

The Cleobury Clarion



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APRIL 2016

OUR CHAMPION BAND



This is how champions are made. On Sunday March 13th Cleobury Concert Brass won their section of the Midland Area Regional Brass Band Championship. On Tuesday the 15th they were practising again in the Parish Hall, with conductor David Maplestone.

The enthusiasm that drives Cleobury Concert Brass to success is really impressive. Playing in the name of this small town, they attract players from as far as Knighton and Shrewsbury, who travel to practise evenings in the Parish Hall and to performances all over the Midlands.

We photographed them two days after they won the Midlands Area Fourth Section title, with conductor David Maplestone using his gentle touch to bring out the best in them. "The judges said that Cleobury was crisp and

clear," he told them. "So that's your slogan - 'Cleobury Crisp and Clear.'" When you hear them in full flow, you can understand why that phrase was used.

The next competition is the National Championships in September, when they'll be travelling to Cheltenham to do battle with 25 other bands. That journey alone will cost them about £500 and they're looking for any local business who would like to sponsor them for the event and maybe beyond. With such a high standard and track record this is a good bet for someone looking for publicity. Katie Griffiths is the contact on hazeleygrange@btconnect.com

On more local matters, their next event at home is the Spring Concert in the Parish Hall on Saturday, May 7th. It's a sell-out every year, great entertainment and value with a fish and chip supper in the interval. Reserve your tickets with Katie on CM 270262.

This is a thriving, enthusiastic group of people, united by the love of making music and who have the imagination to look ahead and see greater things to come if they can just get some backing. Take a look at their website on www.cmc.org.uk to get a better idea of how much they do.

More about the band on Page 45.



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The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page

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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 9.00 to 5.00, Mon to Fri.

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

CLEOBURY CARERS - Wendy Duley CM 270562

CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES - CM270018 Katja Ward 10.00 to 12.00 Wednesday.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY - 01299 272301. 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 GUIDES: Dorothy McBride 07761 976610

CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS: Ingrid Purslow CM 270314

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.

MARKET HALL- Dorothy CM 272717, 07761 976610 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.

NEWLIFE CHURCH - Pastor E Stirrup 01562 630595. Sunday services at 10.30

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

PARISH COUNCIL -Clerk Matthew Sheehan, Market Hall 9.00 to 2.00, Monday to Friday. 01299 271154. www.cleobury.org.uk. Council meets in the Market Hall on the first Monday of the month.

POST OFFICE - 01299 270211. In the Spar Grocery Store, Church Street.

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 270209 bookings via the Medical Centre

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Nicholas Hughes on 01562 822295 or Wendy Beaumont on 01299 822033

The Cleobury Clarion. April 2016



*The sound of a nearly new truck scraping along a stone wall as the driver fails to read the warning sign properly only pleases one man - the body shop manager.
See Page 7.*



*Sue Brown - Great Speaker.
See Page 25.*



*Effortless cycling with the new generation of electric power.
See Page 51*

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

ANOTHER TRUCK STUCK IN CHILDE ROAD



One Mercedes truck and one stone wall meet. Guess who won.

George Munro heard the noise and was quickly on the spot with his camera. We'll let him tell the story:

A familiar grinding sound at 2.40pm on March 16th announced yet another vehicle making contact with the stone walls. At this time school traffic, including the buses, was due and so it fell to local residents to send messages to the schools, place warning cones and redirect traffic. This included a first responder with lights flashing en route to a patient; one hopes the delay caused no harm. A massive traffic jam had been averted and there was nothing left for the police to do when they turned up two hours later. Four hours after the encounter with the walls, a rescue vehicle moved the rear of the lorry

around so that it could continue its journey.

The drivers had misunderstood the sign, and this may not just be due to their language difficulties, as it happens regularly to drivers of all nationalities. The present sign showing the weight limit does not warn them of the problems due to the width and length of their vehicle. An HGV sign with far more specific information and warning is needed; better still, stop all lorries from using this part of the road.

George Munro

TENUTO IN CONCERT FOR THE KIDS

Tenuto is a trio of professional singers: David Lawrence, Robert Urban Nagy and Neil Greenway, whose talents cover musical theatre, opera, rock and pop. And they're putting on a concert at Kidderminster Town Hall at 7.30 on May 7th in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The idea was born when David met a little boy who is a patient at the hospital, who asked him to sing. David decided he was going to raise money for the hospital and the management at Kidderminster Town Hall gave the group a booking at a very special price

that David and his partner are covering. So all the income from ticket sales, donations and the raffle will go to the hospital. What a very fine, human thing to do.

Tickets are £12.00 each and are available from the Town Hall Box Office (01562 732158) or from The Park Royal, 62 Load Street, Bewdley (01299 405636).

THANKS FROM FAY

Dear Uncle Jim and Clarion Readers

Thank you so much to the Clarion for featuring my appeal for clothing, saleable goods and in date food to help the homeless of Wolverhampton. As a direct result of the Clarion I have made three trips with a boot full of wonderful clothing, etc that will have made such a difference to those receiving them. Thank you all very much indeed. I will be continuing with collections so please do feel free to drop any donations off at 7 The Crescent, Clee Hill.

Thank you again,

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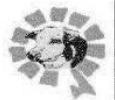
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

FENCING THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

Lacon Childe School issued the following statement to explain the fencing of the playing fields:

The safeguarding of pupils is becoming an increasingly significant consideration in the running of schools and is something that Ofsted, the body responsible for the regulation and inspection of education services in the UK, sees as one of their key priorities. The importance that Ofsted places in this area is underlined by the fact that there have been a number of cases recently where previously good or outstanding schools have been placed into special measures on the basis that safeguarding controls have been deemed to be inadequate.

For some time now the governing body at Lacon Childe School has been concerned that having playing fields that are open and therefore allow unrestricted access to the school grounds is a situation that has the potential to compromise the safety and well-being of pupils. As a result of this, the school has taken a decision to erect a perimeter fence around its playing fields. This means that the security of the school site

will be greatly enhanced whilst also ensuring that members of the public will still be able to use the public footpath which will be unaffected by this development.

Darren Reynolds, Headteacher at Lacon Childe, said "We have thought hard and long about this and is not a decision that has been taken lightly. As Headteacher my first priority has to be the safety of our students and I believe that by continuing to allow unrestricted access to the school we are failing in our duty of care. Unfortunately we have examples where the safety of our students has been compromised and therefore I believe that this is something that we needed to address as a matter of importance. In arriving at this outcome we have consulted with people who continue to have legitimate access to the school site.

*Matthew Hayes
Business Manager,
Lacon Childe School*

THE CHILDE ENDOWMENT FUND

Students residing in the parishes of Cleobury Mortimer, Neen Sollars, Milson, Coreley, Hopton Wafers, Farlow, Wheathill, Aston Botterell, Stottesdon, Kinlet and Neen

Savage are invited by the Trustees to make applications to the above fund for financial assistance to help further their studies.

Details and application forms can be obtained from Lloyds Bank, Cleobury Mortimer, Lacon Childe School or Reverend Justin Parker, Clerk to the Trustees of the Fund, at Adam House, Birmingham Road, Kidderminster DY10 2SA. The closure date is June 24th.

LUDLOW DOG DAY

The third Dog Day returns to Stokes Court on July 24th, where it attracted over 3000 people last year. Run by the Ludlow Rotary Club, it raises funds for local charities. Two names who will help draw the crowds are TV personalities Jules Hudson of 'Countryfile' and Kate Bliss of 'Bargain Hunt' and 'Flog It'.

The gates will open to dogs and their owners at 10.00 for what looks like being another great day. If you would like to help the event, contact the organisers via www.ludlowdogday.co.uk

It's a great idea that offers more than a wide range of doggy attractions, with lots of local produce and companies showing their wares. A good family day out.



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

NIKKI'S MARVELLOUS MIXES TAKE OFF



Nikki Raine, ex Lacon Childe pupil carving out a second career.

A year ago Nikki Raine was making cookies for her daughter's birthday party bags. They went down so well that she set about developing the idea that's now her business. It's taken off and she quit her accounting job and started Marvellous Mixes, offering a range of cookie mixes, all made in her Lichfield kitchen.

