

The Cleobury Clarion

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August 2016

THE QUIET HERO



Jamie Shippam, putting in the miles in memory of his Nan.

This is Jamie, a rather special nine-year-old, whose Nan was diagnosed with cancer earlier this year and died within two months. The only good side to that is that she didn't suffer too long.

Jamie decided he wanted to do some fundraising for Cancer Research and asked his mum: "How far is a marathon?"

"26 and a quarter miles", was the answer, so he decided to run around his Kinlet Primary School field every day until he'd hit the target. It's a quarter of a

mile around the field, and that meant 105 laps to be run during lunch and break times. For a nine year old, it was a really ambitious target, but he set about it on June 19th, with mum and other staff at the school totting up the laps.

On July 20th he'd done it. When you meet him, he's quiet and modest with a cheeky grin, but that clearly hides a really fierce determination when it's important. Sponsorship from friends and school staff had raised £185.75 with more to come when he finished the task. But if this story of such a special young man moves you as it moved me, you can sponsor him via Just Giving on the web. The address is www.justgiving.com and then type Jamie's Marathon into the search box at the top of the page. This should produce a number of options, but Jamie's picture you can see above will appear, and the page is in his mum's name: Denise Shippam.

Please don't give up if you can't get the payment made at first; persist. And if Just Giving read this - please sort out your money taking system!

THE PARISH COUNCIL HAS SENT A LETTER

On Page 5 you'll find a copy of the letter sent on July 19th to the person responsible for the very offensive accusations posted in a Church Street ironmonger's window. Some personal letters have also been sent from the same source, we understand.

The letter we publish is from the Parish Council, who are naturally concerned that two of their officers have been the subject of harassment. They want the public to know that action is being taken to stop this offence and to make it clear that there is no truth in the accusations offered. The Clarion offers no comment on this sorry matter, we simply publish the letter as requested, recognising that people are entitled to know that it is not being ignored.

We will report any further developments in due course, using only known and reliable sources of information. It does the town no good at all to have such hysteria on public display, which is why we normally ignore it. *Jim Reynolds*

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The Cleobury Clarion, August 2016.

Volume Fourteen Edition Five



*Severn Hospice Lottery Sellers
celebrate with cake.
See Page 17.*



*The Lady Mayoress Calls.
Page 35.*



*In Business -
Irena Foot Clinic
Page 57.*

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Nicholas Hughes on 01562 822295 or Wendy Beaumont on 01299 822033

Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council have asked the Clarion to publish the letter below, posted to Mrs Griffiths on June 19th. It has not been edited or altered in any way; it simply records the action taken by the council in defence of their Officers.

The Parish Council wishes to respond to recent correspondence from you to Mrs. D. McBride and Mr. M. Sheehan, both Officers of the Council. Our observations also cover the letter currently displayed in your shop window.

We are sure that you are aware of the protocols covering paid Officers of a Parish Council. However, should you or the residents of Cleobury Mortimer Parish be in any doubt the key points in this issue are:

A clerk or a Recognised Finance Officer is not an elected member of the council. They are salaried Officers.

They are employed by the Parish Council and **not** responsible for making decisions.

Decisions are made by Council members; Officers cannot vote.

We are at a loss, therefore, to understand why you choose to single out the Officers for ridicule, hurt and to be subjected to unsubstantiated allegations.

You state that Mr. Sheehan made a false claim under oath, and you question if he is fit to be a member of the British Legion. You have no grounds for either the claim or the question.

With regard to Mrs. McBride, you claim that she provided misleading and

inaccurate responses to the Shropshire Star. She merely issued the press release prepared by the Parish Council which was neither misleading nor inaccurate.

We find all of this confusing as you are not a resident of this Parish but you seek to be negative and destructive towards the Officers of the Parish Council. All of this achieves nothing, only to cause those concerned pain and upset. Please refer to the last paragraph to the letter to Mrs. McBride which reads "*rural communities like this should be kind, friendly, helpful, tolerant and socially cohesive*".

It may be worth pointing out although you are not a resident of the Parish you find so much about which to be unhappy and find issue with. However, to date, the Council has not received a single complaint, criticism or negative response about our Officers. In fact, only support and positive responses are forthcoming from the residents, on whose behalf Officers work so hard.

As a Parish Council and notwithstanding the fact that you are a resident elsewhere, we are happy to talk to you on an informal basis about issues that may trouble you.

Finally, we demand that you cease writing directly to our Officers which has been demanded previously (copy letter attached). Please in the future send any correspondence relating to the Officers to the Chairman and desist from displaying negative and /or misleading content in your shop windows.



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WYRE FOREST'S FUTURE

The Forestry Commission and Natural England have been working together producing this ten year plan that represents the first phase of partnership between the Forestry Commission and Natural England in a new chapter in the history of Wyre Forest.

This will replace the existing Forest Plan and details how the forest will be managed in the first 10 years in detail and subsequently in a more broad-brush manner to achieve a 50 year vision that brings together the management of both Natural England and Forestry Commission landholdings covering the management of Wyre Forest SSSI and the National Nature Reserve.

The plan details felling, establishment, and thinning proposals that will create a new mosaic of inter-connected habitats for the area over the coming 10 year period.

It is also a requirement that all Forestry Commission woodlands are managed to meet the UK Woodland Assurance Standard that in turn ensures sustainable forest management certification of the FC Public Forest Estate is maintained.

You are invited to read and comment on the draft proposals that can be found on Citizen Space by following this link:

<https://englandconsult.forestry.gov.uk/forest-districts/wyre-forest-and-nnr-management-plan>

This public consultation is open until August 14th. Proposals can be viewed using the link given above and all feedback

must be left online via Citizen Space.

*Rebecca Wilson (District Ecologist)
Francis Raymond-Barker (Planning Forester)*

PUPILS PORTRAY PUBS



(Picture: Kate Pearce)

During Summer term Lacon Childe Year Nine pupils have been working on a series of pub sign designs. All 16 of them in the style of Antoni Gaudi (appropriate, as Year Seven have just been to Barcelona) as tiled mosaics. They were created by drawing the sign design onto card, then attaching various coloured tiles using PVA glue, before adding grout to complete the design. All pupils worked hard and had fun in creating them. The final visuals were displayed at Hobson's Brewery and parents and local public were able to view them on 6th July in Hobson's Tasting Room. Now the exhibition is completed the final pieces will be hung in the pubs of the same name or around school.

NEEN SAVAGE W.I.

Our July meeting was held at Gill Guest's house, where she showed us around her beautiful cutting garden and then demonstrated how to make hand tied posies. It was a lovely evening, thoroughly enjoyed by

all, and we all went home clutching posies with new ideas on what to put in our own flower arrangements - one of them being herbs with their aromas and pretty flowers.

