

# The Cleobury Clarion

## SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

AUGUST 2014

### MEDICAL CENTRE OFFICIALLY OPENED



*Philip Dunne MP and Doctor Andrew Allsop shared the duty.*

On July 18th the new Medical Centre in Vaughan Road was opened by Philip Dunne MP. He spoke of his pleasure at such a fine facility, destined to serve a growing town and provide more on-the-spot services for the wider area.

Dr Andrew Allsop praised his predecessors, Doctors Holzman and Nixon, who had seen the need to expand ten years ago and driven the project forward. He thanked Mullers for giving the land to the community and the Parish Council for letting it be used for the Centre. Many

other bodies and individuals - too many to list here - were thanked. And with a wry smile the doctor outlined how the opposition that briefly emerged had unintentionally helped progress towards this new Centre's opening. People who saw the notices were drawn to express their support and unite behind the doctors and their plan to serve the community's interest. Having the pharmacy on the same site was another move forward.

He promised a better service to the 7,000 patients the practice already has registered, with a medical centre that will be the best in the area.

Representatives of the Parish and County Councils were there, along with others from contractors Matrix, the NHS itself and associations like Cleobury Patients' Voice. It wasn't a long drawn-out affair, the speeches were few and brief, the sandwiches were hardly touched and the drinks were all non-alcoholic. These were busy people, with other things to do, who celebrated briefly and left to get on with their jobs.

**More on Page 19.**

### ARCHIE LUCKETT, NATIONAL WINNER



*Archie, with his winning design.*

Archie Lockett of Abberley Parochial VC Primary School, aged eight, was a winner in a national competition to design a meal to be eaten in the spaceship that Tim Peake will help to take aloft in 2015. Tim and chef Heston Blumenthal judged over 500 entries and chose just five winners.

Archie will spend a day with Heston creating his meal and later talk to Tim Peake as he eats it out in space. A great local success and maybe a future career for Archie?

**More on Page 19.**

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# The Cleobury Clarion. August 2014



*It could only be the Lacon Childe Prom. See Page 7.*



*This is James Griffiths competing in Italy last year. You wouldn't believe where he'll be racing in September  
See Page 49.*



*Nic Brown, independent designer and thinker.  
See Page 55.*

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- 9: Rock Bounds Pounded
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## Clarion Clippings - The Local News

**YOUR RIVER NEEDS YOU!**  
**Susan Sharp has some worrying news about a threat to our countryside:**

Severn River Trust would like to set up a new group to take care of the River Rea as it runs through Neen Savage, Cleobury and Neen Sollars.

The initial aim is to get the Himalayan Balsam under control, but longer term there should be other more varied practical work including monitoring. Himalayan balsam is a highly invasive alien plant which is taking over our country especially along waterways. It grows six feet tall and eliminates all other plants. Unlike Japanese Knotweed it is an annual, but when it seeds it throws millions of them into the air and spreads a long way, so one plant one year can lead to a forest the next.

It has been spreading along the Severn and Teme over the last few years. If you walk along the Rea anywhere in this area you will see it. It looks similar in leaf and flower to an impatiens.

I have been told, but do not know if it is true, that Kidderminster was one of the sources of it as the carpet making industry led to seeds being brought into this country on the raw materials. There was a feature on Midlands Today a month or so ago about volunteers in Staffordshire trying to get rid of it by pulling it all out before it can seed.

We hope to get together later this year to discuss what people are interested in doing and make plans for next year. Anyone interested in getting

involved with this initiative please contact me on [susan@eaglelane.co.uk](mailto:susan@eaglelane.co.uk).

*Susan*

### IN PRAISE OF.....

Our posties sometimes get some strange addresses to deal with, but almost always get the letters to their destination. Two postcards from a couple of New Zealanders who'd been working for R Breeders and headed for home are a good example.

The first was a postcard, to: "R Breeders Ltd, Somewhere in Cleobury, Ludlow, Shropshire, Eng, UK." As an extra helpful note, they'd also written "White VW vans, by a windmill." It got there.

The second had even less of an address: "R. Breeders, Cleobury, Shrop, Eng, UK". But in a big attempt to make it clear they added: "Postie:- as you go into cleobury turn right by the garage with the carwash, go up the hill for about half a mile and its on the left. Sarah should be in the office, but if she's not there, she will be in the pub. Cheers. M & V."

That one got there too. All credit to postie Nicky Tovey for effort beyond duty.

Phil from the Cinema Flats was talking about posties recently, recalling some of extreme addresses the late Ron Draper had to deal with on his rounds. Only one defeated him; it read "Three doors down from our Dad."

### REED WARBLERS' FINAL CONCERT

Reid Warblers would like to thank the many people who

came along and sang the World War 1 songs so enthusiastically with us in the Parish Church on July 4th. Their attendance and generosity raised £525 for the Military Patient Welfare Fund at the QE Hospital in Birmingham.

The battle of It's a Long Way to Tipperary against Pack up Your Troubles was a dead heat but great fun on a sad occasion for Reid Warblers at this our final concert. We have greatly enjoyed making music together for ten years under Judy's expert guidance. *Val Simpson*

### THE BEWDLEY FESTIVAL

You should be able to pick up a copy of the 27th Bewdley Festival programme from your usual Clarion outlet this month. It runs from October 10th to the 19th, with events in a wide range of venues and big names to attract, from Midge Ure and jazz saxman Courtney Pine through to Kiki Dee, Joan Bakewell (The Thinking Grandad's Crumpet?) concert pianist Andrei Gavrilov and comedian Hal Crtuttendan. That list shows Bewdley's strength, with something to suit just about every taste.

And before the stars arrive, in September there's Bewdley Book Week running from the 8th to the 14th. Details on all events from their website: [www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk](http://www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk) or from the Tourist Office at 01299 404740. It's a great event, pick your favourite, then simply go and enjoy

**The Clarion is on the web from the 4th of the month.**  
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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News

## THE LACON CHILDE PROM

There was a passing shower, but not enough to dampen the enthusiasm of the watching crowd or the glow of pride from both pupils and parents. The Lacon Childe Prom is the biggest spectator event of the school's year.

It's all organised by the Year 11 pupils, who turn up in finery, delivered in amazing transport, to stand and be photographed in their very own moment of glory.



The exception was a Parade of World Power, when four black suited dudes stepped out of a gleaming black Range Rover and shook hands with head teacher Darren Reynolds and his predecessor Alan Gilhooley. Bill

Clinton led the way, followed by Barack Obama, Richard Nixon and Ronald Reagan. We couldn't get closer for a photo, the FBI got in the way...



Cars ranged from a whispering Bentley to..



...a classic Chevy pickup with a mighty fruity exhaust note and the minimum of comfort in the back. There were Jaguars, Range Rovers, Porsches and a Morgan on parade, all polished and posh for the occasion.





Most novel was this armoured car, complete with machine gun mounted on the canopy. We heard that after this urgent delivery, it was off to lead the Invasion of Ludlow.




And after all that they had to face the press. Hard work, all this enjoying yourself.

## AND THE LACON CHILDE LOTTERY

The June winner, taking home a friendly cheque for £64, was Julie Mayall.



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## Clarion Clippings - The Local News

### A SPECIAL EVENING AT BILLINGSLEY

On Saturday August 2nd, at 7.00 there will be an evening of entertainment and talks at St Mary's Church, Billingsley to commemorate the centenary of the start of World War One. It includes songs from the era performed by members of the Bridgnorth Male Voice Choir, talks by local historian David Poyner on the life of Lieutenant Gibbs (the only man from the parish to lose his life in WW1) and by Jim Hall-Gough from the Bridgnorth Royal British Legion on the formation of the Legion. There will also be talks and readings relevant to the era and a display of artefacts and memorabilia.

The event is free of charge, including light refreshments, but donations on entry are invited and there will also be a raffle. All money raised will be donated to the Royal British Legion. For more details, please contact me on 07974 808817 or email [zoe.baggott@hotmail.com](mailto:zoe.baggott@hotmail.com)  
Zoe Baggott

### AND NOW A COCO GARDEN PARTY

The local community continue to support us with our regular Coffee Mornings and now have an opportunity to do so in our

next big fundraiser. We are having a Garden Party on Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup>. The venue is Dinmoor, Neen Savage, and tickets will be £5 to include a lovely afternoon tea. There will also be stalls to browse and purchase something interesting, from plants and vegetables to cakes, jams, cards and crafts, have a hand or shoulder massage, and children can make giant bubbles or a 'garden on a plate', all of which will help with our much-needed funds. Tickets are available from the Severn Hospice Shop on Cleobury Mortimer's High Street All are welcome.

