



## **NEW DIRECTION FOR KINLET HALL**



*Her Grace Emma, Duchess of Rutland, was Guest of Honour at the launch party for Kinlet Hall's new business venture.*

A party to launch Kinlet Hall on its new business life attracted 100 or so people. They were there to hear plans for wedding receptions, offices to let, special educational events and an invitation to suggest what else can be offered to keep this lovely old mansion and its staff busy. The Duchess of Rutland graced the evening with a blend of charm and common sense.

More on Page 57.

## **CLEE HILL WILDLIFE COMMUNITY A.G.M.**

Clee Hill's reputation as a source of wildlife as well as an historic site keeps on growing. The Wildlife Community Group's Annual General Meeting attracted 40 people to the Village Hall and offered a range of erudite reports. It's not a bad measure of the involvement of people at such gatherings that most of them had mud on their boots and showed little evidence of over expensive grooming.

We have two reports in this issue making reference to the curlew's falling numbers. 77 percent fewer breeding pairs over the last decade is a serious level of decline that is being addressed with a drive to get landowners cooperating in locating and protecting these graceful ground nesting birds.

Should we give time to such a venture when so much else demands our time? Of course we should - ignore the threat to the survival of one species and we could find more in peril.

## **WHO'S ON THE BUSES CASE?**

Steve Todd's monthly reports on the unloved 2L bus service give a mixture of humour, frustration and simple wonder at the level of incompetence we suffer. So the announcement that local contractors R & B are to take over looks like good news.

But as we go to press there are gaps in the available information. It seems that R & B will handle the bulk of the work, but there is no news on who will provide the early and later services. For students travelling to colleges at Ludlow or Kidderminster, for people travelling to work at those towns and for those with early hospital appointments the situation is not clear.

The good news is that buses will travel from Ludlow to Kidderminster without the hour long tour of backstreets. But is that one basic improvement meant to compensate for all the other shortcomings? This town is in need of a real bus service.

Steve Todd writes on Page 37.

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# The Cleobury Clarion, March 2018

## Volume Sixteen - Edition One



*Here to help, with a welcoming smile and no charge. It's the Hearing Aid Clinic.  
See Page 7.*



*There are not many places a young lady can walk around with a hawk.  
See Page 21.*



*It's not unusual to ask for a train set for your birthday. For Hobsons' 25th they went one better and rented the Severn Valley Line. See Page 43.*

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## **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.

This 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 to keep on top of the weeding.

This month's meeting will be on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup>, when we welcome Chris Edwards with a talk entitled 'Gardening for Wildlife'.

*Pauline Bowen*

## **TOWN COUNCIL NEWS**

The Town Council Annual General Meeting, when local societies and bodies can report their work for the past year, will be held at Lacon Childe School on the 20<sup>th</sup> of this month, starting at 6.15. This is your chance to question the Council about policies and work and to hear about their future plans.

The Council's notice board at the Market Hall has been handed over to the Hall and the Council will have a new board located in the town centre.

The replacement of concrete bodied street lights with more durable steel versions will begin in Langlands Road, Love Lane and Childe Road. The new lights will be energy efficient LED types.

The Big Cleobury Survey. Your views on our community and its future are being put to the test with an important survey that will influence

planning for the town. To have your say, visit the Town's website or Facebook page to click on the survey. Alternatively pick up a paper copy from The Market Hall or the Library.

## **THANK YOU**

This very courteous message came in from Maureen Keller on March 4<sup>th</sup>, when you may remember that there was a bit of snow about:

"I would just like to say "thank you" to the person who came down Mill Pool last night on a tractor. It was a really kind thought, and made life much easier today. Many thanks."

A thank you to both parties on this occasion. The first to the tractor driver, the second to Maureen for taking the trouble to write.

## **AND THANK YOU AGAIN**

After living at Castle Hill for 50 years I moved to Catherton Close in February.

I have been overwhelmed and humbled by the cards and phone calls wishing me well, bringing flowers and hours of practical help and support. My next door neighbours were first on the scene, with a cup of coffee for me and the removal men. Friends came to help me unpack, put up curtain rails, pictures on the walls, set up my computer, pack away boxes of things I did not need immediately, measuring for curtains and securing the washing machine.

I managed to be in before the snow, when I found my dustbin put out and my path onto the street cleared I could go on .....

This could only happen in Cleobury Mortimer. Thank you one and all

*Shaunah Murrell*

PS: One big let down was BT. No Broadband to date; a real saga!

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## THE HEARING AID CLINIC

There's a very useful service in operation that costs you nothing to use. It's the Hearing Aid Clinic, open from 10.00 to 12.00 noon on the first Wednesday of every month, in the Community Room at Saint Mary's Close. That's off Love Lane, across the road from Lacon Childe School.

They will clean, service or repair any National Health hearing aid, volunteers Arthur Ratcliff and Pam Carter meeting visitors with a smile and able to deal with normal hearing aid work on the spot. They do not have training to deal with clients' physical problems and refer such matters to the Audiology Service at Shrewsbury.



*Service with a smile as a client explains why he's looked in to get a little help.*

While we were there, there was a steady stream of callers, the first because his hearing aids were slipping out. Arthur took a look, recognised that the tube at the centre of the aid needed trimming and carefully replaced them, trimmed to the correct length before the man left, smiling at the better fit.

While that was happening, Pam dealt with another man, whose aids needed cleaning. A job soon done, using wet wipes. A big smile and a 'Thank you' as another satisfied customer left.

The service is controlled by the Shropshire Rural Community Council registered charity and other monthly drop-in Repair Clinics are at Bridgnorth and Ludlow. Bridgnorth is well established and can get very busy - Arthur and Pam can remember the day they dealt with 45 clients in one two-hour session. It now opens twice a month to avoid such rushes and pressure in future.

It's a vital service that more people need to know about; we will be publishing the monthly dates in the Clarion Social Calendar in future. If you would like to be involved in this kind of voluntary work, Shropshire RCC would be happy to hear from you. They're on 01743 360641.

## SIT AND BE FIT

This is something new, coming to the Parish Hall on the 18th and every Wednesday after that, from 11.00 to 12.00. It's Pat Smith's idea, seen whilst on a winter cruise and designed to give the less agile some basic exercise. She talked to her physiotherapist, who agreed that with the right teacher it could be a good thing. It will be run by a qualified teacher, ladies and gentlemen all welcome, and you can expect a social side to develop in time.

All done in a seated position, equipment to help will be available. Sounds very interesting.

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## THE SOROPTIMISTS

The beginning of our year this month is going to be very busy. At our first Business meeting on April 5th when we welcome and induct our new president Sue Merrill, our club hopes to have a stand at the Bewdley Community Showcase event on April 7th.

Another Afternoon Tea with Henry Sandon, the antiques expert, has been organised for April 12th at 2.00 pm in Baxter Church Rooms, Kidderminster: Admission £7 p.p. There will be an opportunity to have a treasured ceramic or porcelain item valued (£3 per item, one per person on a first come/first served basis).

Our Supper/Speaker meeting on April 19th at La Brasserie promises an interesting evening. Sue's motto for her presidential year is 'The Next Generation' and we look forward to the first talk given by Ann Becke on the 'Chernobyl Children's Lifeline'.

Our annual Bridge Tournament will be on April 25th: 10.00 am to 4.00 pm at Blakedown Parish Rooms - £12 per player including morning coffee and lunch refreshments. Profits in aid of Alzheimer's UK. To book your place please contact Sue on 07831 487 648 or 01562-700078

Our Informal Coffee Morning at the George Hotel, Bewdley, will be on April 26th from 10.00 am onwards. Do come and meet some of us.

We are ending the month on a high with our Midland Arden Region's Celebration event at Stone Manor, Kidderminster on April 29th, 2.00 – 5.00 pm: the lovely ceremony of the Change of Insignias of all clubs present.

## ROCK PATHFINDERS

The Pathfinders walks this month start at 10.30 on Thursday the 5th, meeting at the Riverside

Tearoom in Arley DY12 1XA or OS reference 7648092 if you're an Ordnance Survey map user.

Then on Thursday the 19th they'll be gathering at 10.30 in the Hare and Hounds car park, in Shenstone DY10 4BU or OS 862737. Everyone is welcome on these walks, that last about two to three hours along footpaths and bridleways. More information from Alan on 01299 400304.

## ROAD CLOSURE

Early notice of extensive road works starting on May 14th and scheduled to last through three phases until September 28th. It's the renewal of water mains on Steventon Road down to The Serpent junction at Caynham. Commuters who normally use that short cut through to avoid the A49 traffic at busy times should look out for diversion signs or stick to the main road and take a little longer on the journey.

## THE CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

At our March meeting, the prompt of 'oak tree' inspired a surprising variety of pieces, including a humorous poem about a swearing buzzard, a play involving a wedding proposal, and a ghostly party. Conversation was lively and veered from one writerly topic to another: how to cope with interleaved action scenes, the problems of dialogue, the advantages of remembering to use all five senses. We left with much to think about and our homework for next time, which is to be inspired by the words picture, rock and tennis ball, and must include some dialogue.

