NCC would not hesitate to serve notice for work to be done. This is therefore a political issue and one the city should be ashamed of. That is the reflection we are working with.

The city has requested a survey and tenders.

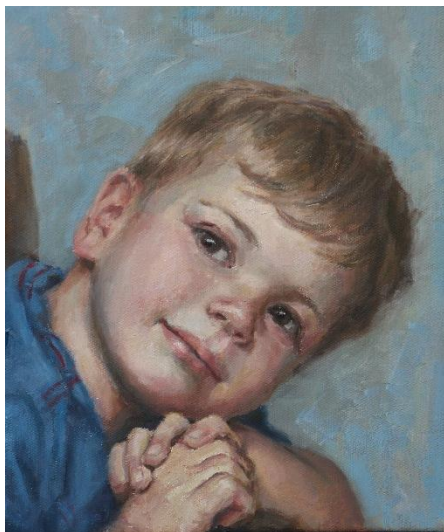
This week, following discussions with Tom Glenn (Property Department), Chris Matthews (Nottingham Heritage Buildings Officer) that included Counsellor Andrew Rule, Tom Glen confirmed to that he has instructed local Surveyors to complete a survey which would form the basis for tenders to be requested from three builders. This is good news, but we must maintain the pressure for sufficient funding. *Ed Peterson – September 2026*

Fund Raising for the Dovecote

Bid for a Professional Child Portrait in Oils – a fantastic Christmas gift for your family

We are very fortunate that a local artist has offered to donate their time, skill and expertise to paint a Portrait of a Child in Oils, with all funds raised being donated to the village Dovecote funds for renovation. The canvas size will be a minimum 30x24cm. Examples of the artists work are shown below. between now and Christmas we will be inviting silent sealed bids for this opportunity.

The winning bidder will need to accompany the child for two, two hour sittings (Further details to follow), with the portrait being painted in late Spring



2027. The portrait will take several weeks to be completed. There is a minimum reserve price for the bids, with a minimum guide price for this opportunity being £2000.

If you are interested in placing a bid, or wish to know more about how the portrait, and how this process will work please contact *Julie Reid of 2 Farriers Green* or patrickandjuliereid@gmail.com

Clifton Village Hall Update

The Clifton Village Hall has continued to be very busy with regular groups as well as parties and numerous other activities. Many people are being attracted by the hall information in the new Clifton Village website – a big thank you to Hugh and all those involved in developing it and keeping it up to date – it's proving to be very helpful.

We have been pleased to welcome several new groups since the last newsletter including 'Move It or Lose It' (Tuesdays 1245-1315) and 'Boxing Fitness' (Fridays 1630-1730 for 6 to 15 year-olds). New groups will be starting in October including 'Becky Moves' (Thursdays 1300-1400). And the local PCSO's (Police Community Support Officers) have started holding 'Beat surgeries' either in the small hall or in the car park approximately once a month.

Over the last few months, the Trust has continued to install other additional furnishings – dado rail in the small hall, a new clock in the large hall, a new noticeboard on the front railings outside the hall (made by Simon Massarella with our thanks) and 2 new green pots for the plants outside the new entrance (kindly donated by Jean Green).

Many of you will be aware of the cracks in the hall, particularly near the old entrance, due to subsidence. These were repaired during the first week of August and the work also included repainting the large hall – all covered by our insurance. This has really improved the appearance of the large hall.

We were delighted to hear in August, that following an application to the EMA (East Midlands Airport) Community Fund, we had been awarded £2,000 towards some new chairs for the hall. These will be purchased to replace old and damaged chairs hopefully before Christmas.

The Trust has commenced planning for a wall hanging (or tapestry) at the back of the new small hall, which Karen Garnon is kindly co-ordinating. (For more information, see Karen's article in this newsletter).

Thank you to all those who have recently supported the New Extension Sponsorship scheme which has now raised over £10,000 – an excellent response which has been very much appreciated. Further plaques will be added to The Donations Wall in the new lobby in the coming months. However, it's still not too late to donate – to do so, please contact our Treasurer, Joe Rice.

And finally, thank you to all those who attended our AGM on 22nd June. There were no changes to the volunteer Trustees, as follows:- Graeme Barker, Glenys Blacknell, Francis Buck, Gary Dykes, Dan Garnon, John Hooley, Joe Rice with Steve Lack, as Minute taker – we are very grateful for all that they do in ensuring the hall is improved and maintained for the benefit of the Village residents and the surrounding Community.

Clare Ashton, Chair of Trustees

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

Please book as early as you can to ensure the hall is available for the date and time you require. The Christmas period is almost booked up and we have many bookings for next year.

Clifton Village Hall – Wall Hanging Appeal

We are creating a wall hanging for the new hall! Can you help?

Depicting life in the village, the community spirit, history and buildings, we are asking for your thoughts on what should be included, together with stories linked to them. We also need people with crafting skills - whatever level you have - to help make this wall art come to life. The Clifton Doves (WI) have kindly agreed to help us too. It will measure around 1 meter high and 3.6 meters long.

I have at least 40 things to be considered such as the dovecote, various dwellings, the church, carols on Cross Hill, Clifton Hall, Mayday maypole, a map, snowdrops, daffodils and bluebells, cricket, the river, birds, Brownies, CVRA and a possible link with Peter Pan! It will also reflect the village sign.

If you would like to be involved and offer your skills, thoughts or suggestions of what you think should be included, please let me know.

You can email me at karend99@hotmail.co.uk Karen Garnon Co-ordinator

HELP US GROW OUR VILLAGE DIRECTORY!

