

The Cleobury Clarion



SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

April 2015

OUR NEW POSTMASTER



Raj Sanghera, looking at home behind the new Post Office counter.

Cleobury Mortimer Post Office took up its new address at 12.00 noon on Friday March 20th, in the Church Street Spar Store. It's a very compact counter, with room for only one and when we called the place was very busy. Too busy to establish whether they will carry the

same range of services as the larger office just three doors up the road.

The Post Office signage gives a clear message, the poster on the door declaring 'If the shop's open, then we're open.' That's a much bigger range of hours than before.

Raj was his usual affable self, smiling at the customers as a tutor from the Post Office guided him through the various processes that he will master with practice. We wish the family well.

ANOTHER NEW SERVICE

On page 23 you can read about the official opening of Cleobury Opticians in Church Street. Another service available here in the town that means you don't have to travel a long way for professional attention.

But the news from this newcomer to the town gets even better. They have been

given official approval to provide domiciliary eye tests at the homes of people with limited mobility. The service is NHS funded and free of charge, but is only available for patients who meet certain requirements.

No room here to list those, but a call to 01299 270012 will establish eligibility and an appointment for a home test can be made.

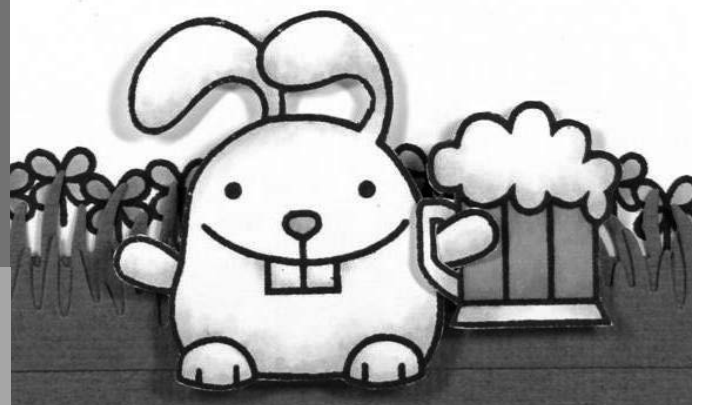
LOCAL WALK MAPS

You'll notice new local walk maps around the town, all part of welcoming walkers and helping them find some of the established paths to see the wonderful local countryside. And if you fancy a decent walk yourself, do try one of these.

It's one of the projects funded by a Parish Council grant from the capital receipts after the sale of the land for the new Medical Centre, and an idea from the Footpath Association.

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The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page

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Or Out in Cleobury Country at: Heath Farm Meats, **Bagginswood**; **Clee Hill** Post Office; **Cleobury North Village Store**; **Clows Top** Post Office; The Sun and Slipper at **Mamble**; **Hopton Bank** Service Station; **Ludlow Library**; **Mawley Oak** Garage; The Fighting Cocks, **Stottesdon**; The Duck Inn, **Chorley**; The Live and Let Live, **Neen Sollars**; The Eagle and Serpent, **Kinlet**; Parker Motors, **Ditton Priors** and McCartneys Estate Agents, **Tenbury Wells**.

Missed your Clarion? Cleobury Mortimer Library keeps the current month's copy on file.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE MAY ISSUE IS APRIL 24th

Clarion Contacts - Useful Local Telephone Numbers and Emails

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 COMMUNITIES (CoCo) - 01299 270018. Katja Ward is the contact; office hours 10.00 to 12.00 noon Wednesday only.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY - 01299 272301. **Vicki Alexander** is our librarian. Open 9.00 to 7.00 Monday, 9.00 to 5.00 Tuesday to Friday and 10.00 to 1.00 Saturdays.

LOCAL POLICE - **Constable 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 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. 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

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Nicholas Hughes on 01562 822295 or Wendy Beaumont on 01299 822033

The Cleobury Clarion. April 2015



*Andrea Ford. Running two marathons to raise charity funds.
See Page 11.*



*The welcoming faces guiding our Parish Church into the future.
See Page 35*



*In Business - Wild Meadow Kennels.
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

April is a good time to plant trees and shrubs. It's best to plant in the autumn or now just as they are coming out of dormancy in the spring. They can be planted anytime in between but it's often difficult if the ground is frozen. Remove dead wood from trees and shrubs that got missed in the winter. Check plant supports and try and keep on top of the weeding, but don't put weeds on the compost!

At the February meeting Katherine Thornton gave an interesting talk on the 'Plight of the Bumblebee'. These are hard-working creatures but unfortunately in decline. Luckily we gardeners are helping them by planting lots of bumblebee friendly flowers. The evening was a great success with everyone enjoying the talk.

On the evening of Monday 2nd March, Bewdley hosted the Annual Inter-Club Quiz for the 'Jim Greenhow' Shield. There were four teams represented from Astley, Bewdley, Clows Top & Kidderminster. Congratulations were given to the Astley team for winning the

shield with a brilliant performance.

Our next meeting is on April 22nd when Richard & Lesley Betts will a talk about 'Travels with Elanar Photographers'.

Pauline Bowen

LOST AND FOUND

A pair of Police branded spectacles have been handed in to the Nock Deighton offices on the High Street. We assume they were picked up near there.

Not a cheap article, so if they are yours, please contact Katie Key at Nock Deighton on CM 271477.

CARTER SUCCESS

We've featured John Carter and his impressive antique auctions in the past. Talking to him recently, he was feeling very happy that the last five auctions have all sold 100 percent of the items entered. That's very unusual in the trade, and probably reflects his habit of only taking entries from private individuals, never from traders.

THE CHILDE ENDOWMENT FUND

Students residing in the parishes of Cleobury Mortimer, Neen Sollars, Milson, Coreley, Hopton Wafers, Farlow, Aston Botterill, Wheathill, 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 the Rev Justin Parker, Clerk to the Trustees of the Fund, at Adam House, Birmingham Road, Kidderminster, Worcs DY10 2SA. Closing date 24th June.

ROAD WORKS -

LET'S TRY AGAIN

The closure of the B4363 Bridgnorth road originally down to happen on March 4th was postponed. If you drive that way to work, you'll have noticed.

The work is now scheduled for the two days of April 27th and 28th, then for a longer period from April 29th to May 5th. The road will be closed from its junction with A4117 to the start of Kinlet Bank and if it's going to take that long, the drainage investigation involved sounds pretty serious. Diversions will be signposted.

If you need more information, Nikki Cheeks of Shropshire Council's Environmental Maintenance team can help on 0345 678 9006.

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April 25th: Paul Parker and
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

A CLEOBURY MYSTERY FOUND IN WILTSHIRE

Helen Groves writes:

I live in Ditton Priors and have a sister who lives in Wiltshire. She has recently decorated a study and in the course of going through the books on the shelves came across a bible which she can't remember buying. Inside it says it was a prize for Frances M Onslow for Good Conduct and Regularity! Given by Percy Malden, vicar 1922 at St Marys Sunday School, Cleobury Mortimer. It was possibly then owned by Delmar Knowles but the writing is very faint.

I wonder if a small piece could be put into the Clarion and someone might recognize the names.

Helen Groves
01746 712466

THE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The WI started in Britain in 1915 and celebrates its centenary this year. It is one of the largest voluntary women's organisations in the country with more than 210,000 members, including the Queen.

Known for Jam and Jerusalem as well as artistic calendars, the WI also campaigns on radical issues, for example equal pay in

1942, AIDS in 1986, more recently bees, climate change, more midwives and local libraries amongst others.

Cleobury Mortimer WI have been meeting since 1922, with a varied monthly programme. On 28th February 1938 there was a 'herring demonstration', the previous year in January a "talkie" film 'What the night watchman saw'

In 2015 we meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7.30, usually in the Market Hall, with outings in the summer months. Our fund raising activities support local charities.