We shall not be having a meeting in August, instead we shall be holding our Vintage Afternoon Tea Fundraiser on Saturday August 20th, from 2.00 to 4.00, at Neen Savage Village Hall. The aim is to raise funds for Cleobury Mortimer First Responders and Neen Savage WI. £5 per person includes tea, coffee, scones, cakes, bring and buy stall and a raffle. Everyone welcome, so please come along and support us. *Julie Hobin*

MACMILLAN CANCER CARE

Sue Henderson writes:

We raised £358-90 at our July 9th coffee morning, thanks to those who came along and gave donations. A wonderful result, thank you to all our supporters. *Sue*

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SIMON EVANS DAY

Following the success of last year's commemorative Simon Evans Weekend, the same team with the support of CMFA have planned a walk along the northern section of the Simon Evans Way. Some eight miles (with a shorter option), the walk takes in many of the picturesque Rea Valley farms Evans wrote about in his books and delivered to on his post round. Since Evans became a postman after surviving the First World War the walk is entitled 'In the footsteps of a survivor' and will be guided by Val and Graham Simpson.

Walkers should meet at Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club at 10.45am on Sunday 7th August. There will be a bus to Detton (note: no parking at Detton). Please bring a packed lunch and wear appropriate footwear, as the first section can be very muddy. Cost is £4 to include a printed copy of the route. Bookings in advance from Val Simpson 01299 270655 or cleoburyval@gmail.com

In the evening the action moves to the Golf Club. Following a Postman's Supper, which will include a pint of beer courtesy of Hobson's or a soft drink, there will be music from the high energy acoustic folk

group WHALEBONE who also wowed us all last year.

Tickets are £8 for the supper from 6pm, and the concert (also £8) starts at 7.30pm Tickets in advance from Suzanne Thomas 01584 891130 or suzannetumnus@btinternet.com or from the Golf Club.

We'd love you to take part in all the events, but you are very welcome to pick one or two if that suits you.

Graham Simpson

THE LACON LOTTERY

Another lucky winner counts his takings and thinks that £10 spent on the local lottery was a good move. June's victor was Andrew Jenks, who took home £100.

CLOWS TOP

GARDENING CLUB

August is traditionally the month for a break. If you're going away make sure the garden can cope with the heat. If you can, ask a neighbour or friend to call in to water the plants indoors and out.

August is all about relaxing. The holidays are here and there's time to have a barbecue, play garden games and splash about in the paddling pool.

At the June meeting Linda Eggins gave an interesting talk on the work of the Plant

Heritage organisation. It was formed to help conserve garden plants. Plants come and go in fashion and there are National Collections of plants to conserve and safeguard garden flora.

It was also the club's Rose & Sweet Pea Show. The results were 1st Chris Cowdell, 2nd Bob Marriott and 3rd Marion Wilson. Best Exhibit: Suzanne France.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 24th August and the speaker for the evening will be Rowan Mconega on 'Hedgerow & Garden Medicine'.

Pauline Bowen

ROCK PATHFINDERS

WALK OUT

This month's walks for the very active Rock Pathfinders are on Thursdays as usual, but starting times vary.

August 4th: A full day's walk, starting at 10.30 from Pershore Bridges Picnic Car Park on Evesham Road, Pershore WR10 1AX or Ordnance Survey reference 953450. It is recommended that you bring a packed lunch.

August 18th: 7.00 pm start from The Running Horse on Long Bank, Bewdley, for an evening walk. DY12 2QQ or OS Ref 7646974524.

Alan on 01299 400304 can tell you more.



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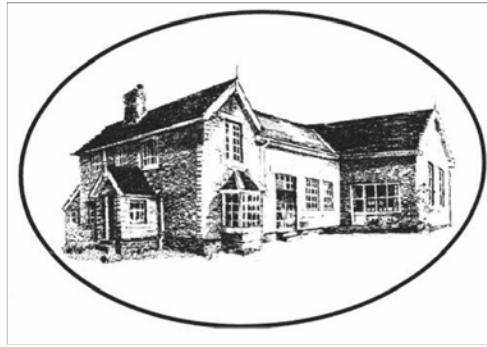
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THE BREAKFAST CLUB

In July, the Breakfast Club met to hear Dave Hinves tackle the subject of 'Changing Careers'. Although this was rather a general title, he actually gave an account of his own career, and how he had successfully re-invented himself as a driving instructor after years of being a teacher and sports manager.

He trained as a teacher, specialising in PE, and followed this with teaching for 11 years, during which time he moved to Cleobury. He became manager of the Sports Hall, but changed from being a teacher to working for the South Shropshire District Council in 1991. One of the changes in local government brought about by the re-organisation in 2009 was that in 2014 he was made redundant after 34 years' service.

An assessment of the possibilities on offer identified an appropriate new career – driving instructor. David worked out that this would provide him with just the right combination of teaching challenges, independence, and financial opportunities. He threw himself into the necessary training (quite expensive!) and soon became an accredited BSM

instructor. He has already tutored over 100 pupils, and has an impressive pass rate. He was particularly pleased recently when one of his pupils passed the driving test without a single fault – a very rare achievement indeed.

The Breakfast Club doesn't meet in August, so will next gather on September 13th at the Golf Club to hear Mike Hermolle talk about his career in the RAF, a follow-on from his talk last year. Members wishing to attend should contact Jonathan Fair (271913) or Gill Chapman (270575) to book places.

Mark Baldwin

A THANK YOU

The primary school Summer Fete and Christmas Fayre fundraise large sums for our school and for the benefit of all the children. The success of these events is in large part thanks to the generosity of individuals and businesses around town.

The Friends of Cleobury Mortimer Primary School would like to heartily thank Mawley Milk, Katerfresh, Tuffins, Morrisons, the Cleobury Mortimer Brass Band, the Royal British Legion and all those who have donated prizes for our

events in the past academic year (we're so sorry there is not room to name you all).

A big thank you also goes out to Jim Reynolds for promoting our events in the Clarion and a certain important (yet highly top secret!) role that he plays at our Christmas Fayre.

The support of the children, their parents, carers, grandparents, neighbours and friends in coming along and spending hard-earned pocket money on games, activities, tombolas and food is enormously appreciated by us all. And we could not do it without our army of extra helpers, including many of the school staff.

We'll see you all again at our Christmas Fayre.

The 'Friends' Committee

MUSICAL EARLY NOTICE

It's worth putting in your diary that the Friends of St Mary's Church will be hosting another performance by the Kidderminster Male Voice Choir on September 23rd. It's in the Parish Church (where else?) and all proceeds go to the work of the Friends on the fabric of the most noticeable building in the town. It's become a great annual occasion.



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THE READING GROUP

Fourteen of us gathered on a hot Monday evening to chat about "A Time of Gifts" by Patrick Leigh Fermor. The book was not an unqualified success, only two members who had read the whole book really enjoyed it. Several gave up, finding the narrative too dense, wordy and tedious. Others read to the end and liked some of it. The book covered the first part of the authors journey across Europe from Rotterdam to Budapest in 1933, though not written until 1977.

