

# The Cleobury Clarion

## Married 70 Years!



*George and Elsie Poyner, relaxed and happy after a lifetime together.*

On April 14th, George and Elsie Poyner will celebrate 70 years of marriage and the whole village of Hopton Wafers will wish them well. The party will be in the Village Hall, the modern version of the place where they held their wedding reception in 1941.

Their roots are firmly planted in this area. Elsie was born in Hopton Wafers and George in Farlow. When he was 15 his parents moved into a smallholding on the outskirts of Hopton. Although they didn't know one another then, they were both confirmed in Hopton's Saint Michael's

church. And as you would expect, that was the place where they were married.

So what is the secret for such a long and obviously happy life together? "It's been a very happy marriage because we're devoted to one another," says Elsie. "We share everything, it's give and take," adds George. "I remember the vicar said 'You wouldn't find life smooth and you will have differences, but don't take them to bed.'"

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Clarion Coppers, Page 25. Tony Sewell is making his mark...

## April 2011

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*Presentation Party. Left to right: competition judge Judith West, Heidi Steele and Alam Meyrick of Shropshire Council, Councillors Betty Davies and Sean Thorogood and presentation host Dick Strawbridge.*

### **CLEANEST TOWN IN THE LAND!**

Cleobury Mortimer has won another award. This time it was judged Cleanest Town in the Clean Britain Awards that the Chartered Institute of Waste Management sponsors.

Two towns from the south west of the county were entered by Shropshire Council. Church Stretton was awarded a very prestigious Five Star recognition of its standard and Cleobury took the Gold award as best of the town entries.

It's a real feather in the cap of the town and of Veolia who have done such a good job of keeping

the place clean. The man we all recognise around the place is Mick Hendy, who has already been recognised by the Chamber of Trade for the super job he does. Mick is due to retire later this year and he'll be a hard act to follow.

Congratulations and a big 'Thank You' all round.

### **THE KING'S SPEECH IS COMING**

Flicks in the Sticks does a great job of bringing recently releases movies to this rural area, where they show them in our Parish Hall at a very affordable price.

In May they look like excelling their own very high standards, when they bring the multiple

Oscar winning 'The King's Speech' here. You can buy your tickets early at the April 11th show.

### **MOTHER'S DAY**

The National Trust write to remind us that the Chalet Pavilion at Carding Mill Valley will be open until 5.00 on Sunday afternoon, so you can give Mum a treat. Afternoon tea, a cream tea or something more filling if you've taken in the fresh air with a walk up the valley.

### **NEXT STEP FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

What started out as an idea for the town centre has taken off like a rocket and spread throughout the town, with coordinators covering five areas. Hear about progress and further plans at the Methodist Hall at 7.00 on Wednesday the 13th. Expect information on alarm systems, Smart Water (a very clever idea) and detective work.

### **ASK FOR SUPPORT**

Any voluntary body in the area that would like to apply for a little help should contact Tracy Johnson at 01746 71311 before the 8th of this month. That's the deadline for applications to the Local Joint Committee, to be considered on May 26th.



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email: [info@mawleytownfarm.co.uk](mailto:info@mawleytownfarm.co.uk)

## Clarion Clippings - Local News - Page 5

### CLEOBURY W.I.

Members enjoyed an evening of slides and music with commentary by Ian Templeton and his wife. Ten separate items from local areas to other parts of the world, all photographed by his wife, while Ian selects music to suit the mood. Particularly striking were reflections of buildings photographed whilst cruising the canals of Venice. Ian has a vast musical knowledge and his wife is developing her photographic skills. They provided a most entertaining evening.

Our competition for an Easter Card was won by Julie Shaw and Flower of the Month by Angie, with Liz second and Jenny third. Our next meeting will be on the 12th, when the subject will be "Another Man's Shoes."

We would like to thank all who supported our Winter Warmer Lunch, which was a great success. We have chosen to support the Air Ambulance this year and will present them with a cheque, when we have held our other fund raising events in July and October.

*Liz Smurthwaite*

### KINLET PLAYGROUP

In the run up to holidays the children are making Easter cards and chocolate nests and enjoying

fun related activities. We've also been making cards for our Mums - Happy Mother's Day and Easter everyone.

When we come back all our families are welcome to join us for a gentle walk from Playgroup to Kinlet church at 9.30am on Thursday 28th April. We have a new look website coming soon - look out for it if you want to know more about the Playgroup.

*Zoe Pearson*

### CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

At the February meeting Sylvia Sheldon gave a talk on 'Seasons in the Wyre Forest' with slides showing vegetation and creatures that live within the forest. Chris Bradley accompanied her, showing the Fallow Deer and Bucks that roam the woods. They can be identified by their spot markings or antler shapes. It certainly made us appreciate what a beautiful part of the country we live in.

If you need fresh ideas or advice for your garden, why not join us at one of our meetings. The next one is on Wednesday the 27th, when Jill Whitehead, will give a talk on 'Hidden Gardens of Herefordshire.'

More information: Marion Wilson on CM 270475

### A SALUTARY TALE

A woman in a hot air balloon realised she was lost. She reduced altitude, spotted a man below and came down nearer to the ground. "Excuse me, can you help me?" she shouted. "I promised to meet a friend an hour ago, but I don't know where I am."

"You're in a hot air balloon, about 30 feet above the ground, between 40 and 41 degrees north latitude and 59 and 60 degrees longitude," said the man.

"You must be an engineer," said the balloonist. "Yes, how did you know?" replied the man. "Everything you've told me is technically correct but I'm still lost. You've not been much help and you've delayed my trip."

"You must be in management," he replied. "Yes," she said. "How did you know?"

"You don't know where you are or where you're going. You've risen to where you are thanks to a large quantity of hot air. You've made a promise you've no idea how to keep and you expect people beneath you to solve your problem."

"The fact is you're in exactly the same position you were in before we met. But now, somehow, it's all my fault."

*Steve Todd*

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## Clarion Clippings - Local News - Page 7

### THE FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S

Our first event of the year, in February, was very successful with over 300 people coming to enjoy the Snowdrop Walks in the grounds of Mawley Hall. We had a continuous stream of visitors through until closing time.

Visitors came mostly from the surrounding areas, with some from as far away as Bedfordshire and Devon. The feedback we received was positive; they all seemed to enjoy the walk and most stayed to enjoy the refreshments on sale. The ladies were serving drinks with soup at lunchtime and cakes in the afternoon. Even the car park attendants didn't get time to read a paper. Grateful thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Rupert Galliers-Pratt for their permission, encouragement and help to stage the event. Altogether we raised £850 for The Friends.

In May, with the Shropshire Historic Churches Trust, we have Mawley Hall Gardens Open Day on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, from 12.00 noon to 5.00. The entrance fee will be £3.50. into the gardens with an additional charge to go into The Hall. Afternoon teas will be available. The grounds are mostly on the level with graveled paths suitable for wheelchairs. During this weekend Saint Mary's Church in Cleobury Mortimer will be open with a Flower Festival and again refreshments will be available.

*Alec Osbaldiston*

### THANKS FROM JANET

I would like to thank my family, friends and colleagues and pupils of Lacon Childe School for the gifts and cards I received on my retirement from Lacon

Childe. They were very much appreciated.

*Janet Percival.*

### WALK AND TALK

Walking for Health will be starting their short social walks again on Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup> at 10.00am from the Sport and Fitness Centre. They will then run on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month until the autumn. All ages and abilities are welcome for a 30 to 60 minute walk and back to the Centre for a cup of tea.

The walks are free, you just need to turn up and wear comfortable shoes. Qualified Walk Leaders will provide you with support and make sure you don't get left behind.

A little gentle exercise can really benefit health. By enjoying a sociable walk you will not only feel good, you should also sleep better, keep your heart 'strong', reduce your blood pressure and help manage your weight.

Volunteering to lead these walks can also be very rewarding. Training and support is provided, so if you would like the opportunity to make a difference to the wellbeing of your community, please contact Ian Pearmain.

There are other short walks running throughout South Shropshire and at the Wyre Forest - Ian on 01694 722077, [ian.walkingforhealth@gmail.com](mailto:ian.walkingforhealth@gmail.com) or [www.mayfaircentre.org.uk/Activities/WalkingForHealth.htm](http://www.mayfaircentre.org.uk/Activities/WalkingForHealth.htm).

### IAN'S ON THE WEB

Local artist Ian Seymour, who does a very attractive package of personal portraits at affordable prices, has a new website. Look in at [www.ianseymour.co.uk](http://www.ianseymour.co.uk) for samples of his work, with more to be added later.

You'll also find his paintings at the friendly Cross House Picture Framing and Art Gallery in the centre of Mable.

### MANUAL HANDLING COURSE

Cleobury Country are offering another of their very valuable training courses, this time a one-day Manual Handling Level 2. It's on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of this month, in the Love Lane centre, running from 9.30 in the morning to 1.00 o'clock lunchtime.

The cost is £45 per person and will give knowledge of identifying hazards and risks and what to expect from a manual handling assessment. At the end, successful students get a certificate from the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health.

Contact Sam or Clare at the CC Centre on CM 272300 or e-mail [business@cleoburycountry.com](mailto:business@cleoburycountry.com)

### BINGO'S BACK

The popular monthly Bingo Nights are back at Cleeton St Mary Village Hall, the next one on the 8<sup>th</sup> of this month, at the usual starting time of 8.00 o'clock. Appropriately, funds raised from this night will go to the hall itself.

More details from Paul or Eula Rutter on 01584 891200 or e-mail [rutter03@btinternet.com](mailto:rutter03@btinternet.com)

### POUND THE ROCK BOUNDS

Pound the Rock Parish Bounds on Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup> on a variety of routes up to 18 miles, covering all ages. It's to raise money for the superb Village Hall.

You register at the Rock Cross Inn, where the desk will be open from 8.00 'til 8.00 and pay a fee of £5.00; £2.50 for Under 14s.

Treasure Hunt for children, Guided Route for those who want it easy and various independent routes for the more ambitious. There's a certificate for everyone finishing their route.

More details from Henk Buzink on 01299 832496 or [hands.buzink@btinternet.com](mailto:hands.buzink@btinternet.com). Sounds like a great fun day.

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## Clarion Clippings - The Local News - Page 9



Even the weather supported the Bell Inn Band when it played in the town centre on Red Nose Day. Bright sunshine had people smiling and giving generously.

