

The Cleobury Clarion



TOP DOG



Back from a great weekend at Crufts. Jo Bargman and Cassie, plus rosettes.

The timing couldn't be better. Jo Bargman had just expanded her doggy business with ex Police dog handler Steve Tolley. And the Crufts Show at the National Exhibition Centre followed close behind.

Jo had entered her Large Munsterlander bitch Crumps Brook Acacia, or 'Cassie' when she's at home and came away with the Winner's Rosette for

Best Bitch in Breed from an entry of more than 90. Cassie couldn't make last year's show, because she was pregnant, but one of her pups, Crumps Brook Jasmine, was selected as the Best Large Munsterlander Pup.

Parading her dog was quite an ordeal for Jo, who's waiting for a replacement hip and admitted that if the judges had asked for one more run, she'd have happily told them to give the prize to her rival.

Cassie has had two litters of pups, producing 22 dogs. She may have one more pregnancy, but no more. Jo has a list of 12 people waiting for Jasmine's first birth, but the Champion's certificate in the family pedigree won't affect the price, which will stay the same. There will be no exploitation of the animals.

"I think one of the reasons the judges picked Cassie was because she looks so happy," Jo suggested. "My dogs are all pets, kept in our home, not in kennels." Another example of Shropshire quality

APRIL 2014

CROC ON THE REA?



A brave Cleobury resident, who wishes to remain anonymous, reported this fearsome looking crocodile in The Rea recently. It may have escaped from a local collection in the recent floods.

"I'm worried because my grand children sometimes paddle in the Rea," he told The Clarion. "You never know what harm such fierce creatures might do - they could even hurt the crocodile!" The NSPCC have been notified and are mounting a full scale search for the grand children.



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The Cleobury Clarion. April 2014



Big in Brazil. Tom Redfern's skill and determination on the rugby field have taken him a long way. Read more on Page 25



Darren Reynolds, man in charge at the town's biggest employer. See Page 35






The Turners, very fine timber people in Hopton Wafers. See Page 55

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

TONY CROWTHER

Tony Crowther was best known to Clarion readers all over South Shropshire as a poet, his monthly rhymings touching memories as he recalled days gone by. When he gave up contributing because of failing health, there was a big gap in our pages.

He was born at The Knowle in 1944 and went on to play football for Springvale Rovers and then Mullers as a goalie. He also turned out for Clee Hill's cricket eleven and played quoits for the Golden Lion and later The Bell Inn. He was a great joker, sometimes in a double act with brother Dennis, and told how he got bored fielding out on the boundary for Clee and nipped over to the pavilion for a sharp pint when a big hit passed the spot where he'd been.

Asked what he did at Muller's, he'd explain he was a draughtsman: "Every night I go around and close all the windows." Never a man to take himself too seriously, that was Tony. He married Angela 21 years ago and they went

everywhere together, she supporting him as his health dictated early retirement. And she was with Tony when he died of an aneurism at Shrewsbury Hospital on February 27th. Ever gracious, Angela would like to thank everyone for their kindness.

BEWARE THIS SCAM

The dishonest people in this world will never stop trying to take money from the naive and honest. The latest scam we've heard of is a phone call, generally to a new or small business, claiming to be from the Police Community Clubs of Great Britain. The caller explains that they want to publicise your business in their magazine. Just remember that your money is yours to keep and enjoy. Please do not fall for this story and give it away. If you do get a call, take their number and call the police.

THE CHILDE

ENDOWMENT FUND

We are happy to publish this notice every year, as it may help local students:

Students residing in the parishes of Cleobury Mortimer,

Neen Sollars, Milson, Coreley, Hopton Wafers, Farlow, Wheathill, Aston Botterill, 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 Bank, Cleobury Mortimer, from Lacon Childe School or from F P G Hill, Clerk to the Trustees of the Fund, at Adam House, Birmingham Road, Kidderminster, Worcs DY10 2SA. The closing date for applications is June 24th.

SPORTS OPEN DAY

There's an Open Day on Sunday the 6th this month at the Sports and Social Club, from 12.00 noon to 7.00. Cricket, Rugby and Volleyball on show, plus darts and quoits. Other attractions too.

On display will be details of the club's application for some of the Parish Council funds from the sale of the Muller land, with the chance to pledge support for them.



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CAN YOU HELP?

Rachel Whitney of Age UK is looking for volunteers:

Age UK urgently need volunteer befrienders, to spend between one and two hours a week visiting a lonely older person in the Cleobury Mortimer area. We also need drivers to transport members at our Monday Day Centre in Cleobury Mortimer.

Volunteers receive the full support of a co-ordinator, training and expenses. If you would like to find out more, please call me on 01743 233123. *Rachel Whitney*

A SPRING EVENING AT KINLET HALL

That does sound rather appealing. It's all in aid of the work of St Mary's Youth Project, starting at 7.30 on Saturday April 12th. On offer is a drinks reception and a four course meal including a carvery, plus entertainment. The surroundings will be very special, as Kinlet Hall can be.

Tickets are £25.00 each from Sarah Wilde on CM 272628.

THE LACON LOTTERY IS ROLLING AGAIN

The Parent Teacher Association at Lacon Childe School is running the popular lottery again. So it's time to sign up if you want a chance

of winning a decent sum of cash for a stake of £10 that will take you through the year. And this year they also have a chocolate hamper on offer as a prize.

Details and rules are on the school website at www.lacon-childe.org.uk, or you can call Emma McVean on 07917 142923. The more people who sign up, the better the prize; the last offer paid out over £100 each month.

FRANCIS FLETCHER

Some errors crept into the report of Francis Fletcher's passing in our March issue. The ashes scattered at Ditton Mill were in fact his grandfather's, a man Francis had a great affection for because he helped to bring the young lad up after his father died when Francis was only 13. And his son Peter is at Nottingham University, not Rotterdam as we reported.

CLOWS TOP

GARDENING CLUB

April, the most exciting month of the year. Well and truly into spring. The gardens green and vibrant, and on the whole days are warming up. Nights can still be cold, so keep an eye on the weather and protect any tender plants if frost is forecast.

At the February meeting, Jill Guest, gave a talk and on 'Easy Garden Design'. She gave basic tricks, hints and tips that designers use, that we may use ourselves in our own gardens. A great success, everyone enjoying the talk.

If you need some fresh ideas or advice for your garden, then why not join us for a cup of tea and a chat at one of our monthly meetings.. Non-members are very welcome.

This month's meeting will be on Wednesday the 23rd and the speaker will be Chrissy Ching on Potagers.

This year's annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning will be on Saturday 17th May, 10.00 till 12.00 noon.

CLEETON ST MARY HAPPENINGS

Busy month at this one particular corner of the Hill. On Friday the 11th at 8.00 there's a Bingo Night in the Village Hall, then on Saturday the 12th there's a Dance with Jimmy Edwards - pay on the door.

Friday the 25th will see a Fashion Show with M and Co. Tickets at only £5.00 each from Sue Jordan on 01584 890583 and people will begin to gather at 7.30 for the actual show at 8.00.



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MUSICAL SATURDAYS TO COME:

April 19th. 9.30 - Fight The Bear, ska band

April 26th. 9.30 - The Bleeding Hearts,
Rock/Folk Blend

May 10th. 9.30 - Cooper Davies.

MONTHLY SUNDAY OPEN MIC

April 6th. 5.30 start. All local talent welcome

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THE PARISH PLAN - VERY NEARLY THERE

The February 28th Public Meeting was the final chance for local opinion to be expressed before the Plan is put before the Parish Council for their agreement.

There were two speakers from the County, and Andrew Williamson outlined the plan that 350 houses would be built in Cleobury between 2005 and 2026; 270 have been built or are in process. But the 350 figure is not finite and circumstances may change it. There is also one hectare of land for industrial development, mainly on the current Tenbury Road industrial area.

Conservation Officer Colin Richards faced questions about the Manor House, and explained that there has been an inspection by the County. Another could be carried out if there was a vote at a public meeting for this to be done. The chairman later asked what the view of this option was and the result was unanimously in favour of a further inspection of this Grade 2 Listed building.

The public were then asked to read through the proposed actions to go forward for the

plan and although there was some dissent, the general feeling was a favourable one.

There is not enough room on this page to detail all the points in the document to be considered by the Parish Council, but amongst the extra ideas put forward at this meeting were:

Should we be building more houses without the development of work facilities for the occupants?

Should we be looking for a further car park as the demand grows? The matter of the 292 bus service will become clearer when Worcester have assessed public response and made decisions.

People perceive a need for an extra pedestrian crossing at the Tuffins site.

We'll let Councillor Madge Shinton explain the further process:

The Steering Group have now finished their investigations and are presenting the final draft of the Plan to the Parish Council at their April 7th meeting when hopefully they will adopt the Plan as the way forward.

The Plan will then be printed and a copy will go to every

household in the Parish and will be on the Parish Council website.

Group chairman Michele Key and the members would like to thank the Schools, the different groups, and many people who have given up their time and contributed to the production of this Plan over the last three years. It will be reviewed at least every year to take into account changes which may occur. Which is why we need to keep a Community Group together. If you would be interested in joining such a Group please let Vicky Turner our Area Action Officer have your name. She can be contacted on 01743 2 5 7 8 6 1 or vicky.turner@shropshire.gov.uk.

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NEEN SOLLARS QUIZ NIGHT FOR ALZHEIMERS

There's a Quiz Night this Friday, April 4th, at 7.30 in the Neen Sollars and Milson Victory Hall. Teams from four up to six people, at £5.00 a head that includes the supper - great value. There'll be a bar and a raffle, too.

All proceeds go to the Alzheimers Society and the evening is supported by Lloyds Bank. Tickets from Sylvia Luff at 01299 271082.