It was interesting to read about Europe just as Hitler was coming to power. Fermor seemed to mix with quite a few of the upper class, often spending time in castles or large houses. Although a student (18 when he set out) he received £4 a month from England; a considerable amount in that era. It was also pointed out that he wished to "sleep under the stars", but as he started his journey in December he didn't often. Latin phrases and chunks of medieval history went over several heads. On the plus side, his lovely descriptions brought to life places and scenes.

We don't meet again until September so have plenty of

time to read "Slaves of Solitude" by Patrick Hamilton. We are over subscribed at present so if you wish to join us (or start another group) please contact me on 01299 271754.

Deana Kimber

RUNNING FOR SEVERN HOSPICE



Sally Baguley training in the Lake Vyrnwy countryside.

Sally Baguley is encouraging others to join her and take on the Lake Vyrnwy Half Marathon on Sunday September 11th to raise funds for a favourite local charity.

Severn Hospice is calling for supporters in Shropshire to run in the beautiful setting of the lake and raise money so that they can continue to care for patients and families living with incurable illnesses.

Sally said: "I've never done this much running before but I

needed a challenge and have heard that Lake Vyrnwy Half Marathon is a great way to ease into running longer distances."

"I work at Severn Hospice, so every day I see the huge difference the care that the team provides makes to people's lives."

Registration for the Half Marathon is free. However, participants are asked to raise a minimum of £125.00 in sponsorship.

Once you have registered, you will receive a fundraising pack and a Severn Hospice running vest to wear on the day. If you are already registered, you can still raise funds through your sponsorship for Severn Hospice.

For more information, or to register online for this year's Half Marathon, please visit www.severnhospice.org.uk. Or call the fundraising team on 01952 221 351 or email events@severnhospice.org.uk.

SILLY BITS

1. **Where there's a will, I want to be in it.**
2. **If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.**
3. **War does not determine who is right - only who is left.**
4. **I didn't say it was your fault; I said I'm blaming you.**



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The Clarion Jobs Page

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Clubhouse Cleaner Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club, CM	Cleaner required to cover shifts over 7days according to rota. 7am-10am.	For more information or to apply please contact: Rose at Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club 01299 271 112
Lodge Housekeeper Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club, CM	Housekeeper to assist with changeovers of busy holiday lodge business, variable hours depending on season. Ideal role for someone with school age children as guests leave at 10am. Hours and wages by negotiation.	For more information or to apply please contact: Rose at Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club 01299 271 112
Weekend & Summer Job Bransley Cattery, CM	Bransley Cattery are looking for an enthusiastic youngster to help with the care of cats. Duties will involve cleaning pens/ feeding etc. House will vary depending on how many cats are resident. The cattery is 1.3 miles outside of Cleobury Mortimer on the Tenbury Road, some help with transport home can be provided if you can get there.	For more information or to apply please contact: Linda Cruickshanks on 01299 270170



Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

On-Call Firefighters Cleobury Mortimer (Retained Duty System)

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service is currently looking to recruit on-call firefighters at Cleobury Mortimer Fire Station. On-call firefighters agree to be available for a certain number of hours per week; they carry a pager and must be able to get to the fire station within five minutes. For this they are paid between £1,587 - £2,116 per annum (dependent on contract) as a Retaining Fee plus payments for attending incidents and drill evenings at Cleobury Mortimer fire station.

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

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SEVERN HOSPICE WINNERS



Big smiles all round. From left: Ann Salt, Vikki Millichamp, Jayne Leach and Margaret Coleman

Cleobury Mortimer residents were celebrating with afternoon tea after the town's Severn Hospice charity shop won the award for selling the most tickets in a recent raffle.

Locals, volunteers and staff gathered to celebrate with tea and cake after selling more Summer Raffle tickets than any other Severn Hospice shop. The money raised by local residents is a wonderful achievement and helps to ensure that Severn

Hospice can continue to provide care and support for people across Shropshire and Mid Wales when they need it most.

The Cleobury Mortimer shop sold 430 tickets, beating all 20 competing shops to take the top spot. There was a sweet reward, as donated cakes and tea were enjoyed by 22 shop volunteers, shop manager Gayna Woodland and assistant manager Jayne Leach.

Severn Hospice lottery costs just £1 to play and each week one lucky player wins £2,000. Twice a year the charity holds a Grand Prize Draw, with a top prize of £5,000. Severn Hospice lottery is a wonderful way to support the charity; it currently funds the care for one in seven hospice patients. If you would like to join the Severn Hospice lottery and support this worthwhile local cause you can call the lottery team on 01743 455319 or join online at www.severnospice.org.uk.

Vikki Millichamp
Communications Manager

SILLY BITS

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2. A clear conscience is the sign of a bad memory.



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Summer Pet Safety

by Rachel Saunders MRCVS, Vet at Severn Edge Veterinary Group

I think it's fair to say that we all enjoy a bit of sunshine; pets included. However it is important to be aware of the potential problems that hot weather can pose to our furry friends.

I am sure we have all seen the reminders to never leave your pet unattended in a vehicle on a warm day. Even if parked in a 'cool' area, cars can heat up to dangerous, and sometimes fatal temperatures within minutes. It also important to remember that cars can heat up when on the move too; a dog in the boot of a car stuck in a motorway traffic jam can become very hot on a sunny day. It is sensible to avoid travel during the hottest midday sunshine whenever possible, and stick to the cooler mornings and evenings.

The same goes for walking your dog; lovely as it is to go for a hike on a beautiful summer day, your dog won't thank you if they are struggling to cope with the heat. It is best to take your four-legged friend out for their adventures during the cooler time of day, and let them make the most of relaxing in the garden or house during the hotter spells. Thick or long coated breeds may benefit from having their coat clipped over the summer to help keep them cool. Pets with white ear tips, particularly cats, can be prone to sunburn, just like those fair skinned people amongst us. If your cat is a sun-worshipper, you can apply a small amount of sun cream to the ear tips to keen sunburn at bay.

Always make sure that your pet has access to plenty of fresh water and a cool, shaded area at home, whether they are indoors or outdoors. Rabbits are extremely sensitive to heat, and ambient temperatures of as low as 23°C can be enough to induce heat stroke. Symptoms of hyperthermia (heat stroke) in dogs, cats, and rabbits can include lethargy,

reluctance to walk, collapse and excessive panting. If you are concerned that your pet may be suffering from hyperthermia you can help reduce the body temperature by putting some cool (but not freezing cold) water on their head and feet, and laying a cool, wet towel over the body. Offer fresh drinking water, and make sure your pet is moved to a cool area. You should seek veterinary advice straight away if there is not a rapid improvement in symptoms.