*Gill Guest*

## SILLY BIT

**They say that George Washington could never tell a lie. My wife can - as soon as she hears it.**

**Bob Monkhouse**



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## **NEEN SAVAGE W.I.**

Despite our February meeting being held on Valentine's Day we welcomed Peter Roper to give his intriguing talk 'What Planet are you from?' An excellent speaker, he kept us all engaged, using a simple profiling technique to determine our key personality traits. Everyone falls into one of four categories and it was interesting watching people glance sideways at their neighbour, trying to decide which they were in. D: determined, direct and decisive; I: inspiring, influential and involved; S: supportive, steady and sweet or C: cautious, conscientious and contemplative?

According to Peter the key to getting on with people is to decide on their personality type and then mirror their traits, sometimes all it takes is to say the same thing but in a different way. This generated discussion and some disagreement over whether we agreed with our assessment.

In March Rupert Bennett from Bennett and Dunn Rape Seed Oils talked about his oils and dressings whilst also demonstrating their uses in cooking. Unfortunately, multi tasking may have been a step too far for this mere male and there were some shocked faces on the front row when a fire ball nearly engulfed Rupert and his small gas stove! Fortunately this minor blip didn't deter from an excellent talk highlighting the benefits of cooking with rapeseed oil in place of other oils.

Rupert and his wife produce cold pressed oil using a screw press process which is then filtered and bottled. The rapeseed is grown by a neighbour and the residue is turned into cattle feed so there is no waste. Rape seed oil contains vitamins E and K, has a high burning point so excellent for frying and is a good source of Omega 3. Rupert cooked up a delicious meal of spicy chicken, potato salad and a crunchy salad, including homemade mayonnaise, something I

will definitely be trying at home. It was lovely to welcome several visitors who we hope will join us again.

April 11<sup>th</sup> is the Members Meeting when Robin Conway will be talking about Solving Crime, although we are slightly concerned he has a dim view of the WI as has asked for examples of us participating in crime.

On May 12<sup>th</sup> we are thrilled to be hosting the Shropshire Federation of WIs Spring Ramble in Neen Savage, thanks to the help of CMFA.

For further details please contact our President Sandra Dodd on 01299 271563 or come along to a meeting where you will be made very welcome.

*Catherine Evans*

## **WORLD WAR ONE ITEMS**

### **WANTED**

Do you have photographs, letters, medals or general memorabilia relating to the First World War? If you do, the WW1 working group would be pleased to hear from you.

The plan is to gather items together and exhibit them at a venue to be decided. Items need not be restricted to military but might relate to things that happened during the war at home, everyday memories of agriculture or industry for example. Neither do they need to just relate to Cleobury or Shropshire - all would be welcome.

The group is aware items may have great personal or family importance therefore the exhibition space will be secure when closed and manned when it is open.

If you do have anything please contact me on CM 270010 or 07808 682715.

The intention is to mount the exhibition in November to coincide with other events marking the Armistice.

*Paul French*



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### **CLEOBURY PATIENTS' VOICE**

NHS England identified the importance of patient groups in improving and monitoring local health care. Last year, NHS England made it mandatory for GP practices to have a Patient Participation Group (PPG). CPV is the Cleobury Mortimer Medical Practice's Group.

Our main aim is to act as advocates for the patients. We work with the practice and the community to ensure patients receive the Health and Social care that meets their needs. We act as the link between our community and the Practice. To maintain trust group members must sign a confidentiality / data protection agreement.

We stay up to date with local and national health and social care services. If changes affect users we will lobby to ensure care needs are met, taking into account financial constraints. We also promote healthy living and health education.

We meet at the Medical Centre on the third Monday of the month at 6.30pm. A doctor and the medical practice manager attend the meetings so we can discuss concerns. We discuss proposed service changes and developments. For health promotion, we maintain a notice board in the medical centre reception, a website and we participate in events held locally.

We could achieve more and promote ourselves better if we had more active members. Low membership hampers new developments and even puts at risk the services we provide. This year we appointed a new chairman Paul French and at the February meeting gained two new members, but we need to grow to be a fundamental part of the health services of our community.

Very soon we will be putting a defibrillator readily accessible in the centre of Cleobury for use in the case of an emergency. We want to do more of these projects and more health promotion events. We can only do this effectively with more members who support the group. If you are interested in Health and Social care in our community and South Shropshire we would welcome your help.

We can be contacted on 01299 407224, email [cleoburypatientsvoice@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:cleoburypatientsvoice@hotmail.co.uk) or use a comments card in the medical centre reception. For more information our website is: [www.cleobury-patients-voice.co.uk](http://www.cleobury-patients-voice.co.uk)

*Paul French and Jenny McCrorie*

### **AUNT AGATHA**



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## The Clarion Jobs Page

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Butcher/Shop Manager GH Bowkett Limited	Are you qualified/experienced butcher with customer focus, Enthusiasm & communication skills	Please contact Glenys Holdcroft or Selina Bowkett. Tel: 01584 810351 Email: <a href="mailto:ghbowkett@gmail.com">ghbowkett@gmail.com</a>
Farlow Farm Nursery	Full time vacancy for an enthusiastic worker with common sense. Duties would cover all aspects of field and container production of a hardy nursery	Please contact <a href="mailto:sales@farlowfarmnursery.co.uk">sales@farlowfarmnursery.co.uk</a> for more information.

**Shropshire Independent Advocacy Service (SIAS) is a small charitable organisation which provides advocacy services to adults with mental health problems. We are seeking to appoint a Senior Administrative Assistant to provide maternity cover (in the first instance) until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018, with an immediate start date if possible. The closing date for applications is Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April. Applications need to be made in writing accompanied by an up to date CV. Further information: [John.howard@siasonline.org](mailto:John.howard@siasonline.org) or [helen.blackmore@siasonline.org](mailto:helen.blackmore@siasonline.org)**



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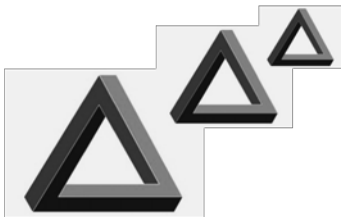
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## CLEE HILL COMMUNITY WILDLIFE GROUP

The Group's Annual Public Meeting in the village hall on March 12<sup>th</sup> was well attended, reflecting the level of interest in the area in learning about and protecting wildlife on Clee Hill. There were brief updates of the activities of the five main strands of the group:

The Bird Group which carries out the Curlew and Lapwing survey

The Botanical Group which carries out Local Wildlife site surveys

The Butterfly and Moth groups

The Novers Forest Bird Monitoring programme

The Peregrine Protection Group

More information about each group on the website [www.shropscwgs.org.uk](http://www.shropscwgs.org.uk).

After the talks we could view a range of exhibition stands. Contributions to the cost of refreshments and the raffle resulted in £116.00 being added to the group's funds which will help us to continue monitoring and protecting wildlife over the next year.

A grant from Rotary Cares has allowed the group to buy boxes for kestrel, redstart, pied flycatcher, swift, swallow and house martin to be installed in suitable locations. As a result in interest generated, most of these boxes have now been offered a home. The new owners have committed to put them up, clean them out as needed and to provide the group with a brief annual report re their usage or otherwise.

The bird group will be starting to survey for curlew now, with the first survey usually taking place around the 1<sup>st</sup> April. There have been several reports of curlew sightings around the hill already and their beautiful call is heard on an almost daily basis as the birds establish their territories. You

can help in this first survey by letting the group know if you become aware of curlew activity (contact Chris Bargman on 01299 270514 or e-mail [chwg.birdgroup@gmail.com](mailto:chwg.birdgroup@gmail.com)).



*The curlew in flight. Its distinctive, haunting call can be heard on Clee Hill, but the population has reduced drastically in recent years. Save our Curlews is working with landowners to locate and protect their ground nests, which are vulnerable to predators and some farm machinery.*

This year the information provided by the bird group surveys and reports of sightings from the public will be used to support the *Save our Curlews* campaign funded from a joint appeal by Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Shropshire Ornithological Society. Once a likely nest site has been located, permission of the land-owner will be sought to allow an experienced nest finder to locate the nest. Any nests found can be protected using an electric fence. Chicks will be radio tagged and monitored in an effort to find out if they fledge successfully. This part of the project is only possible due to fund raising efforts by the groups involved. You can find out more information and make a donation if you wish by visiting their website ([www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews](http://www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews)).

*Angela McKirdy*

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### Keeping Your Horses 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 horses 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*



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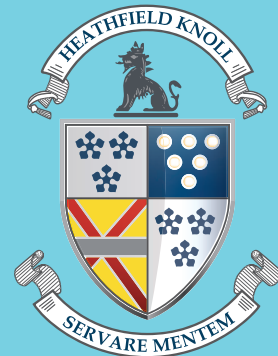
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## THE LACON CHILDE SCIENCE FAIR

This was quite a revelation, local businesses and interest groups putting on a show for students of Lacon Childe and its feeder primary schools.