CONGRATULATIONS 1

To Matt Sheehan, Clerk to the Parish Council, who has completed a two year series of tests to be awarded his Certificate in Local Council Administration, or CiLCA for short. It's a significant step for the town, as a step nearer the Parish applying for a Quality Council rating and possibly on to become a Town Council, which can be a notable plus if they are applying for grants.

Things continue to happen, with the Council introducing a series of surgeries where residents can raise questions with members. The first one will be on Saturday May 17th, to coincide with the Farmers' Market. It will run from 10.00

to 12.00 noon in the Parish Office in the Market Hall. Just look in, no appointment necessary.

CONGRATULATIONS 2

To that remarkable lady Elizabeth Bishop, who made a parachute jump on February 22nd and raised a total of £2500 for the Air Ambulance. She did it with Skyline, based at an airfield near Whitchurch, and she was accompanied by instructor Lee as she stepped out into space at 12,000 feet.

"Amazing. I shall do it again! Just a bit of foolery," she told The Clarion. So whatever next?

"I'm going to do a mile long trip wire ride in Snowdonia. Apparently you do about 90mph. The children bought me that for Christmas," she explained. Then went on to talk enthusiastically about doing a bungee jump.

LIFE SUPPORT TRAINING ON THE HILL

There are British Heart Foundation 'Emergency Life Support' classes running on Clee Hill. They cover how to deal with emergencies, including choking, bleeding, heart attack, unconsciousness and CPR, or cardiopulmonary resuscitation. And importantly it includes training on how to use the public access

defibrillator located on High Street in Clee Hill village.

It's run at the school, from 6.30 to 9.00, and numbers are limited so that people have proper supervision practising these new skills. To book a place, call the school on 01584 890384; courses are open to all, but places must be prebooked.

No charge, but if you want to make a donation towards costs and maintenance of the defib, you won't meet a refusal.

SWISHING AT KINLET

This sounds good. You go along to a swishing event with your unwanted clean clothes, shoes or accessories; you can donate before if you like. Then pay £3.00 on the day and take away what you fancy. Light refreshments free and there will be a raffle. Contributions welcome - all profits and leftover stock go to Kemp Hospice.

It's at Kinlet Village Hall, from 3.00 to 6.00 on Sunday the 27th of this month, and Angie Brookes on 01299 841891 will be happy to tell you more. What a neat idea, encouraging people to shed what they don't want and maybe finding just what they do want at minimum cost. Well worth that modest admission charge and a good social idea, too.

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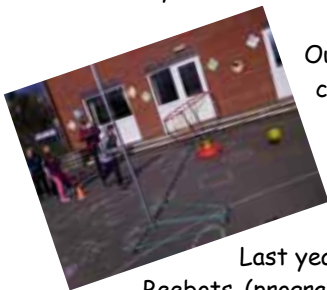


Here at Bayton C of E Primary School we are very fortunate to have such a hard working, dedicated Parents Teachers Association. They kicked off the school year by asking all families to donate an item per child to use for raffles and prizes throughout the school year.

Since then, the PTA have regularly hosted Prize Bingo evenings held at Clows Top Village Hall (please join us) - prizes include the makings for a roast dinner, cooked breakfast ingredients, boxes of chocolates and fruit baskets. Our Bingo caller is our very own reception teacher, Mrs Wooldridge, who has become very familiar with the bingo number phrases and even manages to take part in the game herself!



Other fundraising events this school year have included a Beetle Drive and Christmas Fayre, as well as the occasional cake sale and of course selling refreshments after school productions. They also run the 100 Club which I'm happy to say I've won once or twice myself.



Our PTA don't just raise money for our school, but help out when our children raise money for other charities, such as the one set up to help communities affected by the typhoon in Philippines as well as a recent sporting afternoon in aid of Sports Relief, by providing refreshments and helping run the different sporting activities.

Last year our PTA raised money for electrical devices in school such as cameras, Beebots (programmable robots), money towards travelling for school trips and end of term treats as well as paying for a teepee which we are looking forward to making great use of as an additional learning environment once the weather improves and we can access it.

For further details about our school, contact the office on 01299 832393. Alternatively, visit our website at www.baytonpri.worcs.sch.uk

WORLDWIDE ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS

One of our up and coming overseas holidays and expeditions...

Grand Canyon, Colorado River Rafting & Kayaking (August 2015)

Some of you may have seen the BBC's Operation Grand Canyon, the two part Sunday documentary of Dan Snow recreating Powell's epic 1869 journey to be the first to explore the Colorado river descending through the Grand Canyon and the area then known as 'the great unknown'. If you didn't tune in, it's well worth looking up on iplayer but even better, why not do it!

Live The Adventure Director, Anthony, will be guiding his 3rd trip along this 280 mile journey in the summer of 2015 – aimed at complete novices through to experienced rafters and kayakers it will be the adventure of a lifetime! Unlike Powell's trip this has great food, top quality guides and equipment, plenty of intervals from the river to explore the side creeks – but an equal share of adventure and whitewater!

If this sounds like an adventure for you, check out our website for full details of this and other forthcoming adventures to Sweden, Nepal and Bhutan.

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The Clarion Jobs Page - Number One
See Page 41 as well.

Job Title/ Company	Job Requirements	Hours, Rates of pay & How to Apply
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Star of the Small Ads - Mark Checkley, Guitar Master



Mark with jazz guitar, one of his favourites in the collection.

There was no music on the curriculum at Mark Checkley's school, but that didn't stop him saving up to buy his first guitar. Today he's a full time professional, his time divided between teaching and playing with a variety of bands and in the theatre.

"Two days a week for the Solihull Music Service. You can have as many as 30 kids in an

ensemble, it's chaos but great fun. I've got students playing in bands who couldn't play at all when they came to me." Fun with a serious side; he has students going on to university to study the guitar: "If you have a Grade 6 certificate or above, it carries UCAS points towards university entry."

Mark can offer tuition in any style, from classical through to rock, confirmed by the range of instruments in the study where he gives private lessons. "Some students move from classical to rock, others come into classical."

His own professional playing covers a wide range too. He gets theatre work, arriving at the venue and playing with sometimes little or no rehearsal, a measure of every player's experience. His ability to move easily from one style to another brings him work with bands, and more recently he's twinned up with

a mean saxophone player to play jazz. He's very fond of that free thinking music and chooses his jazz guitar when he poses for a photo.

How do his private pupils divide up between professional and pleasure players? "Most of them play just for pleasure, but I've got a lad studying theory to go to Hereford College. He has Grade 6 on the electric guitar and plays in a local band."

As a professional guitarist, does he still enjoy playing? "It's brilliant, I still love it. I've done a lot of things, been an HGV driver and electrician, but after 17 years as a full time teacher I wouldn't do anything else."

To cap it, he moved from the West Midlands to Stottesdon. "Escaping the city," as he puts it. If you have a fancy to learn the guitar, his experience and quiet rural retreat would be very hard to beat.

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The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

How do they know...?

My cat Bubbles has never been around a baby, never seen a pregnant woman, and was castrated before I had to explain the birds and the bees to him... So how, I wonder, did he pick up my wife's pregnancy within a couple of weeks?

The answer presumably centres on our subtle behavioural changes, and hormone / pheromone combinations. Within a few weeks he was sat on Anna's tummy (he never does this) looking very proud of himself. He does seem to know what is happening – now chasing baby kicks around the bump, and placing his ear down as if to hear it inside.

Does he really know what is going on? If so – can a cat become jealous? Regularly now he will jump in between us on the sofa to cuddle when he would have previously been quite happy to just sit on the radiator shelf.

While he is having a snooze beside us, I usually take the chance to peel his lips back and have a look at his teeth. These should appear white, and clean, but don't be disheartened if there is a little brown staining up near the gum line – this is normal. We don't want to see a red line along the gum line (infection) and we don't want to see any gum recession, which will expose sensitive tooth root, causing pain.

Despite all of this jealous behaviour, Bubbles is now starting to enjoy the spring more – later evenings, and more insects to chase aimlessly around the

garden make it far more fun to be outside well into the evening. We are all going to have to start mowing the lawn soon with the warmth!

Not only is Bubbles getting out more, but so are all the dogs in the area. As the ground has dried up a little, it has become a lot easier to go for nice long walks. Ticks also like the warm weather. Within the Wyre Forest in particular, there is a high number of ticks carrying Lyme disease bacteria, and they can pass the disease on to dogs, and humans.

Lyme disease is hard to diagnose in dogs, and can cause severe signs in unlucky individuals. It is now possible to vaccinate your dogs against the three most common UK strains of Lyme disease. Throughout April at Severn Edge Vets, we are offering a helpful 20% discount off the initial Lyme disease vaccination course. Call us and speak to a vet for more information. We are always happy to discuss your pet's vaccination needs over the telephone.

As always, thanks for reading.

Jeremy Hall BVMS MRCVS

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY NEEDS FRIENDS

Like too many local services, it seems that our library is under pressure as the demand for cuts grows. It is at times like this that groups such as The Friends of Cleobury Mortimer Library come into their own. Local people prepared to stand up and argue for a service open to all that can educate, enlighten and advance the lives of local people. But they have been very quiet of late - have MI5 been handling their publicity?

They have a meeting in the library on April 16th, to discuss future policy and plans, with vacancies on the committee to be filled. All library users and book readers will be welcome. The fun starts at 5.00.

STOTTESDON AND DISTRICT W.I.

Many Clarion readers will be familiar with the Crooked Steeple Morris dancers, who brightened last month's meeting, when eight musicians and dancers descended on Farlow. Linda talked us through the possible origins of 'Morris',

clog dances of the North-West being the feature of this team. A lively demonstration followed - then it was our turn to join in, and great fun it was.