It is sensible to ensure that your pet's vaccines and parasite treatments are up to date throughout the year, but particularly so in summer when your pet may be travelling to areas they wouldn't normally be if they are holidaying with you, or going to enjoy their own vacation in kennels or cattery. Our vets and nurses are always happy to advise you on the most appropriate preventative treatment schedule for your pets. Ensure that microchip details are kept up to date so that your pet can be reunited with you if they should become lost while you are on holiday with them; remember that it is now a legal requirement that all dogs are microchipped.

Here's hoping for a hot and happy summer!

Rachel Saunders



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OUR BATTLE OF THE SOMME HEROES

In July the country commemorated the Battle of the Somme, that dreadful conflict in France that lasted from July 1st until November 18th, 1916. It was bloodiest battle on the Western Front in the war and during that time more than one million men were wounded or killed. On the first day alone, the English suffered 57,470 casualties; it was the worst day in the history of the army.

Jim Hulme of the British Legion kindly loaned us the 11th of the History's Society's 'Cleobury Chronicles', which is devoted to that war. It is a prodigious work detailing all those local men known to have fought in that war and it details two who fell at the Somme.

The first was Cyril Key, born in Dodddington in 1897 and serving in the Machine Gun Corps when he died on July 2nd 1916. He is recorded on the Thiepval Memorial in Picardie, Somme and on the memorials at both Dodddington and Cleobury Mortimer. The Chronicle records that the Machine Gun Corps numbered 170,500 men during the war, with 62,049 casualties, of whom 12,498 were killed. It

will not surprise you that the Corps become known as 'The Suicide Club.'

The second man was William Vaughan Roberts, who was born in Broseley in 1897 and at the time of his death in August 1961 was serving with the Infantry Battalion of the Machine Gun Corps. He was recorded as living in Cleobury Mortimer and in his will he left all of his effects to his mother, living at Bank House in the High Street. Like Cyril Key, he was just 19.

Both men were awarded the British War Medal and the Victory Medal for their service, even though their lives were taken long before victory was even in sight. William Roberts is recorded as being buried in the cemetery at Flatiron Copse, Mametz, Somme.

They were working men who volunteered to fight for England and lost their lives for us.

THE FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S

July's Open Gardens event was a success, with over 200 people coming to visit. The majority came from towns and villages outside Cleobury with one couple from East Sussex.

There were eleven gardens open, from a hidden well

stocked cottage garden surrounding a 16th century cottage to a new house on Betjeman Way that showed how a rectangle of turf was gradually being transformed into a colourful terrace with a challenging wildlife section.

The day raised over £1000 to be shared with The Friends of Saint Mary's Church and Shropshire Historic Churches Trust who have given grants towards Saint Mary's Church restoration work. I would like to thank all who opened their gardens and helped with the organisation.

We attended a fashion show at The Edinburgh Woollen Mill shop in Ludlow. A variety of clothes were modelled and there was an opportunity to buy. This event raised almost £200 for The Friends and our thanks go to the staff at the EWM.

Our next event will be on August 14th, a Musical Tea Party at Hopton Court from 3.00 o'clock. There will be music by the Ludford Duo; Ian and Janet Ludford are professional cellists with a wealth of experience who have travelled worldwide with internationally acclaimed artists. Tickets £15. Available from Angela Drennan, Tel CM 270636
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REBECCA'S WORLD NETBALL DEBUT

Rebecca Gwilliam is a product of the Lacon Childe Sports Academy. That's the place where a very sedentary looking man once asked why the school wanted to become a Sports Academy, because it didn't have much of a record. The head teacher then gave a list of the pupils' achievements and the man kept quiet. We have a great deal to be proud of.



Like Rebecca Gwilliam, ex Lacon Childe School and Hartpury Netball Academy, currently studying for a BSc Honours degree in Sports Therapy at Worcester University. She was one of a team chosen to contest the University Netball World Championships, held in Miami, Florida.

The Worcester party were invited to attend as an

invitational team representing England. They played seven national teams over a demanding five days at St Thomas University and gave a good account of themselves, losing against some big teams by only one point. They finished seventh and impressed with their competitive spirit in a series that was telecast live.

Rebecca says it was an amazing experience, playing against full national teams like tournament victors South Africa as well as other leading world class sides like Australia. She made a lot of friends, particularly amongst the American squad. Students like her are not just competitors, they are ambassadors for their sport and the country.

GREAT VOLLEYBALL SEASON

Cleobury's Volleyball Club have had their most successful season to date.

The Ladies 1st team won the West Midlands Championship by four points. And the Ladies 2nd team finished sixth in the West Mids Division 2 series.

The men did well in Division 2, finishing third just six points behind winners Birmingham Mets. The Juniors made their mark too, with the Under 15

Girls second in the cup competition and the Under 13 Girls winning the cup in their class.

Lyndsey Potter was quite a star for the club, winning the Ladies League Cup and taking the Most Valuable Player award with the most votes from opposing teams.

Jack Brookes was another star, winning Most Valuable Player, quite something for a 17 year old currently working for his A Levels who also plays for both Cleobury and the West Country national league team. Plus coaching younger players. No wonder he also took the West Midlands Young Volunteer of the Year award.

The club's annual charity fun tournament was another success, raising a total for £526 in memory of the late Jim Smith for Parkinson's Disease and for Matt Yarranton's cycle ride in support of the Marie Curie Fund. Great people, doing a good job for others as well as playing hard.

And to round all that off, they have a Family Fun Rounders Tournament to play on Lacon Childe School field on September 4th. It's an occasion for all the family and everyone is welcome.

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NOT QUITE TAKING THE TEST AGAIN

Whatever dreams may tell me, the simple fact is that at 77 I'm old. And with 80 on the horizon, I was asking myself how competent I am as a driver. Friends and family had been consulted, but I wanted the opinion of an impartial judge with qualifications.

I was recommended to try RoSPA - the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. I knew of them from days as a voluntary motorcycle instructor years ago and it made sense. An enquiry to their website (www.rospa.com) brought a helpful reply, explaining that their Experienced Driver Assessment was available for £55.00. It meant an hour's drive with a police instructor, a summary of the test and a written report outlining any weaknesses that might need addressing. I signed up.

John Bennett, a retired police advanced driver and RoSPA examiner, called and we met at Tenbury Wells on July 13th. We chatted for a while, him explaining what he'd be asking me to do. Drive as I normally would and not be put off if he was obviously watching me; it was a check on my rear

observation and awareness. He would also be making notes as we progressed.

Of course I was slightly nervous, this was me asking if I'm a fit person to be on the road. But John had a relaxed and friendly manner that put me at ease and it soon got through that I should just get on with driving carefully and observing the rules of the road. I hope I've done enough miles to get down a winding road smoothly and without wasting time, and when there was a slower car to deal with I waited until there was a clear stretch and accelerated past to maintain pace.