There's a range of flavours, from traditional Triple Chocolate Chip through to some exciting new ideas that she's tried on the family and friends. She's come a long way from a Farlow schoolgirl via work as an accountant to having her own business that she can share with her children. With the current interest in cooking triggered by

TV's Great British Bake-Off, she could be on a real winner. Take a look at her website on www.marvellousmixes.co.uk and see for yourself.

A GOOD YEAR FOR THE FRIENDS

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Saint Mary's had a small attendance of nine people out of 85 members to hear good news. In 2015 their fund raising to help preserve the fabric of the Parish Church raised a total of £6291.51 and their expenses were a miserly £12.65. A prime example of what good volunteers can do, with five events all in the black and other money coming from subscriptions and donations.

Something new this month is a Scrabble competition in the Market Hall on April 17th, starting at 3.00. Teams of four to make up the games, tickets are £7.00 per person that includes a cup of tea or there's a special deal for a full team. There will be a cash prize for the winners, we understand.

A number of committee members have stood down and there are vacancies to be filled. If you feel you want to join a friendly group that does a very successful job for a worthy cause, talk to Steve Todd on CM

271639. This meeting started at 7.00 and finished at 7.35; another feather in the Friends' cap.

SHROPSHIRE KIDS' FESTIVAL

This is a new event, catering for children from babies up to early teens, that will be held in Shrewsbury's Quarry Park on the weekend of April 23rd/24th. It's open from 10.00 to 5.00 both days and tickets cost £6.00 for the children and £1.00 for adults, which gives the children access to most of more than 100 attractions, activities and workshops. Where there is a charge, part of the proceeds will go to the Harry Johnston Trust that supports work with children suffering from cancer.

Bookings and more details on 01952 432175 or look in at www.shropshirekidsfest.co.uk

PHILIP DUNNE SURGERY

Our Member of Parliament is holding a constituency advice surgery on April 8th. It's at 54 Broad Street in Ludlow, starts at 4.30 and ends at 6.00.

It's an opportunity to meet the man face to face and ask him questions or raise matters that concern you as one of the people he represents. Appointments can be made by calling 01584 872187.



THE CLEOBURY CENTRE COUNTRY

Contacting us:

t: 01299 272 300

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Training Courses Upcoming:

- Paediatric First Aid 11th, 12th, 18th, 19th April £112.00+VAT

- Level 3 Food Hygiene 13th, 14th, 15th April £325.00+VAT

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Business Networking this month:

Wednesday 20th April 2016

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

BEWDLEY W.I.

Bewdley W.I. will be meeting on April 4th, 7.30pm at St George's Hall Bewdley, where Rachel Acton from Neal's Yard Holistic Remedies will be talking about Happy Naturals products.

Visitors are always welcome, this will be £3.00 per visit to a total of two visits each year, we look forward to meeting you there.

Contact, Brenda Wright at wright.brenda1@sky.com or 01299 409265.

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

April is the most exciting month of the year because we are well and truly into spring. The gardens are looking 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 Rosemary Winnal, gave an interesting talk on 'The Nature of Wyre'. The Wyre Forest is a wildlife-rich forest and one of Britain's most important ancient woodlands. A valuable area for long term studies by naturalists, it can also be

enjoyed by walkers, bikers and horse riders as long as they stick to the designated paths. We are lucky to have a beautiful area on our doorstep. The evening was a great success with everyone enjoying the talk.

If you're not a member then come along and join us at one of our monthly meetings. It's a great opportunity for you to share your thoughts, ideas and advice with other members. We have a great programme of speakers as well as Evening visits to local gardens. Our Garden Club has a very friendly atmosphere, everyone is welcome and membership is only £10 p.a. However, non-members are welcome to any monthly meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday April 27th and the speaker for the evening will be Ross Barbour with a talk entitled 'Bulbs For The Unusual'.

Pauline Bowen

SEVERN HOSPICE SUPPORT GROUP.

We held our A.G.M. at The Fighting Cocks on March 1st. After another successful year we were able to present Mike

Perry from the hospice with a cheque for £3,500.

This brings the total this group has raised over the last 25 years to a massive £94,940.00. An amazing sum!

If anyone is interested in coming along to our next meeting, to help in anyway at all raising funds for the hospice, our next meeting is at The Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon on the 12th April at 7.30.

Denise Ingram

PUBLIC MEETING

Shropshire Council's Chief Executive, the Director of Finance and the Director of Commissioning will be at a 'Question Time' style meeting at the Severn Centre in Highley on the 12th of this month. It starts at 7.00 and the public are welcome to ask questions about County Council services or any concerns they have about the future of those services.

The Severn Centre is on Main Road, Highley and the postcode is WV16 6JG.

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The Clarion Jobs Page

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Female personal assistant required 25hrs a week for young lady with sustained brain injury, wheelchair user, living in Cleobury. She requires some personal care and support to access the local community. Clean driving licence (and car) and DBS required. No experience necessary. To apply or more details please contact Nikki Stone- nikkistone007@yahoo.com'

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

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

MOFFATS SCHOOL

Open Morning: The next Open Morning will be on Bank Holiday Monday, May 2nd, from 9.30 – 12.30. All are welcome, with tours conducted by the senior children. Nursery funding is available for children aged four and five attending the Kindergarten.

Parent and Toddler Sessions: A *Spring into Mini Moffats* session will take place on Wednesday April 27th from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. Parents and carers of children aged three and under are welcome to register by calling 01299 841230. No charge – just come along and join in the fun and the beautiful setting!

Scholarships: Moffats will be offering a number of scholarships for children aged seven to nine years, for entry in September 2016. If you would like to find out more, contact the school on 01299 841230 or email office@moffats.co.uk.

LOOKING AHEAD

A LITTLE

The Teme Spirit Choir and Orchestra are giving a performance of 'Two Sisters and a Funeral' in St. Mary's Church on Saturday, May 7th at 7.30 pm. It tells the story of Martha, Mary and Lazarus.

The Choir and Orchestra together concentrate on Christian musical productions, coming together from an area covering Monmouth to Cleobury to make good music.

Tickets are £5 and are available in the Market Hall, the proceeds being shared between St. Mary's and a local charity.

Teme Spirit Choir practice on Monday nights in Clee Hill Village Hall from 7.30 pm. Why not come and join a very friendly group?

Jane Barnes 01299 272892

IN PRAISE OF...

I don't know about you, but I am mildly paranoid about Bill Gates! It seems as if the software that is written by Microsoft is designed to entice me into a spider's web of dependency, only to leave me high and dry at a crucial moment. That's when you need someone who knows their way around 'Word,' 'Outlook,' 'Excel', et al.

That was where I found myself a day or two ago. Since retiring I seem to have accumulated email addresses? For years I'd managed with just one, but now I have three and wanted to bring them together for convenience. Could I convince 'Outlook' to help me? I could hear Bill Gates

chuckling, 'Got ya!' I needed help, but who could provide it? Friends tried and were defeated. So, I turned to the pages of the Clarion and there I saw that Amanda Horton Mobile Computer Services provided advice and guidance. When I phoned and told her the problem, she cheerily assured me that she could fix it.

Shortly afterwards she sat at my desktop and tapped away on the keyboard. Pretty soon she announced her triumph; the problem was fixed and my unruly inboxes were all nicely marshalled into a tidy array. She told me what she had done and how I might, if I ever needed to, be able to repeat her victory over Bill Gates. She bade me farewell and left Bill Gates sobbing quietly.

The next time I find myself caught in a morass of computer gobbledegook I will call Amanda on 01746 861612.

P.A.J. Waddington

SILLY BITS

'Atheism is a non-prophet organisation.'

'How is it possible to have a civil war?'

'Is there another word for synonym?'

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THE BREAKFAST CLUB

In March, the CM Breakfast Club met to hear Chris Kippin talk about 'Across America by Train'. Starting with the historic 'driving of the last spike', symbolising the joining-up of the Union Pacific and the Central Pacific Railroads in 1869, Chris provided a brief survey of the evolution, and decline, of passenger railways in the USA. Predictably, the system peaked in the early years of the 20th century, and then contracted under the combined pressures of road and air transport.

