

The Cleobury Clarion

AUGUST 2012

STARS OF THE SHOW



The Lacon Childe Prom was another dazzling show of youth at its best. With a little help from a variety of vehicles that was topped by this immaculate white carriage with matching horses and liveried driver and groom.

It's much more than just a bit of self indulgence. The event itself is organised by the students, with teaching staff and head teacher Allan Gilhooley delegated to traffic management. Of course it's fun, but they also learn about organising and coordinating.

*Picture Spread of the Prom.
Inside on Page 9*

THIS ENGLISH SUMMER

This page was written on July 17th, when it seemed that everyone was looking up into the sky and wondering what that big light was. It was the sun, a rare visitor this year.

The monsoon of Friday and Saturday the 13th and 14th left people both stunned and sodden as they surveyed the damage. Up at Doddington, near the top of Clee Hill, the road was closed to all but the most brave, with a deep flood from kerb to kerb. A little further down the road, the Hole in the Wall weekend was cancelled, a bitter blow to Chris Woodward and his crew.

In Cleobury, Pudding Brook could not cope with the volume of water, and our Fire and Rescue crew were up to their waists in water as they fought the flood that swept through Stroma Lennox's cottage and the Mumfords' bungalow. On downstream, the Medical Centre was flooded, triggering a weekend of emergency work that saw it

open to patients on Monday morning; a truly heroic effort. On down the lane, more houses were flooded.

At the bottom of Ronhill the stream from Cleanlyseat tore through the culvert and lifted the road surface away. You had to look at the flattened grass around to realise the depth of the flood.

In Neen Sollars the bridge had recently been cleared of a fallen tree, but more debris was washed down and the parapet of the bridge swept away. The water mark on the hedges was five feet high, a sample of the damage on a frightening night.

But the indomitable local spirit shone through. Parked on High Street on Saturday morning was a van from Noahs Ark Farm. And as Squeeze Hems tried to leave the KA on Friday night, he found water bouncing up to his knees. He returned to the welcoming arms of Hobson's beers and waited.

*Pictures of the Flood Damage.
Inside on Page 35*

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The Goldthorn £595,000

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Wrens Nest, Pinkham Lane £250,000

A beautiful, individually styled, family home. The property is on a split level and comprises Hallway, Cloakroom, Family bathroom, Kitchen, Living room, 4 bedrooms and double garage. Parking for several vehicles. Garden with fruit trees.



The Cleobury Clarion. August 2012

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on the fourth of every month.**



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS



Royal British Legion retiring treasurer Jim Smith (left) was presented with a commemorative tankard by the Legion's Neil Jenkins as Ron Breakweell looks on.

(Photo by Tony Booton)

There was a special presentation at the Cleobury Mortimer Royal British Legion gathering in June. Jim Smith, who has served as Branch Treasurer for 23 years, was presented with a tankard to mark his long and valuable service. Neil Jenkins made the presentation on behalf of the county.

Taking over the responsibility from Jim is Matt Sheehan, whose own military career includes service in Northern Ireland. You may know Matt better as the Clerk to the Parish Council.

OVERSEAS ENQUIRY

Ken Breakwell of Ontario in Canada has written to Susan Sharp of the Footpath Association, whose name he found via the internet. He's looking for information about the Breakwell Carriage Works in Lower Street, shown in an old painting he has. The place belonged to his grandfather John Breakwell, and behind the carriage works is The Old Bell Inn.

Ken is aware that the works was later a filling station and is now Lower Street Garage, but

would like to know more about the old works for a book he's writing for his grandsons. You can contact him at Ken_Breakwell@hotmail.com or write to him at 10 Markwood Crescent, Etobicoke, Ontario, Canada M9C 1L2.

JOAN PURSLOW

Joan Purslow was preparing a display in the Parish Church for the Flower Festival when she collapsed with a severe stroke and was rushed to hospital. A short time later she passed away, leaving a big gap in this community.

A quiet spoken lady, always ready with a polite greeting as she walked her faithful dog Ripple, she knew what was going on but never offered gossip. She lived her life locally, supporting her husband Ken as he built up the family haulage and supply business and then Mark and Duncan as they carried on the tradition. Our sympathies go to them and their families, who will miss her greatly. The Parish Church was full to overflowing at her funeral, as the community paid their final tribute.

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

Diamond Jubilee celebrations were marked with three trees planted at the back of the village hall by chair person Marion Wilson and two new troughs at the front planted up in red, white and blue.

At the June meeting Adrian James gave a presentation on 'Bodenham Thru' The Seasons'. The power point presentation included some excellent photos, showing the beauty of the Arboretum in each season. It was also the Rose & Sweet Pea Show and thanks to Anne for judging

the show. Results: 1st Austin Fletcher, 2nd Chris Cowdell, 3rd Margaret Dredge. Best Exhibit: Chris Cowdell.

Diary Dates:

Saturday 18 August, CLOWS TOP SHOW

Wednesday 22 August, Speaker Mike Firman on 'Lawn (Grass) Tips'

Clows Top Victory Hall; Doors open 7.45pm, for the speaker at 8.00 o'clock.

Further details: Marion Wilson 01299 270475.

Pauline Bowden

BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To Cleobury's own Golf Club, 20 years old on July 1st. They started off with a nine hole course in 1992 and today offer a highly rated 27 holes that give players a range of challenges.

Another Cleobury success story.

AND A THANK YOU

Rosemary and Don Thompson would like to thank all those who sent cards and messages on the occasion of Norma Bratt's 100th birthday. Thanks also go to the St Mary's Bellringers who gave up their time to ring a quarter peal in her honour on Sunday morning, July 15th.

DINING AT THE KA

It had to come. The King's Arms has responded to a load of requests from customers, and from the end of July they've been serving evening meals. It was the quality of the lunches that had customers asking for an evening version, and here it is.

They'll start at 6.00 and go on 'til 8.30, the meals served in the dining area at the back of the premises, far enough from the bar to make conversation easily heard. Full details on the notices inside the pub - a good place to visit.

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FOCUS ON YOUTH

Saint Mary's Youth Project leader Mark Greaves began full time work with the Project in August 2010. His background was as an electrical instillation engineer, plus youth work at a local church club. In 2006 he took a year out from the Midlands Electricity Board and moved to the Pioneer Centre in Cleobury. After the Activity Leader Apprenticeship Programme his career was with youth work, settling to help the SMYP part time on secondment from the Pioneer Centre. His other talents include Rock Climbing Leader, archery coach, fencing coach and first aid. Meanwhile he worked towards an Open University foundation degree in "Working with Young People" and the rest is history. He's married to Bev, whom he met whilst working at the Centre, and they live in Cleobury.

Mark has been busy forging links with local schools and developing relationships, joining in Philosophy and Ethics classes and being available for chats and mentorship. He is also developing children with special needs by undertaking specialist activities with them, providing a much needed male role model. This fits into the Governments "Extended Schools Programme" which focuses on improving educational outcomes, reducing barriers to learning and providing additional support to help the chances of young people, particularly those deprived in any way. His great success in this area has resulted in some of funding which also helps the SMYP.

We should be proud of Mark's outstanding achievement. He is

always looking for help and if you can lend a hand, please contact Mark on mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
Sarah Wilde

A NEW ACCESS POINT TO THE THE WYRE FOREST

In a very sensible piece of cross-boundary cooperation, Cleobury Golf Course is to become an access point to the Wyre Forest. The opening will feature a series of walks over the weekend of September 15/16th, with Saturday the main day as a special prebooked walk from the Forest Discovery Centre to the Golf Course. A coach will take the party to the Forest and when they get back to the Golf Course there will be a celebratory barbecue and the bar will naturally be open to help slake thirsts. The cost is £10 each and 01299 271099 or golfcoursewalks@shropshireramb.org.uk are the booking points.

There will also be a range of shorter walks around the golf course. These will be free with no need to book a place. If you want to try the barbecue, there's a charge of £5 a head.

We hope to bring you more details of the long term arrangements in the next edition, but if you want to be one of the first to follow this new trail, here's your chance to book early. And it's all part of this year's Cleobury Fringe.

"BRINGING SUNSHINE AT LAST!"

That's the bold claim from the organisers of the August 18th 'Have You Got Talent?' evening at Farlow and Oreton Village Hall. They have a full evening of fun planned, starting with a Children's Talent Show at 6.00, followed by an Open Mic Night.

Anyone who's been to the Monday night Open Mic sessions at the Fighting Cocks in Stottesdon knows that these evenings can attract some really talented people, so it could be great entertainment.

KINLET PLAYGROUP

We are currently on a break for the summer holidays but will be starting back on September 5th.

From the new term the playgroup will be open Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9.00am to 3.15. Our parent and toddler group will continue to run alongside the playgroup session on a Thursday morning, 9.30-11.30am.

If you would like any more information over the summer break, please email info@kinletfamilyplaygroup.co.uk or check out our website.

Some extra news - just before we broke up we had a visit from Ofsted. The inspector enjoyed seeing our group in action and we were awarded a Good rating which we are very proud of; our improvement efforts were also well recognised. If you would like to see the report, please search for us on the Ofsted website.

Enjoy your holidays.

Zoe Pearson

THE FAR FOREST SHOW

A lovely family event, held on the Callow Hill Showground on Sunday the 12th of this month.

