



Clifford Chambers Parish Appraisal

July 2002

Here at last is the final report upon the Parish Appraisal.

Many of you will remember attending the highly successful Open Meeting held in the Jubilee Hall in March last year. Since then a small subcommittee has spent much time merging the information which that meeting provided with the answers received to the original Questionnaire, analysing it, and preparing the first draft of this report upon it. It was then presented to the full Appraisal Committee for their input. Early this year the final version was agreed and printers were asked for quotes. Technical problems arose due to incompatibilities between our software and that used by the professionals, which took time to resolve. Finally, however, the report was produced in the form that we have pleasure in presenting to you now.

Good things have already started as a result of the appraisal.

Neighbourhood Watch (Page 8) - Eric Greenway has launched a scheme.

The Old Pound (Page 9) - Len Potter has held meetings, prepared a report and submitted applications for grants.

Traffic and Speeding (Page 11) - You will have seen reports in the local press of meetings about the problems on the B4632 and the Stratford Council have asked parishioners for their comments: be sure to send yours in!

We hope that you will find the report interesting, but please remember that if you want things to happen, or to change for the better, all Parishioners need to get involved.

Clifford Chambers Parish Appraisal Steering Committee.

This report is being delivered to every household but, in case we miss someone, please ensure that your neighbours have seen a copy and, if not, tell them to telephone 268 046.



**Clifford Chambers
Parish Appraisal
2001**



Clifford Chambers Parish Appraisal.

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Annexe. Statistical Data.

(This is the raw data upon which the Appraisal is based. It will be included in the copies of the report sent to statutory bodies, and is available to others on special request, either on paper or floppy disk, at cost.)

1. INTRODUCTION.

A Parish Appraisal involves the whole community. It provides statistical evidence of the existing situation and the people's views on how they would like their Parish to develop. It may also expose hidden problems and help the Parish, District and County Councils to plan for the future. In addition the Appraisal provides the local community with the opportunity to take stock of where they are, identifies the resources already provided within the Parish and, perhaps most importantly, invites every resident to indicate how they would like to see their Parish evolve.

1.1 Background.

In April 1999 Clifford Chambers Parish Council organised a meeting in the Jubilee Hall to which everyone in the Parish was invited. At the meeting the District Council Appraisal Officer described what an appraisal was, its objectives and what would be involved in organising one in the Parish. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of undertaking a Parish Appraisal for Clifford Chambers, and there were sufficient volunteers to form an Appraisal Steering Committee.

1.2 Objectives.

- Obtain statistical data about the people living in the Parish.
- Identify the needs and priorities of residents.
- Enable the local community, statutory authorities and other public and voluntary sector organisations to respond to community needs and priorities.
- Obtain data on transport, public services, social provisions etc., as perceived by parishioners.
- Obtain views and opinions on the area as a whole, in order to formulate proposals for improvements to existing facilities or the provision of additional ones, in line with the aspirations of parishioners.

1.3 The Questionnaire.

Over the following months the Committee purchased computer software containing nearly 400 questions. They selected the questions that they thought were appropriate for Clifford Chambers and designed other questions specifically to address issues particular to our Parish.

A pilot questionnaire was tried out during November 1999 and the final Appraisal Questionnaire was launched during the first two weeks of March 2000. Extra volunteers were recruited to deliver a copy to every house in the Parish.

Some houses were empty at this time but 193 questionnaires were distributed and 128 households returned completed forms. All the figures from the returned questionnaires were fed into computers, the statistical data were extracted and consolidated into one computer for analysis.

1.4 The Open Meeting.

The Appraisal Officer for the District Council joined the Committee in reviewing the results. It was decided that an Open Meeting should be held where the results could be shown to the Parishioners and their comments invited.

The Open Day was held in the Jubilee Hall on 22nd March 2001. Nearly 100 people attended and it was considered to be very successful. As far as possible, the results from the questionnaires were presented in graphic format. Charts, graphs, and posters were used, and photographs helped to illustrate some of the figures. Major issues, such as traffic, housing, employment and the environment were highlighted. The complete set of statistical data developed from the analysis of the Questionnaire was available for people to study and everyone was encouraged to add further comments on "post-it" notes. There were 224 such notes completed and attached to the various displays and each one was later typed out; nobody's comments were missed or ignored.

1.5 Action.

This report is the end product of all that careful work. The recommendations for action are those put forward by the Steering Committee after studying the statistical analyses of the questionnaire responses and considering the individual written comments from the questionnaires and the Open Meeting.

This Appraisal Report will be lodged with the Parish and District Councils and other statutory authorities, to become a reference source for discussions, actions and plans relating to Clifford Chambers in the future.

However, while many of the recommendations and suggested solutions to problems are dependent upon action by the statutory authorities, others depend upon action by you, the Parishioners.

PLEASE HELP TO MAKE THE ACTION PROGRAMME SUCCESSFUL BY GIVING IT YOUR SUPPORT.

Acknowledgements.

Ann Jackson and Rebecca Frost, Appraisal Officers of the Stratford upon Avon District Council, have provided a wealth of practical advice to the Committee.

Kath Lloyd has chaired both the Steering Committee and the Report Working Group.

David Bissell has provided computer support for the questionnaire, data analysis, Open Meeting graphics and the production of this report; he also prepared the historical note.

Junc Hatton fed the answers to the questionnaire into the computer.

The volunteers who helped the Committee members distribute and collect the Questionnaire were John Hogg, Robert Hutton, Jean Lawrance, Margaret Kingston, Chris Sargeant, Lucie Strauss, Angela Wylam, Barry Wylam and David Woulfe.

The late Dennis Reynolds was a hard working member of the original Committee.

Thanks are also due to the Parish and District Councils for financial support.

Steering Committee.

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| David Bissell | Ivor Chaddock |
| John Chambers | Ros Clarke |
| Pam Elliott | David Grant |
| Eric Greenway | Kath Lloyd |
| Rebecca Musgrave | Myles Pollock |

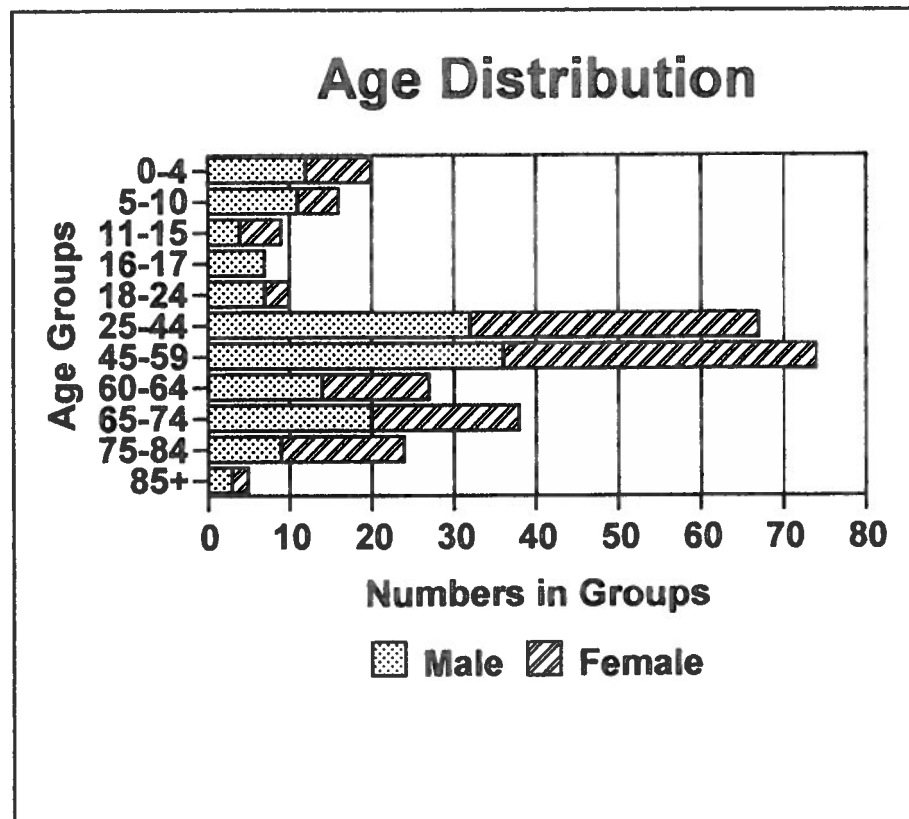
2. THE PARISH.

The Parish of Clifford Chambers is an irregular shape as can be seen from the map on the following page. It stretches from Hine's Farm in the East to Willicote in the South West, covering some 697 hectares (1722 acres). Although work on the Parish Appraisal coincided with collecting the Year 2001 National Census information, the census results will not be made public until late in 2002. The 1991 census reported 173 "Resident Households" but this has grown during the last ten years mainly due to the building developments of Dighton Close in the village and the Leys Farm and Willicote Pastures barn conversions on the Campden Road. The District Council report 202 households paying Council Tax in 2001, an increase of 29 dwellings on the 1991 census.