There's something special about a band playing in a town centre, particularly when it's for a good cause like Red Nose Day. That's what the Bell Inn Band did on March 19th, entertaining visitors and shoppers for two hours with a fine selection of music. Cars passing through slowed or stopped, drivers' mouths gaping at the sight and sound. And at the end of the morning £281.21 was raised. A great effort and congratulations to all.

Apart from the obvious matter of raising money, it gave casual visitors a good impression of a lively place with a lot to offer.

If you need confirmation that Cleobury is rather special, just walk up the main street and see

Not a difficult job; there's just one. Compare that with nearby towns, where too often closed down businesses give out a sad message.

### NEW STROKE SUPPORT GROUP OPENS

This new Group has its first meeting on Wednesday the 6th of this month, in the Pound Green Community Centre, from 2.00 to 4.00pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits available. The idea is to support anyone who's suffered a stroke and their carers, and to gather ideas about what those same people would like to see in the way of further help. At this early stage the meetings will be every fortnight, and if support grows they will be held weekly.

pty.

More details from Martin Brooks on 01746 861813, or Brian on 01299 401825. Pound Green is off the B4194 Kinlet to Bewdley road, or if you're using satnav it's at DY12 3LB. That last piece of information is for use only by those who know not to follow an instruction to ford the River Severn in your car. A 40 tonne lorry down the lane to Arley does rather upset the locals when it tries to turn around...

### THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

**Graham Simpson, fresh back from a holiday in faraway New Zealand, reports:**

Our work party was back in action recently after a winter break, clearing a path that skirts the pond on the south side of the road at the Pioneer Centre. This gives walkers the chance to cross straight over this busy road on to the continuing footpath. Also, in recent weeks, the Shropshire Council staff have replaced the stile at New Bridge with a wooden kissing gate. This is at the top of steep steps coming out on to the road and makes walks in this direction a lot easier.

The next Parish Walk is on Sunday April 3rd and, summer time having started, it will begin at 2.00. All welcome. GS

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## Clarion Clippings - The Local News - Page 11

### AN INSPIRATION

**A little more detail about George and Elsie Poyner, the remarkable couple who grace our front cover.**

When George and Elsie took their marriage vows in Saint Michael's 70 years ago the world was at war. The newly weds were soon separated when George was called for military service and ended his travels in Burma, where preparations to recapture Singapore stopped as Japan surrendered. Back in Shropshire he found work with T H Pain's timber yard in Cleobury for eleven years before moving in 1957 to become the wages clerk at Entwistle and Bacon's timber products. A small place, employing just 27 people.

He wasn't at E&B long before they were bought out by Forest Fencing, a company where young Poyner's ability was recognised and he climbed the ladder of promotion. Quite a big ladder; in 1998 George retired from full time employment as company chairman and finance director. A measure of the firm's growth under his guidance was the number employed: 27 in 1957, 550 in 1998.

His record of quiet and effective service to the community explains why he's held in such high regard. 58 years as a Parish Councillor, 37 of them also as Parish Clerk. Secretary of the

Village Hall Committee for 63 years, a Church Warden from 1953 to date, Treasurer of the Parochial Church Council for 25 years, a governor at the village Primary School for 46 years and Chairman for 25. It surprised noone that in 2002 he was awarded the MBE for work in the community, which he received from HRH The Prince of Wales.

The love between the two is very obvious; less so Elsie's illness, that affects her mobility. So George has taken on the job of cooking, with Elsie giving instructions. A situation tailor made for falling out? They smile as they explain this adaption to a new way of doing things. "I supervise," says Elsie and George smiles and laughs in agreement.

They've seen huge changes in 70 years together and instead of the village Post Office and Stores of old they use supermarkets and the shops in Cleobury. "What does vex me is the matter of them closing the school," says George. "Prince Charles said to me when I collected my award 'I can't believe the years you've done. Look after that little school.' They just don't realise the effect it can have on the local community."

And very few know more about community than these two. JR

### ONE FOR THE ROAD

**A cast of only four, but a big success for Cleobury Players.**

Willy Russell's 'One For The Road' was billed as suitable for adults. A little ripe Olde Englishe language didn't stop the evening going well and the audience getting plenty of laughs. John Carter was Dennis Cain, the tortured conformist with a wish to break the bonds and fly; Jacqui Lewis played Pauline, his almost understanding wife, whose in-laws were trying to find the house on a Northern estate where one road looks like another. And another. And another. They weren't just built like that in the north...

Gloria Cartledge was Jane Fuller, a lady with the burden of straying husband Roger and a suppressed passion for Dennis. Roger was played convincingly by late stand-in Steve Foster, after a frantic few weeks learning the part. He takes the role of an ageing roue so well, you could be forgiven for wondering about him.

Dennis announced he was leaving, Jane pleaded him to take her, Roger was stunned and Pauline got her man's head down out of the clouds to settle the matter. A good laugh, but little sign of the traditional Happy Ever After ending. Maybe Dennis's Mum and Dad would have solved the problem?

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## Clarion Clipping - The Local News - Page 13

### APRIL IN THE FOREST

Now is the season of birdsong, replacing the sounds of the chainsaw and crunch of breaking branches which accompanied a busy winter of woodland management in the Wyre Forest.

Bare soil will soon be covered by new plant growth because it's boom time again. Coppiced trees and newly-laid hedges will produce new shoots and provide excellent cover for nesting birds in years to come. Hedges are wonderful mini-habitats which, though man-made, mimic the conditions found in scrub and woodland edge and linking or extending areas of woodland to make "wildlife corridors". I've been looking at some lovely examples recently – masses of hazel catkins taking over from the autumn's show of hawthorn berries and promising a good crop of nuts for squirrels and mice next autumn.

This month we should see the first butterflies of spring. The brimstones spend the winter hibernating among ivy leaves, in which they are wonderfully camouflaged. They are strong fliers and when they wake will be heading along the rides and hedges to refuel with nectar, then they will search out and lay their eggs singly on the leaves of common or alder buckthorn.

### Easter Holidays

April 12<sup>th</sup> Teddy Bear Trail. Start anytime between 10.30 to 12.00 midday. £3 per child. Any age. Make your teddy a forest crown, take him on a bear hunt and finish with a zip wire

rossing! Bring a teddy. No booking required.

April 13<sup>th</sup> A family Felt Making Workshop to produce coloured felts which will later be incorporated, along with willow, hazel, found objects, fabric and feathers into large sculptures of a Dragonfly, Woodpecker, Moth and Bat for the Discovery Centre. Choose a morning (10.00 to 12.00noon) or afternoon (1.00 to 3.00) session. £3.50 per child. Booking essential.

April 15<sup>th</sup> Community Discovery Centre Open Morning plus drop-in children's activity. £2 per child. No booking required.

19<sup>th</sup> April Fun with Charcoal. Make charcoal on the fire and use it to draw a souvenir picture of the forest. 10.30 – 12.00noon, £3.50 per child. Booking essential.

Fri April 22<sup>nd</sup> Easter Trail for Families. Become an intrepid hunter, follow the clues to earn your Easter treat. All children to be accompanied by an adult. £3 per child. No booking required. 10.30-12.00noon.

### UNA'S PARKING PROBLEMS

Una Widdett's parking problems at Morrison's in Kidderminster seem to be over. She's had confirmation that the charges were an error and that the parking fines will be withdrawn. Being the canny lady she is, she asked for that promise in writing and promised to let the Clarion know when that comes through.

We've heard nothing, but she was at the March 26<sup>th</sup> launch of the Cleobury Patients' Voice, so we can rest assured that she's not in the Tower of London.

### ANOTHER FASCINATING TRIP WITH THE LEGION

**Dr Mark Baldwin explains:**

April 28<sup>th</sup> sees the Cleobury branch's first outing of the year, which will be a coach trip to the Intelligence Museum at Chicksands in Bedfordshire. This high-security site is not normally open to the public, so the branch is fortunate to have secured permission for a visit. After the Intelligence Museum, the trip takes in a museum housed in a WW2 USAAF base near Northampton, from where hundreds of 'Carpetbagger' missions were flown to supply arms and equipment to the French Resistance. Bookings for this outing are now being taken at the Bookshop, 24 High Street, Cleobury Mortimer.

### AND THE LEGION LUNCHEON WELL

The Cleobury Branch of the Royal British Legion held its annual Luncheon at the Sports & Social Club on March 13<sup>th</sup>, attended by County President, Group Captain Nigel Pearson and his wife. Branch President Ron Breakwell, said he could have sold more tickets, had the room been able to take more than 70.

After an excellent lunch the Guest Speaker, Captain Ed Brown, spoke about his three tours of duty in Afghanistan. His confidence and competence were clear, and it was felt that he was an excellent advertisement for the modern British Army. The vote of thanks was proposed by Lesley Ravenscroft, and Captain Brown generously donated his fee to the Poppy Appeal.

*Mark Baldwin*

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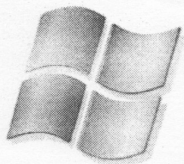


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## **Philip Dunne's Letter from Westminster - Page 15**

On May 5th there are no local elections in Shropshire, but there will be a nationwide referendum on a change to the voting system for parliamentary elections. I believe our existing First-Past-the-Post system has served the country well. It relies on the basic principle of one person one vote, so whichever candidate gets the most votes wins. It usually delivers decisive results, is the system most likely to give the power to remove failed Governments and much fairer than the alternative on offer.

The Alternative Vote system would be a poor replacement, complex, confusing and costly. It is used in only three countries in the world – Papua New Guinea, Fiji and Australia. It allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference. If no candidate achieves 50% plus one of the votes cast for the first preference, the second preference votes of the candidate who comes last are distributed amongst the other candidates. If no candidate achieves the 50%+1 threshold, the second preference votes of the next lowest candidate are distributed, and so on until one candidate achieves over 50%. This system, as we saw in the Labour leadership election last year, can allow a candidate in second or even third place to end up being declared the winner.

AV would allow supporters of fringe parties to have their votes counted several times. For example, in 2005 I received 45% of the vote, so the MP here would have been decided by the Greens,

UKIP and perhaps Labour. If I had not won over 50% in 2010, both the BNP and the Monster Raving Loony Party could have had their votes counted more than Conservative or Liberal Democrat voters.