Lots to eat and drink, live music, an art gallery, trade stands, a bouncy castle, tractor rides and quad bikes. Classic cars and motorcycles on display, too. And there's normally a dog show and a display of trainer control - last year a dog herding geese, of all things. Ferret racing, too. Too good to miss.

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Clarion Picture Page - The Lacon Childe Prom

It's normally the biggest free show in town. This year the passage of the Olympic Torch took over that mantle, but the Lacon Childe School Prom remained the big truly local draw. People were waiting at the road side at 6.30, long before the caravan of wildly assorted vehicles was due to arrive, hoping to see something special. They weren't disappointed.



This quad driver decorously held the lady's gown in place, while she kept the liquid sunshine at bay with an umbrella.



And a huge American Peterbilt truck took up a lot of road space to deliver just two people.



The cars ranged from this tiny Fiat Cinquecento...



But if you take the cool option and arrive by Harley, you have to know both how to stay dry and to get off.



Aaron Griffiths impressed when he drove himself in.



To the locally built super sleek Scorpion three - wheeler from Heightington.

Not that cars were the only transport of the evening...



There's not a lot of room in an original VW Beetle



But the real attraction was young people dressing up to look their glamorous best.



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LEK/20569	Cleaner	6.50 ph	6.5 hours pw
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Adult Summer Events

Bike Ride & Canoe along the River Severn, 18 Aug, £50 pp
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Cleobury In Bloom



Winners of the School Garden section, Bayton C of E Primary

The award presentation took place on July 14th in the Market Hall. Competitions included primary schools, Lacon Childe School and Greens Barn allotment holders. We also invited the many clubs in Cleobury to persuade their green-fingered members to enter competitions for best front, back and vegetable

gardens, containers and new gardens created in the last two years.

In May we gave each primary school a selection of plants and seeds for them to grow on and supplement what they already had. The judges looked at the plants grown, but also questioned the children to see what they had learned about using what they had grown. First place went to Bayton Church of England Primary School, with Stottesdon C of E Primary runner up: Kinlet C of E was highly commended. A pleasure to see children showing the enjoyment they are getting from gardening.

Andrew Hardy won Best Lacon Childe Allotment for the second year running, Alan Jenkins second and Ryan Romeo and Jordan Ridley third.

This year saw a clean sweep for the Wilson family in the

Greens Barn Allotments. Tony and Jean won the full plot category and daughter Elaine the half-plot.

Members of various clubs and societies battled for five categories. Back garden winner was Heather Kippin; Monica Downes was second and David and Gabrielle Eve a close third. Sandra Dodd of Neen Savage won the best front garden. Jenny Vanderhook won the vegetable garden competition, with Alan Kimber and Una Widdett second. There was close competition for new gardens, first place being awarded to Suzanne France; the container competition to Judy Sant. The winners were also presented with a container of flowers donated by judge Derek Walker, a keen supporter of Acorns Hospice for children with life-limiting conditions.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THANK YOU, CHRIS



Chris Dimond. Quiet spoken, modest and a real achiever.

It's hard to believe just how much Dr Chris Dimond did for Cleobury Mortimer. Especially when you remember that he didn't start until he'd had to retire from industry through ill health and get himself back to fitness before kicking off a second career. He became a familiar sight, walking into town from Bransley, complete with backpack to get shopping and build up his strength.

He was the driving force behind the birth of Cleobury Country, establishing its base in the Market Hall and searching for funding to realise its growing plans. When the Town Centre Enhancement Scheme was announced, the local management was in the hands of Cleobury Country, which was already recognised as a business-like body that got things done. It was Chris's patience that kept the idea rolling when bureaucracy stalled; that patience wore very thin, but he never gave up. Ask him why he did it and he'd say "I'm just putting something back into the community."

With Cleobury Country up and running strongly, his next

project was a proper home for the project and a community centre with a clear identity. Walk into the library on Love Lane and you'll see the result - the Cleobury Country Centre.

That building was designed to have minimal operating costs and included office units that have been fully let ever since the place opened its doors. It offers computer access for all and runs specialist training courses for local businesses right through the year. The library operates six days a week only because the part time county operation is supplemented by the Centre's own very helpful staff. Having got that up and running effectively, Dr Dimond has stepped down and is moving to the far west for a more relaxed life.

When he bid goodbye to the place, Councillor Madge Shinton was fulsome in her praise of a man who gave his time and considerable ability to our community, admitting that she'd learned a lot from his quiet but persistent style of getting things done.

BILLINGSLEY BARBECUE AND FETE

Early notice of Billingsley's BBQ and Village Fete on Saturday, September 1st. It's at the warm and welcoming Rays Farm and starts at 6.00. It costs adults just £3.50 to get in and the children go free.

There are the well known animals to walk around and meet, plus the barbie and a licensed bar, with lots of games and stalls to keep you and your family interested. Plus the grounds and the landscaping. All proceeds go to

St Mary's church in the village. And parking is free.

CLOWS TOP SHOW

August 18th is this years annual Summer Show at Clows Top. It's open to anyone who likes to grow their own, make jams, cakes, biscuits, or handicraft and floral art skills. There's also a children's section, so something for all the family.

It's in Clows Top Victory Hall and opens at 2.00, admission a mere pound. There will be horticultural exhibits, refreshments, tombola, plant stall & other side shows. A raffle will be held for the Air Ambulance. The awards will be presented at 4.00pm.

All enquires to Marion Wilson 01299 270475.

THE READING GROUP

All agreed 'In Cold Blood' by Truman Capote was well written, though opinions varied from tedious to compelling. Concerning the brutal murder of a family in small town America, the investigation, trial and execution of the two men who committed it, the true story was written as a non-fiction novel. It raised many questions about crime, punishment, the death penalty and the psychological effect of a person's upbringing.

Some members found sympathy with one of the killers and there was a little humour to be found in parts of the story. Most of the group would recommend.

We are having a break for summer so we next meet on Monday, September 17th at 7.30pm in Cleobury Library, when we will talk about "The Bell" by Iris Murdoch. Available from the library. *Deana Kimber*

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

BEWDLEY FESTIVAL - 25 YEARS OLD

You'll find the programme for this year's Bewdley Festival in this issue. It lists another star-studded line up for the event's 25th Anniversary year, which includes Alistair McGowan, Michael Portillo, Barbara Dickson, Neil Oliver from 'Coast', TV Vet Steve Leonard and many more.

As usual, there will also be family events, two art exhibitions, a Festival Church Service with a specially composed Jazz Mass and Festival Fringe events throughout October. For the first time there will be a 'Youth Festival' and a 'Book Week' launched at a Literary Lunch with P D James

Details of all events are on the Bewdley Festival website: www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk or from Bewdley Tourist Information Centre 01299 404740

MORE POSITIVE NEWS

Two notable items from the July Parish Council meeting. The first is confirmation that the provision of a new public toilet is to go ahead, with the promised £90,000 funding still available and the site at the entrance to the new Childe Road car park long established.

Plans for the block were passed around and approved. They will be available for your inspection in the Market Hall on Monday and Thursday 9.00 to 11.00, or by appointment.

The second piece of good news was Carole Evans speaking up in the Democratic Time before the official meeting began. A recent newcomer to the town, she has been disturbed by the

amount of rubbish left around and has been taking a bag when out walking the dog and picking up what others thoughtlessly throw away. Mrs Evans volunteered to work with others who want to tidy the town up.

She has since written to the Clarion, to say:

'It has been suggested that a group of volunteers be set up to keep our local paths tidy and litter free in and around Cleobury Mortimer.

If you are willing to volunteer and can offer a couple of hours a month, please give your details to the Parish Clerk at the Market Hall, who will add them to the list.'

Carole also tells us that if the group is successful she is looking to arrange a get-together in one of our cafes after they've finished. Sounds like the kind of acorn from which oaks can grow. You can contact Carole on CM 272748 or mobile 0750 813 1616.

CLEOBURY

CARERS GROUP

Meetings will be held on the third Thursday of the month, from 2.00 until 4.00, at St Mary's Place. The next will be on Tuesday the 21st of this month; further information from me on CM 270562.

Wendy Duley

FROM THE BANDROOM

Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass is in the middle of a very busy summer season. They have already played at Dudley, Hopton School, Ironbridge Brass Band Festival, Shewsbury Quarry and given a concert at Sutton Maddock Church. They have also played at Pershore Midsummer Brass

and Shropshire Festival of Transport

Before Christmas they will be defending their title at Wychavon and then taking part in the Brass Band Finals at Cheltenham where they will be in competition against the best bands in the United Kingdom. It is a great honour to have qualified for this.

On 1st September they will be hosting their third Beer and Brass Festival on the Vicarage field. This will be an opportunity to listen to both local and visiting Brass Bands and enjoy refreshments More details nearer the time.

Stella Wilcox, CM 270560

REMEMBERING

CORINNE

A remembrance service for Corinne Bellfield will be held in the Parish Church at 4.00pm on Sunday, September 9th. The organisation is in the hands of her father, Ken Taylor.

SPECIAL OFFER AT

MASQUERADE

Cas at Masquerade has one of her very tempting special offers running through August and on to September 14th. She's giving 20 percent discount on Harlequin fabrics and their new brand Scion - just look in her friendly little shop on the High Street.