2.1 The Population.

The 1991 census reported 399 people (of all ages) living in the Parish but the total could now be over 450.

The 128 returned questionnaires related to 297 people. The age distribution of these is shown below:

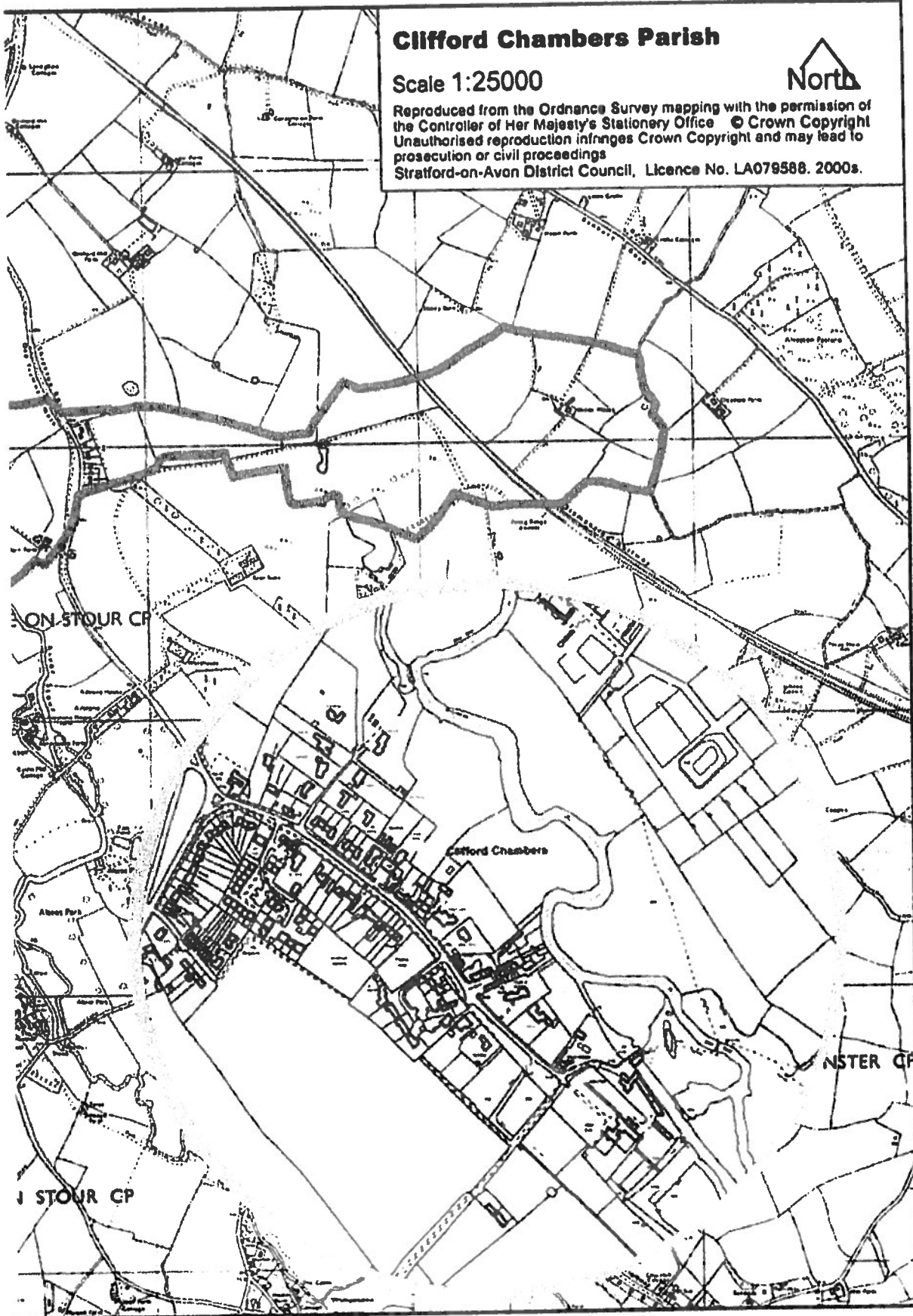


Clifford Chambers Parish

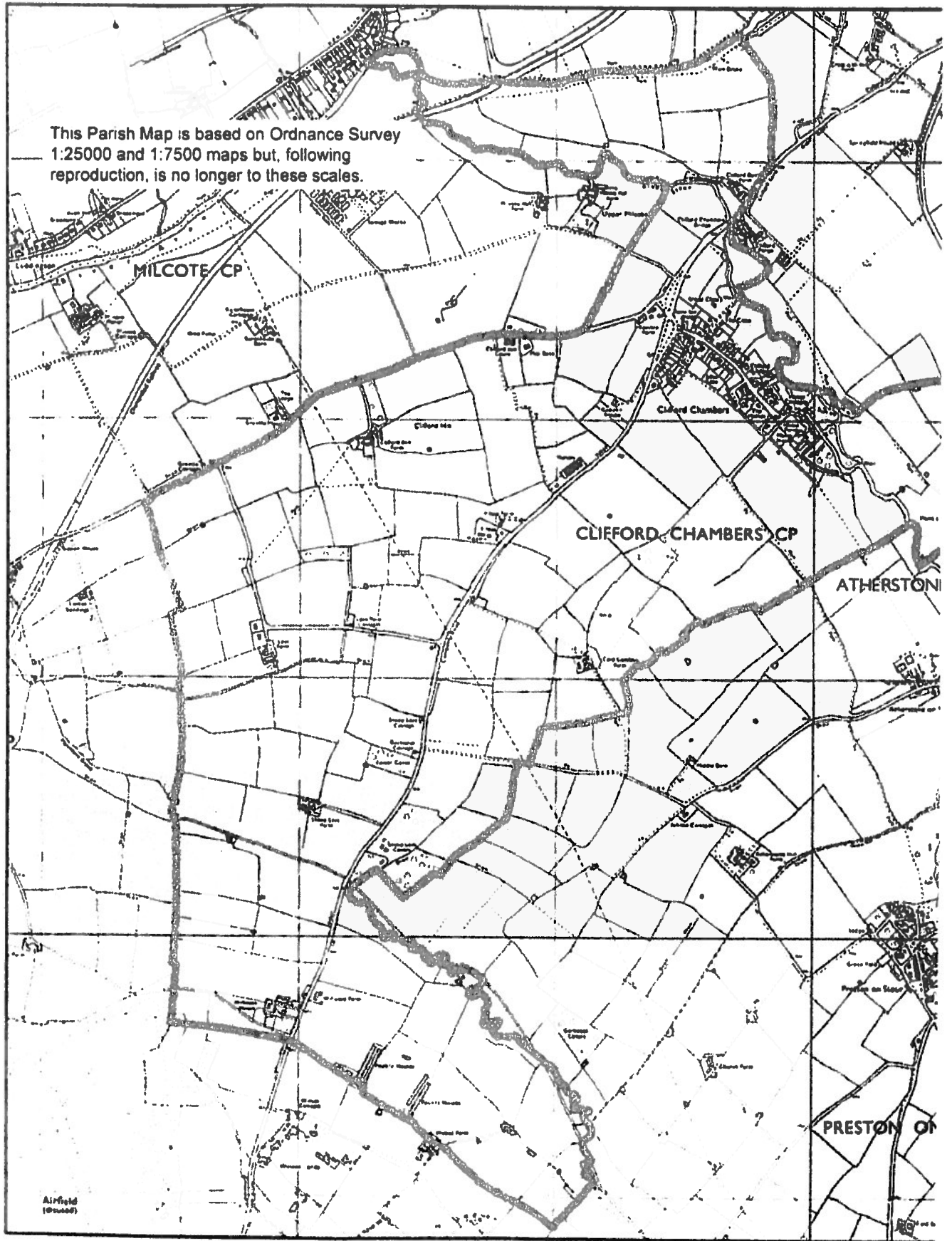
Scale 1:25000



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This Parish Map is based on Ordnance Survey 1:25000 and 1:7500 maps but, following reproduction, is no longer to these scales.