If any individual or group would like to support CoCo in any way please contact Katja Jones at the Market Hall Office 01299-270-018; on her mobile: at 07966-080-111, or e-mail: [cleoburycoco@hotmail.com](mailto:cleoburycoco@hotmail.com)

### ROCK'S BOUNDS WELL POUNDED

Following May's successful Walk4Life event, organised by the Rock Pound The Bounds committee, over £5,600 was raised for the Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.

600 walkers took part, 40 per cent more than previous years. Henk Buzink, one of the key

organisers, states: "This is the 14<sup>th</sup> year we've organised the event and the third time we've teamed up with Midlands Air Ambulance Charity.

"We were overwhelmed by the level of support the Walk4Life event received, all to help raise thousands for Midlands Air Ambulance."

Maria Jones, regional fundraising manager for Air Ambulance, added: "We are often called to incidents involving walkers in remote parts of the countryside, so everyone's support on the day was gratefully received and we are still receiving sponsorship money now, which is enabling us to continue our life saving work." Well done everyone who took part; an excellent result.

### AND THERE'S MORE....

Rock Pathfinders will be out on local paths again this month. On Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> at 10.30 they'll gather at Brown Clee Picnic Area. Ordnance Survey Reference 607873; it's close to the B4364.

And on the 21<sup>st</sup> the assembly point will be the Manor Arms at Abberley, OS Reference 752678, 10.30 again. More details from Alan on 01299 400304. Everyone is welcome on these outings.

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## Clarion Clippings -- The Local News

### WALKERS ARE WELCOME

Val Simpson explains:

We have an extensive and well maintained footpaths network around the town, kept in good order by members of Cleobury Mortimer Footpaths Association. So the town quite easily gained Walkers Are Welcome designation in 2009.

You may have seen signs on businesses around the town to show that they welcome walkers on their premises. With our set of 24 guided walks [downloadable from www.cmfa.co.uk](http://www.cmfa.co.uk) we get many walking groups visiting the town and we soon get to know about any footpath obstructions. CMFA members try to keep well used paths close to town clear of brambles and weeds at least twice each summer, but this year it has been a fortnightly job in some places.

WAW status has also given us regular contact with other such towns in the south of the county. We try to publicise each other's special events, and Bishops Castle has asked us to mention their challenge walk on August 16<sup>th</sup> which is raising community funds for their newly refurbished Town Hall. (See [www.bcchallengewalk.co.uk](http://www.bcchallengewalk.co.uk))

### KINLET FAMILY PLAYGROUP

On a sunny Saturday in July, nurseries and primary schools gathered at The Methodist Hall to hear the results of this years' Cleobury In Bloom potato growing competition. For the second year running, Kinlet Family Playgroup were placed second in the preschool category - jointly with Cleobury Mortimer Nursery - out of seven settings.

The children at Playgroup had previously met with the potato judges and had great fun helping to dig out all of the potatoes, to weigh them. We would like to thank the Horticultural Society for letting us be a part of the competition this year and look forward to next year.

We also went on our Summer Outing at the end of term in July, gathering at Mawley Town Farm. We had a great time, meeting the cows, seeing where our milk comes from and seeing the wind turbine. We would like to thank Rachel, Becks and the team for welcoming us all to the farm, and for giving us such a great day out.

The playgroup will reopen for the new term on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have some spaces available

in our sessions, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please email during August to [info@kinletfamilyplaygroup.co.uk](mailto:info@kinletfamilyplaygroup.co.uk) or give us a ring when we return on 07794 166514.

### CLOWS TOP GARDENING

August is traditionally the month for a well-earned break. If you're going away make sure the garden can cope with the summer heat. If you can, ask a neighbour or friend to call in to water the plants outdoors, not forgetting the indoor plants too.

At our June meeting, Julian Bennett of Phipps Farm, Mamble, had plenty of photos showing the before and after results with his garden. An ongoing project, so more to come in the future. Many thanks to Julian as our advertised speaker was unable to attend due to illness.

It was also the club's Rose & Sweet Pea Show; many thanks to Anne for judging. The results were 1<sup>st</sup> Austin Fletcher & Best Exhibit, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dot Cowdell and 3<sup>rd</sup> Jackie Mapes.

August 16<sup>th</sup>: Clows Top Summer Show. Schedules from Clows Top Post Office, Forest Stores and Mawley Oak Garage.

Our August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting brings Mike King who will talk about 'Carnivorous Plants'.

*Pauline Bowen*

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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News

KEN DAVIES



The Parish Church was crowded on July 10th, when his many friends and family gathered to say farewell to Ken Davies. This quiet, gentle man will be much missed.

His roots went back through generations and in Farlow church is a copper jug that dates from the late 19th century, engraved in memory of midwife Emma Poyner, Ken's great grandmother; it is used for baptisms to this day. In Simon Evans's local histories you can find Moses Cadwallader of Detton Hall Farm, who was married to Ken's mother's aunt Sarah; she lived to the age of 99.

Ken liked to sit on the bench at the bottom of Love Lane and was happy to chat. It was there that he told me about Mr Link, who had an ancient belt-drive motorbike and box sidecar to deliver fish to the surrounding area in the 1930s.

He was very keen on planes and drew many pictures of them as a lad, then joined the RAF only to be invalidated out when he was hit by a taxiing aircraft and disabled. He had a quiet but wicked sense of humour, describing the German Fokker as one of his favourite planes and chuckling to himself when the conversation stopped!

He and Dorothy were married in 1955 and had three children: Nigel, Kathryn and Clare. They would all like to thank the community for the many messages of sympathy received, almost 100 cards. As Kathryn put it: "Just goes to show how fondly the people of Cleobury care." There weren't many men more deserving of respect than Ken Davies.

## CUTTINGS FROM THE COUNCIL

Cleobury Parish Council is doing all it can to make our cemetery a better place to visit, a part of which are the new bays being constructed. These are for cemetery visitors and workers

use only, to put grass cuttings and soil in. It will also provide a community facility, to take grass or soil for compost, and soil for tubs, hanging baskets and the like.

They are not to be used to leave rubbish and anyone found doing so will be dealt with. The idea is to remove the expensive and unsightly skip, while also recycling and helping the community.

The Council are looking for volunteers for a Cemetery Clean Up Day that will be organised. Please contact Parish Clerk Matt Sheehan with your details if you can spare a day; [matthew.sheehan@cleobury.org.uk](mailto:matthew.sheehan@cleobury.org.uk), or office number CM 271154.

On another matter, the Council feel there are many worthies in our community who qualify to be put forward for the Queen's Honours List. We believe proposals should be made by the Council as they will hold more sway than an individual. If you would like to put a name forward, contact Councillor Bob Hayward c/o the Council offices and he will arrange to supply the paperwork and get you qualified advice on completing and submitting your proposal.



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[liz@lifelifeathome.co.uk](mailto:liz@lifelifeathome.co.uk)

Other support services available on request.

[www.lifelifeathome.co.uk](http://www.lifelifeathome.co.uk)

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<b>Trainee Despatch / Store Functions</b>  Muller England Limited	To train in all aspects of dispatch and material stores and washing operations as cover for holidays.  Varied job including dispatch, raw materials stores and assisting maintenance technician.  Driving licence preferable for this job as driving cover may also be required.	Please apply in the first instance to:  Jane Brant Human Resources Administrator Muller England Ltd High Street Cleobury Mortimer Kidderminster Worcs DY14 8DT  01299 272117 or 01299 270271



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Before



After



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## Clarion Clippings - The Local News

### THE OPEN GARDENS DAY

July's Open Gardens Trail raised over £1000, shared between The Friends of Saint Mary's Church, and Shropshire Historic Churches Trust. Thanks to sunny weather over two hundred visitors came to Cleobury Mortimer to walk around eleven colourful gardens. They were within the town centre and a comfortable walking distance of each other.

What can you do with a slope? Ideas included a play area for children and a water feature going from one terrace to the next. Two others provided welcome seating with views over Cleobury across open fields to Mawley Hall.

Refreshments were served in the church and en route. Many visitors commented on how much they had enjoyed the afternoon and how friendly people were. Our thanks to all who supported the event and especially those who prepared their gardens to share with us all.