A change to AV is estimated to cost up to an additional £250 million. As the system is so confusing to understand, local councils would waste money on voter education campaigns. Local councils would also be likely to buy electronic vote counting machines. It seems wrong to spend up to a quarter of a billion pounds of taxpayers' money bringing in a new system when the existing one works. Those who support AV know it would be more likely to give the third party the balance of power after every General Election, so the Government would be determined by politicians doing backroom deals rather than through the ballot box. This seems a backwards step for democracy not a progressive reform, which explains why so many Labour politicians are also opposed to AV.

David Cameron recently said, "Yes, our politics need reform. Yes, we need to shift more power down across the country. But no to AV. It means an unfair voting system, processes that are unclear, and politics that is unaccountable. It is the precise opposite of what we need right now."

If you want your vote to count as much as your neighbour's, I urge you to vote No to AV on 5th May.

*Philip Dunne*

## **Heather Kidd's Local View**

### **A FASTER AMBULANCE SERVICE**

The reorganisation ideas for the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital (a decision is due on March 24th) have triggered all sorts of feelings and reactions about the outcome. For much of South Shropshire the access to hospitals is the real problem, both in public transport terms and especially ambulance response times.

One of the more positive things to come out of the consultation process was that the Hospital's Chief Executive Adam Cairns, the Hospital Trust and the Ambulance Service for the West Midlands began to take this issue seriously.

Cllr Nigel Hartin and myself have continually raised this issue in letters, private meetings and in public meetings over the years. In response Adam Cairns recently convened a meeting with all the

parties mentioned above and the Welsh Ambulance service. They will now be doing work to bring the information together in an effort to improve the response for us all. If this achieves response times better than the 35 - 40 minutes many of us now experience then we will have achieved something.

Living in a rural area should not mean we have an inferior service just because we do not hit the targets and can be lost in those for urban areas. Mothers in labour, children and Road Traffic accidents cannot be attended by First Responders. The Air Ambulance does not fly at night or in bad weather.

We have a follow up meeting in about two months. Rest assured Nigel and I will be fighting to improve this situation for us all.

*Heather Kidd*



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# The Hollybush Vets Pets - Page 17

## Lulu's Story



Elayne Jonas, our regular Vets Pets scribe, has a story with a happy ending. And you could make it even happier if you're looking for a dog.

Lulu, a three year old Staffie, came into Birch Hill Rescue after being on "death row" at another animal rescue. After a rare reaction to some medication she collapsed and began haemorrhaging. She was very poorly for several days and had to be hospitalised here at the surgery. As she was so anaemic it

was determined that she needed a blood transfusion.

This procedure is carried out regularly these days. Here at Hollybush we have several pets, both cat and dog, who are donors and we can also get blood from a national pet blood bank. On this occasion it was Billy, a Labrador owned by Debbie the head nurse, who stepped up; he'll do anything for a free meal.

After being given a light sedation to keep him relaxed, a little bit of hair was clipped from his neck and a large needle placed in a vein. The blood passes into a special collection bag containing Heparin to stop it clotting and the bag is weighed regularly until it is full at 500ml. The needle was then removed from Billy, who got the doggie equivalent of a cup of tea and a biscuit and a nap. The blood was filtered and was then ready for the patient.

Lulu had an IV catheter placed in her leg and the donated blood began to pass into her. She had to be carefully monitored to check that it went in at the correct rate and she didn't have an adverse reaction to it.

When receiving donated blood the animal can have the first donation without any need of

determining what type they are ("O" "A" etc) but must be typed before they can have a second transfusion.

To be a donor, dogs need to be over 25kg, healthy and with their vaccines up to date. Ideally, blood tests are undertaken to check for any other underlying problems.

Lulu was a superb patient, putting up with all the treatment without complaint. She is doing well and looking for a new home. If you are interested call 01299 270406.



And here are Hollybush head nurse Debbie with Billy, the hero of the hour whose blood gave Lulu new life.

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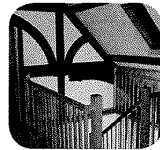
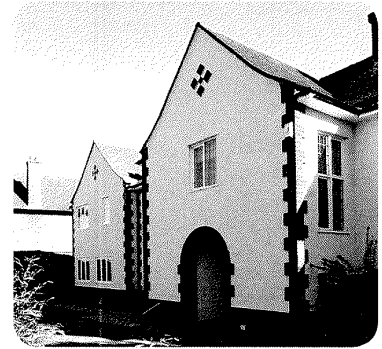


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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News- Page 19

## THE MEDICAL CENTRE SAGA

The Parish Church was packed on March 2nd for the meeting about a new Medical Centre for Cleobury Mortimer. In fact for Cleobury Country, as our current centre serves a wide area.

Doctor Chris Dimond chaired the gathering, and representatives of Cleobury Patients' Voice, Shropshire Council, the Primary Care Trust, Matrix Realty Group and the Medical Practice all had their say as the history of the acre of land gifted to the town was covered from each point of view. All the speakers were brief.

Discussion was opened to questions and comments from the public, with a strong feeling of indignation that the Parish Council had no representative. They had another meeting, but their presence 50 yards away in the Market Hall did seem ironic. After points of view from focused to pretty frantic had been expressed - talk of a revolution did hint at a Raving Loony presence - the meeting agreed on a motion calling on the Parish Council to act before the funding runs out. There was no dissent and Professor Waddington offered to act for the meeting and advise the Parish Council of the vote. He was back in two minutes, having found the Market

Hall locked, with both the lights and the Parish Council out.

County Councillor Madge Shingleton did explain to the meeting that the Parish Council were bound to get the best value for money for the community out of the gifted land, but she also expressed concern that the process had taken so long.

It was a prize example of failing to keep people informed, which only served to arouse suspicion of the Parish Council's motives. There is little evidence they were anything but honourable, but they were also coy about telling the people they serve the simple facts. We can only hope they have learned from that lesson.

The Council met on March 7th, with 42 of the public crowding the room. In the Open Comments period, Dr Dawn Powick explained the urgency of the need for a new Medical Centre and Jenny McCrorie the feeling and motion from the earlier meeting. When the meeting proper opened, Cllr Gwilym Butler suggested that the Medical Centre be brought forward in the agenda.

After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Geoff Hainsworth that land on the Muller/Bovis site be made available for the Medical Centre; passed unanimously. There was a round of applause from the

public, most of whom then left at this point.

The Clarion has learned there was subsequently a meeting between Cleobury Patients' Voice and a number of Parish Councillors, who agreed the Council would write to the Primary Care Trust making clear the decision above had been made. We have been told that the letter refers to 'land south of the Ludlow Road' and does not precisely identify the site.

We have also had sight of a letter from County Councillors Butler and Shingleton to the Primary Care Trust. It states that the Parish Council has agreed to confirm a site by April 28th, that senior members of the County Council support the plan for a new Medical Centre, that the Head of Strategy and Policy has no objection to the development and acknowledges that no planning consent has been given yet, but are confident that 'can be achieved.' The Primary Care Trust have acknowledged the Parish Council's advice of their decision, but state that the development site must be properly identified.

Dr Dawn Powick has agreed there is no room for complacency and that pressure should be kept up.

That is the position on March 21st. We will try to keep you informed of progress.

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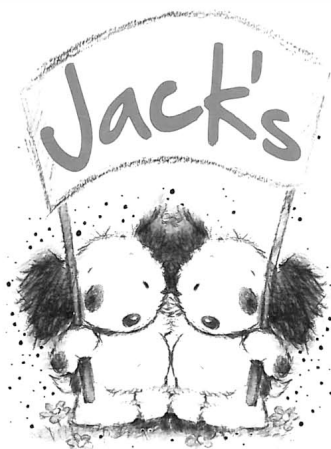
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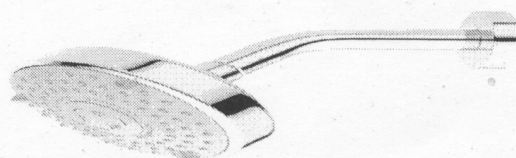
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## Clarion Clippings - The Local News - Page 21

### THE CHILDE

#### ENDOWMENT FUND

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Students residing in the parishes of Cleobury Mortimer, Neen Sollars, Milson, Coreley, Hopton Wafers, Farlow, Wheathill, Aston Botterell, Stottesdon, Kinlet and Neen Savage are invited by the Trustees to make applications to the above fund for financial assistance to help further their studies.

Details and application forms can be obtained from Lloyds TSB Bank, Cleobury Mortimer, from Lacon Childe School or from F.P.G.Hill, Clerk to the Trustees of the Fund, at Carlton House, Worcester Street, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY10 1BA.

The closing date for applications is June 24th.

#### TRACTORS OUT AND ABOUT ON SUNDAY

The Shropshire Vintage Tractor Run will happen on Sunday the 10th this month, based on Severn Park in Bridgnorth. They're quite a spectacle and will attract a crowd before they go out for a drive around the local lanes, then gather in Bridgnorth High Street.

Then comes the afternoon run, which will bring them out into

Cleobury Country, including Deuxhill, Glazeley and Oldbury before returning to the Severn Park base by 3.00. The organiser apologises for any delay they may cause, but points out that the object is to raise funds for the Midland Air Ambulance.

So you've been warned - please try to keep clear of the Bridgnorth area on the 10th if you're in a hurry.

#### WELL DONE, DAVE

**Dave Leach took his courage in his hands on February 26th and made a big jump - out of a plane. All for a very good cause:**

I took part in a tandem sky dive to raise money for the Adam Millichip Foundation, which was founded in November 2010 with one goal. To provide financial support and assistance to disabled people who wish to take part in sport, with the aim of improving their quality of life.

On February 26th I eventually did my dive, after waiting five hours for the weather to improve. What an experience! I was very nervous, but the thought of helping people less fortunate than myself was foremost in my mind. The sponsorship I managed to raise amounted to £520 and I am very pleased that it will help such a good cause.

*Dave Leach*

### FARLOW & ORETON SALE

There's a Table Top Sale at Farlow and Oretton village hall on Saturday the 16th this month. Open from 11.00 and they would welcome craft stalls, who set up at 10.00. At just £5.00 a table it's good value.

### MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT A.G.M.

This will be held on Thursday April 14th, at 2.00 o'clock in the Market Hall.

Everyone is invited to come and hear from our Shropshire Fundraising Manager what happens to the money we raise here in Cleobury Mortimer. No obligation to join the committee, but any one who can help at our fundraising events will be very welcome

*Sue Henderson*

### THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Club continues to thrive, a welcome meeting place for Over 60s on a Tuesday afternoon in the Parish Hall.