Airfield (crossed)

PRESTON CP

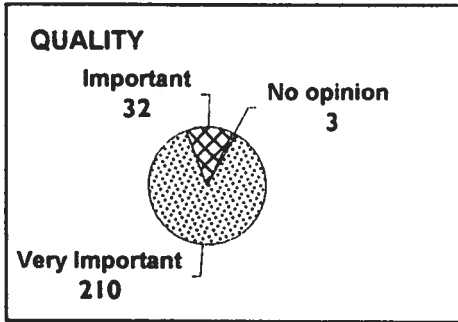
CLIFFORD CHAMBERS CP

MILCOTE CP

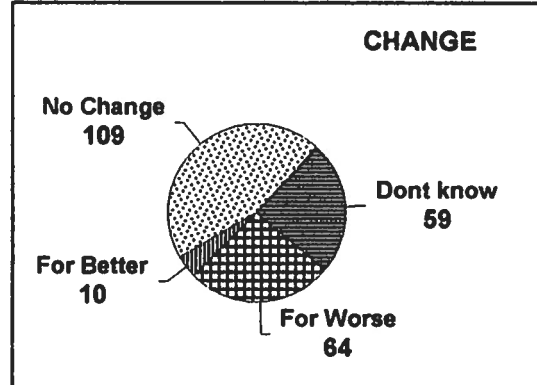
ATHERSTON

3. THE MAJOR ISSUES.

3.1 Environment and Countryside.



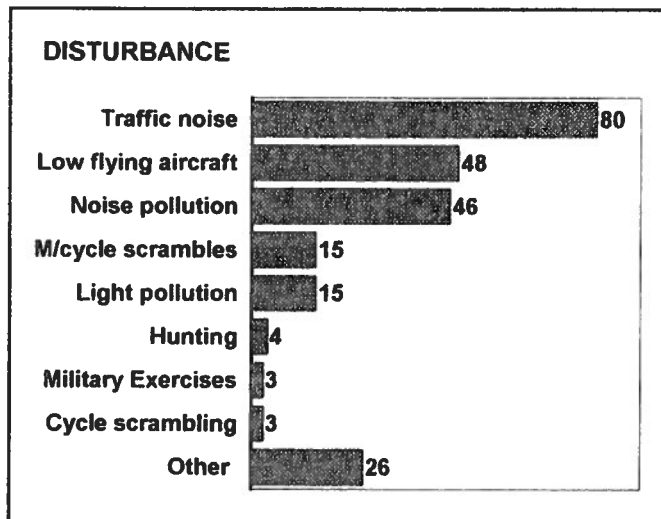
The quality of the countryside is of great importance to the people of the Parish.



When asked whether the countryside had changed over recent years, the replies were diverse. Reasons for changes for the worse included parked cars and overdeveloped old houses in Clifford village, too many houses in Dighton Close, destruction of hedges and the use of pesticides.

Disturbance.

Traffic noise, low flying aircraft and noise pollution are the main problems for parishioners.



There were 16 complaints connected with events and activities at Long Marston Airfield. Other problems mentioned were smells from the Milcote sewage plant, loudspeakers at the Shire Horse Centre, functions at the Village Hall, dogs roaming and fouling the footpaths and outside security lights being left on all night.

Action

Traffic noise - This could be reduced if a speed restriction is enforced on the B4632. (see "Traffic Section").

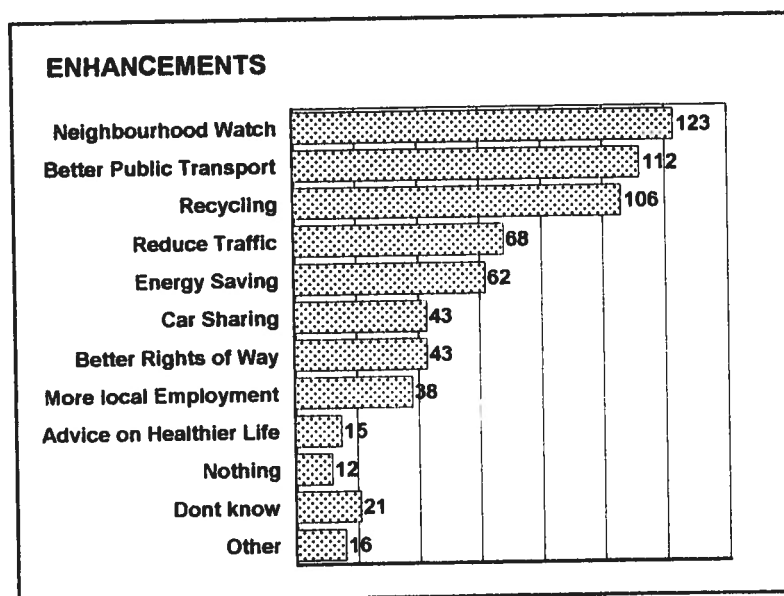
Low flying aircraft - If a particular aircraft can be proved to be a consistent nuisance in the area it can be reported to the Civil Aviation Authority Tel: 01293 567171 or directly to David Butcher Tel: 0207 453 6524.

Long Marston Airfield - The District Council has signed a "Section 106 Agreement" with the airfield owners, which puts the management of airfield use and development on a more clearly regulated basis than at any time hitherto. Parishioners should alert the District Council of any problems.

Dog Fouling - There are notices in the village warning of a £1000 fine. Dog owners are responsible for their animals. If dogs are roaming or fouling the pavements telephone the Dog Warden - 01789 260 837.

Enhancements.

To attract a positive response, everyone was asked what they thought would enhance the environment.



Neighbourhood Watch.

A scheme operated in the village some years ago but unfortunately collapsed. The figures above show a considerable interest in restarting the scheme. It is much easier to run a scheme within the village than among the scattered farms and houses in the rest of the Parish.

Action: If residents want the scheme to work then they must be self-motivated. Eric Greenway (Tel. No. 01789 295 228) has agreed to co-ordinate the setting up of a scheme for the village. It may be possible to widen this to cover the surrounding areas with the help of the local beat officer, who is very keen to see Neighbourhood Watch schemes flourish. Please contact Eric Greenway to get involved.

Better Public Transport. [See under Traffic and Transport.]

Reduce traffic, car sharing.

Reducing traffic and sharing cars are fine in principal but difficult to achieve in practice. Traffic will only reduce if each individual makes a conscious effort to use public transport, cycle or walk!

Action: If you think it is important, think about "making it work". Twelve people offered to share their cars - particularly for shopping trips - would one of these people co-ordinate the project?

Recycling.

There were many comments and suggestions, especially at the Open Meeting, about recycling and siting recycling bins in the village. Since then the Stratford District Council have provided every household with a box in which to deposit papers, bottles, cans and textiles. This avoids the problem of agreeing upon a central collection point and the litter problem caused by collection sites.

Action: Support the Stratford District Council by using their Black Boxes.

Cycle track to Stratford and the Old Pound.

The separate comments included a suggestion for a Cycle Track to Stratford and for clearing the Old Pound (one of only three remaining in Warwickshire) and making it a feature. These two suggestions attracted wide support at the Open Meeting.

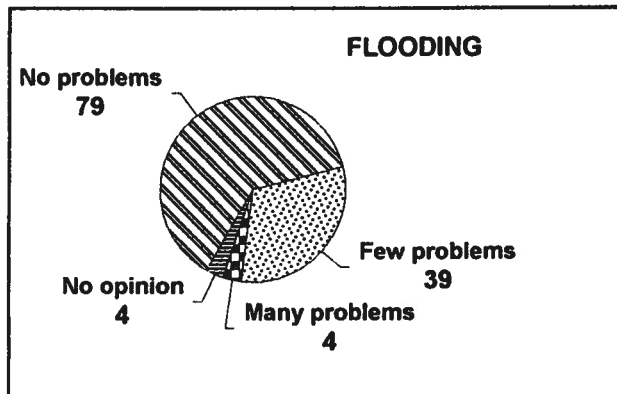
Action: Cycle Track: The suggested route is along the B4632 turning at the footpath opposite the Shire Horse Centre towards Seven Meadows Road. This will mean lobbying the District and County Councils. Andrew Musgrave, (Tel: 01789 268 370), has agreed to co-ordinate this project. Please contact him if you wish to get involved.

Action: The Old Pound.

There are grants and lottery money available for such projects. Len Potter, (Tel. 01789 263 370), has agreed to co-ordinate a committee to get this started. Please contact him if you wish to get involved.

Flooding.

The majority of the people in the Parish do not suffer from recurring flooding problems. Those who reported "Few Problems" were mainly referring to the 1998 Easter Floods which caused much damage and misery, particularly in the village. Of the four reporting "Many Problems", one is high risk and the other three suffer from inadequate drainage ditches in nearby fields.



Stratford on Avon District Council commissioned a report on the 1998 floods which was available for people to read at the 22nd March Open Meeting. One of its main findings was the neglect of field and roadside ditch maintenance. Since the report was published, ditches have been cleared on the estate road near the Manor, opposite to the New Inn and along the main road between the New Inn and Clifford Bridge.

Action: The Parish Council to be asked to put pressure on Severn Trent Water and the District and County Councils to implement the recommendations of the Flood Report. Please report obstructed or neglected ditches to the Parish Council.

Footpaths.

Fifty-seven people reported no problems with footpaths but, for the rest, the main problems were mud, nettles and crops.

Property owners are responsible for overhanging hedges and landowners are required to leave the following margins clear after cultivation:

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Round the edge of a field | 1 ½ metres |
| Across a field | 1 metre |
| Bridle way around a field | 3 metres |
| Bridle way across a field | 2 metres |

If the path is wide enough but overgrown with nettles etc., then the County Council will arrange clearance.