In 1971 the US Federal Government intervened to save what was left of long-distance passenger rail transport, creating AMTRAK, a government-sponsored company operating passenger trains over privately owned track. Many of the private companies still operate profitable freight trains (some over two miles long), and freight now takes precedence over passenger traffic, often creating delays for the latter. The current passenger network has shrunk so much in the last hundred years that there are now whole states without any passenger rail services at all.

Long-distance passenger rail journeys are therefore now largely undertaken for pleasure rather than for business, which means that the average rail passenger is a little out of the ordinary, and Chris and Heather had met some interesting people on their travels. Having crossed the USA on all three East-West rail links, and undertaken numerous other shorter journeys, Chris was well placed to give us an insight into the

pleasures of this form of travel, almost all of which uses double-decked trains, whose observation cars provide unrivalled views of the American countryside and mountains. It looked wonderful!

The Club next meets on April 12th in the King's Arms, to hear Steve Parker talk about 'My Father's experiences as a PoW in World War 2'. Members wishing to attend should contact Jonathan Fair (271913) or Gill Chapman (270575) to book places.

Mark Baldwin

SPRINGTIME IN BAYTON

There's a rather tempting offer in Bayton Church on Saturday the 23rd. The Oakville Singers will get together with the Bayton Choir to present a range of Springtime Music, from Queen to Sting and on to others.

It starts at 7.30, the tickets are £10.00 each and include interval drink and nibbles; available from Cathy on 01299 832249 or springtime@weatherpost.org.uk. All proceeds to the Church Fabric Fund.

NEEN SAVAGE W.I.

Our March meeting welcomed two members who attended the WI centenary celebrations to give their reports. Judith Beckett gave an interesting account of Afternoon Tea at Buckingham Palace and Angela Flowers recalled her trip to the Royal Albert Hall. Both ladies noted that these events were indelibly etched on their memories and a privilege to have attended. The group were thanked for sending them.

The April meeting is an Open Evening and all are invited to attend. Claire Carter, a local celebrated photographer, will be

talking to us about her career change and success as a landscape and wildlife photographer

It will be on Wednesday 13th at Neen Savage Parish Hall. The cost is £4, to include entry, refreshments and raffle ticket.

Julie Hobin

CHANGES TO THE COMMUNITY CAR SCHEME

From April 11th, Val Simpson is retiring from the Coordinator role but she and Graham will continue as drivers. We are very fortunate that Mandy and Iain Smith, despite being busy people, are willing to take this on this vital community role. Our drivers drove 24,950 miles last year in over 600 journeys.

In future booking requests to the Medical Centre (01299 270209) must be made a week in advance; emergencies cannot be handled.

The car scheme number will stay the same (01299 666119) for booking changes or queries, but you will probably have to leave a message.

If you read this notice please help spread the word to others.

Val Simpson

SILLY BITS

Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.

Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail.

I've reached the age where Happy Hour is a nap.

Clarion Clippings - The Local News

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The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

The first steps to finding your new best friend

Even before you go to visit your new companion your investigation work begins, you need to ensure the puppy or kitten you're about to buy is happy and healthy. You can't be too nosy; ring and ask questions.

Did the breeder breed the puppies or kittens - it isn't a good idea to buy from anyone other than the breeder. Who was the father (sire) and would he be present to visit? If not, find out if you can contact his owner; ask plenty of questions about his temperament, health and other litters.

If you're happy with the breeders and their answers, you need to visit. Always make sure you see mum with her offspring together, it's often best to arrange a viewing when there's more than one puppy / kitten to see. Do the puppies or kittens interact well together? Look for signs of illness such as runny eyes, sneezes or diarrhoea on their tails, also make sure mum is healthy and watch them all in their environment before making your choice.

There are lots of important pieces of information to find out about your new little one. Ask about its environment and routine, what does it eat and how often - ask to see a sample or a bag of food, can you buy this yourself or take some home? Where is the puppy or kitten kept, has it interacted with lots of people, has it been exposed to noises such as television, vacuum cleaners or children? A puppy, which has been in a quiet environment, may have to be carefully

introduced to new experiences to make sure it doesn't grow up afraid!

Find out about its medical history, have the puppies had their vaccinations, are they micro chipped? Has the litter been wormed? It's worth doing a spot of research about your chosen breed also! Are there any problem diseases they are susceptible to, for example, British Short Haired cats can inherit certain heart deformities and Labrador Retrievers, unfortunately, can pass on genes for poor hip and elbow structure. Different breeds have different screening tests to make sure the chance of passing inherited diseases is low, ask to see certificates of screening for problem diseases, vaccinations, and micro chipping.

When you are ready to choose an individual pet, don't be rushed, spend plenty of time with the litter and watch the puppies or kittens grow – hopefully one of them will become your responsibility and will enrich your life for many years to come.

By Dr Amy Watkins BSc BVetMed MRCV

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CLEOBURY PATIENTS' VOICE

The most significant news of the last month has been the retention, for now, of Shropdoc, the cooperative of local GPs which provides an excellent out-of-hours service for which many of us have had cause to be grateful. The plan was to put this service out to tender at a regional West Midlands level in conjunction with the much-troubled 111 non-emergency telephone helpline. Following a public outcry, the part of the plan that would have affected Shropdoc has been postponed until 2018. However, the local health authority (now known as Shropshire CCG) has refused to guarantee the existence of a separate, dedicated phone number for Shropdoc beyond October this year: watch this space.

Shropshire CCG is in "special measures". This means there is a team of external accountants crawling all over it to see how it can manage its finances more effectively. The CCG is required to find savings – or make cuts, depending on your viewpoint – of £19million next year, and we have already heard that knee and hip operations are being

scaled back in order to save money. If you have been affected by measures such as this, CPV would like to hear about it.

On a brighter note, NHS England has published the results of its GP Patient Survey for 2015. Overall, Shropshire scored above the national average and Cleobury Mortimer scored above the Shropshire average in most categories. It ranked amongst the top ten practices (out of 45) for confidence and trust in both GPs and nurses, helpfulness of receptionists, waiting times and overall experience. When it came to success in getting an appointment and convenience of that appointment, Cleobury matched the Shropshire and national averages, respectively.

CPV meets at the Medical Centre every third Monday of the month at 6:30pm. The objective of the group is to promote positive patient involvement in monitoring, improving communications about, and developing our local health and social care services. We always welcome new members, so if you would like to get involved please contact us: telephone 01299 407224 or e m a i l

cleoburypatientsvoice@hotmail.co.uk

Mark Radford, Chair CPV

THE VILLAGE PLAYERS

A new name to us, but they are presenting 'Love and Other Disasters' at Neen Sollars Victory Hall. 8.00 on Saturday April 16th, tickets at £10.00 include a "gourmet buffet" from Bev Price on CM 271535.

FOOTPATH NEWS

The Parish Walk in March attracted a band of walkers who "Cleaned for the Queen" as we walked, filling two huge sacks. Next walk is April 3rd and will feature daffodils along the path to Musbatch. Our other activities are all in full swing - see www.cmfa.co.uk

NOW THERE'S A THOUGHT....

"A liberal's paradise would be a place where everybody has guaranteed employment, free comprehensive health care, free education, free food, free housing, free clothing, free utilities, and only law enforcement has guns. Believe it or not, such a place does indeed already exist: It's called... Prison."

**Sheriff Joe Arpaio
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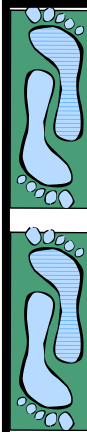
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Kath Thornton of Rock gave a thought provoking illustrated talk on the plight of the bumble bee to our March meeting. There are only 24 different types of bumble bee in the United Kingdom. They have a very distinctive furry body and it is the pattern of the stripes or the colour that distinguishes them from one another. They also have favourite parts of the country so what we see here in Cleobury will not be the type you would see in Scotland.

Bees are hardworking lovable creatures but their populations have declined during the last 80 years. We have lost many of our hay meadows with the wild flowers the bees enjoy collecting nectar and pollen from, therefore their food sources have disappeared so the bee has turned to our gardens more and more. As a result of this, some garden centres are labelling plants that are a good food source for the bees and we are encouraged to plant such species. Farmers are also being encouraged to reintroduce wild flower areas on their land either in meadows or around the edges of their cultivated fields.