We recently had a visit from an officer of the Shropshire Fire Service, who gave an interesting talk on Fire Safety in the Home. Plans are being made for St George's Day, Easter and the Royal Wedding. For more details and possible transport to meetings, call me on CM 270353.

*Janet Rolston*

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## Clarion Craftsman - Saw Doctor Dave Clark - Page 23



Dave Clark is well known in the area as a restorer of classic motorbikes with a sharp eye for detail and a smooth way of riding. But he's here this month because he spent his working life in this area as a saw doctor at the Forest Fencing works run by Alan Timmis, with George Poyner as a fellow director, in Newnham Bridge.

Born in Nottingham, Dave did a five year apprenticeship to learn his craft, interrupted by two years of National Service in the Army. He showed early signs of quiet determination when he set out to ride to work one very icy day on his shiny new 700cc Royal Enfield. Only when he'd fallen off five times, picked it up and tried again did he decide to park the bike and walk. No question of not getting in to work. He married Mary and with the arrival of Tracey and

Lisa on the way in the late 1960s, Dave was looking for a better job. He and Mary talked about emigrating to South Africa, but an advert for a job in Worcestershire caught his eye and he got an interview.

"It was Entwistle and Bacon Timber Products back then and when they showed me round I walked into this big shed full of women making boxes for the apple farmers. They were all singing, and I thought if that was the happy atmosphere of the place I could fancy working there."

It was traditional in the timber industry that a saw doctor got accommodation with the job, like other men working on the land did. Dave's a quietly canny negotiator and the company bought him and Mary the house they now own in Cleobury. It was handy for the local branch of E&B; today we call it the Box Factory.

His job was to run the saw making and servicing department, with seven men under his charge as the company grew. Saw production meant taking in rolls of high tensile steel and sending out the endless bands of cutting teeth that are the business part of band saws. In the early days the joint in the band was overlapped and silver

soldered. A job that had to be done with great care and precision, with the blade cutting at 8,000 feet a minute and the joint made with silver solder only 3mm thick. As technology advanced, he learned to TIG weld a butt joint with no overlap; another task that had to be right. A saw that can slice a tree trunk down its length works hard.

One thing Dave insisted on from the start was proper dust extraction on every saw in the company. As an apprentice he'd been part of the crew a factory inspector lectured on the health risks of dust in the atmosphere and then gave them seven days to get the extractor filters cleaned. Or they'd be closed down. You don't forget warnings like that.

He travelled all over the country to the company's factories, keeping the machinery in top working condition, as well as running the production of new saws. "Looking back I don't know how I did it," he grins from the less frantic world of retirement. But the workshop where he transforms wrecks to concours winners he built himself. And if he needs a little piece turning up, he does it on an ancient lathe he also brought back to full working life. Those skills will never leave him.




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## Clarion Coppers - PC Tony Sewell - Page 25

We have had another burglary on 16th March in Ronhill Crescent. In the early hours of March 6th there was an assault near the lights at Catherton Road on the A4117; four males in a vehicle stopped and assaulted another male in what appears to be a unprovoked attack. There was a disorder at the Stable Tavern on Saturday March 19th, when a male was arrested at the scene and has been charged to court for threatening behaviour.

There have been a couple of attacks on garages and out houses; please secure them as best you can. If you have any information about these offences, or wish to speak to me about any issues you can contact me. Details at the bottom of this page.

The first meeting of the new Neighbourhood Watch will be in the Methodist Hall at 7.00pm on April 13th. Talks on crime prevention, how crime is dealt with, what's been happening and how we can all help to make our community safer. If you would like to come, let me know as we need to know numbers. There will be posters around the town with the full programme.

The NHW facebook page has been a great success, so much so that the West Mercia force are looking at the media and how it can be used successfully in local policing. Response has been fantastic, I am able to see what the local problems are and can be contacted through the site too. Information that has been received has led to a number of known criminals being stopped and checked in and around our area, work you may not see that is going on in the back ground.

There were concerns raised at the Local Joint Committee and on Facebook about speed through the town. We have conducted speed enforcement in March and this will continue throughout the spring and summer. There have also been issues surrounding dogs off the lead and not controlled correctly; these have also had positive outcomes and enforcement.

New issues are people parking their vehicles on pavements restricting movements of mothers with prams and the motor scooters of the less mobile. It is an offence to cause an unnecessary obstruction of the highway, where a fixed penalty notice can be issued for £30, so keep the pavement clear. With regard to noisy vehicles around the Love Lane area, a number of young drivers have been spoken to. If their poor standard of driving mixed with anti social behaviour continues, the police have the power to seize the vehicles and impound them. Removal charges are in excess of £120, plus storage and court costs; if the vehicle is not collected it can be crushed. The majority of young drivers do drive sensibly, so let's not tar them all with the same brush.

If you need any help, the station is open most Saturday mornings from 10.00 to 12.00 noon. Volunteers for all kinds of community work are also required, if you can spare some time then let me know.

The Police Community Fund is a registered charity that not only helps victims of crime but also gives small grants to local ventures within the West Mercia area. Towards the end of 2010, PC Sarah Smithson applied for a grant to benefit young people in the Cleobury area and was successful in securing a grant of £300. This has been passed to Mark Greaves who manages St Mary's Youth Project; he will supplement the Project's rock climbing equipment by purchasing a further ten harnesses, ropes and helmets so that more of the 80 young people who are members can take part in this popular and challenging activity.

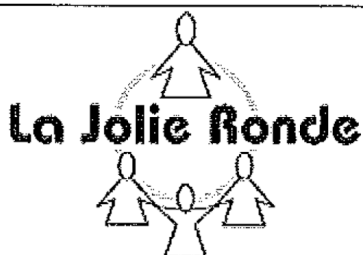
Lets make our community the safest by working together.

*PC 3977 Tony Sewell,*

Cleobury Mortimer Local Police Officer

Mobile: 07947806052.

E-mail: [anthony.sewell@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:anthony.sewell@westmercia.pnn.police.uk)




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# The Clarion's Monthly Social Calendar and Guide

## Page 26 - Part One

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Fri 1	7.00pm	Save The Children Quiz Night at Neen Sollars Village Hall. £5.00 a head, teams of 4 to 6. Cost includes a light supper. It's tonight – hurry!	Sylvia Luff	CM 271082
	7.30pm	Lacon Childe School presents "Arabian Nights" for the final evening. Adults £5/Concessions £4.	Tickets	CM 270312
	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall. Good car parking.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 2		Car Boot Sale behind Moorfields in Mamble Village.	Georgina	01299 832833
Sun 3		Congratulations to Tony and Meryl Booton on their 50 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary		
		<b>It's Mother's Day. Go on, treat her to flowers or a special outing!</b>		
Mon 4	6.00pm	The Parish Council monthly meeting is in the Market Hall. You may bring any local concerns to their attention before the meeting starts.		
Wed 6	10.00am	Walking for Health gather at the Sports and Fitness Centre for a gentle exercise, followed by refreshments. Sensible shoes, please. <b>And it's free!</b>		
	2.00pm	New Stroke Support Group meets at Pound Green Community Centre	Martin Brooks	01746 861813
	2.00pm	Thru the Door informal service for toddlers and parents in the Parish Church	Gabrielle Eve	CM 270510
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall. Good car parking.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 7		<b>GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY</b>		
	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders' social walk starts at The Dog, Dunley		01299 400304
Fri 8	8.00am	"Workplace Pension Provision" by Howard Peel at Cleobury Country Centre. Invaluable for small businesses		CM 272300
	9.30am	"Principles of Manual Handling" course follows in the same venue. Good service coming out of the Centre for local business		CM 272300
	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Cleeton St Mary Village Hall		01584 891200
Sat 9	10.00am	Easter Coffee Morning in aid of Cleobury Playgroup, at the Market Hall.	Carrie Orgee	07967 218216
	10.00am	First Birthday Party at Severn Hospice Shop. Town Crier at 12 noon, Clog Dancing as well. Cuppa and cake and a happy atmosphere.		
		Fair at Bodenham Arboretum, near Kidderminster, Satnav DY11 5SY		
		Flicks in the Sticks presents "The Little Fockers" at the Parish Hall. £4.00 entry, £3.00 comcessions.		
Sat 10		Vintage Tractor Run in Severn Park, Bridgnorth. Expect some local traffic delays.		
		Five gardens open in Morville, far enough from Bridgnorth to miss those tractors!		
Mon 11	8.00pm	Cleobury Horticultural Society gather in the Methodist Hall, Church Street to hear Gill Guest speak on "Garden Design – Tricks of the Trade".		

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# The Clarion's Monthly Social Calendar and Guide

## Continued - Page 27

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Tue 12	7.30am	St Mary's Breakfast Club gather at The Golf Club. Tina Hobin talks about "Dance of Mother Earth".		
	7.00pm	Emergency First Aid at Work course starts at Farlow Village Hall and continues on 14 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> .	Booking	01746 718667
	7.30pm	Cleobury WI meet at the Parish Hill. This month: "Another Man's Shoes".		
Wed 13	12.30pm	The Ladies Luncheon Club dine at The Golf Club	Alison Osborn	01584 890414
	1.00pm – 3.30pm	And 4.40pm to 7.00pm. Blood Transfusion Service at Lacon Childe School. Give blood and maybe save a life....		
	7.00pm	The booming Neighbourhood Watch tells about "The Next Step" at the Methodist Hall in Church Street		
	8.00pm	Royal British Legion meets at The Bell, Lower Street		
Thu 14		<b>BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY</b>		
Fri 15	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall. Good car parking.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 16	10.30pm	Members of the Scouting Association from the whole of Shropshire meet at Love Lane for the Annual St George's Day Parade and service at St Mary's Church		
	11.00am	Table Top Sale at Farlow and Oreton Village Hall		
	2.30pm	Table Top Sale, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
	8.00pm	ShooShoo Baby, the history of cabaret, Victory Hall, Clows Top. Tickets £9.00.		01299 832637
Mon 18		Free PSA Blood Tests at Kidderminster Town Hall to check for prostate cancer – early analysis means better chance of cure.		
Tue 19	7.30pm	Cleobury Mortimer Chamber of Trade AGM at Cleobury Country Centre – Guest Speaker PC Tony Sewell on "Businesswatch and Policing in Cleobury"	Lesley Burnside	CM 270279
Wed 20	8.00pm	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 21		<b>GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY</b>		
	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders are out again, starting at Rock Cross Inn		01299 400304
	7.45pm	Whist Drive at Sports and Social Club, Love Lane		
Sat 23		St George's Day Market, Severnside, Bewdley		
Sun 24/ Mon 25	10.00am	Easter Trials around the gardens at Berrington Hall on the A49 near Leominster		
	8.00pm	"Southern Approach" star at the Sports and Social Club, Love Lane. £10.00 members / £12.00 non-members.		
Tue 27	7.45pm	Clows top Gardening Club meet at Victory Hall, Clows Top to hear Jill Whitehead talk about "Hidden Gardens of Herefordshire".	Marion Wilson	CM 270475
Thu 28	8.00pm	Whist Drive, Neen Savage Parish Hall	Clare Ratcliff	CM 270173
Fri 29		<b>BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY</b>		
	8.00pm	Bingo Night, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
		<b>AND LOOKING FORWARD TO MAY.....</b>		
Sun 1		Pound the Bounds around Rock Parish	Henk	01299 832496
	3.30pm	BELONG brings all local churches together in the Parish Hall for an afternoon of shared worship and fellowship.	Mark Greaves	07828 116810
Fri 6		<b>GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY</b>		