Scrapbooks of photos and memorabilia recorded tours of Normandy as well as performances at local events. We are lucky to have this group of enthusiasts to add colour to our locality, and were assured that novices are always welcomed at Monday practice sessions at Lacon Childe School, followed by a pint of Hobson's.

16th April: Welcome to Mark Perry of Severn Hospice at Chorley Village Hall, 7.30 pm. We hope you can join us.

Marian Wootton

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our March competition, an arrangement of Spring flowers in a jam jar, was well supported and speaker John Fannin had a tough job choosing a winner. He kept us enthralled with his talk on the best use of a cold greenhouse, knowledgeable and covering all aspects. He began by telling us the best time to take cuttings is

August as they have time to get established before the cold weather sets in. Your greenhouse needs plenty of ventilation so open up on good days and let the air circulate; it gets rid of humidity and co2. There are many ways to keep plants warm during the winter: fleece and bubble wrap being the most common. During the summer you have to do the reverse and keep temperatures down by creating shading and he gave us several ideas of how to do this and try to keep the temperature as even as possible. Washing pots is a must to destroy any diseases and we were given several methods of mixing compost. John ended by giving us two very good tips: always spray insecticide in the still of the evening and water plants in the morning as you do not want water on the leaves in the cold of the night. An evening when we all felt we had learned a lot.

Liz Smurthwaite

SILLY BITS

All the toilets in Shropshire's police stations have been stolen. Police have nothing to go on.

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Happening on High Street

THE LAMP PUTS ON A SPECIAL NIGHT FOR NIGHTINGALE NURSES

There were many who doubted the benefit of another Indian restaurant on High Street. Never mind that The Lamp also offered Bangladeshi dishes, it looked to be much of what we already had. In fact they've charmed customers and given the takeaway business a lift with their free delivery in the local area.

From the beginning manager Jalal Uddi has been keen to be involved with the community, and The Clarion has put him in touch with our rugby and football clubs to talk about support. And now he's come up with a really strong eye-catcher: an evening when 50 percent of the takings will go to the Nightingale Nursing Fund. Have you ever heard of a restaurant being as generous as that? Amazing.

It's very straight forward. You book a table and select your four course meal that will cost £20 per person. Enjoy the meal, pay the bill and leave knowing that your night

out has helped people who depend upon this fine charity to deal with a crisis in their health. Good feelings all round and a very good cause helped with its vital work.

This all happens on April 16th, from 6.00 until the last diner leaves - we assume that's what they mean by "late".

AND JUST OFF THE HIGH STREET....

In Talbot Square to be precise, Wade Davies has moved back into the shop that he quit but still had his name over the door. He told us that he expected business to fall off after Christmas, but it's kept rolling and he can justify the cost of having a public face.

Good to see a young business taking on a shop again. It's a place you can look in and see what a range is available, without pressure selling putting you off.

HERE FOR THE LONG RUN

That's Galaxy, the Chinese takeaway at Number 37 High Street. Steve and Sue Hau have been here a long time and on a Saturday night the


place is still crowded with customers who like their good value and unpretentious style of service.

It's a real family business, with Steve and Sue backed by daughter Sophie - head girl at Lacon Childe before she moved on to sixth form college - and older son Jason. A real asset to the town.

CLEOBURY NEWS GOES, CLEOBURY WASH HOUSE ARRIVES

We don't have an opening date yet, probably late in April, but there will certainly be a launderette on the High Street very soon.

The Wakeman family are behind the venture, Andrew, Sharon and David, and they are getting a good response to notices in the window asking for CVs from those looking for a job. Redecoration, a pretty big plumbing job to make ready for the washers and dryers and staff to recruit and train. And all those people in single apartments with little in the way of washing facilities will be glad to see the doors open. We wish them all well.



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

TOM REDFERN, RUGBY AMBASSADOR



*Tom Redfern in full flight,
playing for Jacquarel in Brazil.*

You could see there was something special about Tom Redfern as a pupil at Lacon Childe. Every day after school he'd be out on the rugby pitch, sometimes on his own, practising spot kicks until darkness fell. Total devotion to his chosen sport.

He's moved on through Worcester College and six months as a player/coach in Italy to take up his present contract with Premiership Rugby. Right now he's one of eight coaches working in Brazil to introduce youngsters from 5- and 7-a-side forms. It's a more complex job than it seems at first, as they have to develop understanding of the game's ethics of self control and respect for the referee.

After a successful first six months in Indiatuba, Tom's contract was renewed and he's now on a twelve months stint in Jacquarel. As well as the coaching job, he's also been recruited to play for the local team as well as coaching adults. There had been plans for him to come back to Worcester and take up the offer of a university place, but the chance to play and coach as he gains international experience kept him over in South America.

Mum Clare and stepdad Colin travelled over to see him recently and report that he's had the offer of a job in America. "Doors are opening. He's out there, being seen," reported a very proud Clare. "That's better than any degree."

It's great for Tom, at the age of 19, to be in demand in the sport he loves and have job offers in front of him. And it shows what a great vehicle for advancement local sport can be.

JESSICA SETS OUT ON HER OWN

Another local young person with determination and ambition is embarking on self employment as a

freelance groom and equestrian specialist. Jessica Birch has had a love of horses from an early age and has worked at both Bind Equine in Billingsley and Severn Edge Vets.



*Jessica with Chessie, one of her
own mounts.*

She has a down to earth approach to the job, and can cover everything from mucking out to grooming and preparing a horse for a show. "If someone phones and wants their horse readied for the hunt the next day, it can be a full day's work, so I get on with it," she explains. Experienced, fully insured and willing to tackle any job, she's already looking busy with bookings. Talk to her and you'll see why; one you'd bet on to succeed. 07817 140 221.



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Letter from Westminster - Philip Dunne MP

Fairer funding for rural schools

Since being elected in 2005 I have fought, with other rural MPs, to rebalance the inequalities in school funding that meant rural schools often received a smaller share of funding than those in urban areas.

The old funding formulae resulted in a postcode lottery, meaning children in rural schools were at a disadvantage. In the 21st century Shropshire has felt the effect of this, consistently amongst the ten lowest funded local educational authorities in Britain.

All children deserve the best start in life, giving them the skills and education they need to succeed in the world, so addressing the imbalance is a key step to building a better, fairer system. I am delighted that an extra £350 million was announced last month towards resolving this unfairness. This is to be shared between the 62 least well funded local education authorities, with Shropshire schools to receive an extra £8.9 million. Per pupil funding in Shropshire will increase by £256 from £4,112 to £4,368 for 2015/16.

This is a significant increase and could make a big difference to local schools trying to balance their budgets. I understand this money will be distributed to each school as part of the Dedicated School Grant, so this funding could be worth over £12,500 to a primary school with only 50 pupils, or over £125,000 to a secondary school of 500 students.

I also welcome publication of 'Consultation on Fairer Schools Funding in 2015' which includes proposals to set a minimum level for all schools, regardless of size. This could be a great help to

the smaller schools serving small communities in South Shropshire. This Consultation also sets out proposals for a minimum funding level for deprived pupils, those with English as an additional language, those with low attainment on entering school and for pupils who have been looked after, for example in foster care. This could increase the baseline level of funding for some schools in Shropshire from 2015/16.

This is really positive news for schools across rural areas. The Education Department has made clear that no authority will receive less money as a result of these proposals, but those who have historically lost out will receive a fairer share. If there is a gap between a local authority's budget and what it needs to meet these proposed minimum funding requirements, the Government will make up the difference.

Some schools in South Shropshire are remote and small, with fewer than 50 pupils. I try to visit schools across the constituency each month, so I know how important they are, not just to the children, parents and teachers, but to help maintain their local communities. This new money represents a huge step towards fairness in the school system. But it is only a first step. So to ensure this reform continues to help our schools, I encourage school governors, teachers, parents and the wider public to make their views known in the Consultation on Fairer Funding before final arrangements are made for 2015-16. The consultation can be found online at www.education.gov.uk/consultations/

Philip Dunne



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The April Clarion Social Calendar

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Wed 2/Fri 4	7.30pm	Lacon Childe School presents "A Midsummer Night's Dream". SEE PAGE 9		01299 270312
Wed 2	10.00am	Walking for Health meet at the Sports Centre for a stroll and refreshments	Mandy Smith	01299 270312
	10.30am	Cleobury Carers' Coffee Morning at the King's Arms	Wendy Duley	CM 270562
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 3		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders meet at the Hawksbatch car park on Dowles Road for a walk in the Wyre Forest	Alan	01299 400304
Fri 4	7.30pm	Quiz Night at Neen Sollars Victory Hall, all in aid of the Alzheimers Society. SEE PAGE 11		
	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 5	8.00pm	Knowle Sports Sale of household goods and clothing. Great place for bargains.	Audrey Taylor	01564 890644
	9.00am-12.00pm	Mamble Car Boot Sale, signposted from the A456 Tenbury Road. No traders, just private folks, refreshments available. All proceeds to charity.	Hazel West	01299 832796
Sat 6		Open Day at the Sports and Social Club, Love Lane, Cleobury. SEE PAGE 5		
Mon 7	6.00pm	Warm bamboo massage demonstration at Kim Stanley's Health and Beauty Salon on Cleobury High Street. SEE PAGE 43.		
	7.00pm	Parish Council Meeting, Market Hall, Church Street. The public may speak in the Democratic Time before official meeting begins.		
Wed 9	7.30pm	Open Meeting of Neen Savage WI in the Village Hall. Mrs Williams will talk about Idle Women; open to all.	Angela Flowers	CM 270318
	8.00pm	Cleobury branch of the Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street	Ron Breakwell	CM 270380
Thu 10		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND GREEN RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	2.00pm	Spring Time Walk in The Weir Gardens, Swainshill, Hereford, HR4 7QF for the satnav. Booking Essential		01981590509
Fri 11	3.00pm	Easter Egg Hunt in Stottesdon, catering for all ages of children.	Zoe Day	01746 718769
	8.00pm	Bingo Night, Cleeton St Mary Village Hall. Proceeds to the Hall.		
Sat 12	7.30pm	Spring Evening at Kinlet Hall, promises to be something special. SEE PAGE 7.	Sarah	CM 272628