Everyone is welcome to come along to any of our meetings, and in April we will be hosting an Open Meeting celebrating the centenary of the WI. Elizabeth Woodall from Ludlow will be bringing her collection of WI memorabilia, and we will be displaying some of our own from Cleobury. There will be a Raffle and homemade cakes. Come and join us!

For further details phone Judy Sant on CM 270983 or me on 270470.

Gillian Senior

ROCK PATHFINDERS

This lively group organises two walks a month all year round, as well as the huge Pound the Bounds fund raiser for Midland Air Ambulance.

This month they meet at 10.30 on Thursday the 2nd at the Plough Inn in Far Forest. Walk out into the forest, then all back to this busy pub for lunch.

On the 16th there's change to an Evening Walk. It starts at 7.00 from the Bellmans Cross Inn at Shatterford on the A422 Kidderminster to Bridgnorth road and probably returns there for a late dinner if you choose. Alan on 01299 400304 can tell you more.

LOTS OF KUDOS

Kudos Blends, based on the Old Station Business Park on the Bridgnorth road, celebrates 15 years of trading with the official opening of its completed site on the 2nd of this month. Philip Dunne MP will be cutting the tape and no doubt praising the achievements of Dinnie Jordan and her team in building a company that serves a global market from its Cleobury Mortimer base. Phenomenally bright people.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

ONE VERY DETERMINED LADY



Don't let the smile fool you, this is a lady who'll hit her target.

Andrea Ford has finished the London Marathon twice, but won't boast about it because she hobbled across the finishing line with injuries. "I want to be able to say I've run a marathon," she explains. So this year she's tackling two of the 26.2 mile events, the first in Brighton on April 12th and then one in the Snowdon area in October. And to warm up, she ran six half marathons last year. You'll have gathered that this young mum does not aim for an easy life.

We talked in mid March, when she was building towards a 20 mile run on Sunday the

22nd. After that she was gently easing the pace, to be on top form. She admits she's learned a lot from her previous mishaps and is very considered in what she does now. But on the 12th she'll be on the start line, raring to go, with husband Ade there in support while their daughters India-Rose and Lilia are being looked after back home in Cleobury.

Her aim is to raise money for the Miscarriage Association and you can help by sponsoring her. Visit virgin.moneygiving.com/andreaford1 to support her efforts to aid this very worthwhile cause. And we'll tell you how she got on next month. Good luck Andrea!

LLOYDS BANK'S NEW OPENING HOURS

The letter from Lloyds Bank, advising a further restriction of their opening hours, caused some concern. So the Clarion talked to Sue Lloyd, Branch Manager. I should make it clear that no restrictions were imposed on our meeting, none of the corporate habit of asking to see the questions before the meeting was allowed.

The obvious question was, in a growing town where the main street has no empty shops

(Hems' old shop is actually a residence now), why reduce the opening hours of the principal bank by 40 percent? The answer was simply the amount of footfall on Tuesday and Wednesday, the days the bank will be closing from June 1st. The bank itself is quiet on those days and the use of the cashpoint is lower as well. That source of cash will still operate and the staff will be on call in case of any problems with it.

Sue made it clear that opening three days a week is not a prelude to closure. The Presteigne branch has been opening two days a week for some years and is not listed for closure. The Cleobury staff have been given the choice of working two days at another branch or working a shorter week; no redundancies.

So it's a simple business decision: stay open on the days it pays to do so. The bank will still support selected local events and encourage staff to get involved. If we as a community want to get it back to five days opening, we have to support our local bank and it will respond in kind. In these days of cutbacks all around, that would be a big mountain to climb. Meanwhile, the bank is still there. JR

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

A REAL TEST OF FAITH

Faith in the Pub is the monthly gathering of people with faith, plus a few without, in the Kings Arms. Stories that they hear range from heroic to plain down-to-earth, normally with a message of faith helping people to get through traumas or stress. March 9th was a rather special case.

Rosemary Wormington was the guest, there to speak about Brain Tumour Support, a charity whose title is self-explanatory. They offer support to patients, their families and carers.



Rosemary Wormington, passionate believer and advocate of Brain Tumour Support.

Her involvement started when her daughter was diagnosed with a tumour at four months and she told how the charity

helped her and of the many inspirational people she's met in her voluntary work. Some 16,000 people a year are diagnosed with a serious brain tumour, which means extremely delicate surgery and long term care. There is no simple cure but there is care; nobody needs to face the problem alone.

Richard Williams introduced Rosemary and told of his own early diagnosis last June because what he thought was a severe migraine was found to be much more. He was given days to live, yet here he was telling his story, one of survival through determination, support and a strong Christian faith. The strain on his family and the need to travel 67 miles to Coventry for his daily therapy is just part of the story; his iron will and faith have seen his life expectation grow to ten years. He asked the surgical team what the shortest time was for a patient to get out of bed after the operation - it was 48 hours. He did it in 22.

Richard and Rosemary were a double act, joined briefly by Professor Sir George Castledine, who explained that global medical research cooperation is sparse and that there is a need for an international body to draw information together.

This was a very impressive demonstration of people facing up to adversity and helping one another cope. The human race is richer for the presence of people willing work for others in this way. You can find out more about the charity on www.braintumoursupport.co.uk or you can call 0845 450 1039 where you will be charged local rate for your time.

ELVIS IS COMING - TWICE

The Lamp Restaurant has certainly struck the right note with their tribute star nights. On the 29th of this month, Elvis in the form of Carl Memphis will be performing from 7.00 and the place is sold out. You can ask to be put on the cancellation list, if they have one, on CM 272785, but chances are very slim.

So Elvis is booked to return on May 27th, when again he'll be in action from 7.00. You can see why these evenings succeed - £15.95 a head for a four course meal and fun and entertainment all included.

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Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service is 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 payments for attending incidents and drill evenings at Cleobury Mortimer fire station.

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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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On the Market - Angela MacKirdy at Shropie Sheep



This is real farmhouse stuff, laid out on the kitchen table.

The problem of keeping sheep up on Clee Hill is more complex than a layman would think. The height means lower temperature, which means slower growth of the grass they live on, so the feed from one acre is less than down

in the valley. Angela MacKirdy has a modest flock of the Shropshire breed, with this year's 23 yearlings down in Ludlow where the feed is better. Shropshire breed, please notice; that trading title is not just a fancy name.


Wool from the shearing is sent down to Devon, where it's spun into yarn and dyed in a range of colours. The result is a double knitting wool that you can buy at the Farmers' Market, or pick up some of the pieces Angela knits herself: gloves, socks or handy bags to hold your mobile. You have to handle the wool to really appreciate how soft and warm it can be.

Planting a new orchard has produced apples that make some very fine juices, including a mulled version. Other fruits add to the menu and a packet of Fruit Leather from apple and

strawberry was a new and very tasty experience. She offers cordials too, and I can recommend the Damson.

The market for local produce is growing, thanks to markets like our own, and Angela is happy to press apples from other orchards to help their owners turn windfalls into a pleasant drink. She has plans for one ancient barn at the farm to be restored and converted into a production unit, to make the processes more streamlined. And she's setting up an on-line Etsy shop to further boost sales of the Shropie Sheep woollens. She believes in markets and the Cleobury and Tenbury Wells events are her other outlets.

Good quality products, sold with a smile. Talk to Angela on the 18th. You can email her on shropiesheep@gmail.com or talk to her on 01584 891214.



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE READING GROUP

Our group gathered to talk about 'The Unfixed Stars' by Michael Byers, a science related novel set in 1920s America. Based on real events leading to the discovery of Pluto by a self-taught astronomer this meant a variety of both real and fictional characters. In this sprawling tale, the lives of the diverse characters gradually came together, a source of irritation to a few members who felt their introduction too lengthy.

A wide variety of opinions were expressed varying from delight, to boredom. It was agreed that the portrayal of mental illness suffered by Mary was very realistic. Several people had done further research regarding the author and the Lowell Observatory in Arizona.