Kudos Blends drew a lot of attention with the chance to try samples of cake and biscuits made with their blends. Ex Lacon Childe pupil Matt Ayers, who works in technical sales, was obviously at home, as was chemist Ryan Kilworth.

Eddie from The Write Page was showing off one of his skills with a range of electrical tricks. He was sending his call sign GOETZ out on very low power, one fifth of one watt ("One percent of a 100 watt bulb" as he put it) and got a response from

another enthusiast who picked up his signal in distant Norway!



Chris Neal had a busy day with his falconry display; the children loving the chance of holding a raptor on their gloved hand. Chris had brought a range of birds, including a peregrine falcon, each in its own special carrying box.

He was very happy with the day and even more impressed at how polite the children were.

Steve Todd brought along his 1970 BSA Thunderbolt classic bike and was busy letting children climb on and try the saddle for size. "Probably more girls than boys," he reported.

We couldn't take a decent photo of the portable Planetarium that dominated the hall. The editor can remember

going to the original Planetarium in London a long time ago. Now it comes in a trailer and was busy all day.



Edward Lupton's Meccano Spares attracted a lot of attention, with an array of small machines to operate. Edward inherited his father's Meccano set and a search for missing parts was the catalyst that started him in business. Modern parts are made largely in China, the more traditional types in India and he trades globally. By that we don't mean a few bits to France, he's even sent Meccano parts to the Isle of ReUnion in the Indian Ocean.

This was the second year of the Fair and it is growing. Nick Houghton and Charlotte Johnston were the brains behind it and are to be congratulated on another Lacon Childe success.



Cleobury Compassionate Communities

## Needs befriending volunteers

Could you give 1-2 hours a week to make a difference to someone, locally?

**Please come and join the team.**

Contact Katja Jones 07966 080 111 or [cleoburycoco@hotmail.com](mailto:cleoburycoco@hotmail.com)



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## CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES

It's been a while since we've updated you from the CoCo befriending project but with a lot happening, we thought it time. Over the years we have been lucky to nearly always have as many volunteers as people needing visits. But recently there's been a shift and we see ourselves with a waiting list. So this Spring we are sending out the call for new volunteers in the area, who could visit someone local for one to two hours a week, to please come and join us. Our volunteers have truly rewarding experience of visiting people who often see no-one but carers through the week.

Last summer CoCo initiated the Men in Sheds project and were able to grant them £600 to really get things going as they are certainly doing now. Later in the year our support took a slightly different turn when we were able to help two local folk with small grants, who found themselves in dire need of help that couldn't be found elsewhere.

In the last six months we have provided four training sessions covering Dementia and Stroke and intend to continue to meet the needs of our group in whatever training they need. Where possible these sessions have been opened up to patients too.

But all this has only been made possible by the on-going financial support of individuals and groups in our community. We have recently been humbled to receive a donation from the estate of the late Michael Turner who died on March 10<sup>th</sup> 2017, while the Sunday Darts and Dominoes

League from The Bell have also made a generous donation to us. We thank you!

It really has been a privilege to establish CoCo in a town that is so incredibly supportive and self-sufficient, meeting every need as it arises, in a host of different ways. It is wonderful that the success of CoCo to date means that we can now broaden our support beyond befriending to on occasion meet the wider needs of individuals and to help get other community projects get off the ground.

To volunteer or refer please contact **Katja Jones** 07966080111 [cleoburycoco@hotmail.com](mailto:cleoburycoco@hotmail.com)

### THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

**The cancellation of the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra's concert in the Parish Church on March 18th was a real shame. This annual event seems to have a touch of wonder, combining great music with good acoustics and a beautiful building to make it a very special occasion. Sadly, the English weather won the day this year, but there's a lot more to come from this enthusiastic body of fund raisers:**

Friday June 15th – Annual Wine Walk around Cleobury Mortimer

Saturday June 23rd – Cleobury Mortimer Festival

Sunday July 15th – Open Garden Trail around Cleobury Mortimer

Sunday August 5th – Afternoon Tea at Hopton Court with the former High Sherriff of Shropshire

Friday November 9th – Cleobury Mortimer 100 Years Ago – a talk by Dr Mark Baldwin

Saturday December 1st – Christmas Fair

You can watch out for details in the Clarion, or you can book really early by calling Diane Waddington on CM 272820.



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## FROM THE BANDROOM

We came third at the Midland area competition at Bedworth on 10<sup>th</sup> March. Quite remarkably we are off to the National Finals again in September, our fourth time in six years.

We had also moved up to a higher section and beat some very good bands. It might seem that it is run of the mill for us to qualify for the finals. In fact a lot of dedication and practice time goes in to getting the test piece perfect and we have one shot at getting it right on the day. There were 16 other bands playing the same piece and the adjudicators have a difficult job. It is testament to the players that we do so well.

After our disappointment at the finals last year, with a different conductor, we were pleased that David Maplestone came back from illness to take us to this Area competition. Sunday evenings have been taken up practicing the test piece and on Tuesday evenings we have a general programme rehearsal with Andy Culshaw. We are very lucky to have talented conductors willing to make the journey to Cleobury.

Our spring concert will be on 14<sup>th</sup> April and will include fish and chips in the ticket price of £10. To reserve tickets please contact me on 01299 270262 or any band member. Tickets are also on sale at Carrot Tops.

We are always on the look out for new players in our training band. Just turn up on Tuesday evenings at the Social Club around 6.30 if you are interested in learning to play; we can point you in the right direction of a music teacher.

If you are playing at a higher level and wish to join the main band, please get in touch to see what spaces we have available. Although most sections are full, we are looking at boosting our bass and

cornet sections, and also need a regular soprano player of Grade 8 standard.

Our website lists all contact details [www.CMCB.org.uk](http://www.CMCB.org.uk) *Katie Griffiths*

## THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Members looked forward to "Wildlife on and along the River Severn" by John Robinson, whose enthusiasm shone through as he explained he was concentrating on the area between Bewdley and Stourport. His first pictures were of some of the contributory brooks and the River Severn in flood and he explained how good the flood was for the surrounding banks, fields and vegetation, though the houses nearby wouldn't agree with him.

Slides accompanied his talk and he began with the flora. One plant, the water crowfoot, can no longer be seen as it was the favourite food of the swans that frequent the river. He went on to name at least ten other plants that are plentiful, like rosebay willow herb. He then followed with some outstanding shots of birds, especially warblers, plus shots of water fleas, damsel flies and dragon flies followed, in their adult state and as larvae. Most of us knew of water boatmen but not many that there are two kinds, one that skims across the top and one that does it upside down.

A keen fisherman he told about the fish you might catch and the other creatures you might see: a grass snake might slide by or a rat. You might see signs of otters and mandarin ducks are growing in numbers. We all learned much about the Severn and its wildlife.

Our next gathering is April 12th in the Talbot carpark for a visit to Hereford Cathedral gardens. Please remember to get your plants ready for the sale on May 5th. *Liz Smurthwaite*

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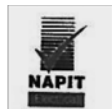
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With Easter upon us, and after last month's cold snap, Spring has well and truly sprung and with it all those things we associate with this time of year – lighter mornings, daffodils and young lambs in the fields. It is a time where the natural beauty of South Shropshire looks at its very best. But it is also a time for those of us who care about the environment to take steps to keep it so.

Last month's remarkable late snowfall stopped many community activities. The Great British Spring Clean – a campaign by Keep Britain Tidy - was extended to 25<sup>th</sup> March to give people time to get out and help clean up their communities.

But now with milder weather to come, we all have the chance to do our bit and maintain the momentum of the Spring Clean by ensuring our streets, verges and wider countryside are free from litter. There are regular community litter picks in towns across South Shropshire, so consider giving some time if you are able.

The government is giving appropriate focus to what it can do to help reduce litter and pollution across Britain. Thanks to programmes like Blue Planet 2 and other widely seen media, there has been an awakening of public awareness and a welcome shift in the approach we take to tackling litter and waste – from a previously reactive solution, to a much more proactive approach.

This is something I noticed since taking up my new role as a member of the Environmental Audit Committee in Parliament. In recent months we have been undertaking an enquiry into plastics, to help recommend what steps government can take to reduce our reliance on single-use. The plastic bag charge has shown how quickly behaviour can change with an 83% reduction in plastic bag consumption in the first year. So by reducing our consumption of single-use plastic products, we can help stop at source the growing plastic contamination of our oceans and waterways.

Last month I met students from Bishops Castle Community College to talk about this issue, and was inspired by their clear commitment to improve marine health by reducing plastic consumption. These students visited Aberystwyth to clean the beach of litter and collect samples, and I believe are the first school in the country to survey their findings and submit this data to the Marine Conservation Society for their database.

Of course, when protecting marine health, there are limits to what we can achieve in our country without international cooperation. Globally, just 10 rivers carry 90% of the plastic entering oceans, eight of which are in Asia, and two of which are in Africa. But by taking new steps, the UK will demonstrate international leadership, doing more to help developing nations tackle pollution and reduce plastic waste, including through UK aid.