SOLID WALL

INSULATION OFFER

The forms about this excellent offer are now available from the reception desk at Cleobury Country Centre. Look in, pick one up and you could save a lot of money on your fuel bills every year - and it will cost you very little or nothing. It may sound too good to be true, but it's a genuine offer.



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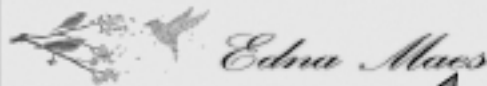
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The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

Hello. Greetings from a hectic month here at Severn Edge Vets. Not because of the animals, rather the impending opening of our brand new branch in Bewdley. Yes, the rumours are true, we are opening up mid to late August in Dog Lane.

This new surgery will only be a consulting centre. Initially we will have no surgical facilities, so all operations will have to come to our suite at Cleobury, or our main hub, Bridgnorth. I'm very excited to be involved in this new venture. Rhys and I will endeavour to provide the same friendly service you already experience at Cleobury.

You are not completely losing us, we will spend plenty of time at Cleobury Mortimer, and you will still have Peter Howman and Anne Apsley consulting here regularly.

Right - rumours confirmed. I thought I'd spend the rest of the page writing about neutering our pets. I hope all you've ever wanted to know is covered, but if not, pop in or pick up the phone to speak to one of our excellent team.

Neutering What is it? It's the removal of the reproductive organs. In a female we remove both ovaries and the uterus, and in males both testicles.

Why do we do it? For a number of reasons, including in Male Cats to stop wandering, scent marking, fighting, smelling, and causing unwanted pregnancies. In Female Cats to stop wandering and unwanted pregnancies, with all their complications.

In Male Dogs to stop wandering, eliminate risk of testicular cancer, and the chance of prostate enlargement in later life. In Female Dogs to eliminate unwanted pregnancies, reduce risk of breast cancer and eliminate risk of uterine infections (life-threatening when they happen).

Who can do it? Just Vets. It's a sterile operation performed under strictly controlled conditions to minimise risk to the animal.

Does it hurt? No-one can ever know for sure, but the wide consensus of opinion is that the procedure does hurt, but we have very good pain relief drugs these days. Most dogs and cats will be a little quiet for a couple of days after neutering; this is normal after any general anaesthetic, and most owners report dogs being difficult to

keep quiet after an operation, so I feel we are doing well to control their pain.

How long does it take? In uncomplicated cases it is only a day procedure, but individual operation times can vary. We always try our best to have your pet under general anaesthetic for as little time as possible.

Can I still breed from my pet after it has been done? Is it reversible? No. We cannot undo the neutering. If you plan on breeding from your pet you should not get it neutered. We would recommend neutering once you have finished breeding, for all of the previously mentioned reasons.

When can it be done? Male dogs can be done from 6 months, Females at 6 months, or 3 months after their first season (usually between 6 months and 1 year old). Both Male and Female cats can be done from 4 months old, though we like them to be at least 5 months so that everything is that little bit bigger for us to see and remove!

How much does it cost? Depends on the size of your pet. Bigger animals require more anaesthetic, and so cost more. Call us for an up to date estimate on cost.

Does it change behaviour? No. Most animals will appear completely unaffected.

How do I find out more? Just pick up the phone, speak to one of our reception team, and they will be happy to help. You may be surprised how little it actually costs.

Jeremy Hall BVMS Hons MRCVS.

Severn Edge

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This term at Bayton Church of England Primary School, our children have been enjoying sporting success in spite of the weather. Before half term some of our Year Six children went to Wolverley Primary School to take part in an Inter-schools tournament for Netball and Football. The children faced rival schools Wolverley, Far Forest, Upper Arley and Blakedown, and I am pleased to say that they won both sports!

At Lacon Childe's Key Stage two Inter-School Athletics morning earlier this month, many of our children won gold, silver and bronze medals for running, jumping and throwing events before rain called a halt to the proceedings. Our school came in second place overall, having been pipped at the post by Cleobury Primary. Unfortunately, this year's wet summer prevented our whole school from taking part at the Tenbury Cluster Schools

sports day and an inter-school rounders competition.



Head Teacher Avis Pounder and some of the school's team at the Lacon Childe Athletics Morning, with the Olympic Torch as an inspirational symbol.

THE LITTLE LEARNERS NURSERY. Ofsted Report 2011: 'Outstanding.'
Open 8.00 to 6.00, 50 weeks a year, children from 2 years. 2-11 Holiday Club.
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We have just finished another academic year for young people and not least the 'big children' who have attended Little Learners' Nursery in Bayton. These children are now ready to start the formal part of their education which will last the next 14 years or more of their lives. We wish them all well and hope they are as happy at school as they appeared to be with us.

This natural progression allows spaces for other children whose parents wish them to benefit from our expertise and professionalism at Little Learners'. During the induction process we endeavour to understand the needs of all children and respect them for the individuals they are, this starts at the moment children and parents come to visit us when searching for an appropriate setting, whether it is for full time care or term time only.

Parents understand the situation when they select a friendly well run setting which they have confidence in and where they believe their children will be happy. However, put yourself in the child's shoes for a moment: they have little experience and in some cases, none at all of being left by their

familiar carers who have been a constant figure in their life. This moment can be an unnerving and frightening feeling; I liken it to an adult being put into a room of strangers and expecting them to be friends with everyone instantly. I'm sure you agree with me it would be an overwhelming feeling, but with time and regular contact friendships do develop and eventually we begin to understand routines and familiarity. Staff at Little Learners' Nursery understand this concept, and therefore recognize the need to reassure and nurture every child individually who starts with us in order for them to feel settled and confident. It is only when a child feels safe and secure that they can start to absorb the aspects of learning which we richly provide through varied and exciting activities.

I do hope anyone looking for high quality childcare contacts the nursery in order to visit us with their children to establish for themselves the passion and ethos we have developed over the past 15 years to provide young children a positive foundation for their future educational years.

Judith Bunn



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Happenings on High Street

THE SHOP & SAVE CARD

The first Shop and Save Card will be delivered to most households in Cleobury at the end of August. It will help you enjoy discounted offers for essential products and services at shops, pubs and businesses all around Cleobury Country. The scheme is all about shopping locally, as it's in everyone's interest to have goods and services we need here on our doorstep.

If you live in the surrounding area and would like a card, all you have to do is visit a business that has a Shop and Save Sticker in their window. The Cleobury Country Centre on Love Lane can also supply you with a card, or contact them on 01299 272300.

The Card is free to householders living in Cleobury Country and is valid for three months. Take advantage of this range of offers and present your card to get it validated with a stamp.

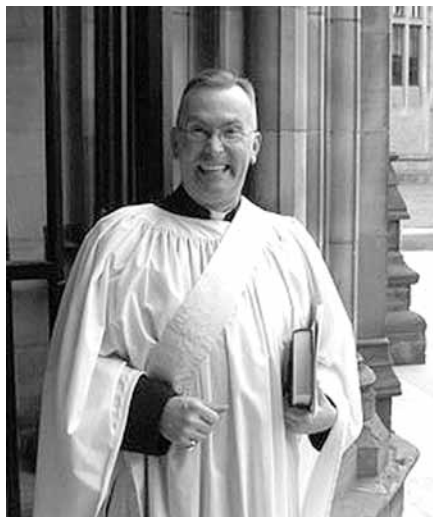
If you can claim 50% or more of the offers shown on the card from 1st September to 30th November, you qualify for the quarterly prize draw of £250.00. To enter the draw, simply take your completed card to Cleobury News before the end date.

Shop and Save is an example of partnership, with Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council and the Local Joint Committee funding the set up costs for the project, and Cleobury Country and Chamber of Trade have worked together to deliver the scheme.

It's a smart way to shop in your local area, so make sure that you keep up-to-date, as the cards and

offers will change every three months. And there's always the chance that you are the next quarterly prize winner.

CONGRATULATIONS



Does he ever stop smiling? Justin Parker could be the happiest Deacon in the Church of England.

There was a large gathering in the High Street on July 1st as a coachload of friends and supporters gathered to travel down to Hereford Cathedral for the ordination of a number of Deacons. Amongst them Justin Parker, better known amongst the wider community as the local face of MFG Solicitors, the man who makes people so welcome to their office in the Market Hall.

When the service was over and the Bishop had given the brand new Deacons his blessing, they all returned to their parishes. In Justin's case to Neen Savage, where the village hall could not house all his well wishers - estimated at over 150 - who overflowed into a marquee.

RETIRING TYPES

Two of Cleobury's Fire and Rescue Service men retired recently and had a warm send-

off from their mates at the station.

Not that it's old age that's taking them away. Colin Todd leaves after 13 years on the station, as the family are moving out of town and he won't be able to respond to alarm calls in a reasonable time. "We've had some good laughs with the lads here, I've really enjoyed it," he told us.

Wayne Smith, looking remarkably fit after such a great fund raising effort in the London Marathon, has done seven years on the strength. He has a young family he wants to spend more time with, so he's leaving too. You can't argue with the logic of a man who says family come first - they always should in our view.

Their departure means there are two vacancies at our station, for fit men able to respond to urgent demands when they're on call. Graham Phillips on CM 270098 will tell you what a good life it is and what a great crew you could be joining.