Action: If you have a problem inform the Parish Council who will contact the County Council, if necessary, to make an enforcement order.

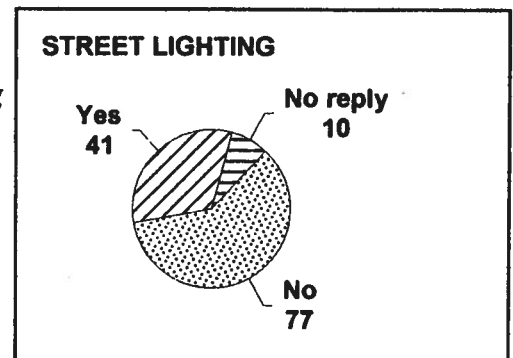
Street Lighting.

The majority of the replies to the questionnaire (60.2%) gave a definite NO to the installation of street lighting.

There were quite a few critical comments in the questionnaires and at the Open Meeting about external lights both in the village and around the Parish.

Action: If you have external lights, please examine them to check that their positioning does not inconvenience neighbours or dazzle people walking past your property.

Although in these days of high crime rates security lights seem to have become a necessity, perhaps you could consider a less powerful bulb and please do not leave them switched on all night.



3.2 TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT.

Traffic and Road Safety.

The majority of Clifford parishioners rely on their own transport for all activities and this transport is mostly the motor car.

The Parish has two main roads and several rural side roads. The main roads are the A3400 Stratford to Oxford road and the B4632 (formerly the A46) Stratford to Broadway road. There is a minor road from the village of Clifford Chambers to the village of Welford-on-Avon, which has the first bridge over the river Avon down stream from Stratford. The majority of replies (74%) named seven danger spots on these roads.

These are:

- The general area around the New Inn.
- A3400 - by the Monk's Barn bungalows
- B4632 - the slip road to Welford
 - the bend by Redhill House
 - from the south using the Nashes/Orchard Place slip road
 - crossing to the Welford road
 - the bend by Clifford Mill/Freshfield nursery school

Also a majority (66%) consider speeding vehicles to be a problem both in the village and on the surrounding roads. Within the three years up to March 2001 accidents involving injury or death totalled twelve on the A3400 and nine on the B4632.

The worst danger spots were considered to be:

On the B4632:

- the entrances and exits to the village, whether leaving or joining the B4632 or trying to cross it at the New Inn junction, having to negotiate fast traffic in both directions;
- the bend by Clifford Mill/Freshfields Nursery, with vehicles cutting the bend or stopping to turn into the nursery or mill entrances.

Within the village:

- from the recreation ground down to the Manor, where there is a tendency to speed, perhaps because the road is less congested with parked cars.
- just inside the village between the New Inn and the small grass island, where the road is narrow and bends sharply; lines of sight can be blocked by cars parked by pub customers and fishermen.
- The slip road into the village by the Nashes, where vehicles coming from the Mickleton direction are often speeding (perhaps caused by a desire to leave the B4632 as quickly as possible due to the blind bend at Redhill House.)

Action: The Parish Council have managed to get a speed limit of 30 mph in the village which may be reduced to 20 mph. The Parish Council are still pressing for a 40 mph limit on the B4632 from the A3400 to the Preston Fields turn, despite initial rejection.

Public Transport.

The bus service is the only public transport serving Clifford Chambers. These buses run approximately every hour both to Stratford and to Moreton-in-Marsh, but only between 8:00 am and 7:00 p.m..

There is a charity bus to Stratford for the over-60's on Friday mornings each week. It is paid for by Clifford Chambers Charity but can be used by other villagers for a small charge.

Nearly a hundred of the respondents use the buses "often" or "occasionally", and 19 of them use the buses or the charity bus as their main means of transport. The buses are used not only for work, shopping and school, but also for medical appointments at the hospital, dentist, opticians and the like.

Two serious criticisms of the public bus service are the infrequency of the timetable, particularly in the morning, and the unreliability of the buses in keeping to it. Both factors can make it awkward to keep appointments, or to get to school, college or work on time. In addition some car users are worried about the inadequacy of the service should their car become unavailable and they are stranded.

Two further criticisms were:

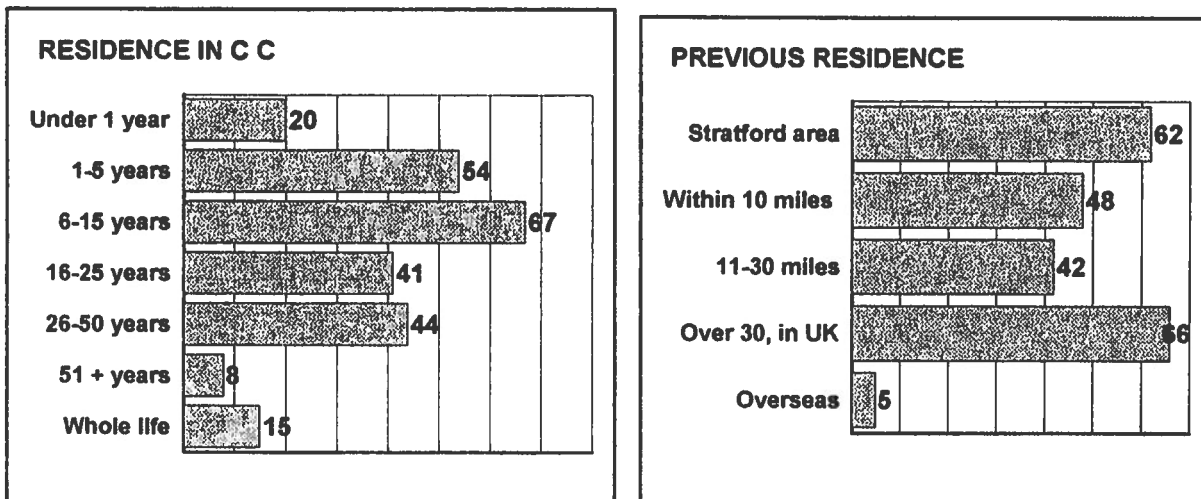
- that there is not enough information available about the bus services. [The telephone line for the service provider, First Midland Red, (01905 763 888) is open from 9:00-12:30 and 13:30-17:00; or telephone the National Travel Line (0870 608 22608)]
- that the nearest stop to the Monks' Barn bungalows is ¾ mile away - [we understand that the bus company consider it too dangerous for buses to stop by the bungalows]

Action:

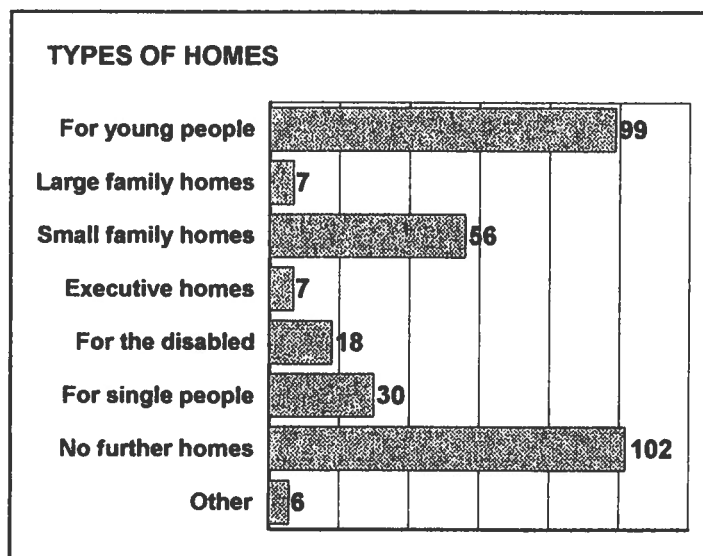
- *The County Council are to be invited to confirm their commitment to supporting an adequate service on the B4632 and A3400 roads.*
- *Stratford District Council are setting up a Bus User Group: a member of the Parish Council will attend.*
- *If residents on the A3400 can justify the need for a lay-by stop, then the Parish Council would be able to apply to the County Council for the provision of a lay-by.*

3.3 Housing.

The population of Clifford Chambers is fairly stable and there is a relatively low turnover of houses. Most residents have moved into the Parish from less than 30 miles away and once here tend to stay for a significant period of time.



The appraisal asked the question “What kind of accommodation do you think Clifford needs?” People could select more than one category.



With the responses to “Homes for young people” and to “No further homes” being close and diametrically opposed, we decided to revisit this matter at the Open Meeting. We set out to explain our existing Category Four Classification, quoting the Local Plan of May 2000:

“Category Four settlements comprise small villages and hamlets where further housing development would be inappropriate because their character would be affected detrimentally and/or they support few, if any, services for local residents to utilise.”