Back here in Shropshire, I am confident our rivers will benefit from the new pollutant management rules for farmers introduced from this month. This requires good farming practice, so that farmers manage their land both to avoid water pollution, including managing fertilisers and manures, taking reasonable precautions to prevent pollution from runoff or soil erosion, and requiring soil tests at least every 5 years. Farmers have a responsibility to help keep our waterways free of fertilizer and pesticide pollutants - I speak as a tenant farmer myself along the River Clun, taking steps to reduce run-off - so these rules to encourage more widespread adoption are welcome.

Finally, our environment is there for us to enjoy, so I encourage constituents to get outside and make the most of South Shropshire's beautiful surroundings – perhaps by taking in some of the great walks in our local area.

*Philip Dunne*

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# Cleobury Mortimer Benefice

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## Cleobury Mortimer Benefice

### Services, Events and Activities throughout the Benefice—April 2018

#### **St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Cleobury Mortimer.**

**Services:** Every Sunday - 8.30am Said Eucharist & 9.45am Parish Eucharist.

**Events/Activities:**

19th—Mothers Union—"Out of Africa", Mike Patterson will be talking at the home of Pene Robertson from 2.30pm. For more details contact Gabrielle on 270510.

26th—Service of Wholeness and Healing (Life's stresses) 7.00pm in the Methodist Church. All are welcome.

Our **Alpha** course continues in the Parish Hall at 6.45pm. All are welcome.

#### **St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kinlet**

**Services:** 1st—10.00am Eucharist, 8th—6.30pm Evensong, 15th —10.00am Matins,

22nd—6.30pm Evensong, 29th—No service

#### **St Mary's Parish Church, Neen Savage.**

**Services:** 1st—11.00am Eucharist, 8th—No service, 15th—6.30pm Evensong, 22nd—9.00am Eucharist, 29th—6.30pm Evensong

#### **St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Hopton Wafers.**

**Services:** 1st—10.00am Eucharist, 8th—10.00am Eucharist, 15th—10.00am Family Service, 22nd 10.00am Eucharist, 29th—10.00am Eucharist.

#### **Saint John the Baptist Parish Church, Doddington**

**Services:** 1st—11.00am Eucharist, 8th—No service, 15th—No service,

22nd—3.00pm Evening Prayer, 29th— No service.

**Events/Activities:** 14th—50's Tea Party, 2.30pm at Doddington Village Hall, Dress up and enjoy afternoon tea with 50's music, contact Celia Gibb for more information, Tel: 01584 318036.

#### **All Saints Parish Church, Neen Sollars**

**Services:** 1st—11.00am Eucharist, 8th—No service, 15th—No service,

22nd—11.00am Family Service, 29th—No service.

#### **St George's Parish Church, Milson**

**Services:** 1st—11.00am Eucharist, 8th—No service, 15th—Eucharist, 22nd—No service,

29th—No service.

The Church Office open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday mornings from 9.00am—12.30pm

Contact details: Sam Adams, cleoburychurch@hotmail.com, Tel: 01299 272916



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## A LONG TERM READER

It was several years ago that we had an enquiry about posting a copy of the Clarion to a lady in Ludlow who used to live in Cleobury. Nothing unusual about that, but this message came in from Texas. We were happy to help and a letter duly arrived with a cheque to cover the postage. Mrs Edna Morgan became a regular treader and the editor even delivered a copy to her door himself on one occasion.

In March we received this letter:

"The reason I write is that my mother, Edna Morgan to whom you kindly send copies in Ludlow, no longer spends much time reading. It is probably her deteriorating eyesight but also energy as well. She will be 94 on the Queens Birthday on April 24th. Her daily paper suffers the same fate and she prefers the passive enjoyment of daytime TV these days.

"As this is the case, the postal copies arrangement you kindly provided for many years can now be ceased. If in the future she misses it and wants to re start, I will write again.

"Thank you so much for your kindness and willingness to send the Clarion to one of Cleobury's oldest former residents. It has given her much pleasure and reminiscences over the years.

"In queen-speak : Long may she and the Clarion live.

"Kind regards, Dilys Walker."

Ladies, thank you for your support over the years and may we wish Mrs Morgan a very Happy Birthday on the 24th. It has been a pleasure to know you. JR

## BINGO AT NEEN SAVAGE

Bingo Night at Neen Savage Parish Hall, Friday April 20th. Eyes down @ 7.30. Family fund raising

evening, all very welcome. Five games of Bingo and a buffet supper. Cash prize for every game Non alcoholic bar; bring your own wine or beer. £10 for adults, £5 for under 12s.

Clare Ratcliffe

## MIDLANDS AIR AMBULANCE

### 'WALK4LIFE'

Midlands Air Ambulance is urging people to sign up for its annual Pound the Bounds walking event at Rock on Sunday May 6th, to help raise lifesaving funds. In 2017, the event raised over £5,000 for the charity, funding two lifesaving air ambulance missions. Walkers and runners can choose from a variety of scenic routes, from a 26-mile marathon to a three-mile family treasure trail. The event is proudly being sponsored by outdoor retailer, Blacks.

Alistair Keron from Pensax, experienced the lifesaving intervention of Midlands Air Ambulance in 2015, when a fall on his smallholding left him with a serious head injury. Midlands Air Ambulance flew Alistair to the Worcestershire Royal Hospital in just seven minutes, a journey which would have taken over 30 minutes by land. If a patient reaches hospital within 60 minutes of injury, their chances of survival are dramatically increased.

Pound the Bounds is a really fantastic day out for walkers, runners and young families, and a brilliant way to support a local charity.

Registration is £6.00 for the six mile route, and £8.00 for the nine mile, half marathon, 18 mile and marathon routes, with all profits going to Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.

**To register your place in the event visit: [www.poundthebounds.com](http://www.poundthebounds.com)**

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## The April Clarion Social Calendar

## Part One

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00	The Footpath Association meet at the Parish Church for Daffodil Walk. PAGE 45		
	6.00	Open Mic Night at the Kings Arms. Acoustic only, please		
Wed 4 <sup>th</sup>	10-12.00	Hearing Aid Drop-In Clinic at St Marys Place, Love Lane		
	10.00	Walking for Health meet at the Sports Centre		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall. Good parking		
	8.00	The Poetry Group gather in the Kings Arms, all welcome		
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup>	10.30	Rock Pathfinders meet at Riverside Tearoom, Arley. PAGE 9		
Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Sale of Household Goods at Knowle Sports Ground, Clee Hill		
Mon 9 <sup>th</sup>	6.30	The Creative Writing Group meet in the Library, Love Lane. PAGE 35		
	7.00	The Town Council meet in Cleobury Country Centre. Public concerns heard in the first 15 mins of the meeting		
Tues 10 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Cleobury WI meet at the Market Hall. PAGE 35		
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall. Coffee and Walnut Cake – Yum!		
	7.30	Neen Savage WI meet at the Village Hall. PAGE 11	Sandra Dodd	271 563
	8.00	The Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street		
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
		Horticultural Society visit to Hereford Cathedral gardens. PAGE 25		
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	2.30	1950's style Tea Party at Doddington Village Hall	Celia Gibb	01584 318036
	7.30	Cleobury Concert Brass Spring Concert in the Parish Hall. Tickets £10 PAGE 25	Katie	CM 270262
	12.00	Hardy Plant Society's Spring Plant Fair is at Bayston Hill Memorial Hall, Shrewsbury PAGE 45		
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup>	6.30	Cleobury Patients Voice meet at the Medical Centre. PAGE 13		01299 407244
	7.30	The Reading Group meet in the Library, Love Lane. PAGE 35		
	7.30	Border Counties Historic Commercial Vehicle Club meet at Ludlow Brewing Company, near Ludlow railway station		

**Walking For Health's summer season sees them meeting at the Sports Centre car park in Love Lane. That gives them the option to walk locally or to take a car to a more distant start and finish point for the day's outing.**

**On the 4th this month they'll be transported to the Golf Club, which offers a wide range of walks with wonderful outlooks along the way. There will be a small charge for refreshments there, but sitting in the sun lounge if there's a nip in the air, or outside if it's warm, make it good value for money. If you want to know more about this excellent social habit, talk to Alan Kimber on CM 271754.**



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## The April Social Calendar Continued

## Part Two

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Wed 18 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Walking for Health meet at the Sports Centre, Love Lane		
	11.00	Sit and Be Fit is for the less mobile. At the Parish Hall. PAGE 7		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 19 <sup>th</sup>		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders meet, Hare and Hounds, Worcester Road, Shenstone. PAGE 9		
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	6.15	Town Council AGM at Lacon Childe School. Local reports & questions		
	7.00	Mama Mia! Its Italian Night at the Sports and Social Club. PAGE 39		
	7.30	Bingo Night at Neen Savage Village Hall. PAGE 31		
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am	Cleobury Country Farmers Market, in and around the Parish Church		
		Coach Trip to Bath. Proceeds to charity	Mrs Gregory	01584 891464
Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup>	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poets Society meet in the Library. Poems & laughter!		
Tues 24 <sup>th</sup>	2.00	Cleobury Stroke Support Group meet at the Sports & Social Club. PAGE 39		
Wed 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	CoCo Coffee Moring, Market Hall, good social occasion		
	7.30	Clows Top Gardening Club meet at Victory Hall. PAGE 5		
Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup>		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup>	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall		
		AND LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY.....		
Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00	Walking for Health gather at Sports Centre, Love Lane		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 3 <sup>rd</sup>		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 5 <sup>th</sup>		Horticultural Society Spring Plant Sale in the Market Hall		
Sun 6 <sup>th</sup>		Midlands Air Ambulance Pound the Bounds at Rock Village. PAGE 31		