Into Ludlow, hesitating as an elderly pedestrian wandered into the road at the top of Corve Street and then back to the pavement, through the town centre and south to turn towards Wigmore and the winding forest road before heading back to Tenbury and the final discussion.

But one little test at the end caught me out as I reversed into a side road and bounced up the kerb. John had me drive forward, adjust the nearside door mirror and try again. It proved his point, as I did it without any blunder and he described how such a minor

adjustment and better vision as a result was what he was looking for. A lesson learned.

He talked me through the drive, praising some aspects and pointing out errors in others. Always with a clear explanation, so that I could understand where I'd been at fault. Overall he was reasonably happy with my performance and I was relieved to hear that I'm not yet ready to be restricted to a pogo stick.

A few days later a certificate arrived in the post, with a summary of all the examined aspects and a grading. There are some areas I need to address, the sort of bad habits you can develop if you're not being checked, and I'm changing my driving habits to do that.

I hope this doesn't sound smug, because I really don't think you ever stop learning and should listen to others. RoSPA suggest a reassessment in three years, and I'll do that. There's no reason why I should contemplate stopping driving yet, but I don't want to be a danger or an obstruction.

If you're getting on a bit, think about having your skills looked over by an expert. JR

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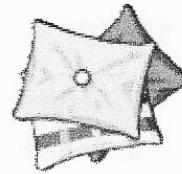
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After the political turmoil of recent weeks, it feels a good time to reflect briefly on the state of politics today. I shall try not to be partisan.

The referendum result came as a shock, I think to both sides. While I campaigned to Remain, the public, the county and the constituency voted to leave. The government was elected on a manifesto to deliver an EU referendum and respect the result, so it will now focus on securing the best for Britain in leaving the EU.

The morning the referendum result was known, David Cameron announced he would resign as Prime Minister. I was not surprised, but was sad that his premiership ended so abruptly. I remember leading his campaign in South Shropshire to become party leader, after I was first elected in 2005. I am biased, but believe he has been an excellent leader of the country. It is more than a role or a job to be Prime Minister, it requires a dedication and devotion to duty which is all consuming, for any politician.

Conservative leadership contests are clinically brutal affairs, in this case mercifully swift. I have every confidence Theresa May will be an excellent leader. She offers experience and strength of character, just what the country needs as we look to heal divisions following the referendum and provide stable government for the negotiations ahead.

The Prime Minister invited me to serve as Minister of State at the Department of Health, having been at Ministry of Defence for the past four years. This is already presenting new challenges, but having got to know the health system in Shropshire for the past eleven years, I feel this experience stands me in good stead. I was privileged to work with some excellent

people in defence, who I am sorry to leave, but I am proud of our achievements to reform defence procurement. I am getting into my new role.

I am under no illusions about the interest in healthcare and the potentially polarising nature which health concerns can raise. I receive messages every day which can sometimes cross the line from concerned citizen to anonymous abuse. Moving into a health brief, which touches almost every person in the land, I do not expect messages or advice offered to decline.

But I hope the death of my colleague Jo Cox will prove a wake-up call to those who seem disdainful of others in public service. No matter what type of public service people do, whether delivering services or standing for elected office, I believe everyone strives to improve the lives of others, neighbours or strangers. This does not mean we are unaccountable, especially politicians. We do by being accessible to our constituents, holding advice surgeries, responding to correspondence, and voting for what we believe in. Under our democracy if we do not live up to your expectations every five years, you can remove us via the ballot box.

Anyone who thinks our political system is too entrenched to change, or that the outcome of voting is negligible, need only look at the way Scottish seats in Westminster changed hands at the last election – your vote matters, and no MP is assured of victory. We are all accountable to you, the voter.

I defy anyone to claim politics is boring. But I do look forward to a quieter spell over August. I hope readers enjoy a pleasant summer.



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CLEOBURY PATIENTS' VOICE

Late in June, at an Extraordinary board meeting called at very short notice, Shropshire's health authority, or CCG, finally gave approval to the outline plans to locate A&E, and all acute services, at a single hospital, downgrading Shropshire's second acute hospital to a Kidderminster-style treatment centre with few if any beds. It's not clear what had changed to cause this switch from its earlier refusal to sign-off these plans, aside from a lot of behind-the-scenes arm-twisting we hear, but smart money is on Telford getting the nod as Shrewsbury is portrayed as too dilapidated to maintain.

An NHS report just published classifies Shropshire CCG as the worst in the country, deemed 'inadequate' in terms of leadership, finance, performance and planning. It is also running a deficit of over £14million, although this is dwarfed by the overall NHS deficit of £2.5billion for 2015/16. Almost 400,000 people have signed a petition calling on the government to honour the £350million per week NHS funding pledge made by the Brexit campaign but no sign of anything as yet.

Back to our own doorstep and we recently heard of an elderly local resident discharged from hospital and delivered into an empty house without support at 4.00 o'clock in the morning. This is unacceptable and we would like to hear from anyone who has had a similar experience in recent months: ring or email us via the contact details below. If you are discharged from hospital, particularly after a lengthy stay, it is always a good idea to let the Medical Centre know: NHS communications still leave much to be desired so please don't rely on someone else informing them.

CPV will be supporting a coffee morning in aid of the Multiple Sclerosis Society at 10:30 on September 10th at The Mount, Castle Hill - a date for your diary.

We meet at the Medical Centre on the third Monday of the month, 6:30pm. We welcome new members so if you would like to be involved contact us: telephone 01299 407224 or email cleoburypatientsvoice@hotmail.co.uk.

Mark Radford

CLEOBURY W.I.

Cleobury WI members and visitors are a talented bunch who turned their hands to making personalised greeting

cards at the July meeting. We were pleased to receive a gift of a tea towel from our link WI in Australia and news of the resolutions passed at the National AGM on avoiding food waste and appropriate dementia care.

The weather was kind for a splendid outing to Birmingham, exploring the Jewellery Quarter and National Trust back-to-backs. On August 9th at 6.30pm there is a sample 'Walk for Health' followed by a BBQ at 10 Church Street; friends and partners invited. More information on Cleobury Mortimer WI's Facebook page or [contact Judy Sant CM270983, email judysant10@gmail.com](mailto:judysant10@gmail.com).

Judy Sant

'NOT A POT' SUCCESS

This was part of the Open Gardens weekend of July 2/3rd at Stottesdon, when 'Not a Plot' invited contestants to enter plants - at least two - in anything but a pot. No details reported yet, but we are told that close to £3000 was raised, which goes to show what an attraction opening local gardens can be.

SILLY BIT

I'm not arguing with you, I's just explaining why you're wrong.