### Attention Organisers

**Your event could be on these pages at no charge.**

**Just send details to the Editor.**

**Contact details on Page 51**

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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News - Page 29

## STOTTESDON & DISTRICT W.I.

We met on March 16<sup>th</sup> at Farlow village hall for a lively explanation of the finer points of judging entries for craft and produce shows, from Sue Elliot, a W.I. advisor and qualified judge for both craft and cookery entries, as well as staging and interpretation. She will be judging in the Burwarton Show craft tent, so her advice was listened to with particular interest. Understanding points allocation, pitfalls to avoid and bonuses gained with thoughtful presentation can make all the difference when submitting our entry for Burwarton in August.

More immediately, our next meeting is on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 7.30 at Chorley village hall, so do come to hear John Iles lead us into Spring with 'Grow with Wyre'. Looking ahead to May, we are planning a day's outing to Witley Church, Jinny Ring Centre and Webbs. More on this next month.

*Marian Wootton*

## METHODIST MINISTER MURDERED

On the first Saturday in March the Rev Helen Roberts appeared to have been murdered at the Methodist Hall. Over baked potatoes and cakes to fuel the little grey cells, the gathered crowd attempted to make sense of the clues and not be misled by red herrings.

This Murder Mystery Night was led by former actor Rev Andrew Braizer from Exeter and raised funds for the local Methodist churches. The Cleobury Methodists are

putting their share towards the refurbishment of the hall through the developing relationship with the St Mary's Youth Project. Late in March the structural work is being completed and attention turns to the internal decoration and new flooring – resilient enough for both teens and toddlers whilst being a welcoming place to chill out.

## THE TRADE CARD

Apologies that the Chamber of Trade's Telephone Card wasn't out last month - printing delays. But it will be through the letter boxes in Cleobury Mortimer about now and there's supplies at Out Of Town outlets where you normally collect your copy of The Clarion. Great source of information.

## BOOK REVIEW

Peter Roper of Positive Ground, featured in these pages recently, launched his latest book last month. "Life After Death" is a title that suggests a mystery or ghost tale, but in fact it's all about business and bouncing back from failure. Not a good subject? Don't kid yourself - more than half the businesses opened in this country will close.

Peter knows this. He's been bankrupt and is ready to talk about it to share his range of experiences between hitting rock bottom and climbing back up. It's not a dreary tome, it's a positive spin on a common problem with advice from one who knows. £10.00 for 138 pages may seem a lot, but the advice is well worth. He's at 41 High Street.

## CONGRATULATIONS

To Tony and Meryl Booton, who will celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary on Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of this month. 50 good years together is certainly something to be proud of. Just another 20 to go to match George and Elsie at Hopton Wafers....

## HIGH STREET BIRTHDAY BASH

On April 9<sup>th</sup>, the Severn Hospice Shop celebrates its first birthday - open only twelve months, but already a popular part of the High Street scene. So they're having a party to thank regular customers and to introduce themselves to any one who hasn't been inside and met the very friendly staff.

The party starts at 10.00, with tea and a slice of cake on offer as you look around the place. We promise you, if you haven't been here before, you'll be amazed at the quality of fittings and presentation, not to mention the variety of goods you can find.

At 12.00 noon Town Crier Reg Chapman will be in unmissable vocal action, followed by the Cleobury Clog Dancing Group beating out a rhythm on the paving slabs.

It's scheduled to go on until 4.00 and any cake left over will be taken home by the hard working volunteers who make the place buzz. It's that sort of happy place, where people smile and manager Gayna will tell you that Severn Hospice are the nicest people she's ever worked for. No wonder they succeed.

## WISE BIT

"If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it."

"It's OK to let your children see you cry."

*Regina Brett*

# Paul Harding



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## A Secret Success - Willowdene Care Farm - Page 31



*Matt Home. How many hours a week does he put in?*

*"Too many - You're on call 24/7."*

### **EFFECTIVE DEVOTION**

You have to look very carefully to find Willowdene Care Farm in Chorley. It looks just like a farm; in fact it is a centre of excellence in bringing drug addicts back to sanity and a worthwhile place in society. Their success is measured by the number of men - it's only men, a mix of the sexes would simply add a complication - who complete training to get a qualification, go out and get a job in the open market and stay drug free and employed for twelve months. The national average for that success rate is 38 percent; Willowdene's is 85 percent.

The place is run by Matthew Home, who took over what his parents John and Jenny started in 1988, with a unit behind their bungalow and a willingness to care for people nobody else would look at. The men they took in worked on the farm and in the neighbouring woodlands; the Home family were motivated by Christian principles, certainly not by profit. Some of the local press reaction was less than

charitable in its tone, but the work continued and the Chorley community recognised what a good job they were doing. There was a measure of that at a council planning meeting to discuss the latest development. "Suppose we'd said No in 1988?" asked one enlightened councillor. "There's not been a single incident of trouble at Willowdene."

That success has not come easily. Every applicant for a place is interviewed face to face, and has to show a willingness to come off drugs and work to get back into society. "They must be someone you can work with," as Matthew puts. One 39 year old summed up his wish: "I believe I have the right to live," he said at one of the regular reviews every student faces. "This is the first time I've been accepted anywhere."

That's a strong clue to what made many of these men addicts in the first place: "People take drugs to kill pain," explains Matthew. Some of the background stories leave you wondering how children - and most of the students were first abused at a very young age - can survive such treatment. "The average starting age on heroin is 14," says Matt. "Many were dabbling with drugs at primary school."

Every new student has been through a detox programme before coming to Willowdene. They come from all over the UK, from Scotland down to the West Country, and often find the countryside hard to handle: "One guy from Liverpool had never seen the stars at night, he'd only seen street lights and was afraid of the dark."

There's no formal timetable for a student to follow, each one has an individual programme that addresses his needs. They sign up for a nine months course and have a weekly review of progress. It's a strictly drug free site and alcohol is not allowed either; few break that rule and those that do risk expulsion. Matt again: "It has to be tough love in this situation. They all work on the farm and estate or at forestry. The biggest thing we do is break the cycle of shame - children who've been abused and taking drugs since they were as young as six think it's their own fault."

Willowdene remains in touch with many students from years ago and three of the current full time staff arrived as addicts and have been through the course. They're not allowed to take up a post here until they've proved themselves by working elsewhere for two years and staying clean. The intensity of the work means a lot of staff involved, currently ten full time, four part timers and two volunteers. There is still a need for volunteer drivers of the farm's own vehicles to carry students about; talk to Matt on 01746 718658.

It's financed by the government and local charities, because drug addicts cost the country a lot and curing them makes good money sense. When Crispin Blunt, Under Secretary of State from the Ministry of Justice, visited West Mercia recently, Willowdene was on his tour as an outstanding example of what can be done to cure society of some of its ills. It's a beacon of hope for people with no home or hope.

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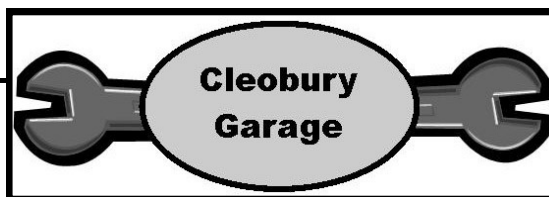
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## Clive Davies' Westwood Farm Diary - Page 33

WESTWOOD FARM 18<sup>th</sup> March

Spring hasn't quite sprung yet but it seems well on the way. With the cattle in particular requiring plentiful supplies of feed over the cold winter months, it's noticeable that their appetites are much more easily satisfied now that temperatures are higher. We have been busy preparing the spring calvers, following on from their worming programme, and this year we have administered a flukicide; we have also dosed each of the expectant mums with a vaccine. The benefit of this is that the calves don't succumb to a range of viral and bacterial conditions. The fluke is a worm like pest that affects the livers of animals; it is mostly associated with wet periods. Whilst recent months have been somewhat dryer than average, we felt that with the cattle having experienced the stressful winter period it was best to offer the most comprehensive broad-spectrum treatment available. All in all, we are now set-up for the arrival of the new crop of calves. The cows will calve down to a bull we had calves from throughout last year, but the first calving heifers are due to a bull that we bought in especially for them. In the past we have used his half brother, so there will be interest in the comparisons that we can soon make. We are just about a full week into lambing the couple of dozen Shropshire ewes. Already we are over half way. Most of the lambs are strong and to date creating few problems. That will no doubt change!

It's a bit early to tell yet, but like the Hereford's situation, we have offspring by three different rams and so to watch the progress of the various lines of breeding should make this small sheep enterprise interesting viewing. But, for both the sheep and cattle, one major bonus would be that the grass soon shoots-

on. Whilst it's dry and some days sunny, the temperatures aren't just yet high enough to encourage rapid growth. We have held off with applying any fertilizer so far. We have a delivery on its way but what with the less than helpful growing conditions and the fact that the tractor is ill, we are just delaying the spreading for a few more days.

The tractor saga is sad and probably expensive. Some accidental damage to about three teeth on a gearbox cog is bad news. The John Deere dealers in Leominster are carrying out some surgery. It's a specialist job and will blow the repairs budget whatever the outcome. It's only recently that the same offending bit of kit had to have a new water pump fitted. As soon as we can get the Green Machine back working, there will be a long list of jobs to undertake especially in connection with growing some grass and shifting muck so that the cows have comfortable quarters for calving-time. The winter caused some damage to pipes on our crop sprayer. The obvious candidates we have spotted, let's hope there are not more major concerns elsewhere.