*Alec Osbaldiston*

### CLEOBURY IN BLOOM

As part of Cleobury in Bloom, the Horticultural Society set a challenge for primary school and younger children. All were invited to grow potato tubers, keep a log of activities and record what they had learned

about growing their own food. Four schools and seven pre-schools entered, tending the tubers we gave them in March. Despite the bad weather they persevered and the results were examined by a professional judge and three Society members. On July 12th, over fifty people gathered at the Methodist Hall to hear who'd won.



Abkats (above) took the prize in the pre-school category, Cleobury Nursery and Kinlet Family Playgroup were joint runners-up. Kinlet C of E won the primary school category, followed by Stottesdon C of E. The quality of the potatoes was high and the yields magnificent. Congratulations to prize winners and thanks to all who came along to enjoy the event.

*Flo Hadley*

### THE CARERS GROUP

On July 7th we met with carers from Bishops Castle at Hampton Court, where we were able to

enjoy the lovely walled gardens. Then on to lunch in the Orangerie and a guided tour of the house which proved very interesting, before the coach home after an enjoyable day.

*Wendy Duley*

### COUNCILLORS SURGERY AT BATYON

District Councillor Chris Dell has organised a surgery at Bayton Village Hall on August 22nd, from 5.00 to 7.00pm. Chris explained "I've also invited Harriett Baldwin (MP for West Worcestershire), Ken Pollock (County Councillor for the Tenbury Division) and Bayton Parish Councillors. Refreshments should be available and I hope that local people will take this opportunity to meet their elected representatives, even if they don't have any issues to raise."

An appointment is not needed to talk to a Councillor, but residents who want to see the MP should ring Harriett's constituency office on 01684 585165 to make an appointment. The surgery is mainly aimed at Bayton, Mamble and Clows Top residents but people living anywhere in the West Worcestershire Constituency can come to see their MP.

### SILLY BIT

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**Will Rogers**



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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News

## MORE MEDICAL CENTRE MUTTERINGS



*It was good to see Jenny McRorie at the launch, where she was praised by both the speakers for her work with the Cleobury Patients' Voice.*

Amongst the guests at the front page event was the MD of Matrix, a company whose work is entirely medical centres. You can see why they were the chosen contractor for the job. This gentleman was at the public meeting when Blue

Square presented their plans to the community and were left in no doubt about our trust in the medical professionals and their choice. What impressed him was the amount of information people had found and brought out at that meeting; he'd not seen anything quite so effective from a community before.

### EATING IN SPACE

Archie Luckett's success as a space meal designer was in a competition run in cooperation with the International Space Station. Look in on [www.gov.uk/government/news/the-great-british-space-dinner](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-great-british-space-dinner) to see more, including Heston Blumenthal picking out Archie's drawing and specification. A neat humorous touch was putting chillis on the bottom of the dish because spacecraft are always hot in that area.

Astronaut Tim Peake will actually be eating the meal on board the spacecraft when he talks to Archie about it. The specification of the meal had to be detailed, as eating something like cake and spreading crumbs in a weightless environment would be much more messy than down here on earth.

This part of the prize winners' reward process will be happening in 2015, when Tim Peake is due to spend six months up there, circling the earth. Archie will be accompanied by his teacher, Mrs Shelley, who gets praise from Archie's mum for all the encouragement and help she gave. Mrs Shelley has also put more information on the school website: [www.abberley.worcs.sch.uk](http://www.abberley.worcs.sch.uk)



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# The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

August is show season for us at Severn Edge Vets. Come and see us at Chorley Show on Saturday August 2nd, we will be at Burwarton Show as usual on Thursday August 7th, and find us at Far Forest countryside show on Sunday August 10th too. Our friendly team will be at all of these events to greet you, have a chat about any concerns, and there will be refreshments and various freebies available while stocks last. We look forward to seeing you there.

August also brings vaccination awareness back to Severn Edge Vets, and I would like to take just a minute of your time to explain one of our most popular deals yet. We are very lucky to have very diligent pet owners in and around Cleobury. Most of you vaccinate, flea treat and worm your pets as per the recommended schedule to maintain them in peak condition. This can be financially demanding when all of the bills come in, so we have developed a Pet Health Plan to help you spread the cost. For a small monthly direct debit you can join the Pet Health Plan which includes...

Free annual vaccination

Free 6 month health check with the vet

All your worming and flea treatment at the recommended timings

AND 10% off any other services you have with us!

Through August we are offering a free booster for your pet if you sign up to the Pet Health Plan. Terms and conditions apply, but only if you cancel the plan soon after it starting.

There are various other benefits to the plan, so please feel free to pick up the phone, or pop in for a chat with our friendly team.

Bubbles watchers (my cat) will be pleased to hear that he has moved back into the house now. He has realised that the new baby is 'safe' and returned to his normal habits, apart from disappearing through the cat flap at speed if and when any crying starts! Sensible man. However, being a coward, he still hasn't managed to pluck up the courage to come close and say hello the young Isabelle.

Thanks for reading,

*Jeremy Hall BVMS MRCVS*

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# Happenings on High Street

## IN PRAISE OF...

This is an entirely unsolicited tribute to a Church Street trader by someone who works there and does not want to be identified. "They are a really lovely family, so kind and nice. They gave me a birthday card with a £20 note in it and when Raj cooks the dinner he brings a meal down for you. I won't hear a word said against them." The person was talking about the Singhera family at Spar Stores.

## KA GARDEN UPRATED



The back garden at the Kings Arms has had a makeover, with stepped decking down one side of the area. That gives a flat surface for the seating and tables to stand on without the dreaded wobbles, with steps up to each area and neat flower boxes built on the front to reduce the risk of

anyone having a fall. Only when you are entirely sober is there such a risk, of course.

It was landlady Wendy's idea, giving more easily used space and with the storage sheds moved down and out of the way. Just right for the summer evenings we've been enjoying.

## ELEMENTS DANCE CLASS AT MARKET HALL



*Dance coach Hannah Wilkins with pupil Niamh Hawkes outside her new class venue.*

A new dance class moves into the Market Hall on Monday September 8th, when Hannah Wilkins brings her Elements Dance Company to town. Hannah started coaching in the sixth form at school and was encouraged by her teacher to carry on. She's been doing just

that for seven years now and at the July regional heat of the national competition her pupils came away with eleven awards. The next step for them is the finals at Blackpool in January.

Hannah will be offering tuition for children from three years old to seventeen, with each 45 minute session costing £4.50. And anyone signing up to join the Elements club gets the first class for free. The coaching covers all dance disciplines from Street to Musical Theatre and Ballet. Hannah can be contacted on 07467 070 592 or [hana\\_wilkins@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hana_wilkins@hotmail.co.uk)

## WHATEVER NEXT FOREVER GONE

The 'Whatever Next' charity shop on the corner of Lion Lane has closed its doors. Opened to generate funds for those in need of a little stable support in life, we wished it well but did wonder how it could compete with such a well established Severn Hospice operation up the road. And parking in that part of Church Street is always a headache.

They struggled to get enough volunteer staff to offer full opening hours and in the end didn't hit their goal. A sad loss, but it's a hard world when the rent needs to be paid and you're not getting enough sales.

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## Clarion Clippings - The Local News

**MR KIPPIN RODE OUT**  
And here is true story in his own words:

June's Clarion told about my forthcoming bike ride from Cleobury to Land's End, in aid of the restoration of the chancel roof at St Mary's. I'm glad to report the ride was successful, and I returned safely on July 11th. I started after morning service on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>, given a splendid send-off by Rector Ashley and the congregation. The bells rang just as I pedalled off, and their sound cheered me as I tackled the first hill up out of the town.

The ride took five days through Shropshire, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. I rode 60 to 70 miles a day and after I'd reached Land's End, rode back to stop overnight in Penzance, from where I caught the train back to Ludlow on Friday. The bike behaved perfectly, and I don't seem to have suffered any long-term ill effects.

People ask which were the best and worst bits of the ride. Flippantly I could say that all the downhills were the best bits and all the uphill were the worst. But for me the highlights were Brunel's suspension

bridge at Bristol, which I cycled underneath this time rather than over, the Cathedrals at Worcester, Gloucester, Exeter and Truro, all special for me as a bell-ringer. Seeing the north and south Cornish coasts at the same time from the top of the hill out of Redruth, and the Mounts Bay unfolding on the hill down into Marazion, the sea glittering in the sunlight and St Michael's Mount in the foreground. Reaching Land's End after five days was pretty good too.