Certainly an interesting book for reading groups but definitely not everyone's favourite!

Our next read, 'After the Fire, A Still Small Voice' by Evie Wyld, is set in Australia.

We will meet at Cleobury library on Monday April 20th at 7.30pm. Do feel free to join us then or contact me on 01299 271754.
Deana Kimber

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our March meeting welcomed Diana Perry of David Austin Roses, who has been involved for 30 years; her knowledge and enthusiasm for her job shone through in her talk. She explained there is only one true English rose, the one we find in the hedgerow! All roses have been developed from those brought to our country by collectors from China and Europe. The flower has been cherished since the 1600's and constantly cross bred to develop perfume, disease resistance, shape of blooms and colour.

As Diana moved through her slides she gave information on pruning, hints on how to get the best out of our roses and advice on the best type to suit our gardens. Potted roses need their compost replacing about twice a year (John Innes No 3) and they need plenty of water during summertime. It takes about eight years for David Austin to develop a rose to show at Chelsea. They have about 30 green houses full of seedlings which are checked and selected to take further. After the green houses where the cross pollination is done by hand the selected plants are transferred to the fields where they again go

through a selection process. All done by David Austin who has a very keen smell and eye for beauty. Names are very important and can be the making of a new rose, especially if the person it is named after is there when it is presented at Chelsea. But it is the old favourites that sell well.

Our Spring flower competition was won by Jenny Vanderhook. Our next meeting is about making best use of space for fruit and vegetables and will be led by Wade Muggleton on April 13th in the Methodist Hall.

Liz Smurthwaite

ROAD CLOSURE

Our thanks to Tony Price, who advised us of two road closures affecting Milson and Neen Sollars in May.

The first will be the road from Church Junction to Southwood Junction, north east of Upper Langley, will be closed for 24 hours a day from May 21st to the 26th.

The second the road from Bower Junction to Milson Junction, which will be closed for 24 hours each day from May 27th to June 2nd.

Do bear in mind that closures do sometimes have to be altered to fit in with other work, but this is a reminder that the work is due to be done.

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The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

Keeping Your Horse's Legs Healthy

by Kate Maxwell BSc (Hons) BVSc MRCVS GPCert(EqP)

Lameness is one of the most common causes of a vet visit for a horse. The equine lower limb is comprised of bone, joint and tendon which don't have a lot of protective muscle, making them vulnerable to damage. By following a few simple steps, you can go a long way in keeping your horse's legs healthy.

Warm Up involves gradually raising your horse's heart rate to increase the amount of oxygen in the blood. Adequate warm up is essential to avoid injury to muscles, ligaments and tendon as it increases the mobility and elasticity of muscles, which in turn minimise the amount of strain placed on tendons and ligaments. Choosing the best way to warm your horse depends on the discipline and the ground conditions, but the basic approach should always be the same and a regime that is regular and repeatable is best enforced.

A similar **Cooling Down** session after exercise is fundamental to give time for lactic acid to be released from tired muscles which will reduce the risk of injury post exercise.

Leg Protection is always worth the investment. Generally boots are a more favourable choice for horse owners as they are easy to fit, keep clean and are quick to remove. However, there are a few problems with boots that owners need to be aware of; specifically heat build-up, weight, restriction of movement and poor fit. Remember that badly fitting boots are worse than no boots at all.

There is a lot less choice when it comes to bandages, but when fitted correctly, they can help protect and support the ligaments and tendons in the horse's lower legs. The main disadvantage to bandaging is that they are frequently fitted incorrectly and if they are uneven or too tight then the pressure can cause tendon injuries.

No matter which form of leg protection you have chosen for your horse we would always recommend it is removed immediately after work to prevent any injuries caused through excessive heat build-up in the tendons and ligaments. If your horse has undertaken hard work (galloping or jumping on hard ground or exercising on an excessively hot day), cold hose its legs for a good 5 minutes and then give it a gentle walk around before returning it to its box.

Any evidence of your horse being lame after exercise is an immediate indicator that they may have sustained an injury during exercise. The most common injuries sustained at exercise include over reach or brushing injuries, bruising and inflammation as a result of knocking fences and tendon or ligament injuries due to excessive extension of the lower limb.

As well as assessing your horse for lameness after exercise it is also important to assess your horse's legs carefully to try and establish if there are any early signs that something may be wrong.

Prevention is always better than the cure, so if you have any questions or concerns about your horse's legs, speak to your vet!

Kate Maxwell

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Happening on High Street

ANOTHER SERVICE IN THE TOWN



Partners in the new optician service. Paul Gill (left) and Martin Taylor.

They did it in some style. The new optician's in Church Street opened its doors to the public on March 14th and got a very strong response. After all, you now don't have to travel into Kidderminster, Ludlow or wherever to have your eyes tested and glasses made.

The place is run jointly by Paul Gill, who also has work in Birmingham, and Martin Taylor, who has a shop in Dudley. They'll be open full days Tuesday to Friday and half a day on Saturday. The front of house team are Tiffany and Wendy, with Tiffany still

doing two days a week in mum's hair dressing salon across the street.

There was a welcoming glass of wine and a fine buffet to take a bite from. Beyond the reception area the walls are clad with racks of spectacle styles to suit all tastes and pockets. Beyond is the technical side, where tests will be carried out and skilled work done. When the Clarion called at about 10.30 there were already appointments booked. We wish the new business every success as they add to the services the town can offer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THE WASHHOUSE

Their birthday is actually May 12th, but we had to get in early to tell you about this:

To celebrate one year in business we will be having a special complimentary prize draw for all our customers starting on April 12th. All of our customers will be entered with the winners drawn on May 12th - our 1st birthday. There will be a variety of prizes and we hope people will come into the store to check out what they could be in the running for. This is a small gesture from all the staff at the Wash House to thank our customers and the community for their patronage

and support in the past year. We would not have been a success without them!

Sharon Wakeman

THE MARKET HALL PICTURE GALLERY

Well, not quite that, but the walls of the first floor function room have been given a lift with the installation of some 60 pictures. They are all of the Cleobury area and were painted by the late Walter Pullan, who lived in Bewdley in his later years and loved the local countryside.

He was a prolific artist and left his many works in the care of Steve Knott, who worked hard to find a place where some of them could be put on show. It takes a lot of room to show off pictures and an agreement was reached with the Market Hall trustees that a selection could be a semi permanent display there. The pictures are firmly fixed, for safety and security reasons, but can be removed if necessary.

Steve is preparing the story of the pictures and there will be a brief guide to explain the location of the scene and the significance to Mr Pullan. It's a neat way of using something that is one man's fund of happy memories expressed through his brushes.

M D Taylor

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S AGM

The Chairman reported that around £10,000 was raised in 2014 and a similar sum donated to the Chancel roof project. He thanked everyone for ensuring that the activities ran smoothly.

Diane Waddington reported there are currently 89 members, a slight increase. Shaunah Murrell presented audited accounts and explained various entries. Bank balances at December 31st: Current account £1416.06, Deposit £16004.10.

James Griffiths was elected to the committee; there is vacancy for a member of the committee.

A programme of events is planned for this year. Please check our website at www.cleoburycountry.co.uk for latest information.

Alec Osbaldiston

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Those who joined the CMFA February Parish walk were very fortunate to see not one, but three red kites in the Bransley area. Work commitments prevented me from attending so off I go as often as possible, desperate to see them. They do travel great distances to find food so may have been just visitors, although we have seen a kite by Shakenhurst.

Our social walk started from Onibury and the snowdrops were in abundance. Lunch at the Apple Tree, Onibury was good and recommended by those who ate and drank there.

The Parish walks are suitable for children and families are welcome. If you would like to try one of the Parish Walks, we meet the first Sunday of the month outside the church to start at 10.00am. The walks are approximately two hours long taking in the beautiful area around Cleobury. Some stiles and hills can be encountered and there may be mud, so stout shoes or boots are recommended.