**The Town Council's Annual General Meeting is a chance to hear about their work in detail and to ask questions of the people elected to organise and guide the town's future. The meeting starts at 6.15 on Friday the 20th, in Lacon Childe School.**

**You can also expect reports from a range of local bodies and clubs, all of them a part of the fabric of the community, all with a story to tell that's worth hearing.**

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## THE READING GROUP

In March, 'Night of the Mi'raj' by Zoe Ferraris brought us back to the present day. A murder investigation set in Saudi Arabia which also gives a fascinating insight into the people and cultural way of life. A mystery is the main thread of the book, a good yarn which quickly immerses one into the culture. Ferraris, who has lived in Saudi Arabia, explores the tensions between men and women in the Islamic nation, in particular Nayir and Katya who investigate the murder of a young woman. The interactions between men and women were of particular interest as many novels don't give the male point of view.

There was general discussion regarding women's place in society and how much things have changed in the UK in the past centuries. Ladies in our group appreciate our freedom of choice in this country. Life is obviously changing in many other cultures but is it necessarily progress? This being the author's first book we were impressed with her writing and some members intend to read her latest work. Our new book is 'City of Women' which we will talk about on Monday April 16th.

*Deana Kimber 271754*

## CLEOBURY W.I.

At the March meeting we learned about the history of coracle boats which have been used for transportation and fishing for thousands of years across the world. Martin Fowler from the National Coracle Museum in Cenarth, Wales illustrated the subject with his fascinating collection of photos some of which can be viewed on the website [www.coraclemuseum.co.uk](http://www.coraclemuseum.co.uk).

On Tuesday April 10th we look forward to a talk from Charles Hadwell who is a local expert on Samuel Thorp, Abberley clockmaker. All visitors welcome to the Market Hall at 7.30pm, cost £4 including refreshments. Please check us out on Facebook or email [judysant10@gmail.com](mailto:judysant10@gmail.com)

*Judy Sant*

## COSFORD MILITARY WIVES MAKE MUSIC

The Parish Hall was full on March 16th, with 120 people ignoring weather warnings to come and enjoy the sounds of the Cosford Military Wives Choir. A good evening's entertainment that earned a lot of praise from the audience.

All proceeds from the evening went to local good causes: £300 to the Royal British Legion, £550 to the Parish Hall funds and the £156 proceeds of the raffle also went to the Hall. It was another evening with the Hall being used for the benefit of the community, which it does so very well.

## DODDINGTON NEWS

Our Event-a-Month got off to a great start with Pancakes. A good turnout of appreciative people; thanks to all who came, all who prepared and helped, and to Jim for a lovely write up in March's Clarion. We also brought one quiz to an end and started the next one. Only two people answered the first quiz completely correctly and they being friends agreed to split the prize. Well done to Jo Booton and J Shaw! The new quiz is on a 1950s theme to fit with our April Event-a-Month which is a 50s Afternoon Tea. Come along on 14th April at 2.30pm at Doddington Village Hall. Competition for best 50s outfit, bottle stall, tombola, and a vintage afternoon tea. *Celia Gibb*

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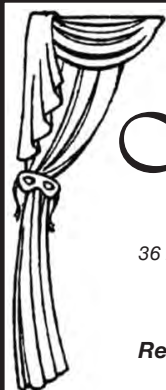


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News on the revised service which is apparently due to start on April 16th. It appears that R&B Travel are taking over the services during the middle of the day and this will be numbered 292. 'But what about the earlier and later services?' I hear you ask. Good question. All I can gather at present is that these will be covered by 'someone else'. Apparently, Worcs CC seem to be organising this – Heaven knows why, given their previous performance - and Shropshire seem to be unable to get any information from them... There appears to be an assumption (or should I say hope?) that Diamond will continue to provide the early/late service but, as the 'Clarion' goes to press (23<sup>rd</sup> March) there has been a deafening silence so we have no idea whether this will happen and, if it does, what the timetable will look like.

As far as the R&B timetable is concerned, on Monday to Friday, the 292 service to Ludlow will leave Cleobury at 0904, 1104, 1304 and 1504 and the service to Kiddy from Cleobury will leave at 0954, 1154, 1354 and 1554. Saturday will be different with Ludlow services departing Cleobury at 0904, 1104, 1304, 1504, 1704 and 1904 (although this last bus only goes as far as Clee Hill). The Kidderminster service will leave Cleobury at 0954, 1154, 1354, 1554, and 1754. The good news is that all the 292 services will go straight through Bewdley and into Kiddy without taking the 'scenic' route thus reducing the journey time to around 30 minutes. When confirmed, timetables will be available in the Library and Market Hall.

Back to the usual misadventures: More snow has bought predictable chaos to the Diamond network. The driver of one Ludlow bound service decided that Cleobury was far enough thank you and punted the unfortunate passengers on to the pavement. One lady had no alternative means of transport to get her further and had to take a room at the Talbot for two nights so this was an expensive bus ride. If an airline did this, they

would have to provide accommodation for stranded passengers but fortunately for Diamond, this doesn't apply to buses otherwise they would be broke in a month. A photo has been circulating of a Diamond bus in collision with... Redditch Bus Station! You wouldn't think this was that easy as these buildings don't generally jump out at you very quickly but this driver managed it. Perhaps he was so surprised at getting that far without breaking down that he became distracted.

Further sights of Diamond's finest abandoned on Clee Hill. I was told this two days running and assumed there had been two breakdowns but it turned out that it was the same bus – it just took until the next day to recover it. This was probably due to the number of breakdowns being too high for the recovery services to keep up. A Saturday bus returning from Kiddy also expired at Far Forest and the passengers had to contact relatives for lifts as Diamond indicated that they wouldn't be bothering with a replacement. Apparently the drivers have asked their management why they spent nearly £2 million on buying Central Buses when the cash would have been better invested in decent vehicles for their existing network. Not sure what the reply was...

Impressive news that the Elon Musk's SpaceX company has successfully put a car into space. I understand that for their next major project they have teamed up with Diamond buses to put one of their brightest and best into orbit. The difficulties of such an operation cannot be underestimated as the bus weighs over 7 tonnes even when empty and this challenge is stretching the abilities of the SpaceX engineers to the limit. Despite this, they think that they have worked their way through most of the problems that this bold project poses but, so far, they have had to admit defeat on one crucial aspect of the scheme. They haven't yet figured out how to get the bus from the parking lot to the launch site without it breaking down...

*Steve Todd*

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### **MACMILLAN MIGHTY HIKE**

One weekend during the rather long and cold January my daughter Rachel and I decided that during 2018 we would raise money for a charity. We chose Macmillan Cancer Support because like most people we have had personal experience of a loved one with cancer: brother, uncle, father and then myself in 2015. The Macmillan Mighty Hike will give the perfect combination of our love of hiking and raising money for a good cause. The challenge on July 21st will be to walk 26 miles along the lovely Northumberland Coast from Alnwick to Bamburgh. It is like competing in a marathon but walking!

We would be grateful for any support and there is a website linked to this event for donations <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/veronica-rachel>. If anyone would prefer to make a donation without using the internet please contact me Veronica Hargreaves on 01299 272944.

### **THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB**

The Big Quiz Night on March 4th raised £317 for Cleobury Stroke Support Group, with 10 teams braving the inclement weather to take part. Once again, the questions proved challenging with much head-scratching involved, but delivered

with his usual aplomb by our Quizmaster, Justin Parker. Our thanks go to those who attended, to the numerous local businesses who provided the team and raffle prizes, and to Justin for helping to make the evening so entertaining.

Following the success of the Tapas Night last September, we are holding an Italian Night on Friday, April 20th. Cath Hinves will be using her Italian roots to cook a classic four course menu, with a glass of prosecco served on arrival. Between courses, there will be a quiz to test your knowledge of all things Italiano. Tickets are priced at £20 each and are available from Guy Turpin, contacting him either by email [guy@sunlab.co.uk](mailto:guy@sunlab.co.uk) or on 07779 427814. Please advise of any dietary requirements at the time of booking.

Cleobury Stroke Support Group will be holding their April meeting on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> between 2-4pm with a speaker from Bewdley Stroke Support Group in attendance. For more information about the Group, please contact Katja Jones at the Medical Centre.

As usual, for more information or to make a Club booking, please contact our Club Steward, Gemma Canty on 01299 271448 or via our Facebook Page.