I didn't train. Day 1 is training for day 2, and so on. I planned the route and knew which towns and villages to head for. On main roads route-finding isn't difficult, on country lanes

more tricky. I had driven or cycled most of this route before, and have a good memory for maps and directions. Did I get lost? I got a bit off course a couple of times, but was able to recover quite quickly. How to motivate yourself to ride 320 miles? Think in small chunks – to the next coffee break usually. On hills sometimes to the next tree.

I was hoping to raise £1000, possibly by 100 sponsors giving me £10 each. Luckily I have a wide circle of friends, and with email I've managed to secure over £5000, which will increase to over £6000 by the time Gift Aid is taken into account. And a letter has been sent to all addresses in the town explaining what needs to be done at St Mary's and asking for donations. This is bringing a steady stream of donations. If you haven't already contributed and would like to, Church Treasurer Heather Kippin will be pleased to help you. Her address is The Old Telephone Exchange, The Hurst, and her phone number 01299 270601.

*Chris Kippin*

### **SILLY BIT**

**Talk is cheap...except when government does it.**  
**Anonymous**

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## Letter from Westminster -

Last month Lord Falconer's Assisted Dying Bill was debated in the House of Lords. This would enable competent adults who are terminally ill to be provided at their request with specified assistance to end their own life. I recognise this is an extremely difficult area, since coping with terminal illness is extremely distressing for the patients and their families. These cases evoke the highest degree of compassion and emotion and I shall follow this debate with interest. As this was a private member's bill it is unlikely to make further progress but it has brought the issue to national attention. I have long opposed assisted suicide, since I do not believe one individual should have the power of life and death over another.

While Lord Falconer's draft Bill is well intentioned, hoping to relieve suffering of the terminally ill, it still places life and death decisions in the hands of others. Who is to determine that a person is in control of their faculties? How to prevent vulnerable people from feeling under pressure to agree to such a decision? I also fear that should the Bill's approach to assisted dying be adopted, it would represent a slippery slope. Once such a principle is established, where would this end? Where to draw the line?

My views are partly conditioned from indirect personal experience. The father of a good friend suffered polio in his mid-20s shortly before his son was born. The father was in Africa at the time, and very nearly died. He managed to return to the UK, but soon after became a quadriplegic other than the ability to

move his head, yet with full mental capacity, sight and hearing. He was given six months to live and at the time, he wanted to die. But he lived until nearly 60, an inspiration to all who met him. He founded a charity to provide respite care for those who look after loved ones with severe physical disabilities.

If Lord Falconer's Bill had been in place at the time, he would have been killed and his son, my friend, would have never known his father or the remarkable things he was capable of doing by sheer will-power and a very supportive family. I believe palliative care is the best way to give the terminally ill dignity in their declining days. We must make sure this is as good as possible. In Shropshire we have excellent facilities at Severn Hospice for adults and Hope Hospice for children, where doctors and staff do a magnificent job. The Department of Health's End of Life Care Strategy is also intended to improve access to good quality palliative care and encourage the Government to develop further specialist palliative care and hospice provision.

I fully accept that suicide, assisting or encouraging suicide, assisted dying and euthanasia are all subjects on which it is entirely possible for people to hold widely different but defensible opinions. This area is not a matter of party politics but of conscience. Should the law in this area ever be altered, it would be a free vote, with all MPs voting according to their conscience.

*Philip Dunne*



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## The August Clarion Social Calendar

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Sat 2	8.00am	Knowle Sports Sale, Tenbury Road, Clee Hill. Great value buys!	Audrey Taylor	01584 890644
	1.00pm	Posh Afternoon Tea Party W.I. Fundraiser at Neen Savage Village Hall.	Angela Flowers	CM 270318
	7.00pm	Evening of entertainment at St Mary's, Billingsley. SEE PAGE 9.		
Sun 3	10.00am	Bewdley Local Produce Market, in the town centre.		
	2.30pm	Parade and Service hosted by the Royal British Legion to celebrate World War I.		
Wed 6	10.00 am to 12 noon	Dogs Trust Story Time at the Library. SEE PAGE 49		
	10.00am	Walking for Health meet at the Sports Centre for a walk at a different venue	Mandy Smith	CM 271809
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.		
Thu 7		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 8	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Cleeton St Mary Village Hall		
Sat 9		Fayre Round the Steeple, in aid of St Mary's Church		
Wed 13	1.00pm	The Ladies Club meet at The Plough in Far Forest.	Alison Osborne	01584 890414
	8.00pm	The Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street.		
Thu 14		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 15	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 16		Clows Top Summer Show		
		Bishops Castle Challenge Walk. <a href="http://www.bcchallengewalk.co.uk">www.bcchallengewalk.co.uk</a> . SEE PAGE 11		
	9.30am	Cleobury Farmers' Market around the Parish Church. Look for the banners!		
	10.00am	Simply Fresh Open Day in Talbot Square. SEE PAGE 57.		

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## The August Social Calendar - continued

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Sun 17	11.00am	Summer Fete at Green Gap Kennels in Far Forest. SEE PAGE 43	Wendy	01299 823621
	2.00pm	CoCo Garden Party at Dinmoor, Neen Savage. SEE PAGE 9.		
Wed 20	10.00am	Walking for Health Group meet for their bi-monthly walk	Mandy Smith	CM 271809
Wed 20	7.30pm	Stottesdon W.I. are at Chorley Village Hall to hear Alison Hastie talk about Bewdley Willow and her lovely horse sculpture.		
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 21		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.45pm	Whist Drive at the Sports & Social Club, Love Lane.	Alan Evans	CM 270114
Fri 22	5.00pm	Local Councillors' Surgery at Bayton Village Hall. SEE PAGE 17.		
Wed 27	7.30pm	Clows Top Garden Club, Victory Hall. Mike King on Carnivorous Plants		
Fri 29		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sun 31	2.30pm	The Friends of St Mary's Church have an Afternoon Tea Party at Hopton Court. Tickets £12.50.	Diane	CM 270820
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO SEPTEMBER.....		
Mon 1	7.00pm	The Parish Council meet in the Market Hall. The public may address the council in the first 15 minutes	Matt Sheehan	CM 271154
Wed 3		Local children return to school after the summer break.		
	10.00am	Walking for Health meet for the first of their monthly walks		
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 4		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		

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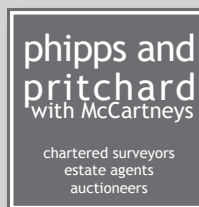
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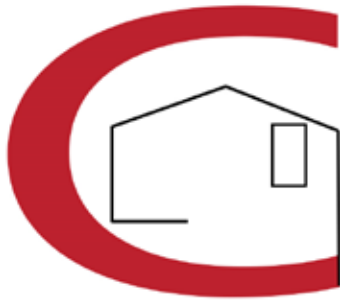
### The Cottage - Mamble

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## Clarion Coppers With PCSO Nick Morris



Before I list reported crimes for last month I want to reiterate that I try to list those in the area covered by the Clarion and not just in Cleobury. The crime level remains very low regardless of how the 'people of doom' see it. (Victims excused!).

The first reported crime was the theft of a locked Ifor Williams trailer worth £2500 from a residential area in Bliss Gate overnight on June 19th/20th. On June 28th/29th the wooden fence in Bull Alley, off High Street, was vandalised again. There was an incident involving dogs in the Clee Hill Road area of Burford on June 29th when a loose dog attacked another which was secure on its own patch. This resulted in stitches and antibiotics from the vet. The matter was settled privately but has been recorded for future reference. On June 30th there were several reports of a vehicle driven in an extremely dangerous manner. Police responded and caught up with the driver, who didn't take kindly to being talked to by Police and began to play up and make threats. He was arrested on suspicion of drink driving and found to be many times over the legal limit when breathalysed.