Wayne Smith (left) and Colin Todd are leaving the Fire and Rescue Service after some great times and a decent bit of extra money earned. Their departure for family reasons means there are vacancies to be filled.

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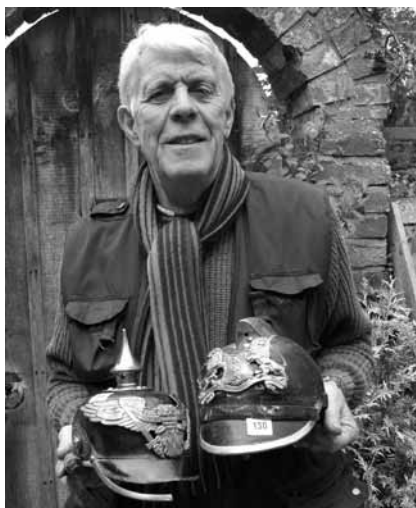


Star of the Small Ads - John Carter

"What motivates me? The excitement, the prospect of finding treasures long hidden."

John Carter has been interested in antiques and history since he was 12 years old and doing a little dealing in minor items. By 1972, when he was at college, he specialised in antique prints and paintings and the habit and knowledge have grown since then. Today he organises five very successful auction sales a year at Dodford village hall, near Bromsgrove, covering the West Midlands from Redditch up to Wolverhampton. "Have gavel, will travel," as he puts it.

"It's like mining," he says. "You can find something worth selling. Not necessarily worth a lot of money, but beautifully made." Like the collection of boxes he viewed, including a biscuit tin full of old purses with a few coins in each. Then a small box emerged and opened to reveal four gold sovereigns: "I said to the lady 'D'you fancy



A new helmet, Sir? John with Belgian and German World War One versions

a holiday? There's a thousand pounds here."

Or the man with his uncle's old writing box. "I said 'Have you found the secret drawer yet?' and opened it up. Four golden sovereigns again. I do advise people to have a professional valuation before they put stuff on e-Bay or in a charity shop." Biggest success was an Indian chess set, c.1780,

in ivory. "This one was exquisite," he enthuses at the memory. "The guy was hoping to get £600 for it, I said it should bring £3,500 to £4,000 and a Bond Street gallery travelled up to Bromsgrove and bid £17,500! You never stop learning in this business."

He travels to give valuations and will arrange transport to one of his five sales a year at Dodford. If he has a choice piece or two, he makes sure the trade knows about it. And one secret of his success is his refusal to take entries from the antique trade: "It's all fresh stuff at my sales, nothing old and tired."

You can meet John and take his expert advice when he holds a Valuation day in the Parish Hall during the Cleobury Fringe. There's no guarantee he'll make you rich, but he does have this talent for springing some very lucrative surprises.

Hunks and Chunks Deal With Clunker

It's the Rugby Club, calling themselves Hunks and Chunks. 'Hunks' for the back line and 'Chunks' for the pushers up front. Every year they stage a car wash at the Sports and Social Club to raise money for their funds and a donation to a local charity. This year it was 'Tommy's' who fund research into pregnancy problems and miscarriages.

It happened on July 23rd, and the poor old Clarionvagen, a P registered Citroen Synergie with over 100,000 miles under

its reliable wheels, was long overdue for a wash and brush-up.

It's simple. Drive up, park in the area they guide you to, then into the Club for a tea and slice of cake while men with energy, water and sponges remove the grime. Their efforts are greatly aided by the generosity of local Autoglym distributors Branson Automotive, who have supported them for the last three years.

Having donated to the cause I was pleased to find the Citroen

looking smart, a rare experience. Try having your own car cleaned in a good cause next year



The Editor is not a habitual car cleaner, but after this he managed to sell the Clarionvagen.

The Clarion is on the web on the 4th of every month.

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Letter from Westminster - Philip Dunne MP

London 2012 is now under way and thousands of British people are delivering a great Olympic Games, watched by millions in this country and billions abroad. While most of the events are in London much of the country has been involved, especially in Shropshire.

An estimated 10 million people saw the Olympic Torch relay pass through their community, including two visits to the Ludlow constituency. The role of Much Wenlock as the inspiration for re-establishing the modern Olympic Games is now well recognised and the London 2012 mascot, whatever you might think of it, is called Wenlock.

The International Olympic Committee have acknowledged the Wenlock Olympian Society for several years. But now the Department for Culture, Media, Olympics and Sport, London 2012, the British Olympic Committee, national and international media all understand that it was here at Much Wenlock in Shropshire that the original inspiration to hold games to encourage participation and achievement in sport was started.

This spirit of community games is being developed across the country. Schools sport

has been re-energised with over 14,000 schools participating in the School Games, which had its first finals at the Olympic Park a few weeks ago, where 1,600 took part, including young athletes from Shropshire. Participation in sport is at a record level, with more than 15 million people playing sport once a week for the first time.

London 2012 is hosting 15,000 athletes, undertaking 30 days of competition during both Olympic and Paralympic Games, observed by 21,000 official media, and around 100 Heads of State. This is a fantastic opportunity for Britain, and we are in a very strong position, but there is no room for complacency. London 2012 has been delivered on time and under budget, with almost £500 million of the contingency fund unspent. There will obviously be challenges given the scale of the event but I am optimistic that we are on track for a summer like no other.

I am sure everyone will unite in wishing Team GB well in trying to reach its ambitious target of finishing 4th in the medal table, hoping to win at least 48 medals across 20 different sports. I hope you will enjoy the Games and that the whole country will take pride in their success.

Missed your copy of The Cleobury Clarion? It can happen. Knowing that many readers have busy lives that can't be ruled by the simple matter of picking up your local newsletter, we've put it out on the most public forum of all, the internet. Just type in www.cleoburyclarion on the 4th of the month.



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The August Social Calendar

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Wed 1	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall		
Thu 2		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	2.00pm	Summer Games at Berrington Hall, near Leominster	Booking Office	01586 615721
	7.00pm	Rock Pathfinders' Evening Walk starts at the Hop Pole Inn, Cleobury Road, Bewdley	Alan	01299 400304
Sun 5	11.00am	Bewdley Local Produce Market in Load Street. Local produce on sale.		
Mon 6		Dragons, Damsels and Lake Dipping at Berrington Hall, Leominster. And on the 13th and 20th.	Booking Office	01586 615721
Tue 7	11.00am	Stottesdon W.I. President's Coffee Morning at West Bank	Marian Wootton	01746 718151
	7.30pm	Cleobury W.I. gather at the President's Garden Party.		
Wed 8	12.30pm	The Ladies Luncheon Club meets at The Royal Fountain		
	8.00pm	The Royal British Legion meets at The Bell Inn, Lower Street.	Ron Breakwell	CM 270830
Thu 9		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	2.00pm	Green Day at Berrington Hall, Leominster.	Booking Office	01586 615721
Fri 10	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Cleeton St Mary Village Hall		
Sat 11		Basket Making course on offer at Unclyls Farm in the Wyre Forest. £40 includes all the materials over a wide range		
Sun 12	10.00am	Far Forest Country Show at Callow Hill. Great family event, typical country fair with loads of attractions for all ages. SEE PAGE 7		
	11.00am	The Horticultural Society meet in the Talbot car park before travelling on to Hergest Croft		
Tue 14	2.00pm	Doddington Friendship Club meets at the village hall.	Alison Osborne	01584 890414
Wed 15	7.30pm	Stottesdon W.I. meet at Chorley Village Hall. Speaker: Sandra Shakespeare on Rag Rug Making.	Marian Wootton	01746 718151
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 16		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND GREEN RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	2.00pm	Mermaids and Pirates fancy dress event, Berrington Hall. See 2nd above		
	7.45pm	Whist Drive at Sports & Social Club, Love Lane.	Alan Evans	CM 270114

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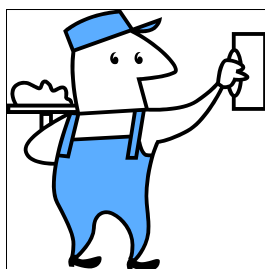
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The August Social Calendar - continued

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Sat 18	2.00pm	Clows Top Show, in the Victory Hall. Great local produce event SEE PAGE 15		
	6.00pm	Children's Talent Show and Open Mic Night at Farlow & Oretton Village Hall. SEE PAGE 7.	Sarah	01746 718448
	7.30pm	Tony Hawkes introduces his new film 'Playing the Moldovans at Tennis' at Ludlow Assembly Rooms, followed by Q&A and book signing		01584 878141
Sun 19	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders' Walk starts from the Sun and Slipper in Mamble. See 2nd above.		
	2.00pm	Small Gardens of Ludlow open their gates to the public	Tickets	01584 878141
Tue 21	2.00pm	CM Carers Group meet at St Mary's PLace, Love Lane.	Wendy Duley	CM 270562
Wed 22	7.45pm	Clows Top Gardening Club meets at Victory Hall, Clows Top to hear Mike Firman talk about Lawn Tips		
Thu 23		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	2.00pm	Teddy Bears Picnic children's day at Berrington Hall. See 2nd above		
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Neen Savage Village Hall	Clare Ratcliff	CM 270173
Fri 24	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 25	11.00am	Titterstone Clee Hill Games and Country Fayre revives an old tradition		
Sat 26	8.00pm	Charlotte Church with her new sound hits Ludlow at the Assembly Rooms	Box Office	01584 878141
Fri 31		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND GREEN RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
		THERE'S A LOT HAPPENING THROUGHOUT AUGUST IN THE WYRE FOREST. SEE LINDA ILES' REPORT ON PAGE 49		
		AND LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER		
Sat 1	1.30pm	National Association of Jewellery Valuers Day at Berrington Hall. Free valuations and opinions of your items.	Booking Office	01568 615721
	6.00pm	Billingsley BBQ and Fete at Rays Farm. Adults £3.50, kids free. Lots to do.		
Wed 5	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 6		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		

The Clarion Social Calendar - so much information about what's on in Cleobury Country and around. If you want your event in these pages, get details to the editor by the 20th of the preceding month.