Our April Parish Walk will leave St Mary's Church Cleobury Mortimer at 10.00 am on April 5th. Walk off the chocolate eggs and enjoy the spring air and sights.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

There will be a Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning in the Market Hall on April 25th. As ever, it starts at 10.00 and offers a relaxed and friendly atmosphere as it does its vital work of raising funds for one of the best of causes.

CAN YOU HELP?

Jane Davies sent two photos taken in this area and asks if anyone can help with some identities. Over to you, Clarion readers....



Who is the older lady on the right and the younger woman next to her? The others are Annie Davies, her son Charles and Fanny Potter with Frances, Ernest and Edward.



And who is this young lady with Mr Potter in 1939. Answers to the editor, please, address on Page 3.



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Another Page of Clarion Smalls

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Letter from Westminster - Philip Dunne MP

By the time you read this, we will be roughly a month away from the General Election.

All General Elections are important. They determine the direction our country will take for the next five years. This election could be the most important for a generation. As we approach Thursday May 7th, the media frenzy surrounding the election may seem endless to some. But I want to encourage everyone to vote, whatever your political persuasion might be.

We are fortunate in this country to hold a real stake in how we are governed. Democratic elections are something often taken for granted, but universal suffrage is a fairly modern development even in the UK. Women only received the vote in 1918, and even then only for women over 30. It took another ten years to bring the right in line with men's at age 21.

Too many in the world still have no say over who governs them. While many decry a lack of faith in our political system, it is worth recalling what Winston Churchill said: "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others."

So please ensure you can vote on May 7th by registering at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. Our democracy thrives when more of us are engaged. If you are not sure whether you will be able to make it to the polling station on Election Day, you can apply for a postal vote or have someone vote for you as a proxy. The last day to apply for a postal vote is Tuesday 21st April, with ballot papers being sent later that week. So if you expect to be away between then and the election, it may be worth getting a proxy.

Encouraging younger voters can be difficult, but studies show those who use their vote once are likely to continue voting in the future. I am speaking to young people in sixth forms in our schools to urge them to vote, helping our system and society become more inclusive and democratic.

Some argue that the voting system needs overhauling. But the public overwhelmingly rejected a move to proportional representation in the referendum just a few years ago. Nor am I not convinced that we need compulsory voting. Personally, I have always felt that politics should become more compelling to inspire people to vote. The right to use one's vote, or not use it, should be left to the free choice of the individual. It is worth reminding ourselves just how powerful an individual's vote can be. General Elections offer an opportunity to have a direct say in who governs you for the next five years. For those who doubt how much difference one vote can make, consider Exeter in 1910: the incumbent Conservative MP Henry Duke won with a majority of just one. In the Ashton-under-Lyne constituency in 1886, Conservative John Addison and Liberal A. B. Rowley tied the election, and under the law at that time, the Returning Officer was given a casting vote. He returned Addison, essentially with a majority of zero!

For me, Election Day cannot come soon enough. It has been an immense privilege to represent the Ludlow Constituency for the past ten years, and I very much hope to be able to do so in the next Parliament.

Philip Dunne

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The April Clarion Social Calendar

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Wed 1	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Wed 1 to Sun 12	11.00am	Cadbury Easter Egg Trail at Brockhampton Estate, Bringsty, near Bromyard WR6 5TB. Easter egg prizes to be won		
	10.00am	Walking for Health meet for their first monthly walk. Meet at the Sports and Social Club for a walk at CM Golf Club	Mandy Smith	07971 373679
Thu 2		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders walk out from The Plough Inn, Far Forest. And guess where they'll be coming back to for lunch.	Alan	01299 400304
Fri 3	7.30pm	The Sports and Social Club in Love Lane has a Grand re-Opening with food, music, laughter and something for everyone. Families particularly welcome as the new committee show what they'll be offering in the future.		
Sat 4	8.00am	Sale of household goods at Knowle Sports Centre, Tenbury Road, Clee Hill. Great bargains to be had.	Audrey	01584 890644
Sun 5	10.00am	The Parish Walk starts from the Parish Church. Stout boots recommended.		
Tue 7	7.00pm	Parish Council meeting, The Market Hall, Church Street. Parishioners may address the council during the 15 minutes Democratic Time before the meeting starts.		
Wed 8	8.00pm	The Royal British Legion meets at The Bell Inn, Lower Street.		
Thu 9		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 11	11.00am	Severn Hospice Shop 5th Birthday Coffee Morning. Call in at the shop for a chat, a cuppa and maybe a bargain or two		
	7.00pm	Bridgnorth Choral Society entertain at St Mary's Church with 'Waits and Staves', fund raising for the Medical Centre. Tickets £6.00		
Sun 12		Andrea Ford is running in the Brighton Marathon, raising funds for the Miscarriage Association. Still time to sponsor her.....SEE PAGE 11.		
		Cleobury Washhouse begin their prize draw, free to all customers. Names drawn on May 12th, their first birthday.		
Mon 13	7.30pm	Cleobury W.I. meet in the Parish Hall to listen to Wade Muggleton dispense wisdom on best use of space.		
Tue 14	7.30am	The Breakfast Club meet at The KA, where Judy Reid will talk about 'My Life in Music.'	Gill Chapman	CM 270575
Wed 15	10.00am	Walking for Health start their second monthly walk from the Sports and Social Club	Mandy Smith	CM 270312
	7.30pm	Neen Savage W.I. meet at the village hall to hear Peter Hallett talk about cacti.		
	7.30pm	Stottesdon W.I. are at Farlow Village Hall, where Mal Brown tells them about Junk Music		

LATE ENTRY: Clearhear Audio Treatment Open Day, 2.00 till 4.00, Cleobury Country Centre. Free.

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The April Social Calendar Continued

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 16		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.00pm	Rock Pathfinders have an Evening Walk, starting from the Bellmans Cross Inn at Shatterford, on the A422 Kidderminster to Bridgnorth road. DY12 1RN on your satnav or Ref. 791811 on your Ordnance Survey map.	Alan	01299 400304
	7.30pm	Forest Dog Rescue Charity Auction at The Gainsborough House Hotel, Bewdley Hill, Kidderminster.		
	7.45pm	Whist Drive at the Sports and Social Club, Love Lane.	Alan	CM 270114
Fri 17	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 18	9.30am	The Cleobury Country Farmers' Market is in and around the Parish Church. Some good grub to be bought there		
	2.00pm	Rummage Sale at Kinlet Village Hall, in aid of the village Primary School. Refreshments available.		
	7.30pm	Another big Macmillan Cancer Care and The Haven fundraising evening at the Golf Club. It's a Robbie Williams Tribute Night, and will run until late with a disco and a raffle as extras. Tickets £12.	Alison Andrews Pat Williams	CM 270937 07900244314
	7.30pm	Flicks in the Sticks at the Parish Hall features the acclaimed 'Imitation Game' with young Mr Cumberbatch at his best.		
Sun 19	1.00pm	Wedding Fair at The Fountain Inn, Tenbury Wells. Local companies catering for that very special day.		
Mon 20	7.00pm	The Annual Parish Meeting is in the Market Hall. Various bodies report and the big event is a talk about SmartWater and the move to make the town a SmartWater town in the battle to keep crime down. Well worth going for that bit alone.		
	7.30pm	The Reading Group gather at the Library, to argue politely and listen to one another. All very civilised.		
Wed 22	7.30pm	Clows Top Gardening Club met at The Victory Hall, to hear Richard and Lesley Betts talk about 'Travels With Elanar Photographers.'		
Thu 23		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 24	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 25	10.00am	Stroke Awareness Day at Rockspring Community Centre in Ludlow. Blood pressure checks available, advice on stroke risk and help in reducing the risk. Lots of good professional advice and help on offer. Free and no appointment needed.		
Mon 27/ Tue 28		Revised date for closure of the B4363 from its A4117 junction to the start of Kinlet Bank, for drainage investigation. Diversions will be signposted. SEE PAGE 7.		
Thu 30		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO MAY...		
Wed 6	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Fri 8		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		

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OIRO £309,500

Tenbury Wells Office 01584 811999

TENBURY WELLS

A newly built detached cottage style property on the outskirts of Tenbury Wells, still within walking distance to the towns local amenities. Having 2/3 bedrooms and 3 reception rooms the property is set on a total plot of 3.4 acres which includes gardens, 3 acre paddock and useful yard having outbuilding ideal for operating business from home. Energy Rating D.