The hard early frost caught us out. As soon as possible we must investigate the detailed workings of this equipment to enable it to be ready for any required field work. Most of our spraying is now to do with controlling weeds in grassland. The triaxle stock trailer is also undergoing some repairs. It's about seven years old now and has hauled a good many tonnes of animals about, as well as many other bits and pieces. The welded floor seams are showing some wear. The main problem is a fairly clear-cut design fault, but they're not always so obvious when you buy these things. Let's hope that everything else that should do stays in one piece. It's looking an expensive spring already!



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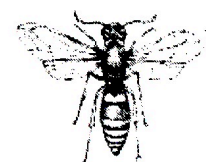
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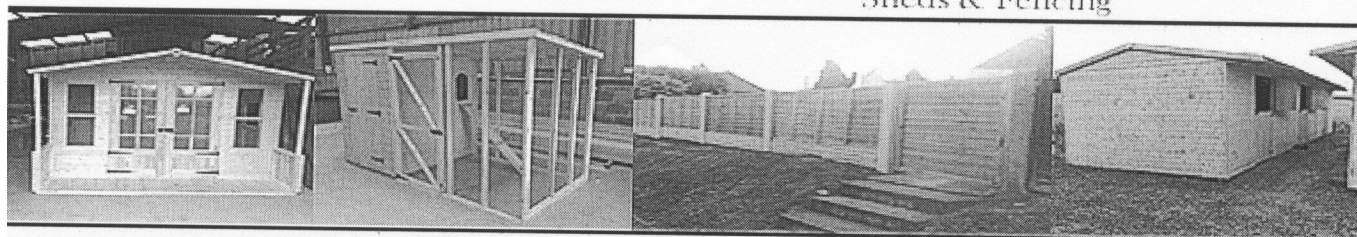
## The Clarion Weekly Calendar - Part One - Page 35

day	time		contact	phone no
<b>SUN</b>	8.30	Holy Communion ) at the Parish Church of St Mary		CM 270264
Sun	9.45	Parish Communion ) the Virgin, Church Street		
Sun	9.00	Mass at St Elizabeth's Church, Lower Street	Fr J Robinson	01584 872906
Sun	09.00	Cleobury Country Archers, Sports Centre	Lesley Burnside	CM 271374
Sun	10.30	New Life Church, for venue call	Derek Morris	CM 270787
Sun	10.30	Health Walk in the Wyre Forest, Visitor Centre A456	Visitor Centre	CM 266929
Sun	11.00	Morning Service at the Methodist Church	Miss H Roberts	01584 819649
<b>MON</b>	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe (term only)	April Rogers	CM 271418
Mon	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Mon	8.00	- 17.30 Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Mon	9.00	Hopton Pre-School, Hopton Village Hall (term only)	Kelly	01584 891185
Mon	10.00	-19.00 Library open at Cleobury Country Centre	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Mon	9.30	Morning workout in the Sports Hall £2.00	Deena Edwards	01299 271217
Mon	9.30	Belly Dancing Class at Victory Hall, Clows Top		
Mon	9.30	CM Playgroup, Market Hall (term only)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Mon	10.00	Day Centre Meeting £3.60 2 courses etc.	Jenny Ferriday	CM 400773
Mon	17.30	Cubs meeting (term-time only)	Karen King	CM 270001
Mon	18.30	Karate Club, Lacon Childe School	John Nelson	CM 879210
Mon	19.00	Tai Chi Class, Lacon Childe School	Rose Jacks	01584 875544
Mon	19.00	Cleobury Mortimer Ladies Rugby Team Training	Sarah Cound	07977 120272
Mon	19.15	Yoga Class, Bayton Village Hall	Linda Thomas	CM 832998
Mon	19.30	Rangers Meeting (term-time only)	Judy Ellis	01584 890759
Mon	19.45	Bingo, CM Sports & Social Club (exc. Bank Hols)	Alan Evans	CM 270114
Mon	20.00	Prize Bingo, Sports & Social Club, Love Lane		
<b>TUE</b>	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Tue	8.00	- 17.30 Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Tue	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe till 3.15pm	April Rogers	CM 271418
Tue	9.00	Hopton Pre-School, Hopton Village Hall (term only)	Kelly	01584 891185
Tue	09.00	-17.00 Library open	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Tue	9.30	CM Playgroup, Market Hall (see Mon)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Tue	10.00	Nippers (Mothers & Tots), Methodist Hall,	Emma Greenaway	CM 272959
Tue	10.30	Health Walk in the Wyre Forest, Visitor Centre A456	Visitor Centre	CM 266929
Tue	17.00	Sports Roundabout, CM sports Hall. £1 per hour		CM 271317
Tue	17.30	Beavers meeting (term-time only)	Becky Keeley	CM 271416
Tue	17.30	- 19.30 Youth Forum meets at 8 Talbot Square	Sandra	07964902549
Tue	18.45	Bridge Club, Hopton Wafers Village Hall	Wendy Duley	CM 270562
Tue	18.45	Yoga, Victory Hall, Clows Top	Linda Thomas	CM 832998
Tue	19.00	Bellringers' practice night. St Mary's Church	Liz Walker	CM 271808
Tue	19.00	Dog ringcraft class, Clee Hill Village Hall	01584 890999	or 890478
Tue	19.00	Zumba Fitness, Lacon Childe School	Faith Thompson	07517 753375
Tue	19.30	Peak Physique, Lacon Childe School	Kim Bills	01384 877702
Tue	20.00	Charles Beale Modern Dance Sequence Club, Lacon Childe	E Wrigglesworth	01562 822291
Tue	20.30	Aerobics, Lacon Childe School. £2.00	Ms K Bills	01384 877702
<b>WED</b>	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Wed	8.00	- 17.30 Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Wed	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe (see Mon)	April Rogers	CM 271418

The Weekly Calendar continues on Page 37.....

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
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garden walls, and decking e.t.c.

# The Weekly Calendar - Continued - Page 37

<i>Day</i>	<i>time</i>		<i>contact</i>	<i>phone no</i>
Wed	09.00	-17.00 Library open	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Wed	9.00	Hopton Pre-School, Hopton Village Hall (term only)	Kelly	01584 891185
Wed	9.30	Rising Fives Playgroup, Market Hall (see Mon)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Wed	10.00	Citizen's Advice Bureau, CM Library (appt only)		01584 876933
Wed	10.30	Over 50s Relaxing Exercises, Doddington Village Hall	Freda Childe	01584 891180
Wed	14.00	- 17.30 Library open, Cleobury Country Centre, Love Lane	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Wed	17.15	Brownies meeting (term time only)	Jadwiga Borns	CM 270215
Wed	16.30	Gym Club for ages 6 and over £3 (booking essential)	Don Carter	CM 270312
Wed	19.00	Guides meeting (term time only)	Bev Pearce	CM
Wed	19.00	Heartbeat Fitness, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
Wed	19.00	Yoga Class, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
Wed	19.30	Rugby Club Training, Lacon Childe		CM 271317
Wed	19.30	Band practice, Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass	Stella Wilcox	CM 270560
Wed	19.30	New Life Church Prayer meeting. For venue, please ring	Derek Morris	CM 270787
Wed	19.30	Choir Practice, St Mary's Church	Philip Englehart	CM 270627
<b>THU</b>	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Thu	8.00	- 17.30 Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Thu	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe till 3.15pm	April Rogers	CM 271418
Thu	9.00	Hopton Pre-School, Hopton Village Hall (term only)	Kelly	01584 891185
Thu	9.00	-17.00 Library open	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Thu	9.30	Little Tiddlers, birth onwards at demountable, Kinlet School	Sam	CM 271847
Thu	9.30	CM Playgroup, Market Hall. (term-time only)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Thu	11.00	Sale of second-hand goods, Knowle Sports Club,	Mrs A Taylor	01584 890644
Thu	13.30	Cards and Scrabble, St Mary's Place, Love Lane	Jo Booton	CM 270792
Thu	14.00	Scrabble Club, St Mary's Place, £1 non residents	Jo Booton	07969 104808
Thu	17.30	- 19.30 Youth Forum meets at 8 Talbot Square	Sandra	0796 4902549
Thu	17.30	Brownies meeting (term-time only)	Jadwiga Borns	CM 270215
Thu	17.45	Cleobury Comets Netball at Sports & Social Club		CM 270317
Thu	19.00	Bell Inn Improvers rehearsal. Bell Inn, Lower Street		
Thu	19.30	Tums & Bums, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
Thu	19.30	Adult 5-a-side Football League, CM Sports Centre	Dave Hives	CM 271317
Thu	20.00	11-16 Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317
Thu	21.00	Over 16s Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317
Thu	20.00	Bell Inn Band rehearsal. Bell Inn, Lower Street		
<b>FRI</b>	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Fri	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe till 3.15pm	April Rogers	CM 271418
Fri	9.00	Hopton Pre-School, Hopton Village Hall (term only)	Kelly	01584 891185
Fri	09.00	-17.00 Library open	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Fri	9.30	CM Playgroup, Market Hall (term-time only)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Fri	10.00	Tiny Tots, Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Fri	10.00	Tiny Tots, Parish Hall £2.00 per family	Bettina Poole	CM 271868
Fri	17.00	Junior 5-a-side Football League, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317
Fri	17.30	Rainbows Meeting girls 5-7 years (term-time only)	Jean Basham	07792813774
Fri	20.00	Badminton, CM Sports Centre. Adults £2.50,		01584 881359
<b>SAT</b>	8.30	Sale of second-hand goods, Knowle Sports Club	Mrs A Taylor	01584 890644
Sat	10.00	-13.00 Library at Cleobury Country Centre	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Sat	10.00	Telephone advice line to Citizens' Advice Bureau		01584 810860
Sat	11.00	Junior Golf Coaching for boys and girls, CM Golf Club	John Jones	CM 271628

## KNOWLE SPORTS ASSOCIATION

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**ALSO: Clothes, shoes, handbags, books. If not sold, they are recycled.**

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30 High St *Jill Sharp*  
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### THE READING GROUP

There has been a major change at the Group, with founder Mary Ashlee standing down. After ten years of gently guiding a variety of monthly opinions to accept the validity of others' views, she certainly deserves a rest. There was unanimous agreement at our March meeting that Mary be thanked for starting the group and putting it on a sound footing.