The queen is the only bee to survive the winter in the nest and when conditions are right she will venture out and get food before making a new nest and laying her eggs. She relies on the nectar she has collected as she keeps the eggs warm. They take about two weeks to hatch and then a new colony is ready to carry on the very important work of pollinating our plants. Without them many

of our food sources would not produce the seeds and fruits that we consume, they are a very important creature that we should not take for granted.

Our next meeting will be on April 11th in the Methodist Hall, when Lei la Jackson will tell us about 'The Road to Chelsea'. *Liz Smurthwaite*

STOTTESDON W.I.

Although most of us may have seen the devastating effect of dementia or Alzheimers on a friend or a family member, our understanding of the causes, effects and treatment of these conditions may be limited to our own observations. So we really welcomed Zoe Baggott's highly informative and well presented overview of the different forms the disease can take, enabling us to understand the needs of sufferers. We too can contribute to the research programme and optimising our own chances of staying healthy. Zoe's presentation was succinct yet sensitive, the intimate setting encouraging a lively discussion and sharing of anecdotes. Thank you, Zoe, for a valuable evening.

April Open evening : Dr Mark Baldwin – Second Word War Codebreakers

Join us at Chorley Village Hall on April 20th at 7.30 pm for a truly fascinating talk by our local expert on the Enigma and the role played by a small band of people in shortening the war. Dr Baldwin is a national figure who travels widely to lecture on this extraordinary machine. Talk and refreshments free of charge – just a raffle.

Contact: Marian 718151, Stef

718018 or Clare 718007

CLEOBURY W.I.

Cleobury WI was pleased to present a cheque for £200 to Cleobury First Responders towards their scheme car. Thank you to everyone who came to enjoy the winter warmer soup lunches which helped fundraise for this.

In March we were shown by local osteopath James Smith, with the help of his daughter as a model patient, how osteopathy uses a gentle hands-on approach to treat a variety of muscle and joint conditions. Looking forward to this month, we have a date with purple plastic bags at 6.30pm on the 19th as Cleobury WI will join in the Keep Britain Tidy Initiative to 'Clean for the Queen'. Any other volunteers are invited to join us. The April meeting is 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th at the Market Hall when we will be having a go at T'ai Chi with Rose Jacks. Visitors are welcome.

More information from me on 01299 270983 or

judysant10@gmail.com

Judy Sant

THE LACON LOTTERY

There's been a very strong response to the latest Lottery and it looks like the monthly prize will be a very good one. We'll let you know what it's going to be as soon as we hear.

In the meantime, if you want to have a modest flutter with a £10 stake that will take you through the year, you can pick up a form at the school office.

SILLY BIT

If the Police arrest a mute, do they tell him he has the right to remain silent?

What was the best thing before sliced bread?

Another Page of Clarion Smalls

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Letter from Westminster - Philip Dunne MP

With Easter falling early, spring is very much in the air. A wonderful time to appreciate the natural beauty of the Ludlow Constituency, and to celebrate new life, both through the resurrection of Christ and the seasonal reawakening of plants and animals. Leaves are greening hedgerows and trees and lambs leaping around the fields.

Next month, this will be celebrated at the Royal Horticultural Society's Malvern Spring Festival, from 5th to 8th May. I am delighted to be attending as this year's President of the Royal Three Counties Show. I hope to see some familiar faces from South Shropshire exhibiting at the Spring Festival, and others at the agricultural Royal Three Counties Show from 17th-19th June.

As England's largest livestock and equine show, the Royal Three Counties celebrates the best of rural life and farming. This sector has been at the heart of the Marches counties' economic and cultural heritage for centuries. Farmers have faced some tough times recently, so these Shows provide welcome opportunities to demonstrate the best of British rural life.

As a farmer myself, I am acutely aware of the current challenges facing many in farming communities. We have just had two cows test positive for Bovine TB recently, the seventh time in recent years. Any farmer will tell you of the distress caused by Bovine TB, but it affects us all, not only piling pressure on British producers, but also adding to costs in the shops and costing taxpayers £100 million each year. The Government is working through a 25 year multi-pronged strategy to eliminate the disease. This is

essential and momentum needs to be maintained.

It is worth making clear that it is not just livestock farming that is facing pressure. Statistics from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs show that in the last five years, incomes in horticulture have fallen by 43%. Arable farms have been hit by falling global prices, as incomes from cereals and general cropping have more than halved since 2010.

To alleviate pressure on farming, the Government is taking action to enable a productive, resilient food industry by further cutting red tape (there have been 34,000 fewer farm inspections a year since 2010), as well as working to create more apprenticeships and grow our skills base. Since 2010 more than 600 new export markets for UK food and drink have been opened, nearly three a week, growing sales by over £1 billion.

From this month tax changes come into effect to enable farmers to average their incomes for tax purposes across a five year period, rather than the previous two, reflecting seasonal differences and volatility in food prices. This should also help farmers in South Shropshire.

While industry pressures need to be tackled, there are plenty of encouraging things going on in the countryside. I am pleased that my Parliamentary Private Secretary is leading the campaign to restore hedgehog numbers, working with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society, whose Chief Executive leads this organisation from her home on Clee Hill. I am taking a close interest in their progress.

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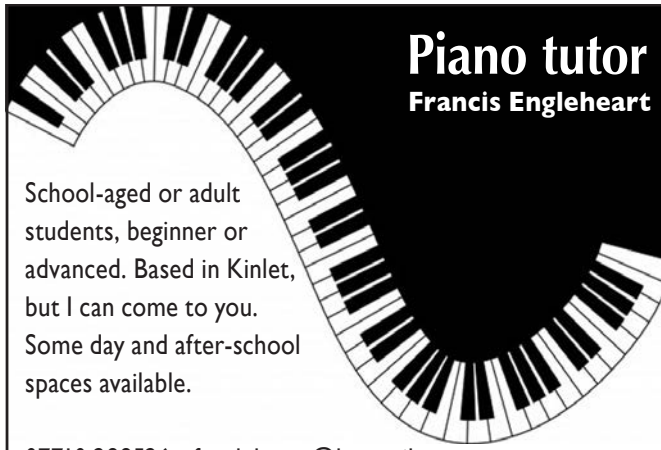
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE LEGION LUNCH

Cleobury's branch of the Royal British Legion held their annual luncheon in the Sports and Social Club on March 13th, with Sue Brown of Cleobury Chiropractic as the guest speaker. And what a revelation she turned out to be.

She took up flying as a student, because the RAF offered a two year course at her university. Starting with a basic trainer she graduated to an RAF Provost jet trainer to earn her pilot's licence. And having enjoyed the experience, decided she wanted to fly with either British Airways or the RAF. At her interview with the RAF she was asked what she wanted to do and the obvious answer was to fly. One problem - the RAF did not have women pilots.

One member of the interview panel asked her: "Do you realise that if you do a 3G turn, your womb will collapse?" He might have been an officer, but he clearly didn't recognise one feisty young lady, who asked him if he had a medical qualification to back up that statement. He didn't.

Not a lady easily put off, Sue joined the force and began to push for a chance to prove that



She looks far too feminine to fly one of those big helicopters that pass over the town, but Mrs Brown is one very able lady.

she could fly. The support of her MP and the local press helped and the long term result was a reversal of policy and women pilots allowed.

She trained on helicopters, starting with two-seaters and working up the scale to the big stuff, eventually being allowed to fly on active service in Northern Ireland. That charming young woman who smiles and offers a very gentle form of chiropractic on the High Street was the very first woman to fly for the RAF on active service.

There were humorous moments, like flying the Army from one location to another, the squaddies were told there was a female crew member in the hope that their language might be moderated. In the big Wessex craft, pilot and navigator sit up high, the passengers below them with only the lower legs and boots above visible. One day Sue's navigator borrowed a pair of her high heels and put on fishnet stockings, which caught the soldiers' eyes, not to mention their imaginations. But when they were landed and looked around to see who this very feminine specimen was, it was the bearded face of the navigator they saw.