A secret ballot was held at the Open Meeting asking residents if they wished to retain this classification. The majority (87%) voted for Category Four to be maintained. Comments made at the Open Meeting revealed strong feelings against further development.

Many of the houses in Clifford Chambers are suitable in size for young people and small families. The problem could be affordability, although in answer to the question about the reasons why people had left the village, neither house prices nor lack of affordable property were cited.

Action:

- *The District Council will be advised of the wish to remain a Category Four village as voted at the Open Meeting.*
- *The Clifford Chambers Charity Trustees will be told of the concerns of parishioners about the accommodation needs for young people. (In the past the Charity has provided rented accommodation for local young people at rents below the commercial rates).*

Stratford on Avon District Council has now issued the first draft of the new Local Plan. The former numbered categories are abolished. For the purposes of controlling and regulating development the following hierarchy will be applied:

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------|---|
| (1) | Main Town: | Stratford on Avon. |
| (2) | Main Rural Centres: | e.g. Alcester, Kineton, Wellesbourne. |
| (3) | Local Centre Villages: | Settlements with a minimum of a general store, primary school and regular public transport. |
| (4) | All other settlements: | Includes Clifford Chambers. |

Under (4) all forms of development will be resisted in order to preserve a settlement's character and to ensure that resources are protected. In exceptional circumstances affordable dwellings to meet local housing need in perpetuity may be permitted.

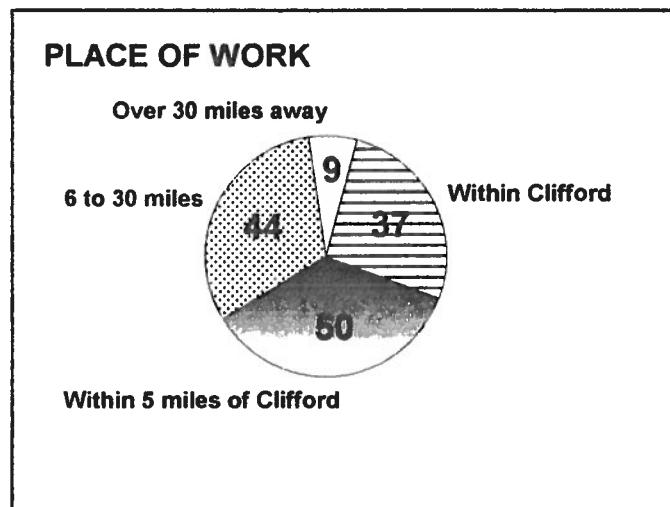
3.4 Employment.

We asked people about their employment, where they worked in relation to Clifford, about any businesses that they ran in Clifford and what types of business activity should be encouraged in and around the Parish.

Of the 248 people who responded, about half (130) are working and of these 59 are self-employed. A further 19 are in full-time education or government training, 65 are retired and 34 are not working or are permanently sick or disabled.

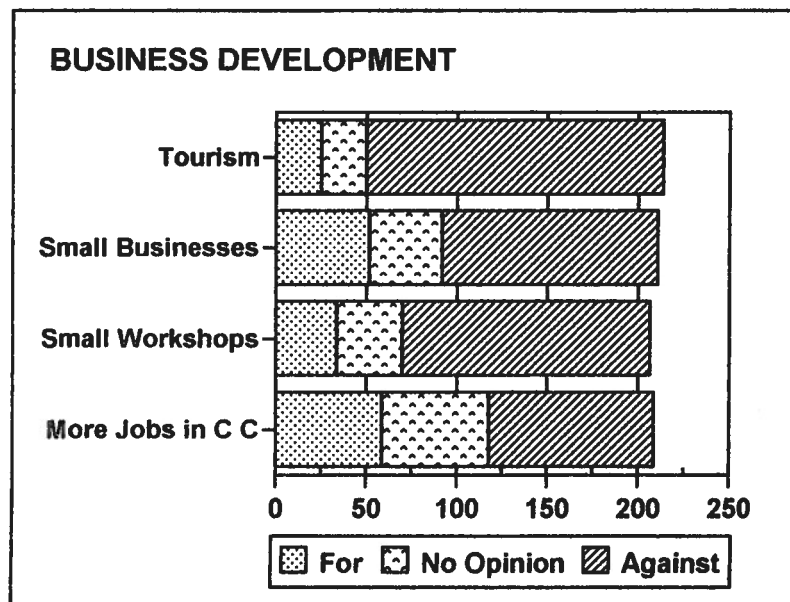
Of the 59 self-employed people, about half of these work on their own, and the significant categories of their businesses: are Agriculture: 15, Finance/Professional: 10, Tourism: 4, Construction: 3. Others include Information Technology and Entertainment.

The “main place of work”, from 140 responses, was given as:



As regards the encouragement of business activity in and around Clifford, there were 261 respondents, of which the majority were opposed to further business development. Of these, 164 were opposed to further tourist development, 119 were opposed to small business development and 137 opposed small scale industrial workshops.

The encouragement of more jobs (unspecified) in Clifford, however, had 59 in favour and 91 against, and it was observed that even if such jobs were created they would not necessarily go to people in the Parish.

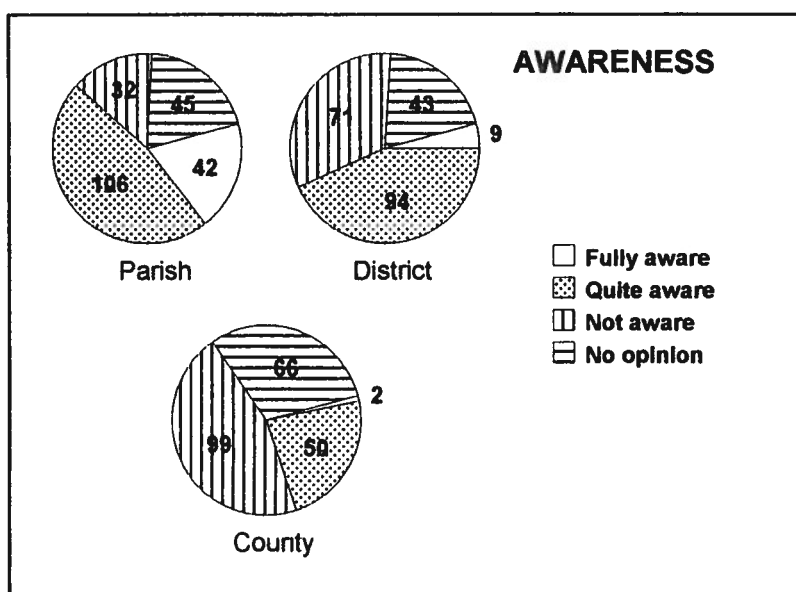


3.5 Local Government.

Most people think that their local government representatives are unaware of local concerns and feelings.

The Annual Parish Meeting gives an opportunity to question Parish Councillors and the local District and County Councillors.

The Warwickshire County Council and the Stratford District Council arrange meetings in this area for local issues to be raised. Dates of all these meetings are on the Parish Council Notice Board outside the Jubilee Hall.



Action:

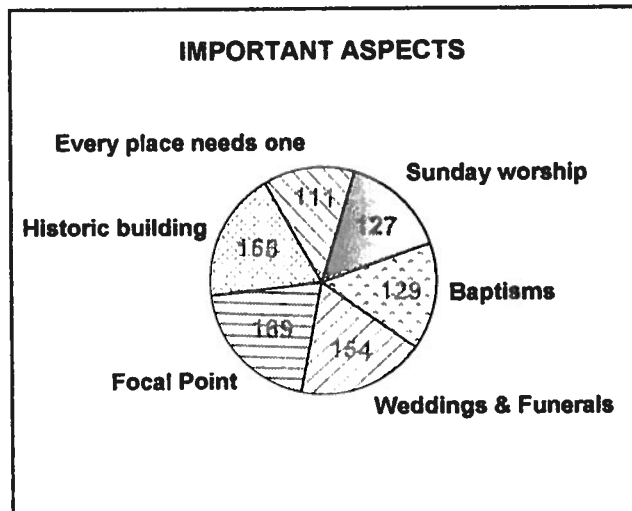
- *These results will be passed to the Parish Councillors and the Ward Member representing the Parish on the District and County Councils. Their telephone numbers are listed in the enclosed Directory.*
- *The Parish Council will be asked to consider holding an open forum at the start of every Parish Council Meeting for parishioners to bring up problems or put particular points of view about any subject.*

3.6 Saint Helen's Church.

The Church.

We asked about the ways in which the Village Church was important to people living in the Parish. There were replies from 232 people, many listing more than one aspect.

Most people considered the Church's role in forming a focal point for the community to be important, and in many ways the next two most popular aspects - its importance as an historic building and as one consecrated for the rites of marriages and funerals - reflect this focus for important aspects of village life.



Two people commented upon the fact that the Church was kept locked (a measure that was introduced some time ago, after a theft from the sanctuary, and in the light of reports of increasing vandalism), and requested information about key holders.