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SOLD STC

SOLD STC

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

STOTTESDON'S CHUTNEY STAR



Chris Haydon at Bagginswood point blank refused to be photographed. "I'd much rather you used a picture of the front doorstep stall," she said.

So we did.

It's a long way from running your own mortgage broker business and employing 30 people to making a range of special foods and building a brand name from scratch. But that's what Chris Haydon is busy doing. For goodness sake, why? "A better quality of life. I just love what I'm doing," she explains. It's not easy to argue with that logic.

This is not an amateur operation. What was the dining room in the family home has been transformed with two commercial standard ovens and fitted working surfaces to make preparation work easier. All officially inspected and approved.

The range that Chris makes varies according to the season and what ingredients are on the market locally; whenever possible she uses Shropshire produce. She offers a wide range: cakes and pastries, tarts and puddings, bread, pickles, preserves and chutneys, jams,

curds and marmalade and even flavoured oils and vinegars.

We bought her Red Onion Chutney from Carrot Tops and at first taste you can tell why Chris sells all she can make. It's delicious with meat or cheese.

The range is available from Heath Farm Meats and Claverley Farm Shop as well. Or if you're passing through Stottesdon there's a unit outside her house 'Aranby' on the Chorley road, Stottie's alternative "shop". Or talk to her on 01746 718 750. Her products reflect her devotion to the ideal of quality food.

MADGE ABOUT THE MONSOON

The torrential rain we have experienced culminated with a Cloud Burst on Friday 14th which resulted in extensive damage in our area from rivers and flooded roads. The resultant damage will take some time to repair. To those of you personally affected, if Shropshire Council [Gwilym and I] can be of any help please contact us, Gwilym on 0780 109 9015 or myself on 01299 271186.

We do need everybody's help to identify problems such as blocked drains; standing water; damage to road surfaces; land slips; debris in brooks and rivers and anything else. Please let us know. Our Council staff of all departments are working flat out and we need to guide them where the problems are and plan the repairs necessary. Many thanks for your co-operation

Madge Shineton.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

Two events in July. A Fashion Show at The Edinburgh Woollen Mill in Ludlow, where

members of staff modelled outfits from the store's stock. Our thanks to the manager for the evening, enabling us to raise £204 for our funds.

On the following Saturday we supported the Cleobury Country Market, selling home made produce. An enjoyable occasion shared with many local producers of fine food.

This was followed, in the Market Hall, by the presentation of prizes from the Cleobury in Bloom competition. Congratulations to Heather and Chris Kippin whose garden won first prize.

Our next event, held jointly with The Shropshire Historic Churches Trust, on Sunday August 5th is the Cleobury Mortimer Garden Trail from 12.00noon to 5.00, when gardens in and around Cleobury will be open.

One of them will be at Mawley Hall with an opportunity to visit The Hall. Programmes, giving directions and details, will be on sale in St. Mary's Church, from 11.00am. Price £4.00 each. Admission to the Hall will be £9 with a £4 reduction if you have an Open Gardens programme.

Alec Osbaldiston

LATE FLOOD NEWS

On July 20th the County Council issued a notice that the road through Neen Sollars is closed for a provisional period of three months for the damaged bridge to be examined and repairs completed. The route around will be signed, we assume.

So the Neen Sollars community is divided. Maybe a special bus service to the Live and Let Live will be arranged?

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Clarion Picture Spread - The July Monsoon



Downstream from the Neen Sollars bridge, with only foot traffic allowed as the damage is assessed.



Upstream the damage seems greater, with the main structure showing evidence of battering.



At the bottom of Ronhill the road surface has been torn up by the pressure of water draining down off the neighbouring hill and the traffic signs stand like isolated sentries on their bases, the bank around washed away by the flood. What is normally just a trickling stream turned into a torrent and inflicted this level of damage after hours of heavy rain overwhelmed the drainage system.

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Clive Davies' Westwood Diary

WESTWOOD FARM 18th July

Haymaking is difficult. No, it's impossible! The long wet spell has held-up any plans for grass conservation. Even those making silage are only snatching bits and bobs in a half hearted way. We still intend to make hay here at Westwood and so will have to await a better spell of weather, not only to get cut grass dried but in the first instance to ensure that the currently soft ground is firm enough to take the weight of machinery. That will be a fair call with the bulky crops shading the ground from some hopeful sunshine. However, in the scheme of things the consequences of our bit of hay and the planning associated with its harvest is small-fry compared to some of what is ongoing with aspects of the London Olympics, big business and finance.

As days pass it seems more and more that those given responsibility for some major pieces of work are simply inept. A common line of defence in many of these areas seems to be that, 'We didn't notice that' or 'It was nothing to do with me'. Well it looks more and more that some folk need to be much more observant and many need to be more responsible. On many occasions these misdemeanours lead to inefficiencies that most probably others, somewhere else, not only have to sort but pay for as well. When so much of the world is under 'austere' arrangements and efficiency has to be the name of the game, how is it that often those that have been irresponsible not only walk away from the mess made but also seem to get a massive payment at the same time? And more

than that, they were infact often over-paid for the work that they didn't do in the first place.

So often the word 'earnings' comes into comments, it is quite probable that too few earn what is received! These responsibilities, balances and states of fairness apply to our food industry also and without doubt have come to a head within the important British dairy industry in recent weeks. The decision by milk processors to drop prices of liquid milk by about 2p/litre following a previous similar offer, thereby getting it down to around 25p when most analysts confirm that it cost some 30p/litre to produce, is case in point. Of course not all primary producers' running costs are the same and never will be, but if decent standards are to be met a fair price for an acceptable product is paramount. Production efficiencies must be observed but there is no doubt that from a public and the consumers' point of view, there are limits. Limits to the cost of purchase but also limits to the animal welfare standards and the scale of production systems. Getting all this right is 'the balance thing' and must be observed. Shared value of any product or service is important not only for just reward but also to allow important future investment and research and development. All parties are now in debate on this dairy topic and it is vital that such an important part of the rural economy and activity finds its level. Whilst this is ongoing, at Westwood we will concentrate on the haymaking.

Clive Davies



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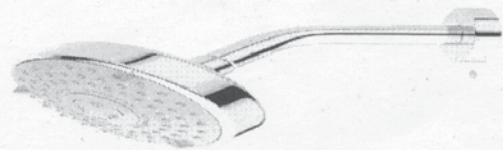
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

MAWLEY OPEN DAY



David Robinson introduces Laura Callwood to a Mawley resident.

Another successful afternoon on June 30th when we opened our farm to welcome customers to visit the home of Mawley Milk and the Mawley Holsteins. Around 900 visitors came to see the milking parlour, cows, farm machinery, heavy horses, vintage

tractors and owls from Chelmarsh Owl Sanctuary. Kelly from 6 Ashes Riding Centre had long queues for pony rides and children bounced on the bouncy castle until they couldn't bounce any more! St Marys Church kindly arranged a team of volunteers who BBQ'd and served refreshments throughout the afternoon so our visitors could sit and rest, entertained by local legend Al Boden and the Organic Hillbillies. Cleobury Mortimer Brownies ran a craft stall and Sandra Banks donated all her takings to Little Hearts Matter! The MacMillan Fund ran a raffle and Teddy Tombola, raising over £400 for their cause. We put on our open day free, but did have strategically placed donation buckets by the BBQ and refreshment; our very generous visitors gave just over £1200,

which we have split 50/50 between St Marys PCC and Little Hearts Matter. A big thank you goes out to all hard working staff and helpers who pulled together, and to our visitors. We hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did.

On July 8th we held a 'Songs of Praise' in the barn and Rev Paul Nash of the Birmingham Children's Hospital led the service. He gave an inspiring talk about the work he does within the hospital. Local churches each chose a hymn special to them, and really raised the barn roof. The collection was in aid of the hospital Chaplaincy Fund and the result was an amazing £850. Big thanks again to all the helpers, especially Tim Stone from the Pioneer Centre and Kelvin Price our cycling curate.

Rachel Robinson

Beth's Triumphant Debut



A champion duo in action. Beth in the saddle, Louise on the bridle.

Beth Lewis had the honour of representing the Pat Straughan Riding for the Disabled (RDA) group from Country Treks in Stottesdon, when they held a

dressage event at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee visit to RAF Cosford last month.

This was Beth's first ever event, as she had only been riding with the group for 10 weeks, so it was "in at the deep end" with 30,000 people attending the event, including the Queen and Prince Phillip!