She served ten years, moving from the troop movements of Northern Ireland to Air Sea Rescue and her description of controlling a helicopter in high winds as the winch man was lowered on to the deck of a rolling ship to help an injured seaman was graphic. After that sort of experience, manipulating your spinal column must seem like a rest cure. But she's not bored, with a family and a business to look after. Top marks to the Legion for such an inspired choice of speaker.

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The April Clarion Social Calendar - Part One

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Fri 1st		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 2nd	8.00am-11am	Sale of Household Goods at Knowle Sports Club, Tenbury Road, Clee Hill. Great Bargains to be had	Audrey Taylor	01584 890644
Mon 4th	7.30	Bewdley W.I meet at St George's Hall to hear Rachel Acton talk about Neal's Yard Holistic Remedies. PAGE 13	Brenda Wright	01299 409265
Wed 6th	7.30	The History Society meet at Neen Savage Village Hall		
	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village hall, where there is very good parking	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 7th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 8th	4.30-6.00	Philip Dunne MP has an advice surgery at 54 Broad Street, Ludlow. Make and appointment.		01584 872187
	8.00	Bingo Night at Cleeton St Mary Village Hall. Proceeds to Cleeton St Mary church.		
Tue 12th	7.00	Public Meeting, with senior County Council available to answer questions, at Severn Centre Highley. PAGE 13		
	7.30	The Stottesdon and Cleobury Support Group for Severn Hospice meets at The Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon. All Welcome. PAGE 13		
	7.30	Cleobury W.I. Gather in the Market Hall to hear Rose Jacks talk about T'ai Chi. Visitors Welcome. PAGE 25.	Judy Sant	01299 270983
Wed 13th	7.30	Neen Savage W.I. welcome Claire Carter to their Open Evening at Neen Savage Village Hall; All Welcome. PAGE 19		
	7.30	The Parish Hall Committee Annual General Meeting is in the Hall, to hear about the past year and plans for the future. New Members very welcome.		
	8.00	The Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street.	David Taylor	01299270793
Thu 14th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 15th	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall. No pressure, just fun and good company.	Kate Jones	01584 890284
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874

If you've not been to one of the Household Goods Sales at Knowle Sports Ground you've missed a lesson in how to raise money for a good cause. The whole monthly event is built around people donating unwanted clothes and furniture and leaving it at the Sports Ground on the Clee Hill to Tenbury Wells road. It's sorted and paid out for the sale day, which is on Saturday the 2nd this month. It starts at 8.00 am and you need to be there early to get the pick of the bargains, because people furnishing flats to let use it as a source. If you're looking for a bargain, there are very few places better than this.



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The April Social Calendar Continued

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Sat 16th	9.30am	Cleobury Country Farmers Market is in & around the Parish Church and Market Hall too. Good place to shop.	Clare Todd	01299 272300
	8.00	The Village Players present 'Love and Other Disasters' at Neen Savage Victory Hall. Tickets £10.	Bev Price	01299271535
Sun 17th	3.00	The Frineds of St Mary's Church present a Scrabble Competition in the Market Hall. Tickets limited for what promises to be a good wordy afternoon.		
Wed 20th	6.00-8.00pm	Business Networking Meeting at Cleobury Country Centre, Love Lane.		
	7.30	Stottesdon's W.I.'s Open Evening hosts Dr Mark Baldwin's talk on Second World War Codebreakers at Chorley Village Hall. PAGE 25		
	7.30	The History Society meet at Neen Savage Village Hall.		
	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 21st		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 23rd	7.30	Springtime music in Bayton Church offers a range from Queen to Sting and others. PAGE 19	Cathy	01299 832249
Wed 27th	10.00	Spring Into Mini Moffats at the School. Register by telephone. PAGE17		01299 841230
	7.30	Clows Top Gardening Club meet at Victory Hall to hear Ross Barbour talk about 'Bulbs for the Unusual' PAGE 13	Marion Wilson	01299 270465
Thu 28th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 29th	11.00	Sing, Laugh , Breathe at the Market Hall. Relaxed , happy approach to making simple music.	Kate Jones	01584 890284
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
AND LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY...				
Mon 2nd	9.30	Open Morning at Moffats School Kinlet PAGE 17		
Wed 4th	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890974
Thu 5th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 7th	7.30	Tenuto Concert in Kidderminster Town Hall in aid of Birmingham Children's Hospital		PAGE7

The Friends of Saint Mary's Church are trying something they've not done before, with a Scrabble Competition in the Market Hall on Sunday the 17th. It starts at 3.00 and is scheduled end at about 5.00, so you'll be home in time for tea. Teams of four can be entered, at a cost of £7.00 a head and the overall highest score will be acclaimed the winner and take home a prize; no details of that will be as we go to press. Should be a good social occasion and you can expect tea to be served for this most English of afternoon entertainments, even if the game was invented in America by Alfred Mosher Butts.

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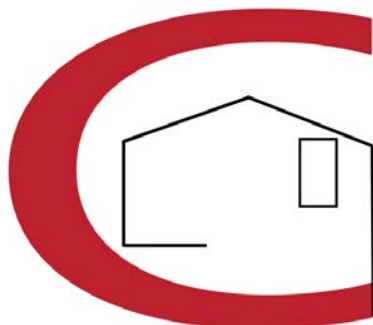
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Clarion Coppers with PCSO Nick Morris



In contrast to the unusually large number of reported crimes in the last issue, this month there are only five, (that's only five too many).

Overnight on February 17th/18th there was a burglary at Clee Hill Plant Ltd., where a large number of tools were stolen from a workshop and office. On March 2nd/3rd power tools were stolen from an outhouse at a dwelling in Pound Bank. The whole exhaust system, including a catalytic converter, worth £2000, was stolen from a Mercedes Sprinter van which was parked in Stanbrook Road, Burford. This happened overnight on March 9th/10th. There was an attempted burglary at a house in Burford between 10:15am and 10:15pm on March 12th. At 8:00am on March 15th it was discovered that a securely locked Ford Transit van which had been parked overnight in front of The Talbot, High Street, had been stolen. There had been a number of tools inside the van.

March 18th was National Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Day. The object of this was partly to bring to everyone's attention a crime that can affect any child, anywhere, regardless of social or ethnic background. Sexual exploitation occurs when a child has been persuaded that the sexual activities they are involved in are a normal part of adult life. The offender will try to drive a wedge between the child and parents or carers. Young girls (and boys), are groomed and then abused leaving them traumatised, and potentially with permanent psychological harm. There are several useful numbers available for anyone who needs to discuss their concerns relating to children. These can be found on the West Mercia website along with more information about 'CSE', the signs to look out for and what to do if 'CSE' is suspected.

Nick Morris



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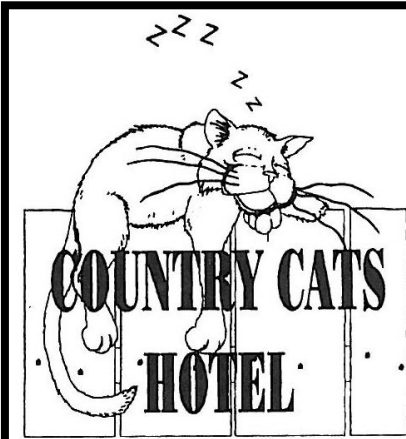
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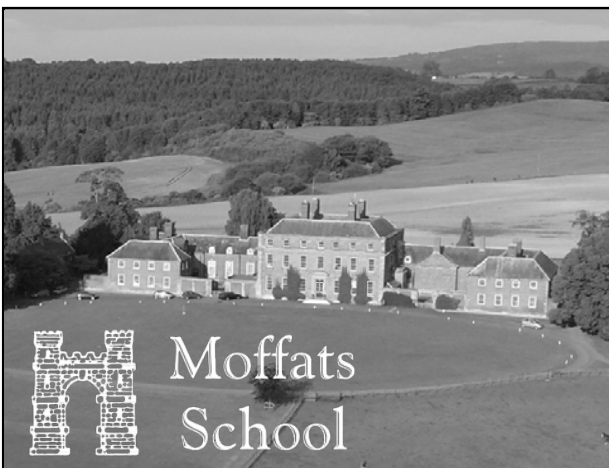
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On the Buses - Steve Todd reports

Another fun month which included the second Local Joint Committee meeting to discuss the 2L service. But more of that shortly. The usual rash of breakdowns continues leavened with other adventures – never let it be said that travelling with Diamond is dull.