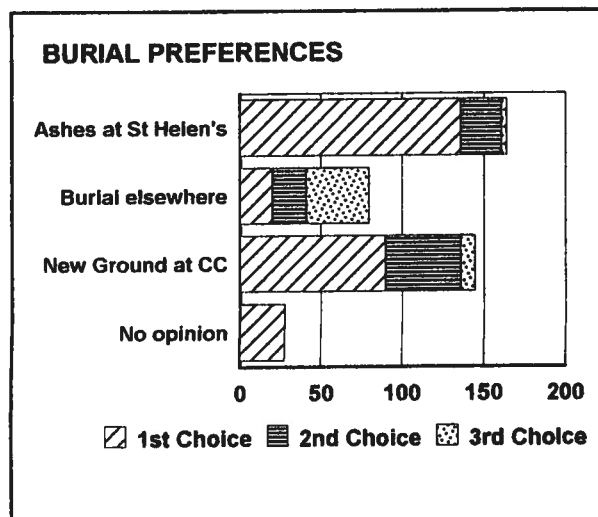
Action: The latter comments have been brought to the attention of the Church Committee.

The Churchyard.

It seems likely that, in the relatively near future, there will be no ground left in the churchyard to prepare new graves for full burials, though it will be possible to accept the interment of cremated remains. Consequently we asked for views upon the following options:

- Interment of ashes in Saint Helen's churchyard;
- Full burial elsewhere in the Stratford district;
- Provision by the local authorities of a new burial ground in Clifford.

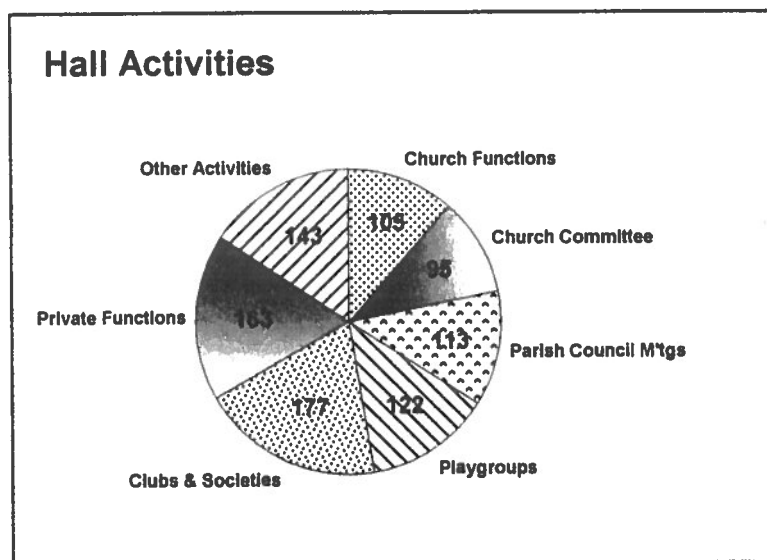
We asked people to rank options in order of preference, but this was not always done and some replies only selected one or two options. So the number of second and third choices are probably underestimated, but we do not think that it would have changed the order of preference indicated above, still less the clear choice of burial in some manner at Clifford.



Action: These views have been brought to the attention of the Church Committee.

3.7 The Jubilee Hall.

Views about the activities for which the Jubilee Hall was thought important are indicated in the chart.



As well as dealing with the present uses of the Hall, we asked for suggestions for other possible uses. Some of the suggestions were:

- Touring Theatre
- Musical Events
- Evening Classes
- Pool or snooker table
- Celebrating national events or anniversaries
- Table tennis
- Aerobics
- Cinema Club

Recently the Church arranged to lease the Hall to the Parish Council, and a new Management Committee has been established to try to develop the facility for the Parish.

Action: All of the above suggestions will be brought to the attention of the new Hall Management Committee.

4. COMMENTS.

There were nearly 200 comments about traffic problems and over 100 other comments contained within the questionnaire as well as 244 "post-it" notes completed at the Open Meeting. Below are some of those comments **not** dealt with specifically in the Committee's Survey Conclusions, but which are nevertheless considered to be of general interest.

The Environment.

Countryside.

1. Cobble the street!

Committee Comment (CC). Where would the children cycle, scooter or rollerblade?

2. Stop painting road signs all over the place and painting the roads! It's a mess!
3. Car parking on the Green at the entrance to the village should be stopped.
4. It would be helpful if residents with garages and parking used them - and encouraged visitors to do likewise.
5. *(In response to complaints about the state of the verges.)* Let's take some responsibility here! Yes, we need the support of the council to cut grass etc. If verges are a mess then to what extent is this because we park our cars badly?
6. I have a dream of the next bit of the Old Tramway being restored as a cycle way. I know it's not in the Parish but it would be a most attractive facility.
7. Trees on the island by the bus shelter need to be cut down to about 10 feet.

CC: Parish Council are discussing with the County Forester the replacement of the poplar trees.

8. The ditch opposite the New Inn has been cleaned out. Why can't pipes be used, the ditch filled in with hard core and grassed.?

Disturbance.

1. Bulldog Bash raises huge money for charity but not an advertised fact.
2. Unsightly construction and Shire Horse Centre blight the landscape.
3. I'm 100% in favour of the Shire Horse Centre - they are an appropriate small business which does its bit towards educating people about the countryside. The playground is necessary to draw the children. I like to hear the noise - it means they are doing business.

Street Lighting.

1. Street lighting is a must for the elderly.

CC: Others suggested the use of torches.

2. There is a National Society for the Preservation of Darkness - long may it thrive!
3. I would welcome, say, two carefully positioned "standards" provided we're saved from double yellow lines everywhere! **Sensible** development please.

Dog Fouling.

1. This is a rural place, not an urban suburb. The question should not ask whether dog fouling is a problem but whether animals, pets and other livestock are well integrated into the village and whether their needs and benefits are understood.

Traffic.

1. What is the evidence that signs work? Isn't it just adding to the pollution to slap paint all over the roads and put signs everywhere? If we want people to slow we need to give reasons/motives. Most speeders (and that includes most of us at some time/some place or another) know it's wrong but need more than a sign to remind us to slow up.

CC: How do you get the message over if it is not with signs?

2. From the Shire Horse Centre to the Garden Centre should have a speed restriction.

CC: Parish Council have requested this and have been turned down. Lobbying by individuals of County Council and MP might achieve this.

3. Shame the 30 mph does not include the Nashes! Could the sign be moved 10 yards?.
4. Speed camera on the B4632 along the straight stretch (opposite the Nashes' entrance).
5. A suggestion of a roundabout on the main road at the entrance to the village.

CC: This has been turned down by the County Council.

6. Turn the small triangle of grass opposite Orchard Place into a roundabout.

Housing.

1. No more development is either appropriate or necessary. Nor should the division of larger houses into smaller units be allowed. Parking in the street/square is already over stretched. The only development I would approve of is some private garaging.
2. I don't understand why anyone would want to move to a small village and then want to surround themselves with more houses.
3. There is nothing that can stand still in life, good planning and management can let the village expand, the rate of growth should come from demand, the demand should come from the local community, i.e. your children and their children.
4. My children will leave home to develop their careers, just as we did, and will not require homes in the village.
5. Older people with houses on the large side, younger families short of space.... all in love with the village Why don't we have a "register" of people who might contact each other to move within the village?

CC: What a good idea. Anyone willing to organise such a register?

Employment.

1. In this age, small businesses are more feasible than ever - a "tele-cottage" of fax & photocopier would be wonderful.

CC: How would you make such equipment available during the working week yet secure from misuse, theft or vandalism? Who buys it, who organises and pays for maintenance and repair? Will anyone organise all these aspects?

The Church.

1. A more ecological treatment of the churchyard would be appreciated.

CC: St. Helen's Church Committee will be informed of all comments relevant to the Church.

The Jubilee Hall.

1. These are all activities we can do together but are still based on "filling leisure time" for the individual. I really think there is a gap for "community based" ideas where we can help and support each other. Book Clubs, video sharing, even sharing round some of the veg. from the allotments and so on.

CC: Brilliant! Will anyone organise it?

Public Services.

1. Have domestic "wheelie bins", rather than black plastic bags, been considered?
2. No Wheelies thank you. People leave them on the pavement
3. Self-employed/working from home. The mobile reception is appalling! (It drives my colleagues mad!).
4. Interruptions in the electricity supply should be examined. Perhaps an underground cable rather than the current overhead arrangement.
5. Continual power cuts with high winds etc. - make life a misery.
6. The mains electricity is probably the worst [utility] because of power cuts. They take ages to put the electricity back on.

CC: The relevant Electricity Company will be informed.