Understandably nervous, Beth, riding the lovely Toby, an ex-show jumping pony, competed in three competitions; the 'Handy Rider' obstacle race, the country management horse care competition and the main dressage event.

Supported by instructor Louise Brassington, Beth was triumphant, winning a third in the Handy Rider and first place

in the Dressage. Together with Edward Powell, the other representative from this fairly new RDA group, the pair won a group third - their first ever group rosette.

Beth's parents Mike and Jacqui Lewis and all at the Pat Straughan group are immensely proud of her. Beth would like to thank Louise, Helen, Steph and all at Country Treks for the help and support they have given her. Her Mum, Jacqui, says riding with the group has done wonders for her confidence and she would spend every day there if she could. Now she has the bit between her teeth to go on to compete in future RDA National Championships. Well done, Beth!

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STOTTESDON W.I.

A good turn-out for our customary midsummer meeting at Sidbury Hall. Many thanks again to our exemplary hostess Mrs Reed for another delightful evening. Hannah Banks of Mortimer Solicitors gave a clear and concise presentation on the importance of both making a Will, and setting up a Lasting Power of Attorney. This process is straightforward when undertaken in good time, so let us hope that members old and young are stirred into action before events overtake us.

We have two invitations this month: Firstly, as summer is promised to be finally on the way, our President Stef Bryan is holding a Garden Coffee morning at West Bank, Stottesdon. It's on Tuesday 7th August 11.00 – 1.00, in aid of Bridgnorth Women's Forum. Do try to drop in and support this important local organisation

We next meet on August 15th for an evening with Sandra Shakespeare : 'Scrap Values: Rag Rug Making'. Join us from 7.30 at Chorley VH . We would love to see you at these events. Call me if you have any enquiries.

Marian Wootton
01746 718151

REVIVING THE HILL GAMES

Titterstone Clee Heritage Trust keep up their excellent revival work with a Hill Games and Country Fayre on Saturday the 25th of this month. It's at the Caynham Road and Ludlow Road junction and will feature a range of ancient sports, like Tug o' War, Two Man Saw, Puttin' the Ston, Sheaf and Keg Tossin', Welly Whanging and other antidotes to the serious goings on at the posh and proper Olympic Stadium in East London. Not a Gold Medal

in sight at this celebration of athletic skills. Unlike the exclusive marketing down south, here you'll find a Real Ale Bar, a Hog Roast and barbecue, plus the chance to see vintage farm vehicles, stationary engines (they never run them) a blacksmith and other traditional country crafts.

It starts at 11.00 and it costs just £3.00 for an adult to get in. Cancel that trip to London - this will be more fun.

CLEOBURY W.I.

There were a number of entries for our flower of the month competition which was won by Angie Gregory with a beautiful clematis. Jill Chesterman was second and Heather Williams third, both with colourful flowers. Gill Senior won the competition for the home made bookmark; these were also of a high standard and made it very difficult to choose just one. Our talk was "Norway in a Nutshell" by Mrs Game from Shrewsbury who interspersed her talk with songs composed to the music of Greig.

A big "thank you" to everyone who helped and supported the Coffee Morning on July 14th. It was a resounding success. The committee hope to see all members at the President's Garden party on August 7th.

Liz Smurthwaite

THE BOWLING CLUB

During June the Club held three annual competitions for members. On June 9th the Allun Martin Cup Singles were played; this cup was presented by the Mullers Sports & Social Club in memory of Allun, in 1988. This was a family affair, Joe and Lesley Burnside succeeding in beating off opponents to reach the final. Joe played extremely well to win 21 to 6. I understand that Joe wasn't fed that night!

Captain's Day was held on the 24th. Club Captain Chris Cowdell, who is also our Webmaster, doing a fantastic job. A Doubles Competition, the final was between, Dennis Edwards and Chris Cowdell and Joan Griffiths and Pauline Sorrel. Joan and Pauline outplayed the men to win 9 to 4. At the end Chris thanked Lesley Burnside and presented her with Flowers for all her help and providing the catering.

On June 30th the Ison Cup, another doubles competition, was played. This cup was presented by William Ison and was first won in 1950 by him aged 92 and 14 years old John Wakeman. Finalists this year were Ken Reynolds and Dave Harley against the Lloyds' father & son team, Ivor & Paul. The Lloyds completely beat the others 21-4.

Dave Harley.

A RARE TREAT

Kinlet W.I. have a rather unusual outing planned for September, when they'll be having a factory tour of the Worcestershire Marble Works at Button Bridge. And because they're raising funds for the Hope Hospice as well as their own W.I. branch, the evening is open to the public.

It's on September 13th, they'll gather at 7.00 pm in Hall Farm, Kinlet and the ticket price of £8.00 includes a glass of wine and refreshments. For more details and to book a place, talk to Dorothy Evans on 01299 841380

HOW VERY NICE...

To see that Lowri at her Edna Maes styling salon in Talbot Square is brightening the place up with some very fine floral hanging baskets. They do bring a touch of colour to a building that needs it. It's little touches like this that make the town attractive to visitors.

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The Clarion Weekly Social Calendar

Day	Time	Event	Contact	Phone
Sun	08.30	Holy Communion, Parish Church		CM 270624
	09.45	Parish Communion, Parish Church		CM 270624
	09.00	Mass, St Elizabeth's, Lower Street	Canon Walsh	01584 872906
	10.30	Cleobury Country Archers, Lacon Childe Sports Field	Lesley Burnside	CM 271374
	10.30	New Life Church – for venue call	Derek Morris	CM 270787
	11.00	Morning Service, Methodist Church	Rev H Roberts	01584 819649
Mon	08.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, Kinlet School Mon to Fri		07794 166514
	08.00	Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon School Mon to Fri	Zoe Day	01746 71879
	09.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe School Mon to Fri	April Rogers	CM 271418
	09.00	CM Playgroup, Primary School, Mon to Fri	Jane Preece	07816 193933
	09.30	Morning Workout, Sports Hall	Deena	CM 271317
	10.00	Age UK, Monday Club, St Mary's Place	Sarah Wilde	
	15.45	Gym Club with Ann Davis, Lacon Childe Mon & Wed	Don Carter	CM 270312
	18.30	Karate Club, Lacon Childe School	John Nelson	CM 879210
	19.00	Tai Chi Class, Lacon Childe School	Rose Jacks	01584 875544
	19.30	Rangers Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Helen Smith	CM 270912
Tue	19.45	Bingo, CM Sports & Social Club	Alan Evans	CM 270114
	20.00	Women's Clog Dancing Classes	Linda Small	01746 718624
	10.00	Nippers, Moths & Tots, Methodist Hall, Church Street	Emma	CM 272959
	14.00	Friendship Club, Parish Hall, Church Street	Janet Rolston	CM 270353
	15.45	Ballet Class, Lacon Childe School	Liz Broadway	CM 251246
	17.00	Sports Roundabout, Sports Hall, Love Lane		CM 271317
	17.30	Beavers Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Becky Keeley	CM 271416
	18.45	Bridge Club Hopton Wafers Village Hall	Wendy Duley	CM 270562
	19.00	Bell Ringers' practice night, St Mary's Church	Liz Walker	CM 271808
	19.30	Modern Dance Sequence Club, Lacon Childe School	E Wrigglesworth	01562 822291
Wed	10.30	Over 50s Relaxing Exercises, Doddington Village Hall	Freda Childe	01584 891180
	16.45	Gym Club for 6 & over, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
	17.15	Brownies Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Emma Reynolds	CM 272746
	19.00	Guides Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street		
	19.00	Yoga Class with Anna, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
	19.00	Zumba Class with Emma Forni, Lacon Childe School	Emma Forni	01746 862842
	19.30	CM Concert Brass Band practice, Parish Hall	Stella Wilcox	CM 270560
	19.30	New Life Church prayer meeting. For venue call	Derek Morris	CM 270787
	19.30	Choir Practice, Parish Church	Philip Engleheart	CM 270627
Thu	09.30	Little Tiddlers, Kinlet Family Playgroup, Kinlet School	Zoe Pearson	07794 166514
	11.00	Sale of second hand goods, Knowle Sports Club, Clee Hill	Audrey Taylor	01584 890644
	14.00	Scrabble Club, St Mary's Place, Non residents £1.00	Jo Booton	07969 104808
	15.30	Cleobury Comets Netball, CM Sports Centre term time	Mandy Smith	CM 271809
	17.30	Brownies Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Rebecca Barnes	CM 272945
	19.00	Bell Inn Band improvers rehearsal, Bell Inn, Lower Street		
	19.15	Cubs Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Kate Pearce	07772 102986
	19.30	Tums and Bums, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
	19.30	Adult 7-a-side Football League, CM Sports Centre	Dave Hinves	CM 271317
	20.00	Bell Inn Band rehearsal, Bell Inn, Lower Street		
	20.00	11-16s Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317
	21.00	Over 16s Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317
	Fri	10.00	Tiny Stots, Chorley Playgroup, Stottesdon School	Zoe Day
10.00		Tiny Tots, Parish Hall	Bettina Poole	CM 271868
17.30		Rainbows Meeting, girls 5-7 years, Old Pump House	Jean Basham	07792 813774
19.00		Scout Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Chris Andrews	CM 270937
20.00		Badminton, CM Sports Centre		01584 881359
Sat	08.30	Sale of second hand goods, Knowle Sports Club, Clee Hill	Audrey Taylor	01584 890644
	10.30	Junior Coaching, CM Golf Club, Wyre Common	Robert Watkins	CM 271112

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THE CLEOBURY FRINGE

A slightly different title this year, to reflect true emphasis of the event, with others in the Cleobury Country area welcome to join in. The old Cleobury Festival has also come on board with support.