On July 6th at 4:00am a male with a woman's stocking over his head was captured on CCTV attempting to open a garage and a porch door at a house in Pinkham. Nothing was damaged or stolen but there is a suspect under investigation for attempted burglary. On July 12th in the early hours an assault occurred in Talbot Square when a male was refused entry to a pub to have a drink as it was closed. The offence is being investigated. Between 10:30pm on July 11th and 1:00am on July 12th a car parked on the roadside in Church Street was broken into and had the handbrake released, with considerable damage

to the passenger door and other parts. The incident is still under investigation and the town CCTV has yet to be viewed, to try to identify suspects. This crime may be linked to another incident where a car parked in the same area was walked over, causing denting. Again, CCTV may reveal the offenders. Another crime which may be linked was the wooden fence by The Market Hall being damaged. We are hoping that CCTV will have picked this up as well. Overnight on July 12th/13th a detached garage at Billingsley was broken into. Diesel and a CD player was stolen from the car inside, plus heating fuel and an electric garden shredder. A workshop on a farm at Chorley was broken into sometime during the day on July 17th. Several power tools worth a total of £2500-£3000 were stolen. During the night of July 17th/18th a catalytic converter was stolen from a van parked in Forresters Road, Burford. In The Crescent, Clee Hill, a pressure washer was stolen from a padlocked shed on July 18th/19th. During the same night a caravan parked in The Crescent was broken into and a mountain bike worth £200 stolen. A successful drugs warrant was carried out in Ludlow recently and a male was arrested on suspicion of supplying cannabis.

There has been concern that youths have been climbing the fence to Cleobury Primary School to access the grounds. It would be appreciated if anyone who sees anybody in there who shouldn't be would report it to Police on 101 as soon as possible. There is also evidence that there has been drug activity within these grounds, so please help us to stop this and other offences happening by reporting anything suspicious as soon as possible. Police may be in the area to attend; if not, they will attend if not already committed.

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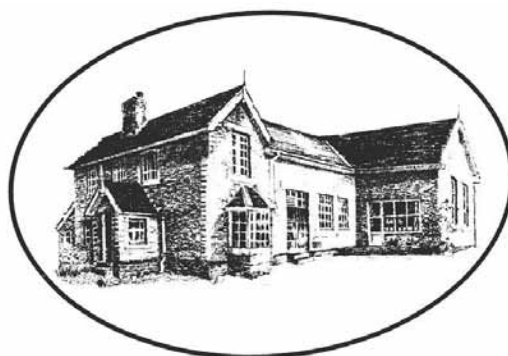
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After our school fete, our dedicated PTA put on the annual Summer Fete to raise much needed school funds. Few children could resist the face painting, ice pops and cakes on offer as well as the bouncy castle.



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## The Farming Page - Jenny Everingham looks at life from the farmhouse

It was interesting to read Rachel Robinson's comment last month about their seasonal increase in cream orders. The soft fruits have been lovely this year and Mawley double cream tops them off the best.

All farming is weather-dependent of course, be it fruit, veg, grass or grain. Weather patterns during the growing season help to determine the quality and quantity of the crop, but even the best can be compromised by "the wrong kind of weather" at harvest. Silage has largely replaced hay as a means of preserving grass for winter fodder, as it is less weather-sensitive, but you can't beat good hay. However, this needs four or five warm, dry days on the trot to be safe, so the decision to cut is a nerve-racking one. Of course, the Meteorological Office, with its mammoth computer, offers a little more information than the bit of seaweed by the door, but still the five-day forecast is subject to change – in timing, if not in substance. Recently we lost a good hay-making week because the forecast

was for showers which didn't materialise, and this week we've gambled on the dry forecast, so we're watching the advancing weather fronts with trepidation. Will they reach this far before the precious crop is dry, baled and in the barn?

The alternative for us is big bale silage, as we don't have a clamp. Wrapping it in black plastic is designed to exclude the air so that it doesn't go off, which would be fine without the attention of battalions of crows. We THINK they are after the insects which are, in turn, attracted by the heat, but the outcome is that they tear the wrap to shreds. This is not good news. So it's hay for preference, silage if we must, and fingers crossed.

On a more positive note: Remember the awful winter weather? One of the things it put a stop to was cutting hedges around the fields away from the roadsides. "Every cloud has a silver lining," they say, and this one is...a good crop of hazel nuts.

Jenny



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## Clarion Clippings - The Local News

### THE ROCK CHURCH FETE

It's been running for 40 years and draws good crowds to Rock Parish Church every June. The Rock Church Fete is quite simply a friendly, relaxed fun event. The weather on July 5th was kind after the night rain and local MP Mark Garnier opened the show at 2.00 with a short welcoming speech. A good start - no politics at all.

The setting in the church grounds is lovely, traditional England at its best, with local cottages as a backdrop. John Ellis looks after the display of classic cars, this year with a more modern influence headed by a beautiful Jaguar E-Type in British Racing Green. Most people seemed to be taking an interest in John's own Ronart, a 4.2 litre Jaguar Special with nearly 200bhp and weighing about a ton. It will not be slow.

The sleek glassfibre body gleams in a metallic red from the Harley-Davidson paintbox. It was applied by inmates at the Little Hay Prison Workshop, at a very good price. The idea is that they learn a skill that will help them find work when they're released. On the evidence of this fine job, that should not be a problem; it gleamed deeply in the summer sun. What's more, this is not a showpiece, John and his wife have toured France in it.



*A very special Ronart Jaguar in a lovely rural setting. Church fetes don't come much better than this.*

There were dancing displays by Zennor and Bliss Gate Dog Training showed just how well trained pets can behave and move to order. Much applause for both of them. Lots of typical country fete stalls, all of them looking busy as the sun drew the people in. And at 4.00 o'clock it was officially over and the job of packing up began, everyone smiling at another success.

On Sunday organiser Peter Bill, editor of the Rock and District News, thanked everyone who had helped and listed the takings on each stall. No room for such detail here, but we can tell you that in two well organised hours the event made £2,000 for the church.

### ADVENTURE OPEN DAY

Live The Adventure in Stottesdon have their Open Day on August 3rd. It's well signed, starts at 11.00, runs until 4.00 and is a great family event. Activities on offer include rock climbing, canoeing, laser tagging, paddle boarding and pony trekking.

And there's riding a mechanical horse or trying a real, live one. With instructors on hand to guide the novice and nervous, it's a great opportunity for a child to get in the saddle and find how gentle it can all be. There are good refreshments and a bar open all day, and you can find out more about the huge range this family run business can offer, including world wide adventure travel. If you don't know what they do, prepare to be amazed.

There's a nominal charge of £2.00 per person, which all goes to the Riding for the Disabled charity, or a family of four get in for £6.00. You can book your place on any of the rides at [www.livetheadventure.co](http://www.livetheadventure.co) or if you want to know anything more, talk to Lorna on 01746 718 436.

### SILLY BIT

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**Mark Twain**



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## CONTACT DETAILS

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Website: [cleoburymortimerprimaryschool.ethink.org.uk](http://cleoburymortimerprimaryschool.ethink.org.uk)



# Clarion Clippings - The Local News

## CLEOBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL FETE

It's one of those events that never fails to leave you with a smile. Even if there was a last minute flap as the weather man said heavy rain was due in the late afternoon. The bouncy castle was cancelled, as many stalls as possible moved indoors and everyone got on with the fete, which made £1,100.



*"Mum, when I grow up....."*

The Fire and Rescue lads were there, with the doors of the engine open for children to climb up and dream. If you stood too near when they demonstrated the siren it was a pretty deafening experience. As regular users of water, the crew weren't worried about a shower of rain, of course.

There was a huge array of stalls inside, the place so busy that it was difficult to move at times, but the atmosphere was happy.

Face painting is always a favourite, even if some of the very young aren't quite sure.....



A gentle touch, quiet reassurance and this young man soon settled down and began to enjoy the experience.....



The big grin said it all, as he showed off his new look to his peers. Pretty fierce, eh?

## STOTTESDON W.I.

Marian Wootton writes:

'The Chocolate Gourmet' by Jeanette Rowlett was one event I was seriously upset about missing. Jeanette talked a large group of members and visitors through the history of cocoa, including politics around the industry, its chemistry, nutritional and psychological benefits. All music to the ears of those who could share the tastings through mild white to pure strong and sugarless.

But I can vouch first hand for the more recent hands-on session, making Dorset Buttons under the tutelage of Carolyn Mace. Cross-wheel buttons, thought to have been introduced by Huguenot settlers, look like colourful little cartwheels, and are therapeutic to create, as well as decorative and highly individual. Having mastered a new skill, I came home full of enthusiasm to find out more.

Come and see us in the WI Competition tent at Burwarton Show on Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup>. And please note that Willow Sculpture with Alison Hastie will now take place at Chorley Village Hall on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> at 7.30.