OIRO £449,500

Tenbury Wells Office 01584 811999



SSTC



SSTC

LITTLE HEREFORD

A detached equestrian property located in Little Hereford. The house itself requires some refurbishment and has 3 bedrooms (all with ensembles) and 4 reception rooms. Outside there is approximately 8 acres (TBV) of paddocks, m@nage and stabling. Energy Rating E.

OIRO £475,000

Tenbury Wells Office 01584 811999

CLEE HILL

A detached, character property with 3 bedrooms and 2 reception rooms. Having an annex with further bedroom and reception room to provide living space for extended family if required. Benefitting from oil fired central heating, ample parking and good sized gardens with views of the surrounding countryside. Energy Rating E.

OIRO £295,000

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MILSON

Set in a courtyard location in Milson is this character barn conversion just 3.5 miles from Cleobury Mortimer and 5 miles from Tenbury Wells. Accommodation including: 3/4 bedrooms (master with dressing room and ensuite) and 3/4 reception rooms. The property has a wealth of character with vaulted ceilings and exposed beams to the walls and ceilings throughout. Energy Rating D.

OIRO £395,000

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NO CHAIN

Broadheath

A detached bungalow set on a generous plot, located just 5 miles from Tenbury Wells. Recently modernised the property provides spacious accommodation over 1 floor to include: 3 bedrooms (master with dressing room and ensuite) and 2 reception rooms. Viewing highly recommended to appreciate the accommodation and countryside views on offer. Energy Rating E

OIRO £289,950

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CLEOBURY MORTIMER

Located within walking distance of Cleobury Mortimer town centre is this detached bungalow. Having a good sized driveway to the front providing ample parking for vehicles and gardens to the rear mainly laid to lawn with countryside views. Generous accommodation set over 1 floor consisting of: three bedrooms, family bathroom, cloakroom with WC, lounge, conservatory, kitchen and garage. Energy Rating D.

OIRO £259,995
Tenbury Wells Office 01584 811999

STOCKTON

An impressive hop kiln conversion set in a courtyard location in Stockton; 8 miles from Tenbury Wells. With accommodation including: lounge, kitchen, 4 bedrooms (two with ensuite), family bathroom, snug, utility room and garage. Energy Rating C

OIRO £475,000
Tenbury Wells Office 01584 811999



MAMBLE

Modern detached house set in a desirable village setting with glorious views over the surrounding countryside. Having the added benefit of a garage conversion to make it suitable for multi-generational living. This lovely property consists of 4 good sized bedrooms (master with dressing area and ensuite with Jacuzzi bath) and 4 reception rooms. Manageable gardens to the rear backing onto open fields. Energy Rating E.

OIRO £269,500
Tenbury Wells Office - 01584 811999

BURFORD

Located in Burford just a short walk from Tenbury Wells town centre is this immaculately presented 4 bedroomed family home. Having ample parking to the front and landscaped, oriental themed garden to the rear to include vegetable garden, fish pond and decked seating area. Inside the property has good sized open plan living accommodation with three reception rooms. Highly recommended for an internal inspection. Energy Rating D.

OIRO £310,000
Tenbury Wells Office - 01584 811999



TENBURY WELLS

A three bedroomed, semi-detached property just a short walk from Tenbury Wells town centre with generous gardens. Accommodation including: living room, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms and a family bathroom. Energy Rating C.

OIRO £178,500
Tenbury Wells Office - 01584 811999

Tenbury Wells

This Grade II listed character town house and is located within walking distance of the town's local amenities. Accommodation to include: two bedrooms, family bathroom, kitchen, living room, dining room and outside store. Energy Rating D.

OIRO 129,950
Tenbury Wells Office - 01584 811999

CLEOBURY MORTIMER

Two terraced, one bedroomed cottages located in a rural location on a no through road just outside Cleobury Mortimer. With living room, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. Energy Rating E & D.

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BURFORD

A three bedroomed, modern property located in Burford just a short walk from Tenbury Wells town centre. Having three bedrooms, gardens to the front and rear and allocated parking space in the courtyard behind. Energy Rating C.

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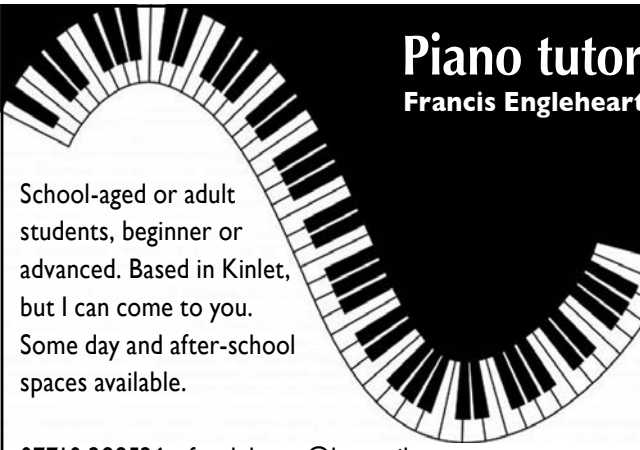
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

ON THE BUSES

Inspector Todd is still on the case:

Another quiet month with less than the usual number of breakdowns although there is still no guarantee that you will get to your destination on time. One service coming back through Bewdley stopped when a passenger pointed out to the driver that the bus appeared to be on fire. Sure enough, smoke was issuing from the back of the bus and the driver got out to investigate. Having peered at the engine for a bit, it was suggested to him that it would be a good idea if he switched it off... Cue another late arrival. Still no sign that the 2L departs from the usual stop in Corve Street so if you are a stranger wanting the service, good luck. On the other hand, the bus stop at Ludlow Leisure Centre still shows the 2L stopping there. I had a call from one friend saying that he had been waiting three weeks for the bus there and was getting fed up. Some drivers have been talking of further timetable changes but nothing official. I don't expect that anyone will bother to tell us if and when they happen so nothing new there.

A strange sight the other day was a 'First' bus proceeding up the High Street with a 'Driver under instruction' sign on the front. Perhaps they are training Diamond staff now or he may just have been lost. Talking of First, they recently sacked one of their drivers in Bristol for testing positive for cocaine despite his denials. It was later proven that he had

absorbed this from contaminated banknotes that he had been given as payment for fares as apparently many notes carry detectable traces of cocaine. He won a Tribunal case for unfair dismissal and got a payout but they still won't give him his job back. Now that the Police have roadside tests for drugs, be careful if you accept notes in change on the bus and then drive your car...

I paid another visit to Diamond's Kiddy depot in search of timetables. It's a rather depressing place with the remains of several stripped out buses that have presumably been robbed of parts to keep the rest going. They didn't have any, due to the fact that the lady who orders them was on holiday. Clearly another reason pulled from the giant Diamond book of excuses for lack of timetables. However, they promised to get some ASAP and ring me. I'm still waiting...

As I write this (20 March) Drivers are STILL charging users of the 9.19 to Kiddy £1. This is despite Shropshire Council's assurance on the 3rd December, 21st January and 27th February that this had been sorted and had stopped happening. I'll chase them about this (again!). The Traffic Commissioners in Birmingham have apparently received a number of complaints about Diamond including copies of these 'Clarion' articles. Not sure what they will make of them but we will see what their response is when it arrives.