The 2012 Fringe will kick off on Saturday the 1st, with the traditional Beer and Brass in the Vicarage Field, also known as the Secret Garden. It certainly won't be secret on this day, with top bands invited to show off their skills next to Cleobury's own Concert Brass. That will run through to the early evening, when a comedian takes over the tent for the evening until 11.00 closing time.

The second weekend, 8th and 9th, is the traditional time for the Borders Classic Bike Show, with a new organiser this year and a very special Guest of Honour for everyone who follows speedway or grasstrack racing. The great Peter Collins will be here both days, to be interviewed on stage and to present the awards on Sunday afternoon



Multi World Champion Peter Collins - here in September

The final Saturday of the Fringe, the 15th, will see the opening of the new footpath from the Golf Club into Wyre

Forest. There will be a barbecue at the Club, guided tours around footpaths in the area and local real ales to help slake your thirst if it's a warm day.

Later in the day local antiques guru John Carter will take over the Parish Hall to give valuations of your family heirlooms or whatever you can unearth to bring along. John is always good value, a great raconteur and known to give people some very pleasant surprises when he quotes a figure.

Final details are still being sorted. We'll bring you a complete programme in the September issue.

CURATE AND CO. CYCLE FOR GOOD CAUSES



From left: Curate Kelvin Price, Rfn Lee Rackham, C Sjt Craig Hasson and Max Lambourne. Photo: Tony B

It's a brave team who get together to ride the 400 miles from Edinburgh to Cleobury Mortimer at any time of year. In the damp excuse for a summer we've had, even more so. But curate Kelvin Price is a mighty persuasive man, and got Max Lambourne and two of his old Army buddies on board. The military men, Rfn Lee Rackham

and C Sjt Craig Hasson would be raising funds for 'Care For Casualties', which focuses on rifle regiments, the biggest group in the British Army. Kelvin and Max were doing it for Saint Mary's Youth Project.

They headed north only after sorting out an insurance glitch that removed their young driver, the riders agreeing to share driving the minibus. On July 2nd they left the Third Battalion Rifles base with a heavy rain cloud for company and a headwind that stayed with them all the way.

Every ten miles they stopped and a rider took over driving, to spread the load. Navigation was not their strong point, and Kelvin remembers circular tours of at least three towns along the way. Max found the rain didn't matter after a while, but the headwind presented a constant problem as it killed their pace.

Kelvin worried about rain so heavy that there were streams across the road. The team used tyres with no tread and traction was not good. Not to mention 60 mph big trucks coming past.

But they made it. Nobody fell off and at 1.00 on Saturday July 7th they rode up to the Parish Church and an enthusiastic reception.

Army men Craig and Lee are still collecting their sponsorship, so we can't give you a figure. Kelvin estimates that he and Max will bring in between £4,500 and £5,000 for St Mary's Youth Project. It's a great effort that deserves all praise and puts them on the leaderboard in the Clarion's Charity Champions competition in its debut year.

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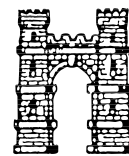
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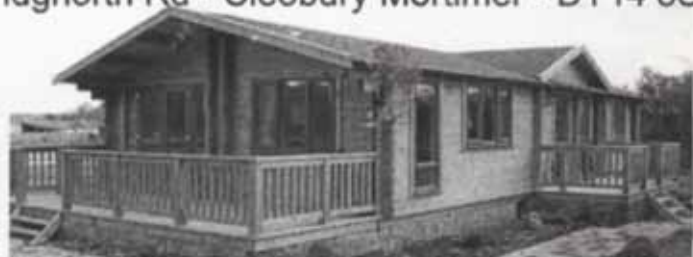
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AUGUST IN THE WYRE FOREST



The writer herself. Linda shows a party of visitors another gem of the Wyre Forest.

We can celebrate the completion of the Sensory Trail around our new Community Discovery Centre at Callow Hill. Two years ago the surroundings of the Centre were completely churned up, showing the devastation you'd expect after a major building project. But with the help of a wildflower/grass seed mix the green has returned. We took the opportunity presented by Grow With Wyre's Heritage Lottery Fund moneys to turn this area into a beautiful asset which could add a new dimension to visits by people of all ages and abilities. The concept was to include features, natural and man-made, that encourage use of the senses: touch, sight, hearing and smell. (The sense of taste we'll leave up to you – there are some nice, juicy bilberries and blackberries in the forest just now).

Make sure you see the steel buzzard and deer sculptures and the family of wooden wild boar. There is a giant xylophone to play and a storyteller's chair to give a rendition from. You can create an Andy

Goldsworthy-style "Celtic Circle" from natural materials and feel the textures of cones, moss and leaves in the shaped logs. On the natural side, there is a meadow which is already visited by butterflies and other insects, a pond where beetles and newts dive out of sight, and a "stumpery" where the contorted shapes of the larch stumps provide a niche for ferns and woodland flowers.

The Sensory Trail will be open during Open Days (see below) and can also be booked for groups by calling the Forestry Commission's Discovery Centre on 01299 266929.

On "Treetastic Tuesdays" and "Forest Fridays" every week through the summer holidays from July 24th to August 31st, you can explore the Discovery Centre any time between 11am and 3pm. Follow the many trails around the centre and enjoy the many different art works both inside and out. The new Wildside of Wyre Museum will also be open. There will be a different children's activity on each day too, for a small charge.

On Friday August 31st there's Family Dusk Walk. Explore the forest as night falls, wear warm clothes and bring a torch. 7.00 to 9.00pm. For families with children aged seven and over. £6 per person/£20 per family of four. Booking essential on 01299 266929.

This is my last Forest News article as an employee of the Forestry Commission, since I've decided that 19 years as an Education Officer is probably enough, especially for the teachers who come and hear the same patter and quips every year! However, my

wonderful colleagues at the Discovery Centre will still bring the natural world alive for young visitors and I'll still be bringing you news and tales from the forest just as me!

Linda Iles

Forestry Commission

RUGBY CLUB ON A ROLL

The Rugby Club's Hunks n' Chunks car wash featured on Page 25 went off well. They raised a total of £275 and £50 of that will go to their chosen charity, Tommy's.

Not known for standing still, their next event is a Fun Quiz at The Bell in Lower Street, on Friday the 10th. It starts at 7.00, entry is £2.00 a head and the prize is £40.00 in cash. Good laughs guaranteed.

ACTION AT THE LIBRARY

Vicki Alexander, our new librarian, is certainly no slouch. She's been out promoting the Summer Reading Challenge and a visit to the Primary School produced nine entrants to add to the list she already had.

At the end of the school holidays she plans a celebration for all the children who take part, an event funded by the Friends of the Library.

She's also been promoting the morning the children spent with local author Edwin Sayer. We'll report on that next month.

Edwin is keen to start a Creative Writing Group, based on the library of course, and we'll bring you details when they are finalised.

TRIMPLEY SHOW OFF

Who'd be a show organiser? On July 13th we heard the Trimpley show was cancelled. On the 14th you could see why. And by the 21st the sun was out and the fields were drying.

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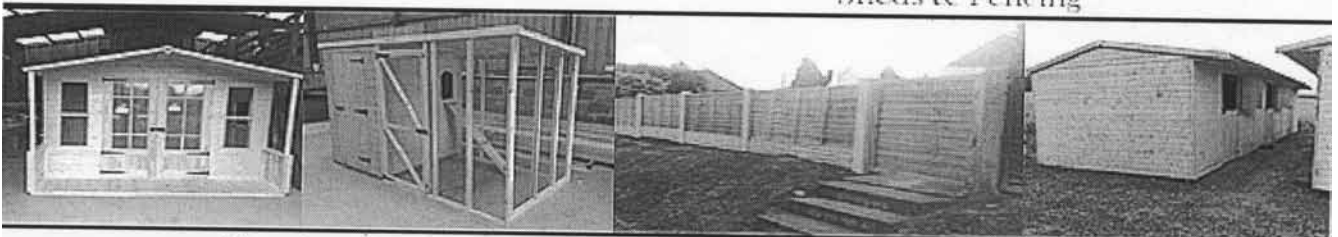
Ofsted "GOOD" inspection report

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CLEOBURY COUNTRY MARKET

This was quite a bold idea, to move away from the established but faltering Taste of Cleobury and not depend upon any other events to draw people to the town. Whilst the original idea was welcome to ride on the back of the Classic Bike Show, it also meant a clash with the Ludlow Food Fair. Sorry, no contest.

July 14th made sense when the idea was mooted, because long distance weather forecasting couldn't see that far ahead. But on the evening of the 13th the Monsoon visited South Shropshire and left the town stunned but alive and kicking. The Women's Institute rescued everything for their Coffee Morning in the Market Hall: "We always open, whatever the weather," was the optimistic message and open they did.

The Market had attracted close to 20 local traders and craftspeople to offer samples of their produce or show off their skills. Mrs Auger from the Augernik Fruit Farm in Hopton Wafers was in the doorway, with that morning's gooseberry crop in punnets. She left before the end, presumably sold out.