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## Clarion Clippings - The Local News

### THE TOUR OF THE THUNDER DRAGON

The title should be enough to worry you. It's the hardest one day mountain bike race in the world, through the Himalayan mountains in Bhutan. And this year the first British rider to tackle the challenge will be James Griffiths of Stottesdon, travelling there with Live the Adventure and raising funds on the 268 kilometre ride for Spinal Research UK.

There's no time limit for this ride across four mountain ranges, the highest of them 3340 metres and the average 3,000 metres or 9,800 feet in Olde English. Mountain paths remember, not cycle tracks.



*James competing in an Italian event. Bhutan will be tougher.*

Live the Adventure are planning to promote mountain bike tours to the area, so James is the guinea pig sent out to try the

extremes. Please back his charity fund raising: [www.justgiving.com/James-Griffiths-Tour-of-the-Dragon](http://www.justgiving.com/James-Griffiths-Tour-of-the-Dragon)

### KITES ARE COMING

The Shropshire Kite Festival will be on the Lacon Childe sports field that neighbours Catherton Road, on the weekend of the 9th and 10th. You won't be able to miss the kites that are flying, but walk in and talk to the very friendly people you find there. They'll happily talk technical or just plain old fashioned fun, and some of the kites will amaze. All for free; all you need is the time.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY BOY



*Wouldn't you like to look this good at 80? Ray gets ready to tuck into his surprise lunch.*

St Mary's Bellringers sprang a surprise on Ray Wilson for his 80th birthday. He was out for lunch with Reg and Gill Chapman, or so he thought,

until Reg marched him down to the KA for a pint and then across the road to the Market Hall. The top floor was laid out for his reception and a bewildered Ray filled his plate and enjoyed the company.

He's an ex Royal Navy seaman who specialised in electronics and communications, quitting the service after ten years and ending up a communications manager for British Gas. Being a bellringer in our church got him interested in that ancient mechanism: "I've always liked antiques and I've got a few old clocks of my own." he explained. So now he tends that timepiece and keeps it chiming on time. All at the age of 80. Well done, Ray.

### YOUNG WRITERS GROUP FORMED

On September 13th the Young Writers Group at the Cleobury Library has its first meeting. 10.30 to 12.00 noon. It's for writers from six to nineteen who enjoy writing anything from stories to poems to whatever takes your fancy. It's the idea of Suzanne Thomas, professional story teller and great ideas lady. Call at the desk in the library for more details or to sign up. The only limit is your imagination.

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# The Clarion Weekly Social Calendar

Day	Time	Event	Contact	Phone	
<b>Sun</b>	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	
<b>Mon</b>	08.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, Kinlet School Mon to Fri		07794 166514	
	08.00	Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon School Mon to Fri	Zoe Day	01746 718769	
	09.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe School Mon to Fri	April Rogers	CM 271418	
	09.00	CM Playgroup, Primary School, Mon to Fri	Jane Preece	07816 193933	
	09.30	Morning Workout, Sports Hall	Deena	CM 271317	
	10.00	Age UK, Monday Club, St Mary's Place	Sarah Wilde	CM 272638	
	15.45	Gym Club with Ann Davis, Lacon Childe Mon & Wed	Don Carter	CM 270312	
	17.30	Cubs Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Kate Pearce	07772 102986	
	18.30	Karate Club, Lacon Childe School	John Nelson	CM 879210	
	19.00	Tai Chi Class, Lacon Childe School	Rose Jacks	01584 875544	
	19.30	Rangers Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Helen Smith	CM 270912	
	19.45	Bingo, CM Sports & Social Club	Alan Evans	CM 270114	
	20.00	Women's Clog Dancing Classes	Linda Small	01746 718624	
	<b>Tue</b>	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		Chas Beale Dance Club, Lacon Childe School	Betty Ladek	CM 270332	
<b>Wed</b>		10.30	Over 50s Relaxing Exercises, Doddington Village Hall	Freda Childe	01584 891180
		16.45	Gym Club for 6 & over, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
	17.15	Brownies Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Rebecca Barnes	CM 272945	
	19.00	Guides Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Dorothy McBride	CM 272717	
	19.00	Yoga Class with Anna, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312	
	19.00	Zumba Class with Emma Forni, Lacon Childe School	Emma Forni	01746 862842	
	19.30	CM Concert Brass Band practice, Parish Hall	Debbie Fowler	01562 743304	
	19.30	New Life Church prayer meeting. For venue call	Derek Morris	CM 270787	
	19.45	Choir Practice, Parish Church	Philip Engleheart	CM 270627	
<b>Thu</b>	09.30	Little Tiddlers, Kinlet Family Playgroup, Kinlet School	Zoe Pearson	07794 166514	
	14.00	Scrabble Club, St Mary's Place, Non residents £1.00	Jo Booton	07969 104808	
	16.45	Cleobury Comets Netball, CM Sports Centre term time	Mandy Smith	CM 271809	
	17.30	Brownies Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Rebecca Barnes	CM 272945	
	19.30	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	
	<b>Fri</b>	10.00	Tiny Stots, Chorley Playgroup, Stottesdon School	Zoe Day	01746 718769
10.00		Tiny Tots, Parish Hall	Bettina Poole	CM 271868	
17.30		Rainbows Meeting, girls 5-7 years, Old Pump House	Jean Basham	07792 813774	
19.00		Scout Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Chris Andrews	CM 270937	
20.00		Badminton, CM Sports Centre		01584 881359	
<b>Sat</b>	10.30	Junior Coaching, CM Golf Club, Wyre Common	Robert Watkins	CM 271112	

## CLEOBURY MORTIMER SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May - **CRUVO CARRIBEAN DAY**

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Saturday 7th June - **A NIGHT OF MUSIC & COMEDY** - *Back by Popular Demand* - **BONNIE DIAMOND & COE**

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Saturday 28th June - **A NIGHT OF MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT** *with Brilliant Duo* - **SUNSET HARMONY**

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Saturday 20th September - **COUNTRY & ROCK 'N' ROLL NIGHT** *with Alan Williams*

★★★★

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October - **ABBA NIGHT**

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Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December - **SENIOR CITIZENS PARTY**

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# Linda Iles

## August In The Wyre Forest



Summer weather draws me to the delights of water, whether it is pond, stream, river, lake or sea. In a drought, of course, the water bodies become life savers for the wildlife of the forest and taking up an observation position nearby can be very rewarding. Dowles Brook runs through the heart of the forest and brings a rich collection of wildlife in and by it as well as visiting from the surrounding landscape. The water is clean and fast-running, making its way through riffles and pools in the shade of oaks, hazels and alders. If you watch quietly from one of the bridges you will probably see a Dipper fishing for insects and other aquatic life among the rocks in the stream bed, occasionally demonstrating its characteristic bobbing up and down. You may see it submerge completely, as it is able to walk along the stream bed under water, using its wings to help propel it along while it searches for its prey. And what of that other iconic inhabitant of the waterways, the Kingfisher? This is so tiny, so quick and so blue that when you catch a sight of it – and it is usually a flash in the outer field of vision – you feel blessed, as if something otherworldly has broken in to our duller surroundings. There again, if you set aside the time to seek out their fishing perches

along the Dowles and can watch and wait, there is no reason why your patience should not be rewarded with the full performance: the dive, the catch, after which the fish is given a blow or two on the perch then swallowed head first.

Otters visit here and you may be exceptionally lucky and see one. It is more likely that you will see the remains of their dinners (fish heads and tails, crayfish claws) under a bridge or their droppings, called 'spraints', deposited on a riverside rock, or web-toed footprints in the mud of the shore.

The brook eventually flows into the Severn with its slower and deeper waters, which separate the main block of the Wyre from Eymore and Arley. These are often counted, along with Ribbesford, Burnt Wood and Kinlet, as one unit, which they undoubtedly were long ago.

This month do have a look at the Environmental Photographer of the Year exhibition at the Wyre Forest Discovery Centre if you haven't already done so. Entrance is free and you'll be inspired by the photographs you see there. Apologies, by the way, for the bad quality of last month's photo of a spotted flycatcher. I didn't realise it wouldn't travel well.