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The April Social Calendar - continued

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
	8.00pm	Dance to Jimmy Edwards at Cleeton St Mary Village Hall. What a busy place!		
Tue 15	2.30pm	Cleobury Carers get together at St Mary's Place, Love Lane	Wendy Duley	CM 270562
Wed 16	10.00am	Walking for Health leave the Sports Centre for their second walk	Mandy Smith	CM 270312
	5.00pm	The Friends of Cleobury Mortimer Library meet to discuss its future. In the library, everyone who reads will be welcome.	Vicki Lawrence	CM 272301
	6.00pm	The Lamp Restaurant in the High Street has a very special evening raising funds for Nightingale Nurses. SEE PAGE 23.		
	7.30pm	Stottesdon WI gather at Chorley Village Hall to hear Mark Perry talk about Severn Hospice.		
	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 17		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders gather at The Button Oak Inn, Kinlet, for a scenic outing	Alan	01299 400304
	7.45pm	Whist Drive at the Sports and Social Club, Love Lane	Alan Evans	CM 270114
Sat 19	9.00am-4.00pm	The Parish Council's Capital Receipts Open Day is in the Market Hall to show the ideas put forward to use this money to best effect. SEE PAGE 39		
	9.30am	The Farmer's Market celebrates its first birthday by moving out of the church onto the new Historic Core site. SEE PAGE 49.		
Wed 23	7.30pm	Clows top Gardening Club meet at Victory Hall. Chrissy Ching talks about Potagers.	Marion Wilson	CM 270475
Thu 24		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND GREEN RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 25	8.00pm	The M and Co Fashion Show comes to Cleeton St Mary Village Hall		
	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sun 27	3.00pm	Swishing comes to Kinlet Village Hall. £3.00 entry and help yourself to clothing! See page 11.		
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO MAY...		
Thu 1		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Sun 4	9.30am	Rock Parish Pound the Bounds is based at their superb Village Hall. Details on the web: www.poundthebounds.org.uk		
Wed 7	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874

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Dudnill Bungalow • Cleobury Mt'r

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Larks Rise • Cleobury Mortimer

A modern style, four bedroom, detached property on the outskirts of the popular market town of Cleobury Mortimer set back from the road on a private driveway with lawned fore garden to the front, gated access to the rear. Energy Rating D.



Whitcombs Orchard • Cl Mt'r

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Catherton Road • Cleobury Mt'r

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Wayside • Hopton Bank

A most impressive five bedroom property with breathtaking gardens, occupying a total plot of approximately half an acre. Large gardens, complete with stocked fish pool, veg patch, orchard, greenhouses, shed, undercover barbecue area, patios and decking. Double garage with driveway and ample parking. Energy rating E.



Pinewood • Tenbury Wells

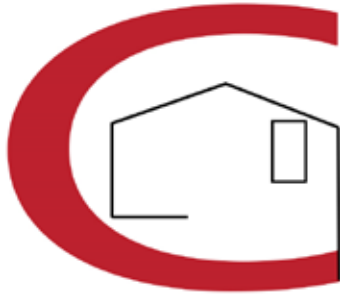
A spacious, detached three bedroom bungalow ideally located within walking distance of Tenbury Wells town centre. With mature, landscaped, south facing gardens this property has been modernised and extended to an extremely high standard. Energy rating E.



5 Paper Mill • Cleobury Mortimer

A terraced one bedroom cottage, located in a quiet no through lane with pleasant outlook over fields. Accommodation includes Lounge, Kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. To the front of the property is a small fore garden area and parking for one vehicle. Energy rating E.





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Clarion Coppers With PCSO Nick Morris



It's pleasing that there have been very few relevant crimes reported during the last month. There was another report of damage to the wooden fence in Bull Alley (between High Street and the footpath alongside Lacon Childe School). If anyone has knowledge of the stupid individuals who indulge in this activity, please let it be known. On Monday, March 3rd, between 8:00 and 10:00pm, a two-wheeled galvanised trailer was stolen from a drive in Oak Tree Close, Burford. There was a number plate on the rear - AO61 EKY.

A particularly unpleasant incident occurred at just after midnight on March 5th in Grove Meadow. A resident heard a noise outside his house and on going to investigate, saw a man leaning against his caravan on the driveway who refused to leave after being asked to do so several times. As Police were being called by the resident's wife, the man forced his way into the house, head-butted the occupant, knocked him to the floor and bit him before making off. The man, who lives in Bewdley, was arrested shortly afterwards not far away. This is not thought to be a burglary gone wrong, but certainly drugs and alcohol were a factor in the behaviour. Thankfully this type of crime is rare in our area. On March 10th/11th, in the Baveney Wood area, damage was caused to a brick pillar, thought to have been from a vehicle being driven into it. Nobody has come forward to admit doing it.

On other matters, there have been a few arrests locally for drink driving and drug possession, and a section 59 has been served to a driver for persistently causing a nuisance by driving in a careless, inconsiderate manner. A section 59 is a formal written warning that if the original vehicle is seen being driven by anyone in a

similar manner it may be seized by Police, and also any other vehicle that the person is seen driving in a similar manner. If people will come forward and report sufficient details of any anti-social driving, - wheel-spinning, causing unnecessary noise, inappropriate speeds etc. which cause alarm or annoyance, then we can deal with the problem. Several of the young drivers have been spoken to and warned of the consequences of inconsiderate, nuisance driving, and of the possibility of their insurance premiums increasing if they have to be dealt with by Police.

Another problem is bad, or illegal parking. If Cleobury is to get a Civil Enforcement Officer (Traffic Warden) to attend regularly to deal with this, evidence needs to be submitted to Shropshire Council. This can be done by completing an on-line form on Shropshire Council website (see September '13 issue for more details) or recording the make, model, colour and number of the offending vehicle, where parked, time and date, and details of the offence, and passing these to Matt Sheehan at The Market Hall or to me and they'll then be forwarded to Shropshire Council.

Finally, may I remind some readers that if you feel that there is a need to park partly on a pavement, that you consider pedestrians, push chairs and disability scooters and leave enough room for them to get by without having to go onto the road. One popular place for pavement parking is in front of Lower Street Garage. If you cannot leave enough room, then please do not park there. Details of vehicles are taken when there is a potential obstruction to pavement users with the possibility of a fixed penalty notice being issued.

PCSO Nick Morris

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Darren Reynolds: "This is the best job in the world."

It was a baptism of fire when Darren Reynolds arrived to take over the headship at Lacon Childe School: "My deputy Rachel Croxton-Broome was on maternity leave and the business manager had left. So we just got on with the job and dealt with it." He smiles at the memory; he does smile a lot.

With good reason. The school's GCSE results last year were well above National average and the Maths and English the best of any state school in the county. "That's not down to me, that's what I inherited," he explains.

He clearly loves the job and the place: "Of all the schools I've worked in, I've never known a staff so willing to give their time. They give lots of it to

help the children - that's why the results are so good."

"This is the best job in the world. My title is a giveaway, I'm the head teacher. I'm not a business manager and I'm rubbish at paperwork, I don't think it's important. I'd much rather be face to face with the children; this is a people job. My office door is always open unless it's closed because I'm dealing with business, and the staff understand that." And he has a new Business Manager starting this month, so some of the worry about the annual budget of £3million is taken from his unwilling shoulders.

The school is in the consultation process about applying to become an Academy, and if all is well that should happen in July. "It makes finances easier, because we'd get the money straight from the government and not the local authority," he explains. "It makes it simpler to develop services we need, gives greater flexibility, so that you can make changes to the National Curriculum to suit the pupils' needs, and buy services from the best providers. You'd not be a Shropshire school, you'd be a national one."

"We'd be able to give a better service to our feeder primary

schools, like provision of an IT service as a feeder hub; we'd be working together more."

With the success bringing interest from a wider area - "We had six families from Far Forest at our Open Night, and five from Lindridge" - does he see growth in numbers? "Our maximum roll is supposed to be 540 and we've got 532 now. We have three minibuses collecting children from Far Forest, Rock, Lindridge and Bitterley. We'll have four buses soon and five by September." There are no plans to expand at the moment, and his budget varies with the national birth rate; you get the impression this man is too canny to think big too soon.

Lacon Childe is the largest employer in the town, with 80 staff, and his ambitions are very pupil centred: "I want to make everything better for the pupils at the point of delivery."

"When they leave, I want to be sure they're rounded out - that's our job. I'd like our children to think a bit beyond, take Cleobury Mortimer out to the world, and get experience of more than just this locality."

To prove what a happy staff he has, he treated me to a hot cross bun and tea in the staff room, chatting in a relaxed style. Good leadership at work.



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The Farming Page - Rachel Robinson

Spring has to be my favourite season, seeing nature waking up after the winter. We have planted spring barley in the last couple of weeks, the next field work will follow when we plant grass seed and maize. May will be all hands on deck when we take the first cut of grass silage, and subject to the weather behaving itself, hay will be cut at the end of June. Us farmers are completely obsessed with the weather forecast, the house falls silent as we listen intently to the five day forecast on BBC Countryfile. Everything we do is so dependent on the seasons, but thankfully (dare I say it) it seems a bit more in sync this year - lets hope the gulf stream stays where we need it!