Know a great local plumber, gardener, decorator, or electrician? Mention our website directory to them! Advertising fees go directly back into village community projects!

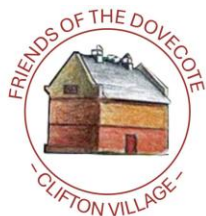


Connecting residents with trusted local trades and services.

Join Our Local Business Family

- Annual listing: **£50**
- Reach local neighbours right on your doorstep.

Contact: advertise@clifton-village.org.uk



HELP US PRESERVE OUR LOCAL HERITAGE

A Clifton Village Community Project

A FUNDRAISING EVENING FOR THE DOVECOTE

Tastes of Spain

Guest Speaker: Caroline Mackie — *Qualified Wine Taster & Speaker*

Clifton Village Hall

Saturday October 10th 2026 | 7pm for 7.30pm
per person

£15



- Guided tasting of 6 fine Spanish wines (3 white, 3 red)
- Discover grape varieties, regions, and fascinating stories
- Delicious Spanish tapas provided (includes veg & non-dairy options)
- Raffle on the night to win featured bottles of wine
- Test your knowledge in Caroline's "Quirky Quiz"
- A great social evening supporting the Dovecote Restoration

Enjoy an entertaining guided wine tasting with our guest expert and a great social evening in the village. Tickets available through your CVRA area representative.

All money raised will support the Dovecote Restoration Campaign.

For more information: dovecote@clifton-village.org.uk



STAYING SAFE ONLINE

With the Notts Police Fraud Team



Are you worried about clicking the wrong link, fake text messages, or unexpected telephone cold-calls?

The Clifton Village Residents Association (CVRA) is hosting a jargon-free community safety session run by specialist officers from the Notts Police Fraud Unit to keep you and your devices secure.

Monday, November 16th, 2026

Starting promptly at 7:30 PM

Clifton Village Hall

Key Topics Being Covered:

- **Phishing & Scam Messages:** Fake delivery text messages
- **Phone Scams & Impersonation:** Fake bank or police calls
- **Safe Online Shopping:** Verifying websites & web payments
- **Device Security:** Simple advice on passwords & updates

To help us ensure we have enough refreshments and seating, please let us know if you plan to come:

- **By Email:** Send a note to cvra@clifton-village.org.uk
- **In Person:** Let your local CVRA committee contact know

*Have a specific question or scam you want the Police to address?
Just email us or pass a note to your CVRA contact, and we will make sure it gets added to the evening's list anonymously.*

www.clifton-village.org.uk



Lighting of the Village Christmas Tree and Carol Singing

4pm on Sunday 6th December

Come and join in the festive celebrations and partake of:

mulled wine roasted chestnuts mince pies

Everyone is welcome

*We will be erecting the Christmas Tree from 9am on Saturday 6th December
please do come and help if you are available!*



Christmas Party

Will be held at

Clifton Village Hall

1pm, on Sunday 13th December

Adults £12.00 Children £6.00

**Buffet Lunch with a complimentary drink
and the promise of good company in the festive season**

Tickets sellers are calling on all households in the village.

*If you would like to contribute to the catering, or simply helping out on the day
we would be delighted to hear from you – please do speak to your local CVRA
representative or email Graeme at graemebarker@virginmedia.com*

St Mary's Church

SUNDAY SERVICES GENERALLY

There are now 4 options on a Sunday:

9.30am – Holy Trinity with St Francis - Communion

9.30am - St Mary's - Traditional Holy Communion (every other weekend – check dates)

11am - St Mary's - Morning Worship with Shooting Stars group for children AND

4pm - Holy Trinity with St Francis - Fun @ 4 with everyone in together and communion

Christmas Services St Mary's Church

Saturday 5th of December - Christmas Extravaganza

3-5pm @ Holy Trinity with St Francis

Sunday 20th of December

- Carols at 9:30am at Holy Trinity with St Francis
- Walking Nativity at 11am starting at the village hall
- Carols by candle light - 7pm at St Mary's

Thursday 24th of December

- 4pm Christingle at St Mary's
- 6pm Christingle at Holy Trinity
- 11pm Midnight Holy Communion at St Mary's

Friday 25th of December

- Joint Parish Christmas day Holy Communion - 10am at Holy Trinity

All are most welcome

**Contact:- Rev Esther Hutchinson 07305 793858 or email
<rev.estherhutchinson@outlook.com**

(CVRA) Website Local Business Advertising

Supporting our local community

The new **Clifton Village Residents Association (CVRA)** www.clifton-village.org.uk has now been launched and includes a local **Business Directory** designed to help residents easily find trusted local businesses and services. We would like to invite local businesses serving the Clifton Village community to advertise in the directory.

What Your Listing Includes

Each advertiser receives a dedicated listing within the Business Directory including:

- Business name
- Short description of your services
- Contact details (phone / email)
- Link to your website or social media (if available)
- Business logo or image (optional)

Your business will appear in the most appropriate category so residents can quickly find the services they need.

How to Advertise

If you would like to advertise your business, please contact your CVRA representative, email advertise@clifton-village.org.uk or use the QR code on page 11 to be offered guidance on:

- Advertising rates
- A simple advertising agreement
- Details of the information required for your listing

Once your listing details and payment are received, your advert will be prepared and published on the website.

Advertising on the CVRA website helps support the ongoing work of the Residents Association and promotes local businesses within the Clifton Village community

Promote Your Business in Clifton Village