New chair Deana Kimber took us in a slightly new direction, asking for one highlight taken from Julian Barnes's "Arthur and George" before a broader exchange of views. In fact, there was near unanimity that this was not an easy read and asked the reader for a measure of determination to finish it; some did not. With one dissenting voice, it was agreed we could not recommend this Booker Prize nominated work to a wider audience.

A briefer and easier book faces us this month. Clive James's "Unreliable Memoirs", the first instalment of his autobiography, first published in 1981. Opinions will be aired in the Library at 7.30 on Monday the 18th. JR

### BELONG

**An experiment in religious unity.**

The four churches in the Parish of Cleobury Mortimer will take part in an experiment called 'Belong' on Sunday May 1st. Members of each group will get together in the Parish Hall at 4.00 o'clock for an afternoon of worship and fellowship.

It shouldn't surprise anyone who knows him that Mark Greaves is involved with this. He already brings the Church of England and the Methodist congregations closer together by renting the Methodist Hall for St Mary's Youth Project gatherings.

Mark can give you more information - speak to him on 07828 116810

### FINAL CALL FOR OUR MARATHON HEROES

One hero and one heroine, actually. This is just a reminder that Rob Cooper and Jan Perkins have both been in training for the Virgin London Marathon on Sunday the 17th of this month.

Jan is raising funds for Cancer Research UK and Midlands Air Ambulance, while Rob is doing it for Monty's Corner, whose

aim is to help parents whose children are suffering from cancer. Those are very deserving causes, every one worth a little sacrifice from your pocket or wallet.

It's easy to make a donation, no matter how small it may be. Just call up virginmoneygiving.com and type in either runner's name, which will get you simple instructions on how to support. They both deserve it.

### THE FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTER FESTIVAL

This is to be held on June 12th this year, on the Playing Field. Invitations have gone out to clubs and entries will be accepted up to a certain number in each category.

There will be teams from Juniors through to Veterans, and if you have a team you want to enter, please act quickly and contact Derek Pearce on 01299 270599.

The Nightingale Nursing Fund is being used a lot due to budget cuts and it urgently needs topping up. If you have any ideas please contact Gill Shorter on 01299 270826 or either Debbie Brown or Rosemary Abbiss on 01746 718210.

# BELONG.

May 1st

4.00 to 6.00pm  
@ the Parish Hall

Churches together in Cleobury Mortimer would like to invite you to an afternoon of worship and fellowship.

More info: Speak to  
Mark Greaves @  
07828 116810

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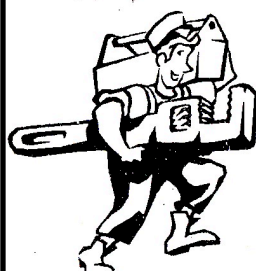
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Cleobury Mortimer.  
Tel: 01299 270362





### THE NOVERS

**Glyn Barratt has news about a secret place that's becoming open to those who know about it. That includes you now.**

The Novers is one of the hidden secret places of the Clee Hills. A 28 acre re-generated ancient woodland containing archaeological evidence of the limestone industry which once flourished upon the hill. Ancient opencast quarries, a mine, lime kilns and the remains of tramways and inclines survive buried deep within the trees. When the quarrying ceased the site was abandoned and slowly the mixed native forest took back the site, regenerating from the ancient forest seed bank. It is a magical place with ivy and moss draped trees that inspire the imagination of visitors of all ages. A wealth of wild flowers in the Spring and home to many of our native woodland creatures.

The site has recently been purchased by Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust with grant support from Shropshire County, English Nature, ALSF and community contributions.

It will be managed as a sustainable woodland, to increase its biodiversity and provide an educational facility for local schools and colleges.

Over the winter the main access track has been resurfaced and a small car park has been created. A volunteer programme has been launched and initial works have been commenced to improve the walkways within the woodland. A programme of events and short taster type courses are planned for the summer and Autumn of 2011 on a range of woodland and landscape related topics. The course programme will be available in the Clarion for the next six months and available on the TCHT web site at [www.thecleehilltrust.co.uk](http://www.thecleehilltrust.co.uk). In the longer term plans are being made for a programme of experimental archaeological projects, which will include the building of an Iron Age Round House planned for the summer and autumn of this year. The ancient hazel coppice will be restored to a productive cycle and a permaculture forest garden will be created within the woodland to provide a sustainable foraging resource.

For more detail of the Novers Project see [www.thecleehilltrust.co.uk](http://www.thecleehilltrust.co.uk).

### THE CLEOBURY PATIENTS' VOICE IS LAUNCHED

As one exhibitor rightly said: "That meeting on March 2nd was the effective launch of the patients' voice." But this was the official one, scheduled some time ago and supported by a range of associations from

Alcoholics Anonymous through to the Nightingale Nursing Fund. All had a stand to show off what they do and offer literature and advice. The selling effort behind that was very impressive.

With community feeling very high about the Medical Centre, there was naturally a flow of people throughout the hours we were there. This is not the place to repeat what's reported elsewhere, but we left with a lasting impression of those most concerned with our health and welfare still anxious to see commitment from all sides.

The concept of representatives from each exhibitor giving a talk was sound in ideals but not in execution. With people chatting to exhibitors and others over tea and cakes, the speakers had an uphill battle to gain attention. Not such a big problem to anyone with experience of the business, but daunting to a willing volunteer without much experience. One of the organising body admitted they were learning, a good sign that they are prepared to listen.

The big message was that local people are concerned and care very much about the best possible health provision in the future. But we only saw one Parish Concullor there - full credit to Debbie Brown. We'll be trying to bring you details of some of the less well known services available through the NHS or local volunteer bodies.

So Cleobury Patients' Voice is up and running. And making an effective noise. Please back them in any way you can - it's your future that concerns them.

# TITTERSTONE CLEE HERITAGE TRUST (TCHT)

## NOVERS PROJECT WORKSHOPS & TASTER COURSES:

### Woolcraft Taster Courses With Jane McMillan

**Natural Dyes**  
Tues 29th March  
**Spinning**  
Tues 5th April  
**Felting**  
Tues 12th April

**At Clee Hill Village Hall  
From 10am till 2pm**

**£5 per person  
Please book in advance**

Tea and Coffee provided, but  
please bring a packed lunch

## EVENTS COMING UP:

### Sat 12th March

**Art in the Novers 12pm**  
Come and join us for a  
walk in the woods,  
collecting things on the  
way to make a Natural  
Mosaic. **FREE EVENT  
FOR ALL AGES!!**

### Sat 9th April

**Skittles Evening 7.30pm**  
at The Royal Oak, Clee Hill.  
**£4.00 including food.** Please  
book your ticket in Advance

Please contact us for more  
details or to book:

**01584 891130  
or 07851 717045**

### Sat 26th March

**Novers Forest Spring Opening**  
Part of UK Climate week. **12 -4.30pm**  
**Iron working and Charcoal Demo**  
**Guided walk, and BBQ lunch.**  
**£10** Please book places in advance due  
to limited parking

Access to The Novers Woodland  
is situated off the Tenbury Road,  
Clee Hill, behind the Knowle  
Sports Ground. Please park on  
the Novers Car park (down the  
track—gated entrance)



Registered Charity No 1120659

## CLEOBURY MORTIMER PARISH HALL

TO BOOK THE HALL, CALL LINDSAY BOOTON ON 07815 768 180

## FLICKS IN THE STICKS

**Saturday, April 7th at 7.30pm**

### **'THE LITTLE FOCKERS'**

Sequel to 'Meet the Fockers' and 'Meet the Parents'  
Starring Dustin Hoffman and Barabara Streisand.  
Adults: £4.00, Concessions: £3.00

-----  
Tickets will be on sale on the night for  
**'The King's Speech'** showing on May 7th.

-----  
To celebrate the Royal Wedding, the Reid Warblers  
will present a special concert

### **'LOVE AND MARRIAGE'**

**Friday, May 7th, £3.00 per person**  
**Tickets on sale at The Flicks**

### OH DEAR, ANOTHER SCAM TO BEWARE OF

This is a letter received by Shropshire Council, printed without the author's name to protect their identity:

Last week we had a Mr Frederick Butcher call at our farm offering to sell half a tank of bitumen tar. He said he worked for County Highways and was contracted from Shropshire Council to undertake work on our roads and his tanker lorry had been damaged a few days earlier. He was selling the bitumen at £1/foot instead of the usual £7.20/foot. He was driving a white 'transit' style van together with another man and a small boy. There was no sign of the tanker. The police confirm the van as his, registered in Oxfordshire, Reg NA56 PDY.

We told him no thanks as we had a similar incident last autumn where we also called the police who 'saw them off'.

This is very concerning when people come to the door selling something that is too good to be true - I currently live with my aged parents who would have probably have paid him as they believed his story and felt that everyone who says they work for the Council must indeed do so.

Could you please, therefore, confirm to me whether Shropshire Council does contract out to such people and whether they are acting legally by apparently selling off a commodity which we have paid for through our precept. How can they sell the tar off privately instead of getting on

with improving the condition of our roads?

**And this is the explanation from Phil James of the County Highways Department, when he circulated the original enquiry, asking that people be warned of the cheats:**

We have also been contacted by a farmer giving the same story as detailed above. He was trying to confirm whether the "working for the Council" story was true. I put him right and asked that he spread the word locally that these individuals are not connected with Shropshire Council operations in any way.

I'm told the individual concerned was very persuasive and even said that they could make payment to "South Shropshire District Council" (which we all know is no longer in existence) in order to try to validate his offer!

**Do please take careful note of this. Cuts in public spending will be used by cheats like this to try to swindle people. If you are offered a special deal on anything that is supposed to come from the council, check it out with the police.**

-----  
**OPEN GARDENS NEEDED  
Gill Guest with a plea..**

Gardens all around Cleobury will be open to welcome visitors on Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup> as part of the Historic Churches Trust Open Gardens initiative. A number of people have already volunteered to open their gardens in Cleobury, Neen Savage and Catherton, the idea being to create a 'garden trail' that wends its way about an

assortment of plots of all shapes and sizes, all within sight, or almost, of our twisted spire. The trail needs a little boost at this stage and the organisers are seeking more volunteer garden openers.

Doing so is a great way to give yourself a deadline to get the patio finished or the pond dug, to meet people and also a way to support a good cause. Proceeds are divided equally between local parish churches and the Trust, who give grants to help maintain the fabric of our ancient churches.