5. ACTION PLANS.

| ISSUE | ACTION | ACTION BY | CONTACTS |
|------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 3.1 Traffic Noise | Get speed restriction on B4632. | Parish Council | |
| 3.1 Low flying aircraft | Report Problems. | Parishioners. | Civil Aviation Authority 01293 567 171 |
| 3.1 Long Marston Airfield | Alert Parish and District Councils | Parish and District Councils | |
| 3.1 Dog Fouling | For roaming dogs alert Dog Warden. | Parishioners | Dog Warden: 01789 260 837 |
| 3.1 Neighbourhood Watch | Appoint Coordinator and support team. | Volunteers needed | Eric Greenway 01789 295 228 |
| 3.1 Recycling | SoA DC has provided black boxes for paper, glass, tins etc. | Parishioners: use the boxes | |
| 3.1 Cycle track to Stratford | Lobby District and County Councils. | Parishioners | Andrew Musgrave 01789 268 370 |
| 3.1 Car sharing | Appoint co-ordinator. | Volunteer needed | Parish Council |
| 3.1 Old Pound | Form Committee. | Volunteers needed | Len Potter 01789 263 370 |
| 3.1 Flooding | Press for implementation of Flood Report. Report blocked ditches. | Parish Council Parishioners | Parish Council Parish Council |
| 3.1 Footpaths | Report Problems. | Parishioners | Parish Council |
| 3.2 Traffic | Lower speed limits. | Parish Council | Parish Council |
| 3.2 Public Transport | Seek better service. Bus lay-by on A3400. | County Council Residents | Parish Council Parish Council |
| 3.3 Housing | Maintain Category Four status. Advise Village Charity of needs. | Parish Council Parish Appraisal Committee. | Parish Council Parish Council |
| 3.5 Local Government | Raise concerns of awareness. | Parish Appraisal Committee | |
| 3.6 St. Helen's Church | Advise Church Committee of views. | Parish Appraisal Committee | |
| 3.7 Jubilee Hall | Advise Hall Management Committee of views. | Parish Appraisal Committee | |

6. HISTORICAL NOTE.

The Parish of Clifford Chambers lies on the River Stour some two miles south of Stratford upon Avon. A large part of its 15 mile boundary used to form the old boundary line between Warwickshire and Gloucestershire but in 1931, when the shire boundaries of Warwick, Worcester and Gloucester were revised, Clifford moved from Gloucestershire to Warwickshire. The Ecclesiastical Parish, however, remained in the Diocese of Gloucester for a further seventy years, until it transferred to Coventry Diocese in June 2001.

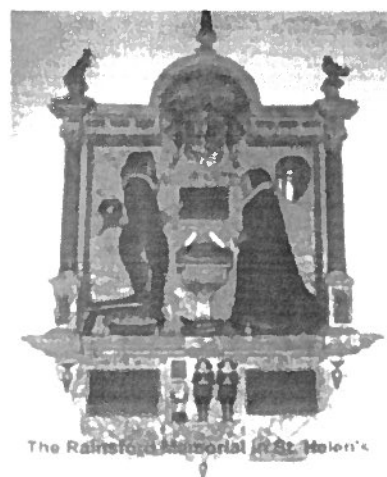
Early History.

Little is known about Clifford prior to the Norman Conquest though it appears that the village was well established by the tenth century. There have been a number of pre-Roman archaeological finds in the area to the north-east of the confluence of the Stour and the Avon. The Romano-British settlement at Tiddington has been considerably researched and there is evidence of a possible Roman fort at Orchard Hill Farm. However, it seems probable that Clifford has developed from an Anglo-Saxon settlement.

Prior to the Conquest, the Manor of Clifford was part of the great Manor of Tewkesbury held by Algar, a Saxon Thane, and was inherited by his son Brictric. William the Conqueror took the Lordship of Tewkesbury from Brictric and gave it to his queen, Matilda. She, before she died in 1083, gave the Manor of Clifford to Roger de Busli. Before the Domesday Survey of 1086, Roger de Busli gave the Manor to the Abbey and Convent of Saint Peter's at Gloucester and it remained in their ownership until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539. By the thirteenth century the administration of the Manor was the responsibility of the Abbot's Chamberlain or "Chamberer" and so the Manor became known as Clifford Chamberer's, now shortened to Clifford Chambers.

Later Lords and Owners of the Manor.

William Rainsford had leased the Manor from the Abbot in 1526. At the Dissolution, the ownership of the Manor passed to the Crown and was granted to William's son Charles Rainsford in 1562. The Rainsfords were Lords of the Manor until the Civil War (1642 - 51), when Henry Rainsford, having supported the Royalist cause, was fined and, presumably to cover this and other obligations, first leased and then, in 1649, sold the Manor to Job Dighton, a lawyer of the Middle Temple. The Dighton family held the Manor until 1807 when Lister Dighton died without issue and bequeathed the Manor to his nephew Arthur Annesley, who was Rector of Clifford Chambers.



The Annesley family held the Manor until 1865 when J Roberts West, of Alscot Park, bought the Estate for £29,000. In 1891 the Rev. Francis Hanbury Annesley, son of the Rev. Arthur Annesley, bought back the Manor House. It was later briefly owned by Mr John Gratrix and in 1909 was bought by Miss Kathleen H Wills, later Mrs Douty, later Mrs Rees-Mogg, who held the Manor until her death in 1949. In 1951 the Manor and its estate were auctioned in

lots and the Manor House, Home Farm and Mill were bought by Mr Cyril Bradshaw. He sold the Manor and Home Farm in 1955 to Major Pagan Taylor. The Manor House has since had a succession of owners.

Population.

When the Domesday Survey was made in 1086, thirty-one people were recorded in Clifford, including Wincote, with a church and a mill worth 12s (60p). Fourteen villeins with five ploughs are mentioned and a priest for the church as well as male and female serfs.

In a survey carried out by the Abbot's Chamberlain in 1266, there were references to five free tenants, nine cottager tenants and twenty-five customary tenants. Through the 16th and 17th centuries the number of families fluctuated between 30 and 40. In 1712 Sir Robert Atkyns recorded that there were 76 houses and about 320 inhabitants (only four were freeholders). However, several cottages were taken down during the 18th century and in 1799 Samuel Rudder recorded 51 tenements and 249 inhabitants.

At the 1801 census there were 202 inhabitants. The population rose to 336 by the 1831 census and 378 by that of 1881 but declined to 325 in 1951. It has since increased to 360 in 1971 and 399 in 1991, the latest census for which results are available. From the current electoral roll there are some 360 adults registered to vote in the Parish; however it is not unusual for the total number of adults to be 10% or even 20% higher.

The Manor House.

It may be presumed that a community of monks lived on the site of the present Manor House up to the time of the dissolution of the monasteries. They would have managed the manor in



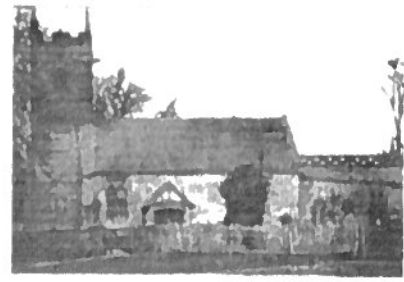
The Manor & Priests House

the name of the Abbot, though at times he might have employed a bailiff. The oldest building of which records exist was known as "The Priest's House", and was part of the Manor House up to the 1950's. It has been described as a perfect example of the simplest and earliest form of timber construction. The closeness of the timbers indicated that it dated from the late 15th or early 16th century. It was built in four bays, the timber framing laid upon a stone base. There was a single stack of chimneys in the centre of the house, with the staircase beside it. The roof tiles were of Cotswold stone.

It is thought that Henry Dighton, the eldest son of Job Dighton, who succeeded to the Manor in 1659, rebuilt the front part of the Manor House on the stone footings of an older house. In 1918 there was a serious fire that left little standing but the outside walls and the chimney stacks. Mrs Douty (later Mrs Rees-Mogg) who then owned the Manor, moved into Clifford Lodge while the Manor was rebuilt. The work was carried out under the direction of Sir Edward Lutyens. He maintained the outward appearance of the Manor but the rooms were modernised internally. Major Pagan Taylor, who bought the Manor in 1955, decided that the old Priest's House was surplus to their needs and had it demolished.

Saint Helen's Church.

The Church, which was originally constructed in Anglo-Saxon times, is dedicated to the mother of the Roman Emperor Constantine. It was largely rebuilt in the Norman era, though parts of the Saxon work can still be traced in the tower and the foundations. Further significant changes were made particularly in the 15th century and a major restoration was undertaken in 1886.



St Helen's before restoration

The Church contains a number of interesting features. The font is generally accepted to be Saxon and is of an unusual heptagonal shape. The carved oak pulpit was installed in the 17th century and originally had a sounding board. There is an old wooden bier, kept in the tower, which was bequeathed to the Church in 1608 by a John Shakespeare, who lived in the village. However, he was not, so far as is known, a relative of the playwright. An ancient piscina is mounted on the south wall of the sanctuary: this is a basin and drain originally used for disposing of the water used for washing the sacred vessels. The monument in memory of Sir Henry and Lady Anne Rainsford, on the north wall of the sanctuary, is particularly fine. A brass to the memory of his father, Hercules Rainsford and his wife Elizabeth, and another brass commemorating Elizabeth, Hercules' daughter, are also mounted on the same wall.