*Linda Iles*

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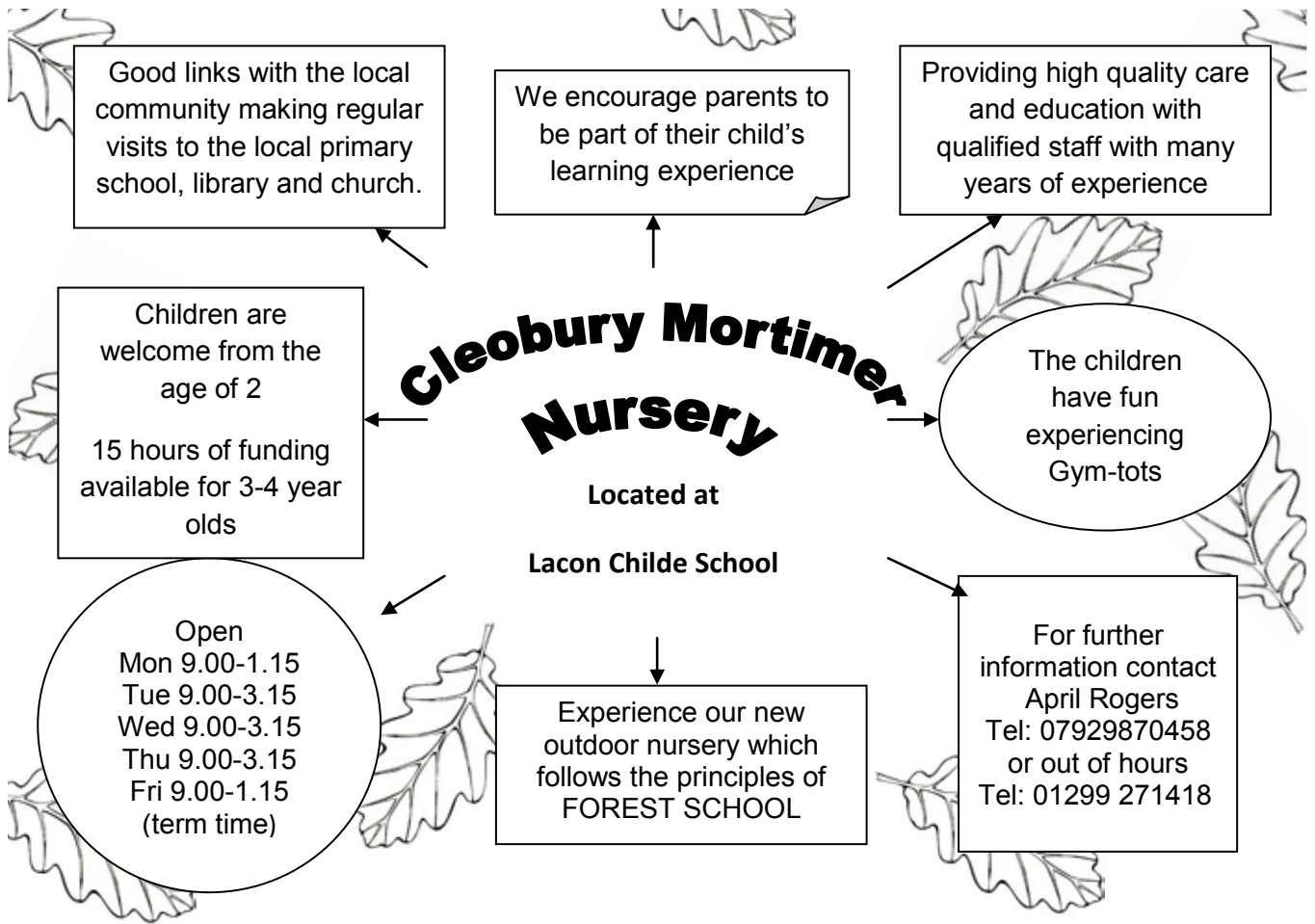
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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News

## A GREAT FAMILY DAY, THE FAR FOREST SHOW



*Ray Blount is a regular supporter of the Show and plans to have his lovely 1950s Morgan there.*

Far Forest is one of the best local shows, scheduled this month for Sunday the 10th. It starts at 10.00 and you can fill the day with a big range of things to see and do through until the 5.30 closing.

Lots of dogs will be out in the parade ring, but we hope they keep them clear of the medieval knights when they're let loose. And the Quack Pack are always great fun to watch.

Classic and vintage vehicles are a strong feature and the catering's always friendly and tasty. Falconry out in the ring will fascinate everyone from children to grandparents. Too many things to list here, so take our word for it that this is a great family show. Drive to Far Forest and you can't miss it; big and beautiful.

### **BIG DOGGY OCCASION**

Forest Dog Rescue will be opening their Green Gap Kennels in Far Forest to the world on Sunday the 17th. It's their Summer Fete, starting at

11.00 and offering a big range of things to entertain the family. The Fun Dog Show is always popular, and so are the Obedience Teams that show what good training can do. An unusual name is Central Ferret Welfare, who'll have a stall, as will Hall Green Greyhounds. There's Net a Duck, Face Painting, Fudge Pot, plants for sale and of course a tombola.

Secretary Wendy can tell you more; she's on 01299 823621. And the whole day is to support the work Forest Dog Rescue do so well.

### **FOOD IS ON AGAIN AT THE FOUNTAIN**

Al and Helen at the Royal Fountain said they would get back to providing food and they've kept their promise. They've recruited local chef Ross Hector and he's been very busy keeping up with demand for his Mediterranean style menus.

Ross is producing a range of tapas, including a chorizo sausage braised in red wine and served with crusty bread, for those with a Spanish taste. If you prefer Italian, his pizzas are hand-stretched and baked in a real pizza oven; top of a wide range is the Summer House Special with pesto, prosciutto, olives and mozzarella. He also offers smaller portions for the Kids' Menu, which comes with a Wordsearch puzzle to keep them amused.

This is all part of what's on offer now, but it will be revised every three months to keep the interest fresh. We'll try it and report in the next issue.

### **THE READING GROUP**

Oh dear, Harlan Coben is a very successful thriller writer, but he didn't find any keen supporters of his "Caught" at our July meeting. We agreed that the plot was complex and developed all through the book, but there was not a hint of enthusiasm and nobody would recommend it.

Our latest read is Zadie Smith's "NW", shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction 2013 and a Sunday Times Top Ten Bestseller. We have two months before opinions are aired at our next meeting, 7.30 on Monday, September 15th. In the library, of course.

### **HEREFORDSHIRE ARTS WEEK.**

This is 12 years old and last year drew 28,000 visitors to the county. So it's pretty big. It runs from September 6th to 14th and offers over 100 venues, all with a distinctive pink marker. So you take a tour and seek pink; sounds like a good idea.

The Linton Brook Collective told us about this. They are a range of artists working from Linton Brook Farm, just outside Bromyard on the road to Malvern. The locals call it 'H-Art', which might be a clue to the signage, and the venues showing off a wide range of art cover everything from farmhouses to castles. Type in [www.brightstripe.co.uk/services/herefordshire-art-week/](http://www.brightstripe.co.uk/services/herefordshire-art-week/) to find out more. The contact for the Linton Brook Collective is Shelly Perkins on [www.shellyperkins.co.uk](http://www.shellyperkins.co.uk) or talk to her on 0797 465 2866. Go on, be a little adventurous and head for Hereford.

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## Clarion Clippings - The Local News

### DAVID CHANTLER OBE



*David relaxing with friends, something he rather enjoys.*

They don't give out OBEs for nothing; you have to do quite a lot to get to the top of that particular list. David Chantler, Clee Hill resident and active member of the Ludlow Citaslow Movement that believes in proper cooking and decent food, held a party at Hobson's Visitor Centre to celebrate getting his award.

David has been the Chief Executive Officer of the West Mercia Probation Service and brought in fresh and clear thinking that has made it a nationally recognised centre of good practise. He has just retired after 40 years in the service, starting in Milton Keynes and working his way

up the ladder to head West Mercia and be honoured for all that he's done.

It was a warm, fond farewell that he gave and received, not a dry eye in the house and nobody ashamed to express their admiration for the man's ability. He in turn was full of praise for both his family and his team. It was with some irony that he read out a congratulatory message from Westminster, who have praised his work and now set about undoing it.

### THE NEW CURATE SHOWS FAITH

Faith In The Pub, that is. Richard Mutter came along to the July gathering to talk about a life that took him from a senior position in the IT industry to the humble post of curate to this parish. It's a measure of the man that he sat and happily talked about his awareness of his faith when holding down a big job and began to think about making a move to a more spiritual life.

Rector Ashley Buck was there in support, not for the beer of course, and the two exchanged views and stories of their days in training. Two men with common cause and a lot of empathy.