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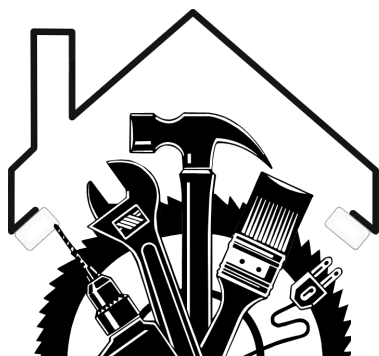
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LEARNING ABOUT WAR



Warrant Officer Ray Miller shows how the modern uniform looks and feels.

Pupils at Lacon Childe had an attention-grabbing demonstration of the conditions British soldiers faced in the 1914-18 World War. Appropriately, the talk was on July 7th, a few days after the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme starting. On the first day of that awful conflict, there were over 57,000 British casualties.

Warrant Officer Ray Miller travelled from his present posting at Telford to talk about the equipment of 100 years ago and today. Clothing that was heavy and not at all waterproof

then, which today is light, with enough pockets to hold a lot of gear and it's waterproof. The steel helmet of olden days offered only a little protection, while the modern Kevlar version covers more of the head, can deflect bullets and has communication points built in as standard.

Everything the soldier wore or carried was much heavier then, while today equipment like a folding shovel to dig trenches or a simple water bottle is easy to carry. W.O. Miller joined the army at 18 and has seen war action in many parts of the world, luckily without any serious injury. But having lost a good friend in action, he has no doubts about the dangers and made his point very clearly. He held his audience's attention well and was still answering questions after the school day officially finished.



The pupils were all handed a paper poppy and asked to write what they had learned from the talk; the poppies were then taken to the art department, where they had put together a display of poems against a background depicting soldiers of the two ages and the Tiepval Memorial. Poppies were then stuck onto the model memorial, which it is hoped will soon be on display in the Market Hall.

A RATHER SPECIAL EVENING AT KINLET

A Late Summer Spectacular is scheduled in the picturesque setting of Kinlet Hall for September 2nd.

It starts at 6.30 with a champagne reception, as all the best of such events do, and proceeds via a four course meal to an Auction of Promises and what is described as 'Surprise Entertainment'.

The Hall is a wonderful place for such an event, where an autumn evening shows off the countryside to best effect. Tickets are £35.00 each and bookable at 01299 272628. All proceeds from the gathering will go to aid the splendid work of the Saint Mary's Youth Project, who do so much for the town.

SILLY BIT

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Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Wed 3rd	10.00am	Walking for Health meet at the Sports & Fitness Centre before driving off to a Clee Hill Walk.		
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 4th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders have a full day walk starting from Pershore Bridges Picnic Car Park, Evesham Road, Pershore. PAGE 9		
Sat 6th	8.00am	Sale of house hold goods at Knowle Sports Ground. Great bargains.		
Sun 7th	10.45am	The Simon Evans Way Walk starts from the Golf Club. PAGE 9	Val Simpson	01299 270655
Tue 9th	6.30pm	Cleobury W.I offer a sample 'Walk for Health' followed by a barbecue at 10 Church Street. Friends and Partners Welcome. PAGE 29	Judy Sant	01299 270983
Wed 10th	10.00am	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall. Home made cake and coffee for £1.50.		
	8.00pm	The Royal British Legion meets at The Bell Inn, Lower Street.	David Taylor	01299 270793
Thu 11th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 12th	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Cleeton St Mary Village Hall.		
Sun 14th	3.00pm	Musical Tea Party at Hopton Court, with The Ludford Duo entertaining. PAGE 21.		
Wed 17th	10.00am	Walking for Health gather at the Sports and Fitness Centre for a sociable stroll.		
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874

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Thursday August 4th

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The Clarion will be there and we will be reporting next month, hoping to see local entrants successful in the wide range of livestock competitions that are just a part of the Show.



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Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Thu 18th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.00pm	Rock Pathfinders evening walk starts from The Running Horse, Long Bank, Bewdley. PAGE 9.		
Fri 19th	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall.	01584 890874
Fri 19th-Sun 21st		'An Introduction to Green Woodworking' course in the Wyre Forest. PAGE 41.		
Sat 20th	9.30am	Cleobury Country Farmers' Market, in and around the Parish Church.		
	2.00pm	Vintage Afternoon Tea Fundraiser at Neen Savage Village Hall. PAGE 7.		
Wed 24th	10.00am	CoCo Coffee Morning at Market Hall. See 10th Above,		
	7.30pm	Clows Top Gardening Club meet at the Victory Hall to hear Rowan McO'neal talk about 'Hedgerow and Garden Medicine'. PAGE 9.		
Thu 25th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 26th	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
AND LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER...				
Thu 1st		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 2nd	6.30pm	Late Summer Extravaganza at Kinlet Hall. PAGE 31.	Tickets	01299 272628
Sun 4th		Family Fun Rounders Tournament on Lacon Childe sports field. All Welcome. PAGE 23		
Wed 7th	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall.	01584 890874

The Smartest Giant In Town

This is a musical adaption of the book written by the names behind The Gruffalo. See it at Bishop Wood Centre in Stourport, starting at 6.30 on August 11th. It's the story of the scruffiest giant in town who gets smartly dressed and then gets smarter when he learns it's not what you wear that matters, it who you are.

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NINEVEH GREETS THE LADY MAYORESS

They had rather special day at Nineveh Ridge Care Home in July, when the Lady Mayoress of Kidderminster paid a visit. It was a sunny, happy day, made all the better with Mayoress Mary Rayner's friendly approach and willingness to talk and listen to everyone.

The official reason for her visit was to cut the tape and open a new unit, where the plan is to pieces of furniture and similar small articles for sale. I've placed my order for a black bat shaped clock that will be in one grand daughter's Christmas stocking.



Lady Mayoress of Kidderminster, Mary Rayner was a warm and smiling guest of honour.

Nineveh is a place that never stands still. It's about three years since I last called and the number of changes and new units that have been added is very impressive. Pippa Bannister's drive and determination is amazing, and she always praises her staff when she talks about the place.

Pippa was in turn impressed by the Mayoress: "She was so nice, and tried to say hello to everyone. I had a lovely note later, saying if ever she could help, I should let her know."



Steve Boyce, swimming for England in the Disabled Olympics.

One young man, looking very muscular and fit in his tee-shirt, approached me and explained that he swims for England and would I take a picture of him, please? Of course I would, and Pippa later confirmed that this

was Steve Boyce, and he swims in the England team in the Disabled Olympics. When the new pool in the Kidderminster Sports Centre was opened, the first man to officially use the pool was Steve; quite an honour.

The unit that will produce items for sale needs careful supervision and a supply of basic materials, such as pallets to produce wood. Pippa is actively looking for a source of these and would be happy to hear from anyone who can help. She's on 01299 832864.

This is an uplifting place to visit and see how many people are willing to give their time to others less fortunate. It takes a special level of devotion to keep on chasing funding in a world where austerity is the norm, but when you see what can be done for quite modest sums and low material cost, you realise that the human spirit can cope with most things.