The five original bells in the tower were recast by Matthew Bagley, four in 1771 and the fifth in 1773. They were tuned by Taylors of Loughborough in 1946 and rehung and a new treble bell was added, called the Peace Bell, and dedicated to the men of Clifford who gave their lives in the 1939-1945 war.

The Old Rectory.

The Rectory was built (or rebuilt) about the year 1425, when John Bokeland was Rector. However it is not certain that it was used as a rectory in those days. It was built in three bays and originally it would have consisted of the large hall continued up to the roof with a central fire place (the beams in the centre of the roof are blackened by the smoke) with lodging rooms at each end. The chimneys and fireplaces would have been added later. Much wattle and daub may still be seen in the construction.



Old Rectory, 1900

There is a tradition that William Shakespeare was born in the Rectory, his mother having moved there to avoid a plague in Stratford; however there is little evidence to support this.

In 1811 the Rector, Arthur Annesley, who had inherited the Manor from his uncle Lister Dighton in 1807, got permission from the Bishop to let the Rectory and live at the Manor. The Rectory was let as two cottages to glebe tenants. In 1927, when F Meridyth Brookes became Rector, he chose to live in the Rectory again, and had the interior considerably restored. David Hawkins was the last Rector to live there; when he retired in 1982 it was sold due to high maintenance costs and a new Rectory for the Benefice was built at Welford.

Clifford Mills.

The mill mentioned in the 1086 Domesday entry for Clifford was probably on the site of the present "Old Mill" at the side of the Manor House. By 1266 there were two mills that served the inhabitants of Clifford and Ailstone. In 1674 an iron forge was established at the lower mill and was still so described on a map of 1725. However by the end of the 18th century it had become a corn mill again and so continued until 1926. It was known as both Clifford Mill and Clifford Forge Mill. The Manor mill was no longer a corn mill at the end of the 19th century and for a time was used as a laundry for the Manor and later to generate electricity for the Manor before a mains supply was available to the village.

The Village School.

The first school in Clifford was held in a building known as Church House, that had been built by the parishioners, sometime before 1548, for the use of the poor. It was sited within the present churchyard at the corner by the War Memorial. Thomas Jackson, a yeoman farmer of Clifford who died in 1649, bequeathed "£100 towards the maintaining of a schoolmaster for ever in Clifford towards the free teaching of the children of that parish and of Ayleston town". In 1816, Charles Smith who was then the schoolmaster, died. He had been appointed in 1781 at a salary of £7. 10s. (£7.50p), paid annually in arrears and was still receiving the same amount in 1816. No competent successor could be found at the same salary, and for a dozen years only a Sunday School was held. The former salary was allowed to accumulate so that an adequate salary could be provided, and the school reopened in 1829.

By the 1870's government legislation provided for universal education; it also provided for school inspectors. In 1878 an inspector reported "Not much is attempted at this [Clifford] school: nor do I think it possible for the Master to bring the children into an efficient state while he is so cramped for space. A classroom for the little children is much needed. Arithmetic very poor." There were 72 children on the register, but only desks for 30. In 1880 an infants classroom was added, but only had space for 12 when there were 30 on the register. Further critical reports, resulting in a partial withholding of the grant which had been instituted in 1879, gave impetus to the parish ratepayers decision to build a new school. The site, opposite to the original school, was presented by Mr James Roberts West of Alscot Park who owned the Manor at that time. A substantial contribution also came from the Thomas Jesson's Charity in Coventry, which owned land in the village.

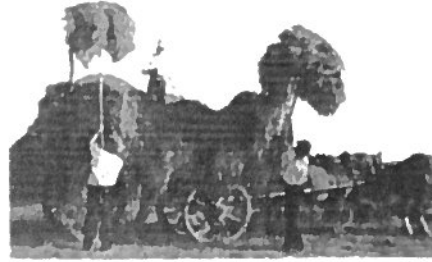
The school continued to serve all the village children until 1939 when it became an infant and junior school, and the older children went to school in Stratford. However in 1976, it was decided to close the school and the children were transferred to schools in Bridgetown and Welford-on-Avon.

Clifford Chambers in the 19th century.

In the 1800's Clifford was still essentially a farming community as it had been for well over a thousand years. The way the land was owned and farmed, and the way the villagers were governed, had seen many changes, but the self-sufficiency of the community was still very strong. The records show that many of the families had lived in the village, or neighbouring villages, for hundreds of years.

The census returns indicate that the population fluctuated between some 200 and 370 people during the century. At the 1891 census there were 348 people in 78 households in the Parish.

The occupations recorded in the later census returns indicate some marked differences between the village and parish community of the 19th century and that of today. The majority of the parishioners in those days would work either in the village or on the surrounding farms.



The 1851 census gives an insight into the structure of the community. Eight of the households included servants, twenty-three in all. Five farmers were recorded in the census, living at Aaron Leyes, Willicote House, Cold Comfort, Wincote House and at Clifford. They and two landowners would employ the majority of the fifty-nine agricultural labourers, six ploughboys (aged ten or eleven), three waggoners and a farm bailiff, all of whom lived in the parish. They would also provide much of the work for the six blacksmiths, five wheelwrights and three harness makers who lived in the village.

The 19th century village was much more self-sufficient than that of today. Providing services to the parish and all its inhabitants were the parish clerk, the school mistress, a carpenter, two millers, a butcher, a shopkeeper, two gardeners, three tailors, three dressmakers, two laundresses, four shoemakers, a surveyor of highways and three road and turnpike labourers.

This form of community continued to the end of the 19th century and, indeed, into the early years of the next. The pace of change has accelerated as the 20th century progressed: what changes will the 21st see?

Local Services

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Police - Fire - Ambulance | | 999 or 112 |
| Police, non-emergency | Warwickshire | 01926 410 111 |
| | Stratford | 01789 414 111 |
| | Alcester | 01789 762 207 |
| Parish Beat Officer | | 07740 541830 |
| Neighbourhood Watch | | 01789 295 228 |
| Crimestoppers | | 0800 555 111 |
| Fire & Rescue, non emergency | | |
| | Warwickshire | 01926 423 231 |
| | Stratford | 01789 293 271 |
| Hospitals | Stratford | 01789 205 831 |
| | Warwick | 01926 495 321 |
| | Warks Nuffield | 01926 427 971 |
| | Coventry | 024 7622 4055 |
| Water or Sewage | | 0800 783 4444 |
| Floodline | 0845 988 11 88 then 1 then | 052443 |
| Electricity | | 08000 363 363 |
| Gas | | 0800 111 999 |
| Refuse Collection | | 01789 260 616 |
| Environmental Health | | 01789 260 814 |
| Social Services | | 01926 410 410 |
| Citizens Advice Bureau | | 01789 293 299 |

National & Local Government

Stratford District Council:
Offices: 01789 267 575
Website: www.stratford.gov.uk
Warwickshire County Council:
Offices: 01926 410 410
Website: www.warwickshire.gov.uk

District & County Councillor:
Peter Barnes 01789 750 837

Clifford Parish Council:
Chairman: David Grant 204 046
Eric Greenway 295 228
Kath Lloyd 268 046
Myles Pollock 266 253
Betty Reynolds 266 367
Clerk: Mike Moody 459 073

Miscellaneous

South Warks. Tourism:
01789 404 889

Stratford Tourist Information
Centre:
01789 293 127

South Warks. Housing Assoc.:
01789 404 400

First Midland Red
01905 763 888

National Travel Line
0870 608 22 608

Saint Helen's Church

Parish of Stratford upon Avon with Luddington and Clifford
Chambers

Vicar: Revd Martin Gorick

Monthly Services:

1st Sunday: 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
2nd Sunday: 11:00 a.m. Family Service
3rd Sunday: 11:00 a.m. Family Communion
4th Sunday: 11:00 a.m. Matins
5th Sunday: 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion
6:30 p.m. Evensong

Pro Wardens: David Bissell 01789 293 730
Barry Wylam 01789 268 156
Parish Office, Old Town, S-o-A 01789 266 316

Jubilee Hall

Chairman: Tony Reason
01789 294 884
Secretary: David Bissell
01789 293 730
Bookings: Lawrence Salmon
01789 269 921

Village Activities

Chamford Society: 1st Wednesday in month (except Jan. & Aug.) 7:45 p.m. Jubilee Hall.
Clifford Wives: 3rd Wednesday in month, 7:45 p.m. Jubilee Hall.
Clifford Club: 01789 204 844

Check the Village Notice-boards!