Ashley's Bakery tempted with an array of breads, but we opted for the treat of Chelsea buns that were every bit as delicious as they looked.

Sally at Forest Pig had sold out of most of their show stock, but had just a few packs of Walnut Chorizo. We couldn't resist - it seems that everything they produce should carry a label warning: "Delicious - You Won't Be Able To Resist."

Crusty Cob had a big range of breads for sampling, but their

home-baked-that-morning apple pies tempted the Clarion purse out. Once the moths had cleared and money paid, Bob tempted us with a taster of sourdough bread. That was a purchase we had to leave until a week later, but we can tell you it's well worth trying.

Not for the first time, it struck me that we really are blessed with great shopping here: two bakers and two butchers in this small town, just for starters.

Helen Booton, the power behind the popular Masterchef classes at the Primary School, was showing off her Cake Kits to add that tempting presentation for a special occasion. She's a quiet, modest lady with winning ways where children are concerned.

Heather Harbach was launching her "Apron Strings" service, offering tasty dishes for people too busy to cook for themselves. It promises well.

Mary Colquitt's a dark horse. She was showing a wide range of jewellery all made with her own skilled hands for her family. This was her first public show, under the name 'Rainbow Mary' and trade was brisk enough for her try a few more outings. "We weren't easy to find, with food stalls around and people standing around trying the samples. I reckon we were in the Naughty Corner," she laughed. Look out for Rainbow Mary - something different.

At Talbot Store's stand William was moving back and forth between the fair and the shop. He reported good business, with lots of sampling tempting people to walk up to the store. Ham on the bone, a traditional favourite, was certainly going well.



Mary Colquitt made her public debut with her own hand-made Rainbow Mary range of jewellery.

At Heath Farm Meats stand we stopped to thank Claire for a recent fillet steak beyond compare. In the MistressChef's words: "It hardly needed cooking."

Claire was comparing notes with Chris Haydon of Bagginswood, whose chutneys are stocked at the Heath Farm shop. They were talking about traditional dishes now out of fashion because they require skilled cooking and that doesn't come from a supermarket. I got the impression that Chris Haydon will be offering brisket in some form before long and can't wait to try it. That's what this Market was about: food that's been properly cooked or needs some understanding to bring out its best flavour.

On the Cleobury Country stand the raffle for local produce was going well and Sue Davis reported very positive feedback from stallholders. So expect the Market to happen again, as the drive to keep traditional quality alive carries on. The alternative doesn't appeal. *Jim Reynolds*



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CONTACT DETAILS

Cleobury Mortimer Primary School

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Email: admin.cleoburymortimer@shropshirelg.net

Website: cleoburymortimerprimaryschool.ethink.org.uk

Stottesdon and Chorley Open Gardens

The Stottesdon and Chorley Open Gardens Weekend is an established occasion of the calendar, something to look forward to. With 16 gardens open to visitors you'd have to make a determined effort to get around them all in one day. Not a problem, just promise yourself a visit to the others next year.

It was a friendly occasion all the way, from stewards giving directions in Stottesdon to the helpful crew selling tickets from the Madeleys' garage. Pay up a very moderate amount, then into the back garden, where what was just part of a field has been transformed into a collection of clever ideas and delights in a compact space.

Down the road was Wade Muggleton's living advertisement for permaculture, where nothing is thrown away, but used somewhere. A vacuum cleaner body held flowers, still with its wheels on - easier to move around with the sun.



Wade Muggleton's "Posh Cloche". It's actually a corner shower unit, rescued from a builder's skip.

We were at the Open Weekend after listening to Wade talk at the

Breakfast Club about permaculture and the way he uses what others throw away. He was directing visitors and dealing with questions like a pro.



Wade Muggleton gives guidance.

He also believes in maximum use of space, and Grow Bags on top of the chicken run proved the point:



If you get the chance to hear Wade talk, take it. He's quietly inspirational in the way he explains what can be done.

The next call was the Ingham's lovely house and immaculate garden. Beyond the hedge bordering the lawn is a series of poly tunnels where Roy grows onions, leeks and carrots.

This is no ordinary vegetable grower. Roy has won national championships for his produce, nurtured in conditions beyond the average imagination.



Award winning - you can see why.

We had to visit Chorley, so that was the next call and a very welcome tea before looking in across the road at an informal family garden. If you've ever wondered what to do with redundant CDs, here they were used as labels and bird scarers.



Simple but effective.

The afternoon rounded off with a visit to Chris Haydon in Stottesdon. I sat and talked about her produce and my wife took in the garden, reporting a small but surprising place too good to miss. We'll put that one down for next year; I can see this outing becoming an annual habit.

Jim Reynolds



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IN BUSINESS: Andrew Wakeman



*25 years in the electrical business,
Andrew Wakeman.*

Andrew knew that he wanted to be an electrician before he went to Bridgnorth College and began the process that got him a Midlands Electricity Board apprenticeship and some of the best training in the business. "I was taught well and I like to think those standards reflect in my work today," he explains.

In more than 17 years working in an industry that was fast changing he became frustrated: "It was monotonous, I was underpaid and it was not fulfilling," he recalls. "We'd just had Nina, I was putting in 55 to 60 hours a week and we couldn't manage." Time for a rethink and a big decision - he went self employed. That was seven and a half years ago, and he set a high standard in everything he did, from a properly sign written van and smartly labelled workwear to regularly going on courses to keep his skills right up to date. He operates in a volatile world, where demands from advancing technology and developing bureaucracy mean you have to be on top of the game.

He admits he doesn't like paperwork, he's a hands-on man who wants to be out where the work is, tools in his hands and doing a job well. He's lucky that Sharon, Mrs Wakeman, has a head for the paperwork; she works three days a week as an accountant and the rest of the week on Andrew's admin. "Sharon's essential, I couldn't do it without her," he explains.

The work has grown way beyond the straightforward electrical stuff he started with. Solar photo voltaic (solar pv to you and me) installations are a growing business with regulations that move to keep up with technical developments. "When things change, you have to be aware," says Andrew You have to train to do the job properly. I'm a member of the National Inspection Council of Electrical Installation Contracting and you're assessed every year to make sure you're up to date." Andrew is assessed at the highest standard that trade body has, for industrial, agricultural, security and domestic work. And as he works in people's homes, he also has a CRB certificate. With all those qualifications, you'd feel safe letting him look after your kitten.

So how much of his working life is given over to training? "It's about three weeks a year, and you finance it yourself."

His work is mainly domestic and agricultural, within a 40 mile radius of home. He'll travel further if the work is good, but time with his young family is important and the cost of high miles favours local work, where he's known and has happy customers coming back for more.

His first Solar PV installation was a true test of faith, as he stripped back part of the roof of his own house and installed solar panels. It's still there and the electricity bills would make you gasp with envy. His logic is simple: "I wouldn't fit anything for a customer that I didn't believe in." There's a strength in his conviction - the man knows that it works because he has it in his own home and can quote the benefits in detail.

When there's a lot of work on he has a number of known craftsmen he can call on. Prime amongst these is Rodney Layton, who he's known for 25 years having met him on his early apprenticeship. "Loads of experience and a good guy - he gets us work because he gets inquiries but just doesn't want the paperwork it would mean to handle it himself."

He's aware of developing technology and the need to understand it. He can talk both air and ground source heat pumps, the ground version offering the most consistent ambient temperature. "If your boiler needs replacing, look at what's available," is his advice. "Why replace like for like?" Ask him about government tariffs available for use of renewable energy sources.

"There's a Government Green Deal coming soon, with finance for the installation of current technology to reduce carbon footprint." He knows about such things because he's also a trained energy assessor and knows that the savings on such changes will pay the installation costs. He can see the future and is full of optimism: "You have to be forward thinking," he says. And he knows it will pay back.

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The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page

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The Cleobury Clarion is a member of the Cleobury Mortimer Chamber of Trade

Clarion Contacts - Useful Local Telephone Numbers

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR - 077 039 65064 Mrs Theresa Parfitt.

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

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

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

CLEOBURY MORTIMER POLICE STATION - 0300 333 3000. The Station is not manned full time; you can contact PC Tony Sewell direct at: anthony.sewell@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS AND GUIDES - 01299 270215. Robin Borns is the contact.

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

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PARISH COUNCIL -Clerk Matthew Sheehan is in the Market Hall from 9.00 'til 2.00, Monday to Friday. 01299 271154. The Council meets in the Market Hall on the first Monday of the month; meetings are open to the public, who may address the Council in the open Democratic Session before the business meeting starts.

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

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Brookside • Cleobury M'tr

Brookside is a light and spacious family home located within walking distance of the centre of Cleobury Mortimer yet set within a quiet and private setting. There are gardens to all sides with views to open countryside.



The Gardens • Clows Top

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Overdale • Clows Top

Quaint semi detached cottage located in a small rural village. Well presented throughout, including an inglenook fireplace in the lounge and an open fire in the dining room. Kitchen with Rayburn and utility room. Garden and parking.



5 Paper Mill • Cleobury M'tr

A terraced one bedroom cottage, located in a quiet no through lane with pleasant outlook over fields. Accommodation includes Lounge, Kitchen, bedroom and bathroom.