*Glenys Turpin*

### **ANOTHER MACMILLAN APPEAL**

We are holding a fundraiser for Macmillan and need some teddies and soft toys, any shape, size or colour. They should be in good clean condition. I am happy to arrange collection, or they can be left at my house. If anyone can help they can call me on 01299270597

Thank you.

*Sue Henderson*

### **AN APOLOGY**

Mrs Gregory up on Clee Hill organises a series of coach trips through the year that we are happy to publicise. Except that we said the March trip was to Worcester when in fact it was to Gloucester. It's that fool of an editor's fault.

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One of the benefits of foreign travel is that it can open our eyes to the good things we enjoy at home. I got back from a long and very enjoyable trip last month and despite the cold weather and pre-springtime appearance of our countryside was delighted to see the familiar patterns of our fields, woods and hedges again. Although we notice the decline in our songbirds, butterflies and other wildlife we can also reflect that we are still richly blessed and should celebrate and enjoy what we have. The obvious activity of the birds around my garden feeders is encouraging to see and tells me it's my time to get busy outside too.

The Wyre Community Land Trust have finished the thinning of oaks around Uncllys and the forest is now quiet for the nesting season. A new owl box has appeared at the woodland edge and I'll be keeping an eye on any activity. The bird boxes in the orchard and garden have been checked over and cleaned out, and we're trying to keep some vacant for the redstarts and other migrants that arrive this month by blocking the holes to blue and great tits. We should see bats (Common and Soprano Pipistrelles, Brown Long-eared, Whiskered, Brants and Daubenton's) this month too as they come out of hibernation with a big appetite for flies and moths. There are 40 bat boxes fixed to oak trees on the farm but I don't know how many are used for hibernation and breeding because I'm not qualified to check them - that's something I intend to start putting right this year. The photo (from FactZoo) is of a Brown Long-eared Bat.

I have an eye on the shoots of Lily of the Valley, mainly because good sites for this lovely flower

in our vicinity were disturbed last year: one by digging to repair a water leak and another by tree thinning work. I'm sure they will recover but it may take a few years for their rhizomes to make replacement growth. In the long term the upheaval may have done them good by spreading them into new areas and the increase in light reaching the forest floor should encourage flowering. The scent of the little flowers, which appear in May, is surprisingly strong and beloved by bees.

Despite the very kind comments of the editor in last month's Bewdley Bridge I can only claim to be 'hugely knowledgeable' in the realm of trivia, and rely largely on other sources of information for the content of my articles. 'The Nature of Wyre' by the Wyre Forest Study Group, 'The Natural History of an English Forest' by Norman Hickin, 'The Wild Flower Key' by Francis Rose, 'Flora Britannica' by Richard Mabey, 'Fauna Britannica' by Stefan Buczacki and other volumes pile up around me as I write, and the internet gives me the British Trust for Ornithology, RSPB and other specialist sites. I recommend them all.



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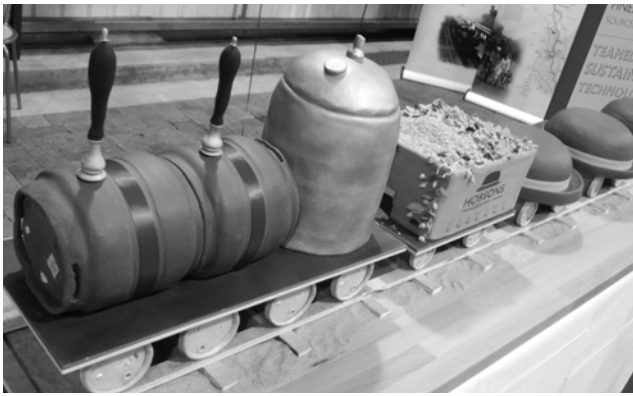
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## Hobsons 25th Birthday Bash



*Even the birthday cake came as a steam engine pulling a train of Hobson's trademark hats. Pictures courtesy of Teme Valley Times.*

When Hobsons do anything, you know they'll do it well. And to celebrate 25 years of brewing award winning ales, they hired the Severn Valley Line for the day and invited 400 people. The editor took a young lady who'd never ridden on a steam train and she was very impressed by the smoothness of the journey from Bridgnorth to the new Engine Shed at Highley. After the snows of the weekend, they even arranged for the sun to shine for the Monday gathering!

We were greeted with the chance to queue for a drink: alcoholic or tea, coffee or hot chocolate. Just the right touch before we wandered through the buffet area to stroll amongst a range of steam engines. These things are huge when you stand next to them on the same level - the big locos that pulled express trains are true steel warriors.

You walk up to railway platform level to look into a selection of trucks and carriages. Like the Royal Mail mail sorting unit, where postmen sorted out letters on the Glasgow to London run and hung a sack out at each major town to be caught in a net as the train thundered on south.

This unit was a very special one, from the actual Glasgow to London train that was held up in August 1963 by one of the best known gangs of

criminals in British history. It was the Great Train Robbery, when £2.6 million (£40m in today's values) was taken from the train and triggered a huge man hunt. The robbers were caught and jailed; not much of the money was found.

An immaculate carriage offered guided tours of another great rarity: King George the 6th's very own carriage. It was built in 1941 and he commanded that it would not have luxurious trappings at a time when the country was at war and many people were living on very little. So the furniture - all of it the original - is good but basic. There was an identical unit for the Queen and in 1952 both were inherited by our current Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

It's 70 feet long and turns the scales at 56 tons, because it is armour plated to properly protect the sovereign. There's a telephone system with one red unit, whose dial has the simple label "the Queen" as its first digit. It has double glazing and air conditioning, the latter very basic, with a box of ice slung under the carriage floor and the cool air pumped around by fan. When the ice melted away, someone had to get down and replace the ice, which doesn't sound like a fun job. The carriage is on loan to Severn Valley, on condition they stored and maintain it. A marvellous piece of history.

The buffet was great, everyone who was invited got a gift bag and there was a clear announcement -not like I remember British Rail doing - that the train to Bridgnorth would be leaving soon. Back on board for another gentle cruise alongside the River Severn to pick up the car and head home.

A memorable day out, combining two of the best attractions in the district with the chance to see countryside that is visible only to walkers and rail passengers. Here's to another 25 years. JR



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**Cleobury Clarion - Page 44 - April 2018**

### **A DAFFODIL WALK**

The Footpath Association's monthly walk this month has a fitting country billing as a Daffodil Walk. It will take in the Rea Valley, which offers some spectacular views with very few roads to interrupt the enjoyment of the surroundings; one of those little known gems that you discover and never forget.

The walk starts, as usual, from the Parish Church at 10.00 on Sunday the 1st and all walkers are welcome, members of the Association or not.

### **HARDY PLANT SALE**

The Shropshire Group of the Hardy Plant Society are holding their annual Plant Fair at Bayston Hill Memorial Hall on Sunday the 15th this month. It starts at noon and will officially close at 3.00, but with invited nurseries and members' stalls all offering both advice and rather special plants, it may go on a little longer.

The Hall is in Lyth Hill Road at Bayston Hill near Shrewsbury. If you're not familiar with that area, the entry for your satnav is SY3 0DR. Ruth Hinsdale on 07747 834 291 can tell you more.

### **THE KINGS ARMS POETRY CLUB**

A small but very happy band met at the KA on March 5th as the new Poetry Club gathered with Professor George Castledine as the chair. The long established habit of poetry being accompanied by a little something alcoholic made this an ideal setting, though it seemed to take a long time for the poetry to emerge. But there was a great craic and a lot of laughter, which made it a good start for what is apparently intended to be a replacement for the old Faith In The Pub gatherings that ran for about seven years with a wide variety of speakers and subject. If you want to give it a try, it's on Monday the 2nd at 8.00. JR

### **HELP THE PARISH HALL**

The Parish Hall has been moving forward for a long time, thanks to an ambitious and hard working committee. Their latest project is the completion of a disabled toilet, better disabled access and work on the boiler room. All of this takes money and to speed up the fund raising they've opened a Just Giving page:

[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/cleoburymortimerparishhall](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/cleoburymortimerparishhall)

This is a good cause, improving a facility owned by the town and booked out every week. It does deserve our support.

### **REQUEST FOR RECYCLING**

The Cleobury Festival will take place on 23rd June this year and a new addition to proceedings will be a community art project. All visitors will be invited to get involved on the day in creating a piece of art made by the community to be enjoyed by the community. The whole project will be made out of recycled materials and we are starting to collect supplies. At the moment we are in need of any unwanted garden or floristry netting / wire. We would also like to incorporate empty soft drinks cans. If you have either to donate, please drop them in to reception at Lacon Childe School.

For a different project, art students at the school are also looking for any unwanted ceramic tiles. Again, please leave any donations at reception.

Thanks in advance.

*Vicky Honeybourne*

### **SILLY BIT**

**Maybe the fact that there's a Highway to Hell and only a Stairway to Heaven reflects the anticipated traffic?**



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In the last issue we looked at the part played by those behind the lines at home in keeping things running during the war. A great many were women, who took on tasks that prior to the war they would not have considered. The absence of men meant that jobs had to be filled and women took up the challenge.