I don't know if this is their sense of humour, or that of the Post Office. On the website one of the addresses given is Nineveh Ridge Care Home, Unnamed Road, Clebury Mortimer. It might not be on the County records, but from this end it's Bayton Road and from the other end it's Clebury Road. Doesn't take a lot of working out really.



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We have spent a week in Lancashire, well off the beaten track in a hamlet with no pub or shop, just a Church and a scattering of houses. Despite this, there is still a bus every 90 minutes. This service is run by a small local company and was on time every time using modern 33 seater buses. One driver told us that the route didn't need a subsidy from Lancashire Council as it paid its way. This surprised us as on several occasions we were the only passengers on board so it seems it can be done by an efficient company. The buses were also based at a depot 5 miles from the start of the route so even more mileage to cover.

A generous helping of breakdowns this month with the 9.14 to Kiddy failing to turn up two days running. On the second occasion, the rescue bus didn't finally turn up until 10 minutes before the next service was due. One waiting passenger got spotted by friends and was given a lift to Kiddy. Unfortunately, on boarding the service for the return trip, she discovered that her bus pass had expired and it cost her £4 to get home. Not her day really but it goes to show that every journey is an adventure with Diamond Buses. Still, at least that got as far as Ludlow unlike the 14.40 from Kiddy a few days later. This got slower and slower when it got to Far Forest and then struggled to Cleobury. As there were passengers on board for Clee Hill, the driver was then told to go that far and turn round there as he had lost so much time. This meant that the 4.25 from Ludlow didn't run leaving the passengers there until nearly 6pm.

There have been several other instances of broken buses scattered along the route during the month and coming back under tow including one stuck on the cattle grid on Clee Hill. Even when they do run, things do not go without incident. One driver trying to navigate the back streets of Kiddy got into a swearing match with a motorist who was apparently parked in the wrong place and on the same trip, passengers

were concerned about the state of the suspension as it was banging and crashing in a worrying way.

Perhaps they should send two buses out on every service to save time when the inevitable breakdown occurs. Or alternatively, the firm could be renamed to reflect the level of service provided. How about the Diamond Bust Company?. Any other suggestions welcome...Talking about bust, the company which ran the 436 Bridgnorth - Shrewsbury service and the 101 Bridgnorth Town route has ceased trading. Arriva have taken over the 436 on a temporary basis but no news on the 101. In Glasgow, two people were injured when a runaway bus with no driver on board collided with two other buses and a car. This shouldn't be a problem with Diamond buses as they rarely run even with a driver on board.

We are still waiting for further information from Shropshire Council on the responses to the second request for expressions of interest but should hear something in the next month or so. There has also been no news from Diamond on any possible timetable changes although this doesn't mean they won't happen.

Stop Press: Shropshire Council have just issued a background document on their Bus Strategy for 2016-2021. This is dated 27th July 2016 which is interesting as it is only 21st July as I write this. It seems that their current annual spend on subsidised bus services is around £1.8 million and this must be cut by 75% by 2021(!). They set out a number of requirements for a subsidy even to be considered (most of which Cleobury seem to satisfy) but the whole approach is one of doom and gloom. There will be a consultation with interested parties including local Councils and Joint Committees from August until October so we must make sure that our voice is heard (unless you enjoy walking long distances). More next month all being well.

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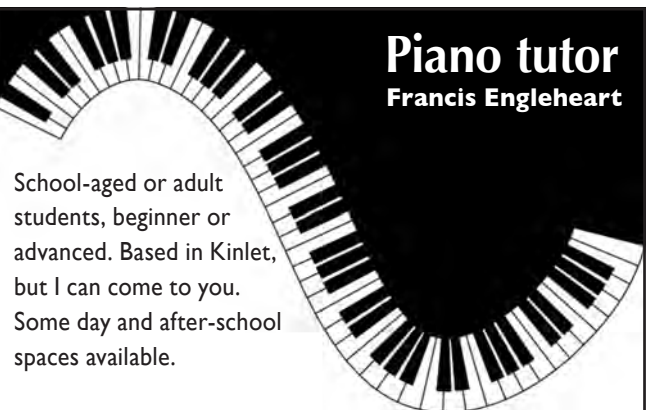
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The relevant crimes for our area since those listed in the last issue of The Clarion are as follows.

Between July 3rd and 5th a locked gate leading to a garden in Hartmann Close was forced. Sleeping bags and a camping kettle were then stolen from an insecure shed. On July 9th a detached garage in Rock was broken into from which power tools, beer and an egg incubator were stolen. On the same day at about 4:00pm, two white males were seen driving off in a white van by the elderly occupant of a house in Worcester Road, Cleobury Mortimer. They had broken into a shed to steal power tools.

On July 10th between 9:00pm and 10:00pm a plant hire company at The Old Station Industrial Estate in Cleobury was targeted for a second time by criminals. High value power tools and other items, including a van, were stolen. Including the damage to an alarm box the total loss was in excess of £15000. Enquiries into this crime are ongoing. On July 14th a large number of cannabis plants were seized from a property in Cleobury. Again, the investigation continues.

In the early hours of July 15th a house in Burford was entered by criminals. Keys to an Audi S3 were stolen and used to steal the

car which was parked on the driveway. A wallet, a laptop computer and a mobile phone were also stolen. Between July 2nd and 17th, whilst the owners were on holiday, golfing equipment worth about £1400 was stolen from an outhouse at a dwelling in Far Forest. Damage done to doors, frames and locks amounted to £400.

There have been complaints of a problem again with cars being parked on pavements and across drop kerbs in many areas of Cleobury. Vehicles should be parked allowing access for pedestrians, and for disability scooters and prams where the roads are busy and potentially dangerous. It is extremely selfish to block access for these people. Many of the drivers would be the first to complain about anyone impinging on their rights!

Some households in Cleobury have not yet received their free 'Smartwater' kits. There are still a few unissued kits available, so if any householder has not received theirs, or if any new residents in Cleobury would like one, please see Matt Sheehan at The Market Hall.

View our new Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police websites at: www.warwickshire.police.uk and www.westmercia.police.uk

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August in the Wyre Forest

Linda Iles

The summer is the best time to be in the English countryside, to my way of thinking, and much as I love the seaside, I like to be at home in August. My worries about the numbers of insects have been put aside, since I assume that the House Martins and Swallows must be pursuing something above the house and hay meadow. The Buddleia is coming into flower and I will soon see a variety of butterflies enjoying its abundant nectar. Southern Hawker and Broad-bodied Libellula dragonflies are haunting the pond, while blue damselflies lay their eggs on the pond weed, firmly paired.



In the Anglo-Saxon calendar the feast of Lammas was held in August. This is the earliest beginning of the wheat harvest and a loaf of wheat was brought into church as an offering.