Steve Todd

STOTTESDON W.I.

Part 1: We have long supported the work of Bridgnorth Domestic Abuse Forum, for whom the government cutbacks have created a dire funding crisis. So Steff Bryan and Helena Hales deserve our congratulations on completing a half mile swim to enable this essential local support network to continue. This is a cause close to the heart of President Steff, who came up with the idea of a major fund raising event. She and Helena are both keen swimmers, who found no problem in tackling 32 lengths of Ludlow pool. Interest has been widespread, and our thanks go to the many who have so far helped raise almost £400.

Part 2: Nick Trustram Eve, elegantly clad in eighteenth century costume, gave us a superb introduction to the etiquette, menus and customs of Georgian dining, rounding off a lively talk packed with erudite facts, by handing out samples of syllabub and lavender chocolate desert. Nick of 'The Copperpot', truly has the gift of bringing the past to life with meticulously researched talks, and his own recipes, spice packs and original ingredients.

Junk Music with Mal Brown is our theme for 15th April at Farlow Village Hall 7.30 pm. Come and join in.

Marian Wootton

SILLY BIT

Q: What do you call it when an Italian has one arm shorter than the other?

A: A speech impediment.

Paul Harding



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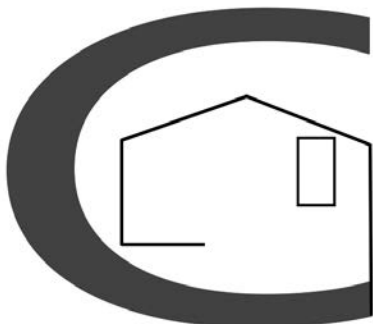
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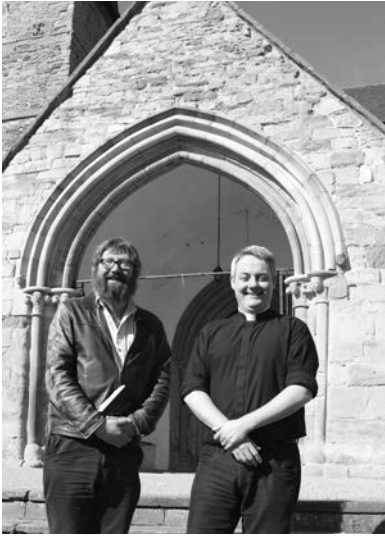
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

SPREADING THE WORD



Rector Ashley Buck (left) and Curate Richard Mutter with smiles of welcome to the Parish Church.

A strong community like Cleobury Mortimer has old traditions at its heart. Like the care neighbours give one another, the generous donations made to charities, the hundreds who stand in reverent silence on Remembrance Sunday. We all know there is a down side, but on balance this is a friendly place to live.

The most obvious traditional feature is the Parish Church, with its twisted spire that you can see from miles away, and its dominant position

overlooking our main street. But not all of us know what that ancient building is for, or what goes on inside those huge, almost forbidding doors.

The church is aware that it is no longer recognised as the most obvious centre of all that happens, but it is working hard to make more people aware that it is a welcoming place. If a stone building could have a smile, this one would.


We talked to leading members of the parish clergy, Rector Ashley Buck and Curate Richard Mutter, about the position of the church in the community today and how it is reaching out to people. There is a lot of involvement with both schools, including a special service for Year 10 Lacon Childe pupils, who then move on to visit Bayton Parish Church. In the summer break, there is a Holiday Club in the church, with themed activities to occupy young minds. And of course the work that Mark Greaves and his team at St Mary's Youth Project do is a

really effective way of reaching and helping young people.

"We have a generation who have not rejected the church, they are just not aware of it," Ashley Buck explained. "If we introduce them to the Gospel it's a new experience, and not automatically rejected."

The reach goes beyond our younger people, with the church building welcoming a variety of events far removed from services of worship. The Farmers Markets are the prime example, plus concerts, drama and one-off productions like Josh Carter's sell-out dance event. All proof that the place welcomes people who have little or no religious conviction; it is a communal place open to all. Ashley again: "We need to use these opportunities to prove our worth by visible action."

Very obviously not the words of a man who wants to keep the place as the exclusive preserve of a privileged few. It is there for the people of Cleobury Mortimer, all of them, whatever their beliefs. Part of our town.



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The Farming Page - Jenny Everingham with memories and the problem of keeping a cat away from the eggs.

We were recently watching a TV programme about food in the 1950s. Wartime rationing lasted into the 50s. It's hard to convey the revolution in food production and preparation during this decade to anyone today under the age of about 70; a lot of what we take for granted blossomed in this astonishing period. Although mechanisation had its roots much earlier, post-war financial optimism made it commonplace, in the form of domestic appliances and TV and car ownership. The range of pre-prepared food expanded from tins of corned beef and baked beans and the like, to readily available frozen foods and a greater variety of fresh fruit and vegetables, both home grown and imported. I once found an old copy of "Farmer's Weekly" in which an article explored a 'new-fangled' machine reportedly popular in New Zealand called a "Combined Harvester", which they confidently predicted would never catch on here! But it did, and power-assisted farming began to resemble what we have today.

This means that a nice big tractor with some nice heavy tack can make short work of the Spring planting over the next week

or two, if the weather co-operates. However, mechanisation is of little or no help to the major matter in hand – lambing. The little bundles of fluff are due to begin arriving on April Fools Day, and we are hoping for warm, dry conditions so that most of the process can take Nature's course out in the open over the following month or so, although there will inevitably be one or two who jump the gun, and some who are in no hurry at all! We have invaluable help, of course, but nature is ultimately the boss – oh, and the bottom oven of the Aga is handy, too!

For those of you who remember the early days of my contributions to this august publication, I would like to report that Snow White, Marion and Clucker, and their younger cousins, are back in egg production after a short winter break, and looking very happy in their new feathers and the early spring sunshine. However, one of the cats has developed a taste for raw egg, and discovered how to satisfy it! This has resulted in a complicated subterfuge to ensure that he's under lock and key while the hens are out!

A very happy Easter to you all, from behind the farmhouse door!
Jenny



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Clarion Coppers with CPSO Nick Morris



I'm writing this a few days earlier than usual as I have some annual leave to use up. Hurrah!

A car parked in The Hurst suffered criminal damage, a smashed wing mirror, and during the same time period the victim's porch window was smashed. This occurred sometime between midnight and 9:00am on February 28th. There was a burglary at a house in Catherton Close between February 23rd and 27th whilst the occupants were on holiday. Jewellery and a computer tablet were stolen. Overnight on March 7th/8th a Makita disc cutter was stolen from the boot of a securely parked van in The Crescent, Clee Hill. Two similar offences took place in Burford between March 9th/10th. Powered and non powered tools were stolen from a van parked in Stanbrook Road at 2:10am on March 10th. A neighbour heard a noise and on looking out of his window he saw three unknown males around the van and then make off on foot towards a nearby alley. When the victim was alerted he went after them, but was unable to locate the thieves. Police dogs were brought in but they lost the trail at Swan Garage where it is thought there was a waiting vehicle. The other van, parked in Penlu Road, also had power tools

and associated items stolen. Entry was gained to this van via the rear door which had a faulty shutting mechanism. Between 6:30pm on March 12th and 9:00am the next day, a stable block was broken into near Burford, but nothing was stolen.

Are you aware of the West Mercia Police Website? On this site everything you need to know about West Mercia Police is covered. You can find out lots of information about the police and the role it plays in serving the community. You can find advice on things like domestic abuse, internet safety, fraud and identity theft, home and garden security, etc. There is information including news of crimes and results of police investigations, and appeals for witnesses of crimes or other incidents. You can also find out how to speak directly to a Crime Prevention Design Adviser for (would you believe?) advice on crime prevention, and on different ways of reporting crimes. There is information on how you can become involved as a Volunteer, a Special Constable or a Police Cadet, a Police Officer or a Police Community Support Officer. And much, much more. So, if you haven't done already, give the PlayStation a rest and get absorbed in the West Mercia Police Website.