All the grazing land is fertilised in preparation for the cows to go out in a few weeks time. As well as preparing the pasture, we have had to do repairs to fencing as there has been some damage as trees came down in the storms. Over the winter we erected a new cattle shed that houses 100 plus young stock, who have enjoyed the luxury of being indoors during the wind and rain. They too will be turned out to pasture, once we can be sure the better weather is here to stay. See, talking about the weather again.

Our Facebook and Twitter followers will already know we are enjoying our official 'TB Free' status, as our last test at the end of January was clear. This means

extra licensing and more importantly no cattle had to be destroyed as a consequence of the disease. We also have a breather from the gruelling testing until the end of the summer.

In what I have dubbed our 'Poultry and Pigs Pets Corner' there is great excitement and anticipation for our second year of having piglets who are due on 30th March, so fingers crossed, by the time you are reading this article I will be cooing over the new arrivals. Last year we had great success with our two Oxford Sandy and Black piggies, who had litters of 11 and 12.

It was a bit of a shock to the system to go from 2 pigs to 25 in the space of two weeks! I'm hopeful for the same success this year. We have also hatched out our first batch of Buff Orpington chicks, who are proving very cute and fluffy, and have a second batch due to hatch out 11th April, so as always on the farm there are lots of little mouths to feed!

Unfortunately due to personal circumstances we won't be having an Open Day this year, we'll keep our fingers crossed for 2015. If you are interested in seeing photographs and regular updates about the farm, please do follow us on Facebook and Twitter (Facebook/MawleyTownFarm@MawleyMilk) - they have proved to be very useful tools in keeping in touch with our loyal customers.

Rachel Robinson



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The Medical Centre - The Working Day

The moving date is approaching; currently May 27th. We won't be able to test the phone system or computers until the day of opening, so please be patient through any teething problems.

We have recruited two very experienced GP's, who have worked in the Wyre Forest area for several years and recently acted as locums for us. Doctor Juliet Lyne will start in April and Doctor Elizabeth Palmer in June.

Daily surgeries are held from 8.20 to 11.30am and from 3.30 to 5.30pm and can be booked approximately three weeks in advance. There is early surgery each Thursday from 7.10am. GPs work on a rota as morning and afternoon duty doctors. The morning doctor takes emergency appointments for patients with acute problems that need to be dealt with in the next 12 to 24 hours. Perceptions of an emergency vary; if in doubt, please check the NHS website for advice. When the volume of emergency appointments is high, all GP's provide an emergency sit-and-wait surgery after routine clinics at 11.30.

The afternoon doctor returns patients' calls to assess their problem and make an appointment if necessary. We try to avoid the situation where people walk in as emergencies; if a GP has made an emergency home visit there may be no-one available to see them. Where possible, GPs make daily home visits between 12.00 and 2.00pm for patients too ill to attend the surgery. We are impressed by patients' efforts to attend an appointment and express our thanks for this as we cover a large area and home visits take considerably longer.

GPs also have a daily phone consultation list, for patients who pre-book and need to ask a question or for medication, but don't require a surgery appointment. We aim to respond before 2.00pm. When clinics and home visits are finished, the GP's sign prescriptions, deal with referrals and with hospital correspondence and test results.

There are no current plans to change our pattern, but it could be discussed through Cleobury Patients Voice, if circumstances change. We are naturally willing to listen to suggestions from those we serve.

The Capital Receipts Exhibition - you can vote

The Parish Council are mounting a display in the Market Hall on Saturday April 19th for their Capital Receipts Open Day. It's all about the windfall of £103,000 from the sale of land on the Muller's site being used for the benefit of the community.

There are ten suggested projects that have been submitted and the people behind them will have space to show them off and explain what their idea is all about. It's intended to provoke discussion and you will have the chances to vote for your own preference. That will be one of the factors the Council will consider when

they make their final selection; a good example of this Council's stated policy of transparency at work.

Downstairs in the Market Hall will be the Cleobury Local Market, which normally runs in parallel with the monthly Farmers' Market. It's about locally made or stocked gifts, crafts and jewellery.

Together with the Farmers' Market from 9.30 to 12.30, this will make a busy event debut for the newly installed Historic Core in the heart of the town. One thing for sure, it's a big attraction to draw visitors and local shoppers to see just how much is on offer. See you there.



Cleobury Mortimer Primary School

We are a school with strong local community links

OFSTED SAYS:

- Highly committed leaders and managers
- Pupils achieve well because they are well taught and have positive attitudes to learning
- Pupils enjoy lessons, behave well and say learning is fun
- Good care, guidance and support provided for individuals
- Strong team of staff and governors
- Exciting topics
- High proportion of pupils take part in extra curricular activities

CONTACT DETAILS

Cleobury Mortimer Primary School

Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, Nr Kidderminster,
Shropshire, DY14 8PE

Tel: 01299 270313

Email: admin.cleoburymortimer@shropshirelg.net

Website: cleoburymortimerprimaryschool.ethink.org.uk

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Lacon Childe School - Job Vacancy

Required immediately, Lunchtime Supervisor

Salary: Grade 1: point 5 (£6.4457 per hour)

Part Time: 5.42 hours per week, current hours 1.25-2.30pm Mon to Fri

We require an enthusiastic, committed and reliable individual who enjoys working with children to join our supervisory team

An application form can be found on our website: www.lacon-childe.org.uk or by contacting the School Office.

For further detail please contact Mrs S Broad: 01299 270312 or email admin@lacon-childe.org.uk

The successful applicant must be prepared to undergo first-aid training. Lacon Childe School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and rigorous child protection procedures are in place.

Appointments will be subject to Enhanced DBS checks

On-Call Firefighters Cleobury Mortimer (Retained Duty System)

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service are currently looking to recruit on-call firefighters at Cleobury Mortimer Fire Station. On-call firefighters agree to be available for a certain number of hours per week; they carry a pager and must be able to get to the fire station within five minutes. For this they are paid between £1,587 - £2,116 per annum (dependent on contract) as a Retaining Fee plus remuneration for attending incidents and drill evenings on station.

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- Demonstrate a high level of physical fitness;
- Aged 18 years or over on your start date;

For an information pack please contact us on 01743 260220, or email HRAssistants@shropshirefire.gov.uk, stating your name, address and quoting Cleobury Mortimer

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service is committed to equality and diversity at work. We positively welcome applications from disabled people and minority groups who are under-represented in our Service.

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THE LEGION'S LUNCH

On March 16th, the Cleobury Branch of the Royal British Legion held its Annual Luncheon at Cleobury's Sports and Social Club. About sixty members and guests were welcomed by Chairman Jim Hulme, before taking an excellent three-courses provided by The Clock House. Mark Baldwin delivered an illustrated presentation on 'The Role of the U-Boats in The Battle of the Atlantic'.

This year the Branch plans to mark the centenary of the start of the Great War with a parade and church service, and the publication of a booklet containing details of the lives of all the Great War casualties named on our war memorial. If anyone has any information about these men, could they please contact Mark Baldwin on 01299 270110 or mbaldwin2@btconnect.com. The Branch always welcomes new members - please ring 01299 270110 for a membership form. Sometimes, prospective members are put off by the fact they have not served in the Armed Services, or by the fear of being obliged to march - don't worry, neither marching nor military service is necessary! All are welcome!

EASTER EGG HUNT

Chorley Family Playgroup are hosting an Easter Egg Hunt on Friday April 11th, in Stottesdon.

It will begin at 3.00 at the church, immediately after the Easter service. All children are welcome to come and join in the fun. This will involve a scavenger hunt around the village for school aged children. There will also be an Easter Egg hunt for pre-school children around playgroup, attached to the school. The entry fee is £3 per child and will include a hotdog. Afterwards, Playgroup will be serving refreshments and welcoming contributions for the Easter Cake competition.

Please do come along and join us, it will be a fun afternoon and everyone is welcome. For further details please contact Playgroup Manager Zoe Day on 01746 718769 or just turn up on the day at Stottesdon Church.

Claire Burton

KINLET FAMILY PLAYGROUP

Happy Easter everyone. We're celebrating in the first two weeks of April at Playgroup by making cards and Easter gifts, having egg hunts and of course thinking

about the reasons why we celebrate Easter. The last day of our Spring Term is April 10th and we return for the Summer Term on April 28th.

The children will be doing our annual 'Spring In Your Step' walk in the first week back. This year it will be sponsored to raise funds for our summer outing. If you know a child from our playgroup, please reward their 'toddle' from Playgroup to Kinlet Church, and give generously so we can treat the children to a fabulous day out in July.

WARM BAMBOO MASSAGE - THE MIND BOGGLES

Kim Stanley's Health and Beauty is having a Warm Bamboo Massage demonstration at their lovely High Street salon on April 7th. It starts at 6.00, runs through to 8.00 and we are assured there will be light refreshments and a free prize draw. Everyone is welcome and a call to CM 271800 will give you more details.

SILLY BITS

I dropped out of the Communism class because of lousy Marx.

I tried to catch fog, but mist.

Broken pencils are pointless.