This fuelled the feelings of women for a say in how things worked and what the government did. In the last year of the war some categories of women got the vote; the war effort and the experiences of women must have played a part in the groundswell of opinion. The women who came forward were from all walks of life, including some from privileged backgrounds like Flora Sandes.

Flora was born in 1876 in Yorkshire, the youngest daughter of a middle class Irish clergyman. Moving to Suffolk at the age of nine, she spent her time horse riding and shooting. Her disregard of "suitable" pursuits for a girl of her upbringing was a joy to her father but not to her governess or finishing school. At 18 Flora was a trained stenographer in London and using her skills and a legacy from a rich uncle she started to travel to Cairo, British Columbia and the United States. Whilst in the US she is reputed to have shot a man in self defence. Upon her return to England she took up shooting once more, bought a racing car and trained in First Aid.

In 1914 38 year old Flora was living with her aged father and nephew Dick. He remembers that Flora knew nothing about housekeeping and cared even less; she was short haired, over fond of alcohol and cigarettes. Events in Europe came to her rescue when in July 1914 the Austro Hungarian forces invaded Serbia.

She went as a member of a St John Ambulance unit to help in the humanitarian crisis in that country. By October 1915 Flora was fluent enough in Serbian to join the Serbian Red Cross and work in support of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment of the Serbian Army. The Serbs were in steady retreat by this stage and somehow Flora found herself becoming a soldier. When the terrain became impossible

for an ambulance she declared that she would join the 2<sup>nd</sup> as a Private.

It was not unusual for women to serve in the Serbian Army but Flora is the only British woman to do so. She was highly regarded and twice mentioned in despatches. Within a year she was promoted to sergeant and wrote her autobiography, the proceeds of which were donated to Serbian prisoners of war.

In 1916 Flora was injured by a grenade and taken to a field hospital where she remained for two months, during which time she was promoted to Sergeant Major and awarded the highest military decoration Serbia could offer. May 1917 saw her back serving at the front until the end of the war. At the end of the war Flora remained in the Serbian army and was commissioned an officer, the first woman and only foreigner to be honoured in this way.

In 1922 she was demobilised and left the army to live on her pension, supplemented by teaching English and writing. At the age of 65 in 1941 she was recalled to the army when Germany invaded Yugoslavia. After the Germans defeated the Yugoslavs she was imprisoned, then released on parole until the end of the war.

After adventures in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) living with her nephew Dick, Flora was forced to leave by the authorities. Basically they were not happy about her fraternising with the black African population and drinking beer with them. Eventually she made her way home to Suffolk where she died in 1956 aged 80.

Flora was privileged and certainly unusual, she had money and was encouraged to be whatever she wished, but she exemplifies the women of the war. Working at home or at the front, looking after family and keeping some element of normality, they did what was asked, demanded or what they thought was right.

We thank them all for their support and effort, remaining as they do perhaps the unsung heroes of the Great War.

Ladies, we salute you.

*Paul French*



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## NETWORKING ON TOUR

Cleobury Country have a regular monthly networking meeting at the Centre on Love Lane. And a recent addition to the programme is a quarterly visit to a successful local business to hear how they got started, how they operate and maybe what their future plans are. It's an exchange of views like this that can spark ideas as you realise that someone else has faced problems similar to your own and is willing to explain how they dealt with them.

In March a small group gathered at the Pioneer Centre, to be greeted by recently appointed manager John Thompson. He and his wife Naomi packed the family up and moved from Scotland to Shropshire, where they've quickly settled in and taken a liking to the countryside around them.

The party were greeted warmly, signed in and shown to a warm room where tea, coffee and cake was available. I resisted the cake, but was told it was very good; it certainly looked it.

John started the evening off by introducing Luke from Bournemouth and Jake from New Zealand, both on a one year course as trainee instructors. They described the routine of their working day, and the range of 22 courses on offer, from academic through to sporting and gymnastics. Interesting is the provision for students in wheelchairs to try some of the really testing exercises, such as the high wire, where a special ramp gives access to the tower top.

They talked warmly of the effect their work has, from meeting a group of as many as 12 newcomers, who will range from confident to timid as they tackle some of the exercises. They both agreed that the best part is to take a nervous youngster and persuade them to actually try a testing exercise like the high wire then see their

facial expression change from fearful to exhilarated when they realise they can do it. The facilities available include a water sports centre at Whitemoor, near Lichfield.

The Centre accommodates both British and overseas parties, and whilst the faith behind the place is Christian, there is no restriction on the beliefs of those who visit.

We had a brief walk around the site, where the lighting is enough to see where you're going but not glaring. What impressed was the quality of the furnishings, all looking fresh and clean and a tribute to the staff's cleaning discipline. There is a capacity to tutor, sleep and feed 316 visitors plus staff, which makes it one big operation. And very little known to many here in the town. We came away very impressed.

As well as managing the Cleobury Country Centre, Clare Todd is the organising strength behind the networking meetings including these on-tour visits. It does take two hours out of your after-work day, but meeting new people and hearing how they succeed is a great source of new ideas and deserves better support. There were ten of us on this trip, which wasn't boosted by the temperature being well below normal for mid March, but we still saw and learned a lot. And there was no charge.

If you're in business and not a member of Cleobury Country, it's worth talking to Clare or Sam at the Centre about the meetings specifically designed to help people like you swap ideas and hear what tricks others have learned. The on tour visits normally carry a small charge, but if you look at the price of some thought-provoking events they are an absolute bargain. It could be well worth your while to look in or give them a call on CM 272300.

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## **CLEOBURY MORTIMER MEN'S SHED**

From an idea floated last October, this concept has taken off and is beginning to look like a real success. That's a brave forecast to make, but it has attracted a small band of people who simply get on with the job and don't waste much time talking.



*Power behind the drive. From left: Neil Tisdall, treasurer; Pete Blackburn, chairman; Keith Martin, secretary; David Robinson, land donor; Katja Jones, inspiration and sponsor; Mike Patterson, practical adviser.*

The idea behind the Shed movement is to give men, normally those retired and looking to fill their days, but possibly victims of redundancy or illness, somewhere to use or learn practical skills and be given guidance by those with more experience. It has been shown that such simple socialising is a measurable help to men experiencing loneliness and unable to talk freely about it. With that brief, ex Police Superintendent Pete Blackburn emerged as a natural leader with good organisational skills and was soon elected chairman.

In the early weeks there was a visit to Oswestry, to see their busy Men's Shed and hear how they had developed the idea. They have separate working areas for wood and metal, plus a social area. There is national Men's Sheds groups with advice and good contacts for basics like insurance.

Neil Tisdall took on the role of Treasurer and began the struggle to get a business account opened with Lloyds; he succeeded. Only then could the group bank the cheque for £600 that Katja Jones and the CoCo committee agreed to donate be banked and some small bills paid.

David Robinson was approached to see if there would be space on his Tenbury Road industrial site available. Anybody who knows this fine Christian man will recognise his willingness to cooperate and a site has been marked out. When we photographed the cheque presentation it was just a stretch of mud, but there's room to erect a big shed and begin to instal machinery in line with the plan Mike Patterson has drawn up.

The necessary architectural drawings have been drawn by Pete Blackburn's dad, a retired architect himself, for submission for planning consent. Keith Martin is more than a thorough secretary who wants everything done properly, he also had a free mobile caravan offered through an old trade source. That wasn't good enough as a base for work, but he's working on it and has other possible sources to explore.

Mike Patterson has a farming background in Africa and acquired the practical skills maintaining an operation out in the relative wilds requires. You can appreciate the progress made in six months from talking an idea over to having a group set up, with a bank account and a site to build their Shed on, when Mike says "In Tanganyika it took a year to get a business registered."

This rate of progress reflects enthusiasm for the idea and men with ideas and energy, plus some generous support from other sources. The next stage is to recruit support and get more bodies and skills at work. There's a site waiting to have the footings dug and laid, a working shed to be found and moved onto site and materials found for the actual building work to start. Oh yes, there's the matter of planning consent as well.

But the pace of development in just six months suggests this core of enthusiasts will grow, their plans to recruit members will help to bring both money and ideas on board. And the impetus will carry them through to the day when the first key is handed to David Robinson and he's invited to perform the official opening. This is Cleobury - we get it done.

Membership? Pete Blackburn on 07776 243 584

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## **KINLET HALL LOOKS AHEAD**

The Engleheart family and friends gathered in Kinlet Hall on March 22nd to talk about the future. After settling in with a glass of fizz and some very tasty morsels, something like 100 people crowded into an inner room, where the piano in the corner and a sax player ready to serenade made it clear this was to be a happy occasion.

Business first. Julian explained the reasons for the renowned Moffats School closing after 70 years and some of the plans for the future. Like wedding receptions, offices let, special educational sessions and other ideas in development. He quoted the man from English Heritage who told him that the family had saved Kinlet Hall; now they setting out on the next stage of its useful life.

At that stage the Duchess of Rutland took the stage and proved to be a rather special Guest of Honour, a lady with her feet firmly on the ground.