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It never attracts a capacity crowd, but this is an important day in the town's year. Local associations say what they've done and the Parish Council do likewise. A big issue this year will be the moves to reduce crime in the area and SmartWater will be there to show what their ingenious system can do to help keep the criminals at bay.

With the dreaded cutbacks a part of daily life, we have to accept that police patrols will be rare. The Parish Council's answer is the Crime Reduction Group, which is supported by the local Police and Crime Commissioner with a grant for extra CCTV coverage in the town. And they're working on

ideas to make the practice of crime more difficult.

SmartWater is one way. You put a dab of the fluid on your property and the coded number is registered with the company. If you have a break-in, the police can scan goods and sometimes the suspect's hands and clothing to see if there's a trace of SmartWater. If it's your number coming up, there's no argument that the goods are yours.

There was a six months trial in the NW10 area of London ; I used to work there and can tell it's not a low crime area. When SmartWater was used there and the local criminals got to know about it, burglaries dropped by 80 percent. That is a remarkable result and thanks to cooperation between the makers and police, you'll be able to buy a bottle for

about £10. If enough of us buy it, Cleobury will become a SmartWater town and signs will warn the criminal element off.

There's also a 'Don't Buy Crime' campaign about to start. It's common sense: if thieves find they can't sell their loot off in pubs and clubs because of the risk of the buyer being nicked, they'll stay away.

So come and hear more at the meeting in the Market Hall, at 7.00 on April 20th. And if you want to get involved with the Crime Reduction Group, they'll make you very welcome. There's an absence of farmers on there at the moment, and they need some feedback from that industry.

If the police cutbacks mean fewer patrols, it's up to us to help ourselves. Come and find out how on the 20th. JR



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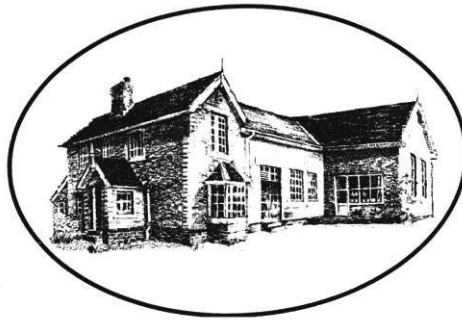
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It is incredible to think that as I write this article we have just one week of this half term left before the Easter holidays and the weather is showing signs that winter is behind us and Spring is finally making an appearance. After months of being restricted to doing PE lessons in the hall today our children are outside taking part in hockey and playground rounders.

Throughout this half term our Year 6 children have been working flat out to prepare for their KS2 SATS which they will take in the middle of May. To support their preparation they have been coming in to school early one morning a week and staying behind for an extra hour on another day for booster classes in literacy and numeracy.



On top of all this activity our children are busy preparing for our Easter service to be held in church this year on the morning of the penultimate day of term. Our KS2 children will be telling our families why and how we celebrate Easter, with our younger children entertaining us with a song and rhyme. Our PTA are very kindly putting on the annual Easter Eggstravaganza where children will take part in an egg hunt whilst their families have refreshments in the village hall.

As a reward for their hard work, the whole school will take part in a morning learning circus skills, which I am particularly looking forward to!

We currently have places available in our year 1 and year 5 classes. For further details about our school, contact the office on 01299 832393. Alternatively, visit our website at www.baytonpri.worcs.sch.uk



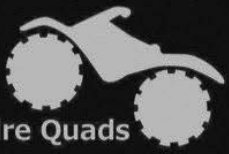
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Linda Iles

April In The Wyre Forest



April is, by my reckoning, the middle of spring. The earlier signs of life and growth are replaced by a general busyness and acceleration which brings us new leaves, flowers, butterflies, the appearance of fox and badger cubs and the arrival of many of the summer's bird visitors.



Swallow chicks in a typical mud cup nest, up amidst the rafters where few predators can reach them.

Swallows seem to be fewer in number each year, but I hope that the reasonable weather last year may have helped them. They have to survive many dangers to reach our country, and once here they need food, catching insects on the wing, and breeding sites where they can nest under cover. The classic site would be on a ledge or rafter in a barn and the nest is a mud cup, lined with feathers. In the past their efforts to build at Uncllys have unfortunately been disturbed by our cats, but they may fare better now that one has died and the other has become more middle-aged! The building used for nesting must have an open door or window to allow the birds constant access, but even a brick-sized hole will be enough. An artificial ledge

about 15cm wide and with a rim of beading to keep the nest from sliding off could be fixed high in an outhouse. (I may have a go at making some papier mache nests to make up for the criminal records of the cats). You can also help swallows and house martins by making sure there is a nice, muddy puddle available for building material (perhaps in an upside down dustbin lid), and you may be rewarded by seeing up to three broods of nestlings during the summer.

Mid-way through March a new family trail was launched by the Forestry Commission. 'Superworm' follows on from the success of the Gruffalo trails, both based on children's books of the same names by author Julia Donaldson and illustrator Axel Scheffler. A short trail leads from the car park past boards bearing pictures of Superworm and friends, information and suggestions for forest activities. Super or not, the forest soils couldn't do without the worms. They drag down leaves into their burrows, enriching the soil with humus and allowing materials to mix and be aerated. They are also the main food of shrews and moles, badgers and many birds. Moles can eat 50 grams of worms a day, and an area of grass the size of a football pitch can hold up to two million of them! (Thank you, Springwatch, for those figures) Actually a football pitch or golf green probably doesn't have any worms in it because green keepers poison them to prevent wormcasts, and consequently have to do the fertilising and aerating themselves.

Two things to get you looking up and down this month!

Linda Iles

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

LITTLE YELLOW DUCKS

You may find a small yellow duck during this month and wonder what it's all about. The project involves people around the world crafting little yellow duck gifts as acts of kindness, that are left in public places for others to find. A special tag on each one invites you to take your gift home to brighten your day and to visit the website, www.littleyellowduckproject.org to register where you found your gift. We hope that this will encourage you to pledge your own random act of kindness by registering to donate blood, bone marrow, or organ tissues. Start by going along to the next Blood Donation session on the 2nd April at Lacon Childe School. Also if you take your duck to the Severn Hospice Shop in Cleobury a small reward is on offer.

The L Y Duck Project was created by Emma Harris in memory of her best friend Clare, a fun-loving person who lived life to the full. Clare was born with the genetic lung disease, cystic fibrosis, and by the age of 24 her lungs were so damaged that a transplant was her only hope of survival. Sadly a matching donor was never found and despite a long

fight, she passed away in April 2013 aged 26. The Project is inspired by Clare's generosity and love of little yellow ducks. Each yellow gift aims to spread a little happiness and awareness of how we can follow Clare's example in saving or transforming the lives of others through blood, bone marrow, organ or tissue donation. *Catherine Evans*

REMEMBERING GRANDPA PARKER

Steve and Anne Parker's children have all grown and flown the nest, but keep happy memories of their grandpa. He was a prisoner of the Germans in the 1939-45 World War and in the winter of early '45 was one of those who were force marched from Poland ahead of the approaching Russian army. It was known as the Thousand Mile March to the point where Allied troops freed the men, many of them dying along the way.

Three of the Parker children will be honouring Herbert Parker's memory, with a cycle ride from the camp where he was interred to the point of his release. Kate has a new baby to look after, so she's in charge of publicity and we thank her for this information. Chris, Rose and David will be doing the hard bit, following Herbert's

route as closely as they can and raising money for both UNICEF and The Lily Foundation. Their target is £10,000.



Rose and David Parker, out to honour grandad and raise money for charities.

The ride starts on April 29th and on May 8th they are due to arrive in Bitterfeld-Wolfen, just south of Berlin, where Herbert and his fellow prisoners were liberated. The three will follow the route described in Herbert's journal, staying in villages that he marched through and aiming to cover 680 miles.