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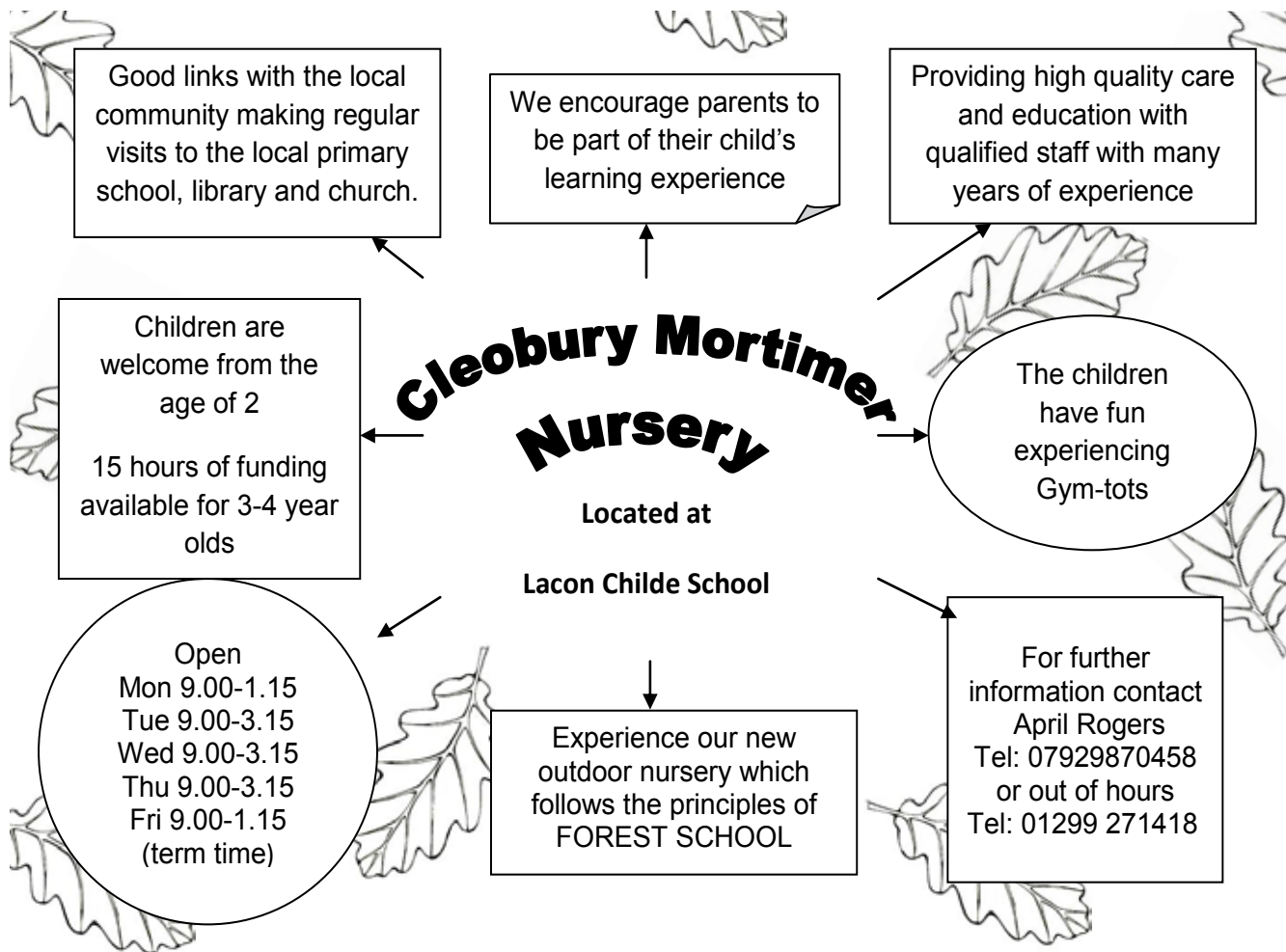
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The Clarion Weekly Social Calendar

Day	Time	Event	Contact	Phone	
Sun	08.30	Holy Communion, Parish Church		CM 270624	
	09.45	Parish Communion, Parish Church		CM 270624	
	09.00	Mass, St Elizabeth's, Lower Street	Canon Walsh	01584 872906	
	10.30	Cleobury Country Archers, Lacon Childe Sports Field	Lesley Burnside	CM 271374	
	10.30	New Life Church – for venue call	Derek Morris	CM 270787	
	11.00	Morning Service, Methodist Church	Rev H Roberts	01584 819649	
Mon	08.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, Kinlet School Mon to Fri		07794 166514	
	08.00	Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon School Mon to Fri	Zoe Day	01746 718769	
	09.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe School Mon to Fri	April Rogers	CM 271418	
	09.00	CM Playgroup, Primary School, Mon to Fri	Jane Preece	07816 193933	
	09.30	Morning Workout, Sports Hall	Deena	CM 271317	
	10.00	Age UK, Monday Club, St Mary's Place	Sarah Wilde	CM 272638	
	15.45	Gym Club with Ann Davis, Lacon Childe Mon & Wed	Don Carter	CM 270312	
	17.30	Cubs Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Kate Pearce	07772 102986	
	18.30	Karate Club, Lacon Childe School	John Nelson	CM 879210	
	19.00	Tai Chi Class, Lacon Childe School	Rose Jacks	01584 875544	
	19.30	Rangers Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Helen Smith	CM 270912	
	19.45	Bingo, CM Sports & Social Club	Alan Evans	CM 270114	
	20.00	Women's Clog Dancing Classes	Linda Small	01746 718624	
	Tue	10.00	Nippers, Moths & Tots, Methodist Hall, Church Street	Emma	CM 272959
14.00		Friendship Club, Parish Hall, Church Street	Janet Rolston	CM 270353	
15.45		Ballet Class, Lacon Childe School	Liz Broadway	CM 251246	
17.00		Sports Roundabout, Sports Hall, Love Lane		CM 271317	
17.30		Beavers Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Becky Keeley	CM 271416	
18.45		Bridge Club Hopton Wafters Village Hall	Wendy Duley	CM 270562	
19.00		Bell Ringers' practice night, St Mary's Church	Liz Walker	CM 271808	
19.30		Chas Beale Dance Club, Lacon Childe School	Betty Ladek	CM 270332	
Wed		10.30	Over 50s Relaxing Exercises, Doddington Village Hall	Freda Childe	01584 891180
		16.45	Gym Club for 6 & over, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
		17.15	Brownies Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Rebecca Barnes	CM 272945
		19.00	Guides Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Dorothy McBride	CM 272717
	19.00	Yoga Class with Anna, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312	
	19.00	Zumba Class with Emma Forni, Lacon Childe School	Emma Forni	01746 862842	
	19.30	CM Concert Brass Band practice, Parish Hall	Stella Wilcox	CM 270560	
	19.30	New Life Church prayer meeting. For venue call	Derek Morris	CM 270787	
Thu	19.45	Choir Practice, Parish Church	Philip Engleheart	CM 270627	
	09.30	Little Tiddlers, Kinlet Family Playgroup, Kinlet School	Zoe Pearson	07794 166514	
	14.00	Scrabble Club, St Mary's Place, Non residents £1.00	Jo Booton	07969 104808	
	16.45	Cleobury Comets Netball, CM Sports Centre term time	Mandy Smith	CM 271809	
	17.30	Brownies Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Rebecca Barnes	CM 272945	
	19.00	Bell Inn Band improvers rehearsal, Bell Inn, Lower Street			
	19.30	Tums and Bums, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312	
	19.30	Adult 7-a-side Football League, CM Sports Centre	Dave Hinves	CM 271317	
	20.00	Bell Inn Band rehearsal, Bell Inn, Lower Street			
	20.00	11-16s Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317	
	21.00	Over 16s Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317	
Fri	10.00	Tiny Stots, Chorley Playgroup, Stottesdon School	Zoe Day	01746 718769	
	10.00	Tiny Tots, Parish Hall	Bettina Poole	CM 271868	
	17.30	Rainbows Meeting, girls 5-7 years, Old Pump House	Jean Basham	07792 813774	
	19.00	Scout Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Chris Andrews	CM 270937	
	20.00	Badminton, CM Sports Centre		01584 881359	
Sat	10.30	Junior Coaching, CM Golf Club, Wyre Common	Robert Watkins	CM 271112	

Members & Guests
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CLEOBURY MORTIMER SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB NEW ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME



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SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB IS THE HOME OF CRUVO

CRUVO is a self-governing group of members from the Rugby, Cricket and Volleyball clubs, combining together to raise funds for their individual clubs and the sports & social club.



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Saturday 1st March – **FAMILY DISCO**

Saturday 15th March - **SHERYLL**

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Saturday 5th April – **FAMILY DISCO**

Saturday 12th April – **CASINO NIGHT**

Social event raising funds for Cleobury Mortimer Cricket Club including Cocktails & Canapes, Casino Games & Live Music

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM CLEOBURY MORTIMER CRICKET CLUB

Saturday 19th April - **EASTER SATURDAY SHOW**

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Saturday 7th June - **BONNIE DIAMOND & COE**

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Linda Iles

April In The Forest



The Unclyls bat boxes in construction for the early Spring distribution in their part of the Wyre.

Last month I wrote about frogspawn and my efforts to help with the annual survey. On a lovely, warm Sunday afternoon in March I had the company of friends, whose four children gleefully helped to count the clumps of spawn. This month it's the turn of the toads, which are making their way through the woods to their regular spawning sites. The females will produce strings of spawn which the males fertilise immediately. Two years ago the edges of the little reservoir near Unclyls Farm were black with tad-poles by May, but I think the big fish there took a heavy toll on the numbers. Ponds, left to their own devices,

will silt up and fill with vegetation, so one of the winter jobs has been to tackle unwanted plants by pulling out with special long rakes called cromes and by hand. It's a smelly, muddy but very satisfying job, best done on a warm day.

As the evenings lengthen and warm up, the bats will be out hunting flying insects such as moths and beetles. We put up 50 bat boxes around the farm last month and hope that they will be well used for either daytime resting or breeding. Natural roosting sites include caves, hollow trees and loose bark on trees but, of course, in historic times bats have moved in to houses, churches, barns and the like. Modernisation and a trend towards blocking out wildlife lodgers have reduced these sites, so a little compensation is called for. National records suggest that the numbers of bats are showing some recovery. Our boxes will be monitored monthly just to see how things are going in our corner of the Wyre Forest. We just hope the ever-present bluetits don't move into them!