*Looking very happy with his new life - curate Richard Mutter.*

Not that Richard was given an easy time. The inclusion of ladies in the FITP evenings has produced a questioning element in the form of Diane Waddington, who is not the sort to sit back and say nothing if she has doubts. Did Richard have practical as well as spiritual training to prepare him for this new world of work? Like voice training, for example. Yes he did, was the smiling reply.

We welcome Richard to the community, fresh from passing his Dianic Cross Examination Test. Life should be easy from here on....

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## Clarion Clippings - The Local News

### NEEN SOLLARS AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

Neen Sollars is unique in the area in having a community hydro electric scheme on the River Rea. There are houses in the village with solar panels on the roof, too. But the community felt threatened by two recent proposals to develop what have become known as solar farms in the parish. We understand that one at Bransley has now been withdrawn.

The second proposal is for something like 30 acres of land on the hillside, to the south of the village. The last information we have seen is that no planning proposal has been submitted, but that may not be so now. Apologies that the editor has not been able to follow that up, due to domestic pressures.

The Save Our Green Hills group has been formed as a result of this threat to the local amenity, which a 30 acre site would clearly be. They have a press pack that sets out rational arguments against large scale solar farms, with government policies and statements quoted that seem to support such a view. Not that politicians are above changing their minds, of course. There is the matter of

the intrusion upon the amenity in such size, which arguably is the case with 30 acres or thereabouts of glass.

We have to wait and see what is put forward if the idea does go for planning consent. I hope to write more about this when I have spoken to all the parties involved. *Jim Reynolds*



There will be no Speaker of Interest in the holiday month of August. But on Wednesday the 6th there will be a 'drop in' session with Dogs Trust sending rescue dog Bertie down to help one of their officers with another Story Time. Open 10.00 to 12.00 noon, it's all about proper dog ownership, with lots of doggy stories; all in the library.

The Friends' series of Speakers started with Chris Wardle, talking about his two self-published novels on the remarkable Vincent Crow. The low attendance did not do the man justice, as he's a good talker with a great sense of humour. And being a kindly sort of chap, he donated a copy of each book to the library, for

those who missed him to catch up and enjoy his stories. Gill Guest helped with a reading and in researching Chris's work revealed that he's had five books on cats published.

Ben Smith was the second speaker of the month of July and hit the right note when he started talking about the history of plants with the phrase "3.9 million years ago, give or take a week..." which went down well and set a happy tone for the evening. A bigger attendance this time, who enjoyed a little banter with Ben, whose fine piece of detailed work is on permanent loan to the library. That's where seven or more years of research should be, if others are to have easy access.

The Friends will soon be recruiting members to the cause after detail changes to bring the constitution up to date. Expect to have a contact if you have shown interest in joining and there will be membership forms available in the library.

Parents, have you seen the Roald Dahl Quiz for the children? Copies from the library and the prize will be a £10 voucher to spend on books or writing materials. Thanks to Gill Guest for that idea.

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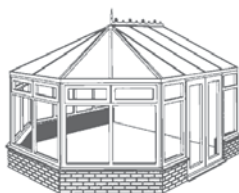
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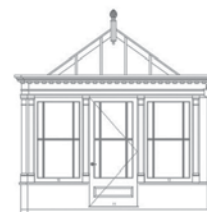
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## IN BUSINESS: Nic Brown Architecture and Design



*He works from home, not a posh office block.*

Nic Brown learned his trade starting at Cardiff University and moving on to a variety of positions in the world of architecture. He put in 30 years with a wide variety of companies, from big corporations like Costains through to private companies with a handful of employees.

His decision to start his own practice was triggered when he started a course in Advanced Environment and Energy Studies at Machynlleth's Centre for Alternative Technology and was back in the office how it went. His enthusiastic response on the way forward was dismissed with "We'll just put a bit more insulation in." He's not forgotten that short sighted

refusal to accept the need for change and when the company were cutting back he accepted redundancy and went independent. He already had a number of clients who liked his way of working and he's built up since then.

Nic is a thinker, with the ability to advise on alternatives when he's talking over what the customer wants. Browse his album of jobs completed and you see traditional buildings adapted or extended using modern materials in a sympathetic way. "My view is that people normally like where they live, that's why they want to expand. A building won't work unless it works for the people who live there." What he brings to the development of an idea is a fresh pair of eyes and knowledge of what can be done. Like building an extension at a right angle to the original house to create a more private and sheltered area.

He does not describe himself as an architect, even though he left uni with a B Arch and BSc, and recently added an MSc. He will admit he's a designer, but one with a detailed knowledge of planning law, material qualities and the basic matter of what suits people. He's done

a lot of work with housing associations and photos of the large block of flats he did for a Birmingham association, following the curve of the canal they overlook, is classic in style. He gets repeat business from such companies, a sign of customer satisfaction. "People tell me I do a good job," he explains modestly.

There's another side to the man in the Morris and clog dancing he enjoys with wife Linda at Cleobury Mortimer's Crooked Steeple Morris. Nic plays the flute and piccolo and handles the bookings and organises tours like the one to Normandie that went down well with the French and had them shouting "Bravo!" which needs no translation. Design work over there as a result? "Not really," he smiles and admits "Just one small conversion job."

Not that he needs work from abroad, this independent one-man band is very busy. His main driver? Another smile: "Job satisfaction. I can take on what I want and I can work late if I need to." Not that he's complacent, with another special course just booked with CoRE, the Centre of Refurbishment Excellence. He's a man with principles.

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# Clarion Clippings - The Local News

## CRIME REDUCTION LOGO WINNER



From left: Vicky Turner of Shropshire Council, winner Millie Kelly with her design and acting head teacher Carmel Mayfield.

Cleobury Primary School's Year Six all entered a competition to design a logo for the new Cleobury Crime Reduction group. There were over 30 designs, which went to the Parish Council to be pared down to the top seven entries. These were then circulated to the members of Cleobury Crime Reduction to choose a winner.

Vicky Turner, Community Action Officer for Shropshire Council and Matt Sheehan of the Parish Council went to the school to present a prize donated by the Parish Council to Millie Kelly whose logo was voted the best. The Parish Council also bought sweets for all of the pupils that took part, a nice friendly touch.

All of the logos are on display in the window of the Market Hall over the summer – do pop along and look at them all.

## CLEOBURY W.I.

Our July meeting was all about the decorative use of rags, not only traditional rag rugs but using strips of rag to knit or

crochet all kinds of items from flower brooches, to bags and hair ornaments. We learned how to deal with the rags and sources of materials, items from charity shops, and overruns of textile items. Altogether a stimulating and creative evening, leaving us looking at our unwanted items of clothing and household materials in a different light. Gillian Senior

## SIMPLY FRESH OPEN DAY William Henry invites you:

I will be holding another open day/fun day event on Saturday August 16th. The event will consist of free goody bags for the first 50 customers, and free tastings of cheese, salamis, cakes and bread. There will be curry on sale outside as well as various suppliers attending to give out free samples and talk to customers. There will also be a raffle, the proceeds of which will be going to the Air Ambulance, I will be contributing prizes but any extra donations from customers would be gratefully received. The main offer of the day, however, is that when customers spend £10 or more on fresh fruit and veg they will get £5 off.

William Henry

## MUSICAL MOFFATS

A remarkable achievement by pupils of Moffats School, when the Associated Board music exam results were received recently. Of the 20 exams on piano, violin, clarinet, flute and trombone, there were seven distinctions and eight merits.

Head of Music Paul Engleheart was naturally delighted. "A terrific set of

results, with so many distinctions and merits," he enthused. "We were particularly pleased with the distinction achieved by Laura Wittich in her Grade Five violin exam."

## THE LAMP SHINES AGAIN

The Lamp Restaurant group was in the awards again in June. Their Wednesbury branch was presented with an Achievement of Excellence award at a Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurants event in Walsall town hall.

The Guild was founded 20 years ago and has several hundred members in the UK. Their awards are given on the basis of reports from mystery visitors who assess the whole experience, not just the quality of the food. The High Commissioner of Bangladesh was present when a dozen names were read out and the awards handed over. Jalal from the Cleobury branch, as a director of the company, was there to share the celebration. No wonder he smiles a lot.

## NEW VENTURE, NOVEL BEGINNING

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# **The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page**

**August 2014 - Volume Twelve - Edition Five**

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+ Fees

### Paper Mill Cottage - Cleobury Mortimer

Terraced one bedroom cottage located on the outskirts of Cleobury in a quiet rural setting. Energy rating TBC



**£425 PCM**  
+ Fees

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