You can read more about the march to eventual freedom on wikipedia (The March(1945)) or visit their Facebook page www.facebook.com/GrandadBert. Both of the charities they are riding for work for the benefit of children. Kate can tell you more: kateparker77@yahoo.com

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

PARKING PRATNESS

The Oxford English Dictionary tells me that a prat is a "an incompetent or stupid person." And here is an outstanding example of a prat in action.

It was on a weekday in March when the driver of this Honda parked in Love Lane. It was about 2.45, shortly before Lacon Childe School pupils would be heading home.



And here they are, walking down the lane and out into the road to get around the car that is completely blocking the pavement.

The car had driven up the lane, then turned around to come and park where you see it. If the driver was paying attention, you would hope he'd seen the sign saying Lacon Childe School and perhaps

realised there would be children about.



There were, and as one of the school buses came around the corner, you'll notice children running to get out of its way. No great danger, because the children were alert, as was the bus driver. But as an example of the selfishness too many drivers show, it is rather sad. West Mercia Police have had copies; we'll keep you posted on any news from that quarter.

CLEARHEAR OPEN DAY

Charmain of Clearhear has booked Cleobury Country Centre for an Open Day to show off and explain her audiology treatment. 2.00 till 4.00 on May 15th, entry and refreshments will be free. Well worth a call.

STROKE AWARENESS DAY

A stroke can kill or leave a victim permanently damaged. On April 25th, Stroke Awareness Day, Ludlow Rotary Club are organising an opportunity to talk to professionals and have your potential risk measured.

It will be at the Rockspring Community Centre, Sandford Road, Ludlow. Postcode SY8 1SX if you're using a satnav. Doors open at 10.00 and close at 4.00, admission free and so is the chance to have your blood pressure, blood glucose level and body mass index checked. If that all sounds a little too much to stand, just think of the risk to your health that an early diagnosis can help you avoid.

If you are considered a risk, you'll be given advice on what action to take. Everyone who attends will also be given a Personal Information Record.

All free, no appointment necessary and as the organisers point out: Potentially Life Saving.

SILLY BITS

Q: How do you get a sweet little old lady to use the F word?

A: Get another sweet little old lady to shout "Bingo".

Q: What did the blonde say when found out she was pregnant?

A: Are you sure it's mine?

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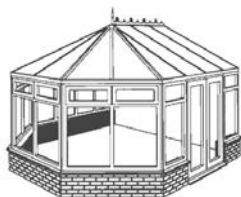
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

LONG SERVING SEVERN STAFF



There was a very special gathering in the Kings Arms last month, when 13 long serving staff and volunteers gathered to be presented with certificates recognising their contribution to the success of the Severn Hospice shop in the High Street.

Senior personnel were present and gave warm praise to all those who make the place such a success, with manager Gayna Woodward getting a well deserved special mention. "It's down to the volunteers and staff, they're a great team," she insisted.

Then it was buffet time, with the odd glass being consumed, which may explain why they all looked so happy when asked to pose for a picture. Ladies, you are a credit to the town.

THE CLOWS TOP SHOP

This valuable link with the community is on the point of closure and there is a move to keep it running as a Community Shop if a buyer cannot be found. Opinions about use from other parish residents are being asked for, as a total view of viability is essential if funding is to be found.

Clerk to the Clows Top PC, Sue Burrows is the contact and you can get a survey from her via email at bayton_pc08@btinternet.com or call 01299 832722. Forms received later than the official deadline of March 31st will still be considered. Post them or

deliver to Mrs Burrows at 5 Summit Road, Clows Top, Worcs. DY14 9HN.

If you are interested in keeping local shops and communities alive, please think about helping.

POUND THE BOUNDS

The Rock village Pound the Bounds walk is scheduled for May 3rd and will be another big event. Last year they raised £5,600 for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, drawing hundreds of walkers to the event.

There are five different trails for adults, from six up to 26 miles and a three mile version for the younger children. You

pay from £3.00 to enter and can download a sponsorship form from the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity website.

It's all based on the splendid Rock Village Hall, where you sign on and get instructions about your route. Sue Humphries can tell you more on 01299 400304 or email her at suehumphries1@hotmail.co.uk

MAWLEY OAK GARAGE

Mawley Oak have asked us to make it clear that while they may be planning to stop selling fuel, the shop and workshops will remain open as usual. And of course Mawley Oak Travel will still be serving the schools and community.

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IN BUSINESS: Wild Meadow Boarding Kennels



Kate with one of the lucky dogs in the spotless Wild Meadow kennels.

If dogs appreciated country views, they'd ask to be boarded at Kate and Rich's place at Wild Meadow up on Hopton Bank. The outlook is superb.

Rather like the kennels. This place is as far from tatty as you can get; it's spotless. You walk through an office to the kennel area, built by Rich, with the bigger units offering 72 square feet of space, the smaller ones 46. There are just 15 units, with space to accommodate two or even three dogs if they are from the same home.

The business exists because of Kate's love of dogs - she used to

work in a kennels - and is located next to the farmhouse they are working on. The extension Rich is building in place of the old conservatory confirms his skills, and he runs the family holiday home business down the road in Worcestershire. You'll notice the priority here - the kennels is completed and operating, while the house is coming along

The dogs' accommodation is heated and air conditioned, kept at 15 degrees centigrade throughout the year. The dogs have a regular routine every day, starting with a walk at 7.30 and followed by breakfast. From 11.00am to 4.00pm is the quiet time, when they relax and visitors are not normally allowed in the kennels, because the animals don't settle if they're disturbed and can become stressed. From 4.00 to 6.00 is the time for a second walk before second feeding; it's also the time they welcome visitors to see how the place runs.

Feeding is dictated by a dog's established habit and diet, and there is a wide selection of foods in stock to cater for this. If the owner prefers to supply the food, that is what the dog gets, all part of making someone's loved pet feel welcome.

If a dog is taken ill, Pete Howman of Severn Edge Vets is the established contact. But if the owner has stated a particular choice of help, that is who they would call in. They have Pet Plan insurance cover for all this work.

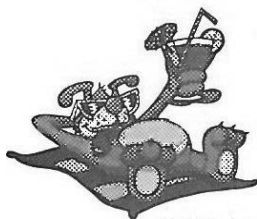
Naturally the place is licensed, through the Bridgnorth office of Shropshire Council, whose inspector calls once a year to see that the standards are kept up. He doesn't call between the end of November and February, as the place is closed.

Visitors are welcome between 4.00 and 6.00pm, with no appointment necessary. They take day boarders for people who are off to work, but the majority are from families on holiday.

Do they have plans to expand this very impressive jewel of a place? "No, we've not got to employ anyone with this size," Kate explains. "We want to control it ourselves and we're comfortable with what we've got. We know the name of every dog and we know the owners and what they want." That's not through a lack of ambition, it's because they've achieved a high standard; what they would want for their own animals, and won't compromise.

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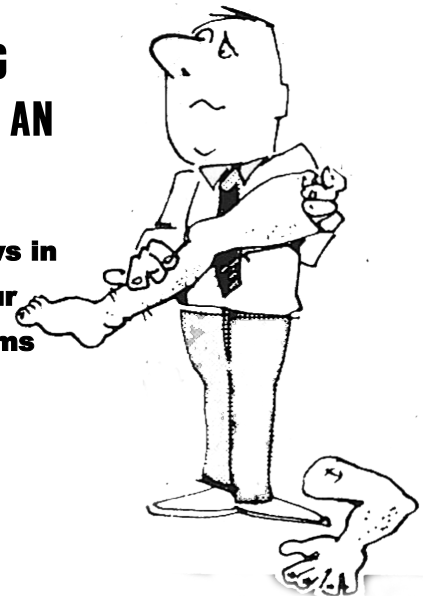
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