Meanwhile, take a look in the fields around the forest for the new lambs and calves, whose uninhibited skipping and bouncing brings jollity to the season.

Linda Iles

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CHILDREN TO BE PROUD OF

When the pupils at Lacon Childe School put on a show, it's always an impressive performance. This year they aim high once more, in presenting William Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', which means the cast have been working hard to be word perfect and move around the stage like professionals. It's quite difficult to remember during the performance that these are school children, 16 years old at most, who do not have anyone to prompt them. Working hard enough to be world perfect in such a long production while still coping with the school day and homework is a tribute to both pupils and staff

This renowned comedy is scheduled for April 2nd through to Friday the 4th, at 7.30 each night. Booking tickets ensures a seat and is worth doing because so many go early to proud families. Call the School Office on CM 270312 to book yours.

THE READING GROUP

The Group's opinions were evenly divided when we gathered in March to air views on Elena Gorokhova's 'A Mountain of Crumbs.' Some found this insight into life in the oppressive Stalin regime a fascinating journey behind the secretive Iron Curtain, while others thought the tales of unending gloom were too depressing to be enjoyed. If there was common ground anywhere in these diverse views - some from members who have visited the country - it was how fortunate the

writer had been to obtain a visa to travel to America after a marriage that had little courtship or romance. It is difficult to say it is a recommended read, more one for the determinedly curious.

This month's book promises to be much lighter; certainly less demanding. It's Richard Mabey's 'Turned Out Nice Again', subtitled 'On Living With The Weather'. It runs to a modest 90 pages and prompted the suggestion from one wit that perhaps we should read it before we left the meeting. In fact we will gather again on Easter Tuesday at 7.30 in the library for a light hearted discussion. More details from Deana Kimber on CM 271754.

FISH, CHIPS AND MUSIC AS WELL

Councillor Jack Martin reports: The Parish Hall Committee are running a Fish and Chip Supper with entertainment provided by the West Mercia Police Band. You can listen to their performance whilst tucking into your Fish and Chips. This will be held at the Parish Hall on Saturday 26th April, 7:30pm. Tickets cost £7 with all proceeds going to maintenance of the Hall. Tickets are available from me on 07534 241630 or Val Breakwell on 01299 270830. Tickets must be purchased before the night.

CAN YOU HELP WITH THE PLAYING FIELDS?

Jack Martin again:

The Playing Fields Group are looking for new volunteers to help with the running of the park. The current committee do a wonderful job, looking

after a well used community asset, but have struggled to find willing volunteers. It would be great if any parents with children that use the park next to the primary school or the playing fields would come forward to go on the committee. If you are interested please contact the Parish Clerk Matt Sheehan on 01299 271 154 or pop into the Parish Office.

GOLFING LODGES LAUNCHED

The Golf Club have recently launched Cleobury County Lodges, a venture offering luxury timber framed lodges sited very close to the course and all the club's amenities. Priced at £140,000 at this early stage, they come with a 50 years Right of Tenure and can be a family holiday lodge to pass on, or a place to let out at a profit. There is no restriction on occupancy; use for 365 days a year if you choose.

They have two bedrooms and two bathrooms, a fully fitted kitchen and an interior design to your choice, selected with the designers who will carry out the work. Measuring 40' x 20, they come in two design options, the Mortimer and the Cleobury. Like any modern building, they have a high level of insulation to keep heating costs down. The number built will be limited; no crowding.

One had already been sold when we heard about this early in March and it does seem to be an affordable way of enjoying your game to the full. Graham Pain on 01299 271112 can tell you more.

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Stephanie Eddies-Davies of Country Treks



Doing what she loves, Steph in the arena on her horse Thomas.

"Riding is for everyone," states Steph, sitting in the kitchen of Stottesdon's Old Vicarage, where the family live and the business operates from. "We've been here 15 years and cover everything from pre school children through to experienced adults on long treks.

The pre-school children come to the Pony and Play sessions. "It's a Mums and Toddler group, but with with ponies," she explains. The ponies are all very gentle, specially selected for this introduction of tiny tots to riding.

A recent addition to the range is Take Back the Reins. Steph outlines how it works: "It's bringing mums back into the saddle, on a six weeks course. Gather ladies together and they encourage one another. We have five groups a week, getting confidence and enjoying riding."

Horses are all top quality. "There are 25 and they all

have to match a strict criteria, to a ten out of ten standard. It's horses for courses and we have all sorts, from ponies for the small children, docile horses for the Riding for the Disabled, through to eventing types for the more experienced."

Riding for the Disabled is an important part of the operation and Country Treks are part of the Pat Straughan Group, formed in memory of the inspirational Burwarton lady who won a silver medal in the Paralympics. "It's for all disabilities, we use special horses and they form a bond with the rider. I trust my horses to behave with autistic children, no matter what."

She's full of praise for her staff and volunteers as well. "We've been featured in 'Horse and Hound' magazine's Best Value Short Breaks Trail Ride list and we've also featured in 'Your Horse'. The place is an approved Pony Club Centre, a nationally recognised rating. The centre is subject to regular inspections by the Pony Club, the British Horse Society, Riding for the Disabled and the local council. Any of these authorities can arrive unannounced and make their inspection, which leaves Steph totally unfazed: "There's nothing to fear if you're doing what you're supposed to do," she smiles.

None of this would work if she didn't have a capable and experienced staff. "Like Carol Roberts and Louise Brassington, who've both

been here more than ten years."

"Imogen Davenport and Dan O'Sullivan were both taught by me from Primary School age and they're now a i m i n g a t U K C C accreditation. The people who work here are happy, our horses are spot-on and it's such a lovely part of the country." They must all love the work, as the place is open seven days a week.

The title Country Treks means they also offer cross country riding, starting with a two hour ride for novices, on horses selected for their mild manners. From there the ambitious can move up the scale to one- or two-day treks on the Jack Mytton Way and its wonderful views across Shropshire that no road vehicle will ever reach.

For very experienced riders there is a three- or four-day trek once a year, with overnight stops. "It's only for the hardened riders, we start at 9.00 and ride until about 4.00 each day with just a break for lunch," Steph outlines. Their horse or yours.

This sort of business only survives because of devotion and staff commitment. Go to their next Open Day and see them smiling and friendly.

Country Treks are on 01746 718436 or www.horsetreks.co.uk

E m a i l : horses@livetheadventure.co



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MARATHON TAKEOVER BY THE KIWIS?



Patrick McDaid relaxes before another training run.

The McDaid family are over here from New Zealand for two years. Dad Patrick is busy opening up the UK market for Japanese miniature maple trees and at the same time getting in some intensive training for this month's Virgin Marathon in London. The longest run he's done before is a half marathon back home.

He's running to raise money for NZ charity Starship, which runs the only children's hospital to serve the 4.5 million people who live there. Two years ago Patrick's wife Rebecca and their eldest son were involved in a serious accident that left the little chap with a fractured skull and bleeding on the brain. He was helicoptered to Starship and today is a bright young guy, his life saved by that vital service.

Starship has a lot of support, with 13 people all running in their name, including seven people flying in especially for the April 13th event. You can add to the vital funds online at www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/PatrickMcDaid.

AND LET'S NOT FORGET OUR OTHER MARATHON RUNNERS

It's becoming a Cleobury habit, this London Marathon. And here's a reminder of our other runners, in case you missed the chance to support them before.

Jo Watson runs for safe pregnancy research charity Tommy's and to acknowledge her dad Joe's 25 marathons in the same event. Support Jo on: www.justgiving.com/joannewatson-marathon.

And Steve Mason and Chris Parkins are both getting out there and going for it to help Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Their line is on www.virginmoneygiving.com/team/jdrf2.

CLEOBURY W.I.

There was a very valuable demonstration at the March meeting from Liz de Vanegas and her team of local First Responders. Not only did we learn to use the defibrillator but were able to practise emergency resuscitation and the recovery position. The session also included what to do in case of choking, stroke and severe bleeding, all explained in a clear and informative way.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday, April 8th in the Parish Hall at 7.30pm when visitors are welcome to join us to hear about caring for injured hedgehogs.

More information from Judy Sant on 01299 270983

Gillian Senior.

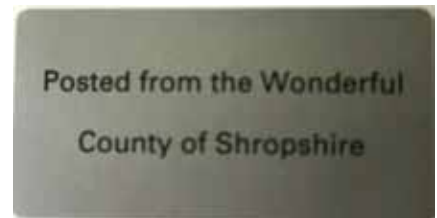
HAPPY FIRST BIRTHDAY

This month's Farmers' Market on Saturday the 19th is

a little bit special, as it marks a year since Cleobury Country got the whole thing started.

This one is open from 9.30 to 12.30 and will be out in the open air on the new Historic Core between the Market Hall and the Parish Church. And there's an Easter and Chocolate themed window dressing competition for all our local shops to enter, sponsored by Mawley Milk and judged by Sean Thorogood, chair of the Parish Council.

LOYALTY LABELS AVAILABLE



Back in January I had a spat about the Post Office no longer franking the name Shropshire on letters collected in this county. Daft beggars I called them then and my opinion hasn't changed since. I promised to have labels made stating that something was posted here.

Here's a sample of the silver and black labels available to stick on any postcard or letter sent out on April 1st (that's grimly appropriate) or later. No charge if you want a few - just ask. And I'm sending them out to a range of people I know. But not the Post Office.