One morning, passengers arrived to board the early bus to Kiddy to find the driver and a supervisor peering at vapour coming from the back of the bus. When they boarded, the supervisor repeatedly asked for all the windows to be opened to prevent 'the fumes getting to the driver'. These attempts appear to have failed as although things went well until the steep climb up into Far Forest (the one with the solid white line and blind bend at the top) when the driver decided to overtake the vehicle in front... True, this was only a digger but in an ailing Diamond bus with a lorry coming the other way? - no, me neither. Still the lorry was missed (just) and Bewdley was reached in one piece whereupon the driver dismounted for 15 minutes for a fag, presumably to settle his nerves. History does not relate how the passengers felt.

Just this week, passengers caught the 9.38 into Ludlow with no problems and intended to return on the 12.20. Departure time came and went with no sign of a bus until eventually, a passer by told them that the service wasn't picking up from Corve Street as roadworks meant it had to return by the same route it arrived and was picking up at Tesco. There was no notice at the stop and the driver that had delivered them had said nothing. As they were not psychic and had failed to divine that this was the case, they had to wait for the 2.20. When this arrived and they asked the driver why nothing had been said, he became abusive and said he was 'only the driver'. Another PR triumph for Diamond.

Which brings me on to the LJC meeting on 23rd March with the 2L discussion lasting a full 2 hours. Diamond were represented by their Operations Director and two staff from their Kidderminster depot including their

communications person. As you can see from above, she has got a challenge on.... Shropshire Council were also represented. Madge Shineton, the Chair, asked for questions and comments to be delivered initially to Diamond. And they were. Lots of them. And none were complimentary. Person after person spoke passionately about the effects of the poor timekeeping and unreliability on passengers, especially the elderly and students who are having their education disrupted. The attitude of many of the drivers was also questioned. At times, the Diamond representatives turned quite red (and it wasn't just the heat) and seemed surprised that their buses were ever problematic quoting a recent official inspection of the Kidderminster depot which had revealed only one small problem. Clearly they need to get out more.

The conversation then covered the convoluted route, which Diamond said was caused by the fact that the 2 service was run on a commercial basis but the 2L was subsidised and any extra passengers picked up on the way round helped their financial position. This might be true if they did pick up extra passengers but as they rarely do, I don't think this argument works. The Shropshire Council representative gave an excellent explanation of the background and why we are where we are with this service and seemed genuinely concerned that things were as bad as they are. The reason that Shropshire pay 80% of the subsidy on the 2L route was finally explained (after months of refusals to discuss it) in about 30 seconds as this only covers the stretch from Bewdley to Ludlow, most of which is in Shropshire.

I spoke to the Shropshire Council representative after the meeting and he seems determined to get this situation sorted, even if it means creating a fresh contract with a different operator although any solution is clearly dependent on sufficient funding being available.

Steve Todd

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Linda Iles

April In The Wyre Forest



Now that Easter has come and gone we can say that 'the season' has begun: the growing season, with days longer than the nights and trips out into the countryside. (It's amazingly difficult to find destinations with refreshment facilities open in February or March and, let's face it, what's the point of a walk without a cup of tea and slice of cake at the end of it?)

The hardy blackthorn has already blossomed but soon the cherries and damsons will brighten the orchards with their boughs of white flowers. This winter we have lost a few more of the old cherry trees at Uncllys but will keep the dead wood stacked in the rows for the benefit of beetles and other saprophytes. The survivors have been augmented with new plantings, now old enough to flower and fruit, and you can visit the orchards of Tanners Hill and Ruskin Land by joining a **Blossom Walk** (with tea!) on May 1st. For more information call 01299 488083 or email info@wyreclt.org.uk.

The wild cherry, or gean, on the other hand is the one you will see in bloom at the woodland edges in early spring. It is the inspiration for Housman's lines from 'A Shropshire Lad':

*'Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide'*

The fruits are small, ranging from yellow through red to black, and edible when fully ripe

(although birds and small mammals may not leave them this long). *Flora Britannica* by Richard Mabey and Archie Miles' *Silva* mention that cherry brandy can be made from the fruits by steeping them in brandy in much the same way as sloe gin is made. Both books also praise the wood of the cherry, with its red-brown heartwood and pink or yellow sapwood, its fine grain and ability to take a high polish. It is prized by wood turners and used to be made into smokers' pipes. Richard Mabey also mentions that the resin which oozes from the trunks and hardens into sticky lumps was used as a country chewing gum – possibly healthier and certainly more natural than the commercial version.

Damsons will soon follow with their blossom later in the month. They are well known and, I hope, appreciated in these parts as a fruit for puddings, jams and cordials. We inherited six old trees when we came to Uncllys Farm, but two of them have since succumbed to old age. They have been succeeded by their offspring, grown on from suckers and fruiting well, while the timber of one of the parents was offered to a local woodturner, Steve H., who very kindly gave us back a very fine turned vase which shows off the glowing red grain of the tree to perfection.

Linda Iles

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David Walford's Poetry Reading Evening



David Walford staged a poetry reading at the Sports and Social Club in March. A small attendance, but all impressed by his words.

Given a set of David's four booklets of poetry, we handed them out to members of the Writing Group and asked for their opinions:

I am not qualified to judge the writing of others, whether poetry or prose, but I am qualified to judge the effect they have on me.

I have just read 'Poems of War' by David Walford and can honestly say I was deeply moved. Two poems in particular stood out for me, "The Young Widow" and "They Came To Remember". "High on a Windswept Hill" remembers

friend and foe who died in war. It reminds us that whilst war is sometimes unavoidable, it should only be a last resort to protect ones people and their freedom. People on both sides die in war. One poem, "Attention," caused me to smile. It describes a soldier's first contact with military discipline, the military haircut. As a national serviceman I underwent this induction ceremony, but being in the RAF we did not march away afterwards. We were made to double back to our barracks.

As I said at the beginning I found this collection very moving and to be able to communicate one's feelings in words as David has done so well is quite an accomplishment.

Roy Morris

Thoughts on David Walford's Reflective Poems:

David's anthology begins appropriately with 'Reflections From a Shattered Mirror', remembering a happy rural childhood. But growing up brings doubts, uncertainties and a bitter-sweet nostalgia for more innocent times. The Old Dock Worker has poignant memories of an active dockland life, but in

his old age has the consolation of a loving family.

Trapped in Life's Gilded Cage reflects the longing to escape life's treadmill and find solace in nature. Another form of relaxation can be found in local hostelries, shown in Three Silver Darts and To A Barmaid Kate. Many poems highlight the gross inequality between greedy materialism and the struggle to survive, as in A Child Cries Out.

The inability to mentally 'switch off' is a common problem, as in The Edge of Madness. In contrast, The Brass Plate reveals the spirit of a man to whom a bench was dedicated, as he meanders through a park on a beautiful summer day, delighting in children's laughter, leaves ruffled by a warm breeze, a glimpse of moorhens among the reeds.

These are just a few of the many memorable poems in this book which concludes with Nature's Beauty and Its Beast, a moving account of how the ferocious power of water tragically claimed the life of a vibrant young woman.

A diverse and thought provoking collection, full of colourful and emotive imagery.

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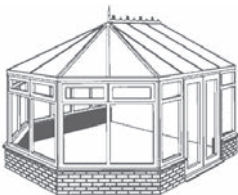
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MORE ABOUT OUR BAND

Katie Griffiths does a great job getting publicity for the band and gave us an insight into their long term thinking: "One day we would even like to have our own purposely designed band room, for current and future generations to use. If you can help on that front, do please get in touch."



Proof of the age range in the band, with 12 year old Laura in full musical flow between two more mature band members.

"Talking of future generations, we have a thriving training band and are always on the lookout for new members. If you are Grade 1 or higher and interested in joining our group, we have a range of ages and abilities. Just turn up at the Social Club at 6.30 on Tuesday evenings."