*The Countess. An impressive lady.*

She explained that she was not high born, but a farmer's daughter born not far from Knighton. As the Duchess she and family moved into Belvoir Castle in Leicestershire, 250 rooms of ancient building with 500 acres of estate and the roof leaking so badly that water was pouring into the library and threatening the historic books there.

She told how the children came to her for help and she put on her Barbour and Wellington boots to venture out on to the roof - two and a half acres of it! It seems a drain was blocked and Emma, Duchess of Rutland, claimed it was her greatest achievement in life to remove three dead pigeons to stop the flood.

She asked everyone to support the Englehearts in their new venture and was given a warm round of applause after we'd raised glasses to toast their success. It's quite a place is Kinlet Hall, and the long, winding drive to the house always gives you a warm feeling for such a perfect setting. Just right for a very special occasion.

Enquiries about facilities for events at the hall should be directed to [clemmie@kinlet-hall.co.uk](mailto:clemmie@kinlet-hall.co.uk) or telephone 012 99 841285.

## **LUDLOW FRINGE ART TRAIL**

June 16th to July 1st. Now in our sixth year. Artists are invited to exhibit and sell their work at a selection of venues across the beautiful and historic town of Ludlow during its lively two-week Fringe Festival. We link up artists wanting to take part with venues wanting to act as hosts. A map is published showing all the venue locations with information about each artist involved, and 3000 copies of this are made freely available prior to the event. The art trail is promoted nationally including via the Fringe Festival brochure and website. To find out more please contact us for an information pack. Email [john.jarvis@freeuk.com](mailto:john.jarvis@freeuk.com) or call John on 01584 873182.

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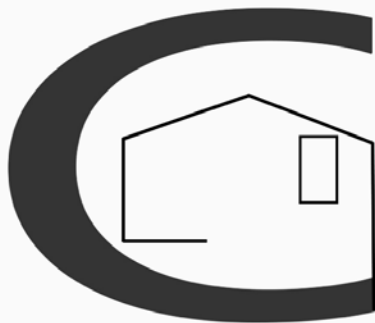
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## ANIMAL FARM

Arthur Short, Head of Drama at Lacon Childe School, does not give his students an easy ride for their annual production. This year's offering was an adaptation of George Orwell's 'Animal Farm' by Peter Hall, which meant the cast learning lines and songs plus complex stage movements to convey violent conflict. What came over strongly was the ability of this young cast - aged from 11 to 15 years - to give an impression of an animal in their every movement with little special clothing. The only time a pig mask appeared was in the final scene, when Napoleon the dominant pig reminded them that none could tell the difference between men and pigs; they were all pigs.

The school orchestra under Ben Craig added to the atmosphere of suspense with their versatility, the discordant accompaniment to fighting sequences just the right touch. Great stuff.

The stage was extended for this production, giving a theatre-in-the-round impression that gave enough space for the cast to move around as a crowd, then scatter when two fierce dogs came barking in and removed the latest victim of wicked plotting and lying. Fierce dogs? Katie Conway had been on stage as the drunken Jones the Farmer (I recognised that stagger, it's often visible on the High Street after closing time) and Jessica Tennant as Mr Whimper the twisting solicitor. They re-emerged in simple black tunics with one eye given a black make-up patch and collars with teeth evident. Frightening.

Aislinn Keegan was just right as Napoleon, the senior pig with a habit of telling everyone that hard work was the answer and growing from a benign sage to become a corrupt monster.

Orwell's way of reminding us how power can so easily change those who find it thrust upon them or maybe inherited.

A gentle balance was provided in the narration by Molly Orgee as The Girl, explaining and foretelling as the sad story of spoilt ideals unfolded. I saw the last of three performances and once again marvelled that the entire evening ran through without a hesitation or stumble. There is no prompt allowed - Mr Short sets a high standard that was well observed.

## CATHERTON COMMON UPDATE

Shropshire Wildlife Trust is working with the Curlew Country Project and the local Community Wildlife Group to reverse the lack of local breeding success. In the Clee Hills, including Catherton, we are looking to identify nest sites and protect them from predators with temporary electric fencing. To find out more visit the Curlew Country website. SWT is now fundraising to roll out curlew protection to key areas in the Clee Hills, if you would like to donate please visit our website [www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/curlew-appeal](http://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/curlew-appeal)

In order to protect our ground nesting birds and avoid any disturbance please act responsibly:-

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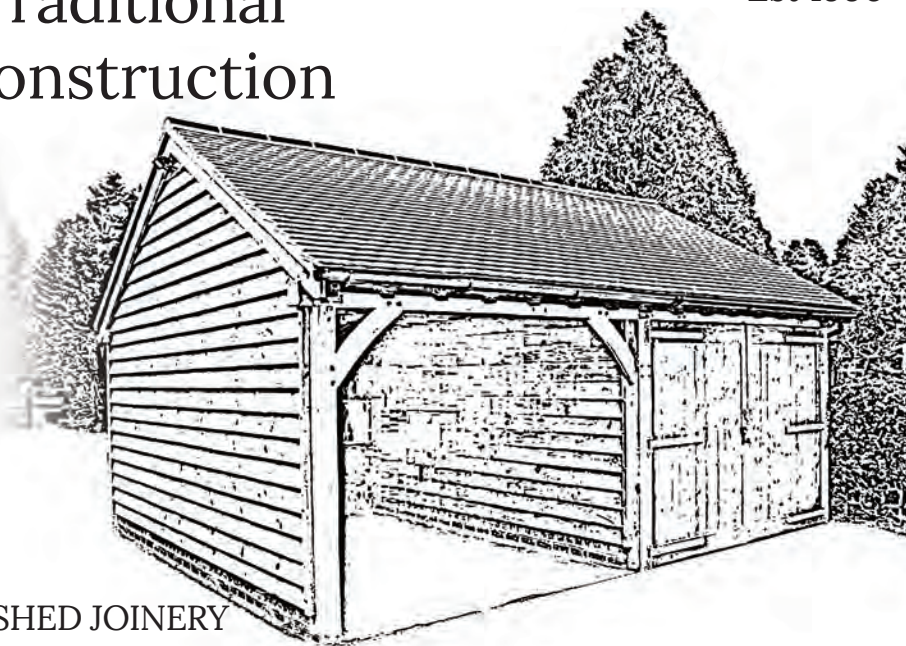
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VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME		01299 666119	for bookings
WASTE DISPOSAL		0345 678 9007	The contractor is Veolia
WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCIES	Severn Trent	0800 783 4444	

**Collect the Clarion in Cleobury from:** Select and Save Grocery, The Londis Store, Cleobury Cafe, The Severn Hospice Shop, MidCounties Co-op, Carrot Tops, Purslows, The Library and Simply Fresh. Or, **Out in Cleobury Country at:** Heath Farm Meats, **Bagginswood;** Post Office **Clee Hill;** Village Store, **Cleobury North;** **Clows Top Stores;** **Doddington** Parish Church; The Sun and Slipper, **Mamble;** **Hopton Bank Service Station;** Bennetts End Inn, **Knowbury;** **Ludlow Library;** **Mawley Oak Garage;** The Colliers Cafe & Shop, **Rock;** The Fighting Cocks, **Stottesdon;** The Duck Inn, **Chorley;** The Live and Let Live, **Neen Sollars;** The Eagle and Serpent, **Kinlet;** Parker Motors, **Ditton Priors.**

### THE DEADLINE FOR THE MAY ISSUE IS APRIL 22nd

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**Station Master's House**  
Forest Park **£375,000**

A charming three bedroom country home, once part of an old Railway Station, set in a sought-after location providing seclusion and serenity within easy reach of main roads and Cleobury Mortimer town centre. **EPC D**



**Corbett House**  
Cleobury Mortimer **£350 pcm**

One bedroom flat located conveniently to all local amenities. **EPC F**

**Residential Sales**

When faced with a number of different estate agents all seemingly doing the same thing but charging different fees, it is easy to get confused. At the lower end of the fee spectrum, you have what I would call volume-based agents, where the sales team handle a larger number of clients per head to keep their costs down. Taking a proactive approach to the marketing of your home will be difficult due to time constraints and a quick sale at any price may be their main priority. At the top end of the market are service-based agents, offering a more targeted and personal service, with skilled negotiators having time to work with you to achieve the best results possible. A touch more expensive perhaps, but if they add 5% value to the final sale price that quickly offsets any extra fee, and more besides.



Erica Hinwood  
MARLA MNAEA  
Office Manager

**Lettings**

An increasing number of people are looking to rent out property which was formerly their home, but they are often nervous about how to go about it. Our main advice is that there is huge demand across Worcestershire for rental property, so you can be confident of quickly finding tenants and collecting rent to offset your mortgage. If you are moving to a larger property it is also a sound investment if you can afford to keep your existing property to rent out. We can advise you through the whole process, and two of the most important pieces of advice are to notify your mortgage and insurance providers, and to register your tenant's deposit with one of the approved Deposit Protection Schemes.



Coral Walrond  
MARLA MNAEA  
Lettings Negotiator

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