Weren't they the people who decided a few years ago to drop the title Royal Mail - one of the most wide recognised names in the world - and have some other version? It does take a very special sort of logic to spend money doing that. JR



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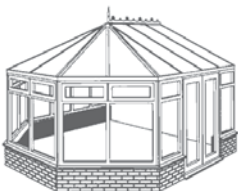
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IN BUSINESS: Turners' Gates Limited

There's been a Turner trading in wood in Hopton Wafers for 50 years or more. Nigel left Lacon Childe School at 16 and went into partnership with his father, supplying logs. 22 years ago he branched out on his own, making wooden gates and fencing and building a good name for the quality of gates from small to large bespoke entrance versions.

Where did Nigel learn his woodcraft? "I was self taught and learned from my own mistakes," he admits with a grin. It's a typical Turner tell-it-like-it-is response, straight to the point with no dressing it up in fancy phrases.

The next generation was Steve, another who went straight into his own business after leaving school. His market was fencing and installation, with Nigel's gates a natural part of the job if they were needed. In November last year they brought the two operations together, a logical move for two businesses that had run in cooperative parallel for some years. It's a limited liability company, with mum Sue the third director and company secretary.

Sue had a career in NHS as a Registered Nurse her 25 years experience ending as a teacher training students throughout Shropshire until she opted out and joined Nigel seven years ago. She handles administration and most of the phone calls, as well as time in the busy production area. "One of the best female joiners around," says Nigel.



The Turner Tribe plus one. Luke Hutchins left, then Steve, Sue and Nigel Turner.

The installation work is Steve's main province, where Luke Hutchins has worked for the last years with him, now adding production work as demand grows. This small staff of four puts in a normal 12 hours a day, seven days a week at the moment, with demand for their quality products growing.

Excuse me, haven't you people learned of the European Working Time Directive? They laugh; they're living in the real world of work to eat. The Turners all have the title of director, but board meetings with these people are held over the breakfast table, or at the end of the day before Steven heads home to the house he's trying to restore. In his spare time. If he ever gets any.

You can see Nigel and Sue's house from the main road, but have to turn into the site to see the large yard and the 12.00 x 6.00 metres workshop. And beyond that an old barn where the timber is stored. Softwood from Sweden, oak for gates from France and for posts

from England, plus other hardwoods from Africa.

In the big workshop is the machinery built up over the years to make their work more efficient. A rip saw to cut slab timber, a plane to finish to size, tenon and mortice machines for joints, plus bandsaw and a moulder and router for rebates. And a drill and nail guns. "It would cost a vast amount to buy that in one go, but we've acquired it as we could afford it," explains Nigel. All new too, none of it second-hand and worn, even if that would be cheaper. They work to high standards and it shows in the product; on the office wall is a picture of a very fine pair of gates, ordered by the editor of 'Homes and Gardens' Magazine, no less. As well as local work, gates have gone to houses as far away as Sussex, Hampshire, Devon and Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Most of this business comes from personal recommendation, the website or E-Bay. Fencing and gate installation Steve and Luke keep to a 30 miles radius, or the travel costs get too high.

Experience shows in the way they recommend the best finish for the product; for hardwood gates Sikkens varnish. "I've seen a two year old gate that looked like new with that finish," explains Steve. It's that family business strength, pride in the product and ready to advise and help.

Future plans include local shows and a new website. The current one impresses; dial www.turnersgates.co.uk and see for yourself. Quality stuff.



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WILLOWDENE - IN THE AWARDS AGAIN?



Success story. Dr Matt Home (left) director Willowdene Farm and Trevor Walters, who held his audience silent as he told about life as an addict.

Willowdene Farm in Chorley hosted the Howard League for Penal Reform at the end of February. The League's representatives were there to present their policy of 'Tackling crime through education, training and employment', an approach that Willowdene takes in its highly regarded treatment and reform of serious drug offenders.

David Chantler CEO of West Mercia Probation Trust, explained the work done with prisoners released with little preparation to rejoin society; too often they drift back into crime because there is no other refuge or way to be fed.

Police and Crime Commissioner Bill Longmore was applauded for his attendance soon after a cancer operation and spoke of the total lack of reform training in

his early Police days. Beckie Rowland of Greggs Bakers outlined how her company accepts ex prisoners and helps their development through training and work.

Dr Matt Home spoke of the work of Willowdene and its hallmark standard of success with serious drug addicts and its high level of success through a programme of work and education.

For many, the star of the morning was Trevor Walters, one of Willowdene's many success stories, who described his 20 years of drug dependency until he enrolled at Willowdene and accepted the gentle but unyielding discipline they apply. He had been clean of drugs for almost two years and is currently holding down a job as a trainee butcher.

Visibly impressed by what he heard, Philip Dunne spoke warmly about Willowdene and its success, then took questions. As a Minister for Defence Equipment, his area of knowledge was outside the that of most of the queries posed, but his high regard for Willowdene was obvious.

The place has been nominated for one of the Howard League's annual awards. We will have to wait until summer to know if they are successful. They are remarkably so in their sphere.

HOBSON'S OPEN VISITOR CENTRE

It's been a long time coming, but the reception at the opening of Hobson's new Visitor Centre that we heard was all favourable. The phrase

"When Hobson's do something, they do it well," was repeated amongst the crowd who enjoyed the catering and the occasional tipple.



It was good to see the boss Nick Davis behind the bar, pulling pints and chatting amiably as the crowd grew to the point of no seats available.

The Centre is at the end of the new warehouse building, with facilities for conferences plus catering facilities and the obvious bar to look after guests who sat on attractive wooden benches at matching tables. It's light, spacious and in line with the Hobson habit of being sustainable in its operating costs. Another Hobson's winner.

SHROPSHIRE'S FIRST CYCLING FESTIVAL

It happens here in Cleobury Mortimer on June 14th and includes a 50 mile Sportive ride for the serious pedallers starting from Lacon Childe School. Starts at 11.00 for the public and goes on until 3.30, with loads happening and lots to see. More details next month, or call organisers StepOut on CM 269671.

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The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page

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THE DEADLINE FOR THE MAY ISSUE IS APRIL 22nd

Clarion Contacts - Useful Local Telephone Numbers

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR - 07703 965 064 Theresa Parfitt; theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk

CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE - 01299 272300 In Love Lane. Open 09.00 to 5.00, Mon to Fri.

CITIZENS ADVICE - 08444 991100. Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00.

CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE CARERS (CoCo) - 01299 270018. Katja Ward is the contact; office hours 10.00 to 12.00 noon, Monday to Friday.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER POLICE. WPC Anne O'Leary; ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS AND GUIDES: Iain Smith CM 271809

CRIMESTOPPERS - 0800 555 111. Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE - Women's Aid, 24 Hour support: 0800 783 1359

HOME FROM HOSPITAL - 01584 878046. Help over the first few weeks back home from Age UK.

JOB VACANCIES - 01299 272300. See the local list in Cleobury Country Centre.

MARKET HALL- Dorothy CM272717, 07761 976650 mobile, or dorothymcbride@cleobury.org.uk

MEDICAL CENTRE - 01299 270209. At weekends and out of surgery hours, the Shrop Doc Service.

SHROP DOC - 08444 068888. Service available evenings and weekends.

THE PHARMACY - 01299 270219. Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions.

NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND - 01746 718210. Rosemary Abbiss is the contact.

PARISH COUNCIL - Clerk Matthew Sheehan is in the Market Hall from 9.00 'til 2.00, Monday to Friday. 01299 271154. The Council meets in the Market Hall on the first Monday of the month; meetings are open to the public. Website: www.cleobury.org.uk

POST OFFICE - 01299 270201. Many services in Cleobury: car tax, foreign currency, cash point

SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT - Mark Greaves 07828 116810, mark.stmarys@live.co.uk

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL - 0345 678 9000

SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM - E-mail richard@ssyf.net.

VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME - 01299 666119. Mrs Val Simpson is the coordinator.

WASTE DISPOSAL - 0345 678 9007. The contractor is Veolia

WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCIES - Severn Trent on 0800 783 444.



PUBLIC Auction

April 23rd 2014, 6.00pm at The Salwey Arms

Lot 1

Land at Presteigne



Guide Price - £30,000

A lovely level area of pasture land extending to 2.06 acres, adjoining the River Lugg on the south and west boundaries with good road access. An ideal opportunity to acquire a small parcel of pastureland.

For further information please contact the Kington Office: 01544 230316

Lot 2

65 High St. Cleobury Mortimer



Guide Price - £80,000 - £90,000

A traditional styled terraced cottage having two bedrooms, lounge with log burner, kitchen and bathroom all set over three floors with gardens and allocated parking. Ideal for first time buyers or as a buy to let investment. EPC Rating E. For further information please contact the Leominster Office: 01568 610222

Lot 3

Land at Kimbolton



Guide Price - £18,000 - £20,000

A wonderful enclosed paddock of approximately 1.15 acres of level well managed amenity land. Currently used for grazing and having lovely views over open countryside. Good road side frontage with hard standing and newly erected 12ft gateway.

For further information please contact the Leominster Office: 01568 610222

Lot 4

19 Curdale Close, Cleobury Mortimer



Guide Price - £60,000 - £70,000

A semi-detached bungalow having accommodation of entrance hallway, living room, kitchen, three bedrooms, separate WC and bathroom all set in a private location with front and rear gardens. The property is of a non-conventional construction and is only suitable for cash purchasers. For further information please contact the Leominster Office: 01568 610222

Lot 5

The Toll House, Ludlow



Guide Price - £80,000 - £100,000

A traditional detached former toll house in the popular market town of Ludlow having sitting room, snug, kitchen, 1 / 2 bedrooms, bathroom, small yard area to side and rear and gas central heating. EPC TBC.

For further information please contact the Ludlow Office: 01584 872153

Further lots invited for 11th June Auction (4 lots already confirmed)

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