THE CLEOBURY MORTIMER LECTURES ARE COMING

Robert Hodge does a lot of work in the community, quietly getting things done to make us more aware of our history and its evidence all around.

He is the inspiration behind what he hopes will become an annual event: The Cleobury Mortimer Lectures. These will be about outstanding historic features in the area, given by a recognised expert on the subject, in the Parish Church, under that historic twisted spire. Admission will be free.

The dates for this first year of the venture are May 19th and June 9th and 30th, all starting at 7.30. More details soon on www.cleoburymortimerlectures.uk

THE FINAL PICTURE QUIZ - THE ANSWERS

Obviously a tough version of the Quiz, the March version only produced two responses. To put just a few minds at rest, here are the answers, which neither of the entrants got 100 percent right:

1. The Doll's House by Ibsen.
2. Merry Wives of Windsor by William Shakespeare
3. Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare.

4. The Mousetrap by Agatha Christie.
5. Lady Windermere's Fan by Oscar Wilde.
6. Look Back in Anger by John Osborne.
7. Voyage Around My Father by John Mortimer.
8. Murder in the Cathedral by T S Eliot
9. King Lear by William Shakespeare.

The two entries received both got Number 7 wrong, so it was the first past the post who got the verdict. The winner was Lavinia Griffiths, who tells us she and her mother enjoyed the mental exercise as they cooperated over the answers.

NEW CAMPER HIRE BUSINESS OPENS

Leisure Life Motorhomes is a new business, based at Vine House in the High Street and offering a motor home hire service through the year. Richard and Caren Butler are the principals and you can contact them on 0800 3688060 or contact@leisurelifemotorhomes.co.uk. Or have a look at what they're offering on www.leisurelifemotorhomes.co.uk and read all about the service. There's a very helpful events guide section that could give you some good ideas about a weekend away.

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On The Market - Stellan Vert



David and Carole Horton with spinning wheel and gloves knitted from its natural wool output.

David Horton has become quite a feature at the Farmers' Markets, sitting and spinning yarn from a natural sheep's fleece. And nearby is a range of pieces knitted by his wife Carole and their daughter Alice. Most of them in natural colours, all of them warm to the touch in the way that only wool can give.

They work from a smallholding near Craven Arms,

David having opted out of what you and I regard as normal employment to concentrate on what he and Carole love doing. The long process of developing their two acres to provide them with enough food to live on is taking time, but part of that is the pleasure of doing what they want. Carole is still employed, but can see better things ahead.

They draw their woollen fleeces from selected flocks, like the Elmley Castle one near Pershore and others nearer home. Where did Carole learn her knitting skills? "At mother's knee," she smiles. Ah yes, the famous UMK, or University of Mother's Knee; there's been a lot learned there over the years. It's where daughter Alice learned, too.

David is good - very good - with wood. He's another who learned by watching craftsmen and listening to their advice, and the challenge of taking a run down place and making it habitable rewarded the skills he acquired. Their stall features a

range of his work, with that gentle glow of natural wood that no synthetic material can match.

They happily pass on their skills to others and offer one-to-one tuition in spinning (drop and machine style) and knitting. Carole has a natural curiosity and thirst for knowledge, readily admitting that she learned how to give the fingers of her gloves a smooth closure with a trick she watched on You Tube and applies to what she sells.

They are a refreshingly open couple to talk to and question; nothing is protected as a trade secret, they want to share their knowledge and enjoyment. They do smile a lot, as most of the small volume traders in the market do.

They're regulars at Cleobury Market and at Craven Arms, plus craft fairs in the Marches area. Ask about the different wools and Carole shows you how the softness of feel differs with each breed of sheep. Good people, whose happiness in what they do shines through.

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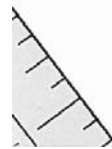
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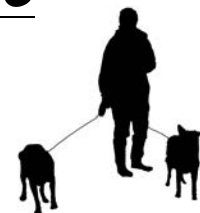
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LACON CHILDE MURAL AT THE MARKET HALL



Some of the Lacon Childe students who produced the town's history mural.

From left: Chloe Smart, Maisie Sharrard and John McPhee with teacher David Barker.

Year 10 pupils at Lacon Childe took on a big project when asked to produce a mural reflecting the history of Cleobury Mortimer. With advice from Robert Hodge of the History Society they put in a lot of effort for the mural that was originally destined to go on the wall of the new Medical Centre. But that idea did not come to fruition, so it was agreed that the mural will be auctioned and the proceeds go to Jack

Edwards, who can decide which charity the money should go to.

The mural was mounted in the front window of the Market Hall, surrounded by photos of the process with notes to describe the work. A good way of showing off some of the work in the school and to remind us of the town's long history.

Watch this space for a date and venue for the auction of a unique artwork.

BEWARE

A good friend of the Clarion advises that there is a gang going around at night, looking to raid sheds for anything valuable. They were disturbed in late March on a building site where some vehicles are kept locked in a shed.

There were seven men, all masked, which means these people have serious intentions on your valuables. The police naturally attended this call, but the helicopter was already working in Birmingham so couldn't be brought in. If you have a shed or barn with anything valuable stored, make sure it's locked and, if possible, alarmed. Professional thieves live off the likes of you and me, so let's not be complacent and make their very nasty work easy for them.

QUALITY SUCCEEDS

The Bennett and Dunn rape seed oil that you can buy at the Farmers' Market or from Bowketts, is making friends and being accepted in some very high class places.

It's now used by the Five Star Simpson restaurant in Birmingham, a place that's held a Michelin Star since 2003.

And it's the chef's choice at the Albright Hussey Manor Hotel in Shrewsbury, after he tried it and opted to use it in their kitchen.

SHROPSHIRE'S GREAT OUTDOORS

The County Council recently launched a new website:

www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk, which offers details of the many walking, cycling and viewing attractions the county has to offer. The interactive maps are good, with their ability to change from overall layout to contour map as you zoom in and finally detailed road maps of villages and towns.

It's intended to get us all more interested in seeing what's just down the road, but will also help the tourist industry as well. Congratulations Shropshire!

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IMPRESSIVE PEDELECS



Contrast in styles. On the left is the sporty KTM, with 11-speed gearset, guidance system and hydraulic disc brakes. On the right the totally different approach of the Ebco city style, with seven speeds, an upright riding position and the ability to carry luggage as well.

Shropshire Quads at Neen Savage have taken a further step into electric transport. One of the first quad bike specialists to stock electric versions, Dave Johnson has now expanded the range with electric bicycles. The trade they call them pedelecs.

The first stock in was from the Austrian off-road specialist KTM, who have a very good name for their bicycles and motorcycles. Dave has done some riding around the local

roads, with some very serious cyclists, and found the ease of travel a revelation. Would you believe climbing Farlow Bank with little effort? That's quite a test.

I took a ride around the farmyard on the same bike. It's just like riding a normal pedal cycle, with Bosch motor assistance all the time you're pedalling. Stop pedalling and you coast, touch the brakes levers lightly and you stop. First time I've ridden one of this new transport offerings and I was well impressed. And the quality of the build and all the accessories were really good. At £2500 it's the top of the range unless you're into serious competition, but you could tackle almost any hill, up and down, with complete confidence.

The more sober alternative is the Ebco, looking like the pedal cycles you see in thousands in Holland. Upright riding position, sensible mudguards and for the business commuter or shopper a set of panniers that will fit over the rear mounted battery. It comes with a range of gear sets, from three to seven, and prices start from £990, which makes it an affordable

alternative if you have a short journey to work. It is presented as a City Bike and you can see that as its natural place.

The big advantage of these two extremes in a new market is that they are regarded as bicycles so long as they have limited speed and power - 15mph and 250 Watts, which both do. So no need for a driving licence, road tax or insurance, though you would need a strong sense of mortality before you tried to join the big tractors and Mitsubishi Shoguns on local roads. Treat them as a serious means of travel or play and they make a lot of sense. Sense of fun, that is. Just dress sensibly and wear a helmet, because falling off at even 15mph can hurt.

Dave is also expecting the Italian made and styled Benelli range, which offers a range from shopper to super sports. All with Italian flair; the pictures look gorgeous.