Garden visitors are a friendly bunch. They're not looking for immaculate gardens that make them feel guilty about their weedy patch at home, they are looking for inspiration and ideas. How does someone else deal with the oil tank? What plants do other people grow in dense shade by the wheely bin? How does another family make their garden exciting but safe for children? They love to chat and they'll be more than happy to provide you with ideas and inspiration for your gardening problem areas in return.

If you'd be willing to open your garden, or you've spied an intriguing looking plot over a wall somewhere, Gwen Siddaway (Tel. 01299 270957) or myself (Email gill.guest@fsmail.net) would love to hear from you.

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## Clarion Clippings - The Local News - Page 45

### THE LOSS OF ELCOCK'S LOCKS

It was a Salmson and Delilah Night in the Kings Arms on March 26th. A young man, proud of his long dreadlock hair, was to make a great sacrifice in a righteous cause. Was it ancient mead or just a pint of Hobson's that Charles Elcock was sipping as he begged for mercy or money? In the dark atmosphere of the crowded bar it was difficult to tell what it was.

But Charles was about to go under the clippers and give up his fine evidence of manliness and virility. Were all those women kissing him virgins due to be carted off to the Altar of Bacchus, or just local girls trying to persuade the man to stay as the hairy hunk they admired?



*A fine head of hair, about to be cruelly chopped away by Delilah.*

Maybe his drink had been spiked, but Charles finally went willingly to meet his fate. The band were so impressed they gave him one of their seats. At the other end of the bar the noise continued, like the crowd at a Roman amphitheatre showing

no concern for the fate of a slave about to face the lions.

Delilah stepped forward, newly sharpened clippers in hand, and gave them a holy spray of WD40 before the cutting began.



*Delilah swoops on the innocent Charles, clippers poised and ready.*

The act was swift and total, each dreadlock chopped away and offered to the victim, who gathered them in his hand. He shed not one tear, spilled not one drop of beer as the crowd asked if they could buy one of the long locks as a souvenir of the s p e c t a c l e .



*Is that cruel delight on Delilah's face as the end draws near?*

At last the proud dreadlocks were all cut away, leaving a face younger in appearance with a cut close to an old man's style. He looked bewildered, unsure of his surroundings as the crowd all cheered and clapped. Was it for Him or Her? Nobody knew for certain in the atmosphere of blood letting and a nearly bald head.

But more was to come. Or in the case of Charles, to go. The final act of cruelty was to completely shave his once proud head, leaving him with ears visible, a large handful of his own hair and a half finished glass of Scotch Whisky. It was too terrible to watch. I packed away the official Clarion Camera and left the dreadful carnage to hardened drinkers.

But rumours are circulating that actually this might have not been a true sacrifice. Some people say that Charles Elcock was raising funds for the Air Ambulance and will hand over a cheque for more than £700 to help their rescue work. Sadly, they'll be too late to save his hair.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO MARGARET

Margaret Coleman organised a Bingo Night at the Sports and Social Club in Love Lane on March 24th. The idea was to raise funds for two charities - Air Ambulance and a Herefordshire based Trust set up to help a young child recently orphaned.

In typical big hearted Cleobury Mortimer style, the turn out was good and at the end of the evening over £300 had been raised, to be split 50/50 between the two causes.

Well done, Margaret, and we hope someone bought you a drink in appreciation.

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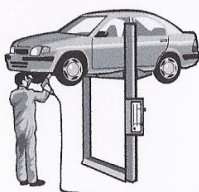
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Tue 19th	Abergavenny Market	A £13	C £12	Sat 14th	Weston Super Mare	A £17	C £15	Sun 5th	Chester/Cheshire Oaks	A £14	C £12
Thu 21st	Weston Super Mare	A £17	C £15	Sat 21st	Cardiff Shopper	A £17	C £15	Sun 12th	Cosford Air Show	Adult £26	Child £16 *
				Tue 24th	Abergavenny Market	A £13	C £12	Sat 18th	Llandudno	A £18	C £15
								Sun 26/6	Melton Mowbray Country Fair	A £22	C £20 *
										Child £15 *	

A = Adult, C = Concession (Senior or Child under 16), \* = Admission included

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## Porky's Progress - The Flab Fights Back - Page 47

Anyone over 60 who's tried to shed weight will know it's not easy. Ease past the 70 mark and the task becomes even more difficult. And by then the bad habit of "One of those nice biscuits/sweets/slices of cake won't make much difference" are more firmly established.

Please notice no mention of alcohol. Do I really have to tell you about the temptations of Mr Hobson's fine ales, a red wine from almost anywhere around the globe, or Scotland's biggest selling export? They're all there to tempt you off the straight and narrow. Guilty m'lud, just a little bit guilty of taking a glass or two of wine to celebrate losing 11 pounds.

Silly move. Next time on the scales, I'd put on two pounds, so I'd lost weight only to find some of it again. With three weigh-ins to go before the final verdict, there was a need for greater self discipline.

There's also a brighter side. I've already mentioned that course consultant Lulu West is more concerned with good health than ticking off numbers on a chart. By combining half sensible eating with light exercise and visits to the Health and Fitness Centre twice a week, significant vital signs are better.

A check-up at the Medical Centre showed blood pressure at its lowest level

for six years and a doctor visibly impressed. Add the weight loss and he was happy to try reducing daily intake of an asthma controlling drug by half.

Lulu West's second full check showed my body fat down from 27 percent when I started this in January to 21.8 percent, while muscle mass has risen slightly. Better, my physique has gone from Level 2 Obese to Standard and my metabolic age has gone down from 63 to 57. Blimey, at this rate I'll be going back to wearing jeans.

This is not an attempt to get everyone to become weight fanatics; Heaven forbid such a fate for the community. What I hope to do is raise funds for Severn Hospice and their vital work and persuade some older people - like me - that with a little exercise and sensible changes to eating habits you can feel so much better. To put that simply, a little effort works wonders.

Lulu West's current Arriba course finishes on April 6th, with a Party Night on the 13th. She's not starting the next course until the 27th, so new people won't have the Easter holiday eating to deal with as they work at getting fitter.

Three weeks to go, five pounds to trim off if I'm to lose a stone and generous donations still coming in. Onward!

<b>Cleobury Country Centre</b> <b>Wednesday 19th</b> <b>January 6.30pm</b>	<b>Arriba!</b> Wellness Clubs Present	<b>Severn Centre, Highley</b> <b>Thursday 20th</b> <b>January 6.30pm</b>
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# IN BUSINESS - Heavy Horse Enthusiasts - Page 49



*Father and daughter; Terry Keegan and Alison Garbett show off their Royal Wedding horse brasses.*

## IT BEGAN WITH A BOOK

Terry Keegan has been passionate about Heavy Horses most of his life, with deep admiration for their quiet strength. Years ago he visited Walsall's museum and found the history of their harnesses and decoration. Realising tradition would be lost unless recorded, he wrote 'The Heavy Horse, its Harness and Harness Decoration'. It has become a standard reference. "People were asking where they could get traditional brassware and harness, and I realised it was a business opportunity," he recalls.

With a friend in the casting industry, original patterns were found and bought. These are made of lead and used to make a sand mould into which molten brass is poured. From the

beginning KB Brass decided to make the best quality, and tried several foundries before finding one that could produce the standard they wanted. "Brass is brass, but quality of design and the finishing makes all the difference," he explains. It is also a labour intensive process.

A raw casting has its figuring cleaned by hand and the piece is dished slightly in a press. Polishing to a mirror finish gives the final touch and each one has the KB stamp. Terry has been asked to value rare brasses before auction; he turned them over to find his KB branding.

It's well known and respected; the man who does programme artwork for the Dorset Steam Fair knows Terry and Alison. "A landmark figure in the Heavy Horse shows," he said. When organisers want a souvenir brass for entrants, they turn to KB for the ability to make to a high standard. They still use a Walsall foundry for the casting; detailed filing is by a local contractor.

Not every special is a success. They made one for the owner of the original caravan pulled by horses in a Royal Show display. A caravan on a horse brass had no appeal and almost all production was scrapped.

Their work is good; they have twice been commissioned to

produce small batches of exclusive designs for HRH The Prince of Wales' own Heavy Horses. They submitted a design with the normal Fleur de Lys design and learned that it's not quite so when you're dealing at Royal level. The correct three feather Prince of Wales Fleur de Lys in deep relief was the acceptable answer.

The business has grown, peaking with 130 designs in 2000, when Alison took over the day-to-day running and Terry took a back seat. You can't say he retired, such an active enthusiast doesn't. Alison heads up the team when she and her son spend a weekend at shows, arriving in a converted Mercedes van with living accommodation and enough space to carry their stock. At most shows they'll have about 30 different designs on display.

The latest are two special Limited Editions to mark the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton, priced at £9.95 and £10.95 and highlighted with hand painting. Even that is special, using very durable Hammerite enamel. The next special will celebrate the Queen's 85th birthday; this may be a business with strong traditions, but it doesn't stand still.



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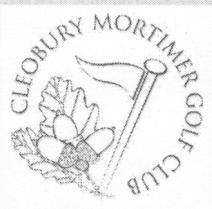
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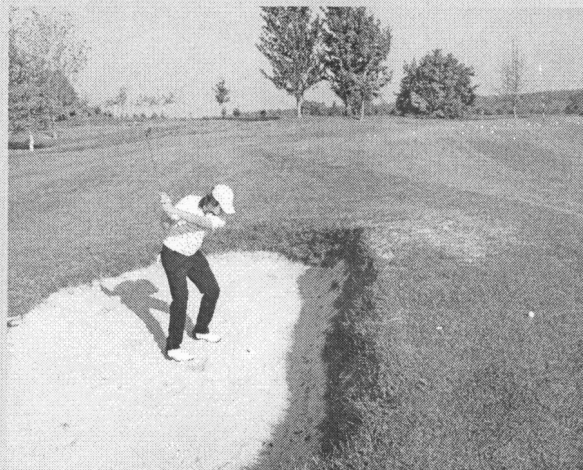
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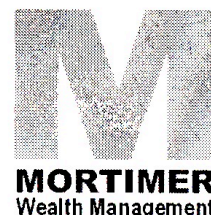
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# The Cleobury Clarion - Page 51

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**CHAMBER OF TRADE - 01299 270279.** Mrs Lesley Burnside is the Chair.

**CITIZENS ADVICE - 08444 991100.** Or through the Wednesday link at the Cleobury Centre.

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