Electric power is making big inroads in car transport. Scooters and mopeds are well established and they don't directly pollute the atmosphere. You can see some of the future at Neen Savage and Dave is always a straight talker, not at all a sharp salesman after a quick buck.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE READING GROUP

A triumph for our February read "Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter" by Tom Franklin, it met with 100% approval. Set in rural Mississippi about 30 years ago, it immerses the reader in the landscape, people and local politics of a small decaying town. Although dealing with murder, the story is more about poverty, prejudice, parenting and friendship. The main characters, Larry and Silas are richly defined as we follow them through youth to adulthood when the loneliness of Larry becomes heartbreaking. The Southern dialogue is authentic, descriptions vivid and social relations realistic. A moral dilemma has to be resolved, which makes the reader reflect on life and how one decision can alter many lives. A slow burner of a novel but a recommended read.

This month we are reading "Child That Books Built", a biography by Francis Spufford and we meet to discuss it on Monday April 18th at 7.30pm, in the library

Deana Kimber 271754

THEATRE AT FARLOW AND ORETON

Theatre comes to the Farlow village hall at 8.00 on Saturday the 9th of this month, with 'The Iranian Feast'.

It's set in Tehran, where a family are working out how life will be in the future. English players, Persian food, modern setting - great mix of variety. Tickets are £10, bookable on 01746 718642.

COCO COFFEE MORNINGS

These are held in the Market Hall on the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, from 10.00 to 12.00. Everyone is made very welcome and where else can you get a slice of homemade cake and tea or coffee for £1.50? If you want a slice of Audrey's legendary coffee walnut cake, arrive early!

Catherine Evans

THE SUNDAY LEAGUE CHARITY FUND

Last year the Sunday League Charity Fund donated 90 percent of the funds raised to MacMillan Cancer Support, Nightingale Nurses and Cleobury Compassionate Communities. They each

received a cheque to the value of £934.00.

My thanks go to the captains and players of the teams at The Lion, Bell, Talbot and Sports and Social Club. The lottery players at The Bell donated £270 to the fund.

Roger Gittins, Secretary/Treasurer

THE POPPY APPEAL 2015

The Poppy Appeal has so far raised £5419.57. May I pass on the thanks from the Appeal to all the businesses who allowed us to place collection boxes on their counters. My thanks to the collectors, schools and all who did a grand job in raising such a magnificent total.

Roger Gittins (P.A.O.)

HOBSON'S WIN AGAIN

In March the Society of Independent Brewers (announced the winners of their Business and Industry Awards, at the BeerX event in Sheffield. Hobson's fought off tough competition to take the acclaimed marketing award for its Tasting Room.

"Hobsons had clearly realised their vision to create an enhanced visitor experience at their brewery by developing a sustainable tasting room. The visitors centre and tasting room is not only a huge marketing asset for the brewery, but an example of what can be done on a limited budget when social media and other public relations activities are utilised effectively" commented the panel of judges.



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The Farming Page - John and Catherine Evans of Broome Park Farm

Who can believe Easter has already been and gone yet it doesn't really feel like Spring yet! The daffodils have been out since January, alongside the snowdrops and primroses but it has been too cold and wet to plant anything in the garden or the fields. Finally the ground is drying up and ploughing has started for the spring planting. Yet to plant there are beans, fodder beet, spring barley and a whole crop pea and barley mix to cut as silage for the beef cattle. This is a change from the usual maize crop and hopefully be ready for harvesting in August rather than late October for maize.

As the weather is dry there is also lots of spraying to do, keeping the weeds down and preventing diseases but John is happy to get out and about in his self-propelled sprayer.

The end of March brought a sheep inspection. This is a spot check by the Rural Payments Agency to see if we have what was declared at the annual

return in December, check all the movements on and off the farm and that all the records are up to date. Not so easy when there are over 1100 ewes and 500 store lambs and rented land has a different holding number to the rest of the farm so every time sheep are moved from one part to another a movement form is needed, as well as when sheep are bought or sold. Each ewe has a unique number and two electronic ear tags, fortunately lambs don't need tagging until later. Hopefully everything was as it should be but a huge amount of paperwork and not really farming.

Here at Broome Park the last two pigs are in the freezer (very tasty sausages and bacon) and have been replaced by two new piglets, named Hillary and Donna as a nod to the elections over the pond. The cattle have been TB tested and passed which is always a relief and we have two lambs on the bottle, always popular with guests.

John and Catherine Evans



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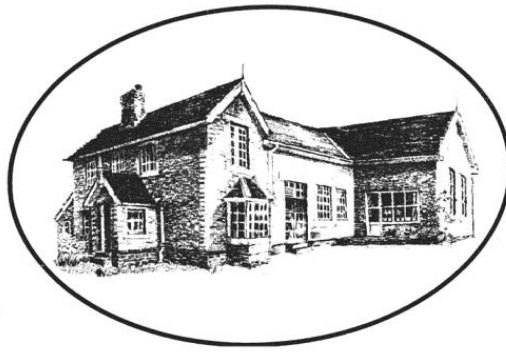


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Bayton C of E Primary School, where our mission is

TO BE THE BEST THAT YOU CAN BE!

Appointment of our new Head Teacher

At the end of this summer term we will be sorry to say goodbye to our Head Teacher, Mrs Avis Pounder, who will be retiring. Mrs Pounder has led the school for over fifteen years, and has helped the school grow from only a handful of students to a thriving, outstanding school with 110 pupils. Mrs Pounder says, "I knew when I started at Bayton that I had found my niche. Bayton is a wonderful community. I could not have asked for better support throughout my tenure here, from parents, pupils, staff and Governors to the wider community. I shall miss so much but know that the school will be going from strength to strength under the leadership of the new Headteacher".

After a gruelling interview process our interview panel were delighted to appoint Mrs Helen Hoarle who is currently the Headteacher at Grimley and Holt School. The interview day was extremely intense with a wide range of tasks and presentations, including a question and answer session with our very own School Council children, but the candidates all survived and we wish those who were not successful all the best in their next interview.

Mrs Hoarle will be coming into Bayton School several times over the next few months so that the handover can be as effective as possible. It will be lovely to welcome her in more relaxed circumstances than the interview day!

This process would not have been possible without our Governing Body, especially with Becci Godwin as Chair, who worked tirelessly to put together the whole interview process, from compiling questions for interview to observing candidates teaching in their own settings.

We currently have places available in our year 2 class. For further details about our school, contact the office on 01299 832393. Alternatively, visit our brand new website at www.baytonprimaryschool.co.uk

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

How good to read the plaudits for Mark Greaves in the last Clarion edition. He deserves them. He works for St Mary's Youth Project, and is employed by St Mary's Parochial Church Council.

The Church is often seen as out of touch with what goes on in its surrounding area, but among the local community and in St Mary's Youth Project, we have an excellent example of The Church at work. If you get the chance to talk to Mark, ask what is the secret of his work. The likely answer is that he helps to build strong relationships with all those he comes into contact with. No doubt he will be willing to share why faith drives him.

The PCC have faith in the value of the relationships that

the Youth Project brings to young people; our act of faith was that we believed we would be able to find the funding to move the youth project forward. With a great deal of hard work we have been able to find the funding from donations. Last year we were able to secure funding from the Diocese of Hereford to expand the work to include families as well, bringing in another full time worker to take over some of Mark's activities.

Mark is infectious. He seizes opportunities to engage in schemes to help all youngsters, like the mentoring programme he has set up in the local schools, drawing in members of The Church to support him. He finds time to organise and lead informal worship times in St

Mary's and the Methodist Hall, supported by the Methodist Church as their contribution to the Project's work. All this is part of an even wider range of work that comes from St Mary's, like the Pastoral Care Group who work with Cleobury's Compassionate Communities team visiting the ill, the frail, the lonely. A group take assemblies in the Primary School once a week; we help run the Lent and Advent lunches, again bringing people together in relationship.

In the bible Jesus says thirteen times 'Follow me'. In St Mary's Youth Project and the church, Mark and others are doing that, and it makes a difference to individual lives. Find Mark at: **The Hub @ The Methodist Hall – Youth Drop-in: Tuesdays.**



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