'Lammas land' is traditional hay meadow, closed to grazing animals until after the hay is cut in summer but opened up on Lammas Day. I have seen the day most often mentioned as 1st/2nd August but also as 12th/13th August: perhaps you can help me there. The harvest in the forest is of bilberries, blackberries and many seeds which feed insects, small mammals and birds. The oaks salute Lammas by producing a flush of new summer shoots, usually reddish in colour, which replace leaves eaten to shreds by millions of hungry invertebrates and their young. Hazel trees are already being raided for nuts still green, leaving few to ripen to our tastes or that of the dormouse.

'An Introduction to Green Woodworking' in the Wyre Forest over the weekend of August 19th to 21st is just what it says. Starting with the selection of green oak and ash and using tools such as draw knives, froes and axes, a timber frame stool will be constructed, then the seat will be woven from sea grass or elm bark. Fiona de Wert and Amy Cox will be the tutors and the cost of £180 will cover all materials, a homemade lunch, teas and coffees. Please email events@wyreclt.org.uk or call 01299 488083 for details and bookings. There is also an Introduction to Basket Making on September 3rd and 4th— see www.wyreclt.org.uk for details.

Linda Iles

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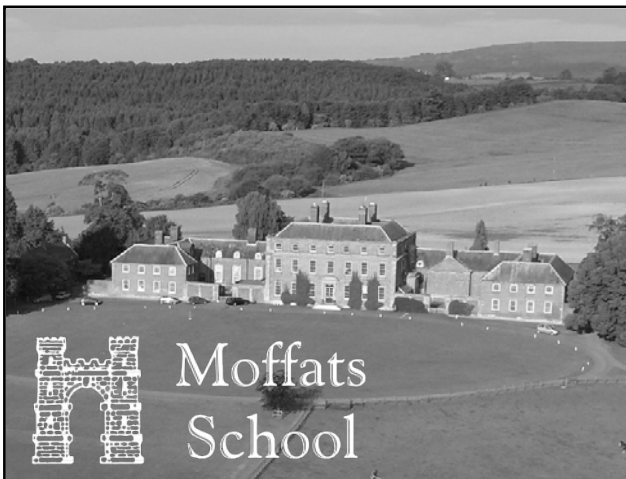
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Partner Keith

After finding love at the bins and getting engaged on the Number 3 bus home, Kath set about fixing her smile and ditching a ten-a-day denture fixative 'addiction'

SHE looks more than a decade younger than her age, her conversation is regularly punctuated with laughter and in recent years has found the love of her life . . . while emptying waste at the bins on the caravan park where she lives.

At "75 years' young" Kathleen Harrold is well-known for her sense of humour, offering her engagement ring for inspection, whilst adding: "Not one for ceremony, I went to the jewellers in Kidderminster with my partner Keith and got engaged on the number 3 bus going home to Stourport.

"I did, however, have to put the ring on my finger myself," she says. With perfect comedic timing there's a sudden pause that allows Keith to affirm that the story is wholly true.

Keith, however, does have to live daily with another male who challenges him for Kath's affection – her miniature poodle, Ozzy, named after the legendary Black Sabbath Brummie.

Upbeat, confident and socially engaging, it's hard to imagine this woman, who has a love of sports cars, touring caravan holidays and stimulating chat, could have ever been any different.

But things were. As a 12-year-old she was admitted into hospital for dental surgery. "I can't remember what it was, but it was a rare case," she recalls.

That dental trauma remains with her and her warm smile is momentarily lost as she brings the experience to mind.

"I did have trouble with my mouth, losing some of my top teeth to pyorrhoea [gum disease] in my late 30s, but managed to hang on to my bottom teeth until I was in my 40s," she says.

After years of denture troubles, suffering with an unstable lower prosthetic, regular sore spots and a failed attempt to resolve the issues, Kath sought help from Cleobury Dental Practice denture clinician Chris Chawro DipCDT RCS(Eng) GDC 135208.

Embarrassing

The encounter two years ago was a turning point for Kath, who in the seven years of being with Keith has had seven sets of lower teeth.

Says Chris: "Her bottom jaw had resorbed – the bone eroding and leaving hardly a profile to fit the denture. It was a severe case.

"As a result the denture was terribly unstable."



All smiles –Chris Chawro Dip CDT RCS(Eng) with patient Kath Harrold

My Lifechanger



Kath's whole life had been punctuated with the need for regular applications of denture adhesive to help keep them from involuntary movements.

"If I went for a meal with friends, I'd have to leave the table half way though to apply more Fixodont. I couldn't live without it. I had a supply at home, in my handbag and in the car. I was forever excusing myself from the table and in the end I was using a ridiculous amount . . . ten times a day. It was so embarrassing," she adds.

Taking up the story, Chris, whose qualifications allow him to deal directly with patients, says: "Our first job was to get some dentures that would fit correctly and then look at the way we could enhance them.

"I had to use a special impression technique to find the muscular neutral zone of her mouth to enable me to stabilise the denture.

"Once we had a good fit, we could then look at the possibilities of increasing the retaining qualities of the lower with implants."

Implant retained over-dentures are firmly fixed by small press-stud like devices and can be taken out of the mouth by the patient for cleaning.

As part of her treatment plan, two implants were placed in Kath's lower jaw by Cleobury Dental's implant surgeon, Dr Neil Sampson MFGDP BDS (UK) GDC 60624.

An experienced implant dentist, Neil won Dentist of the Year for Oasis Dental Care in 2010 for his "personal approach and expertise in the area of dental implantology".

Having researched implant procedures on the internet, Kath was at first apprehensive, but the trusting relationship she had built with Chris "clinched the decision," she says.

Highest praise

"I was happy and confident with Chris and he had recommended this treatment as way of making things much better," she adds.

The first thing that attracted Kath to Keith was her humour and with that resourcefulness "I laughed and smiled my way through having the implants put in," she says.

Embracing life – and love – Kath unreservedly recommends the treatment and aftercare she received at Cleobury Dental Practice, but the highest praise goes to Chris.

"Meeting him has been life-changing. I can now eat whatever I want and don't ever have to think about my teeth. What a relief!"

Adds Keith: "It's as if she'd been living with a major incident and suddenly it's all over. It really is that different."



For appointments & information call:

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Looking back at my Farming report for this time last year I see that then the Harvest was expected to be early due to the fabulous weather in June, what a difference a year makes! This year everything was going to be late, I was told to book a table for our wedding anniversary meal and the corn wouldn't be ready for another week. After 30 years of marriage I took no notice and lo and behold combining started on Tuesday 19th July, so no anniversary meal for me! At the moment yields are poor and the sample is below par which is disappointing after 9 months of nurturing, the only comfort to the farmer in my life is that everyone else has the same problem, to be blamed on the wet weather and lack of sunshine!

When talk isn't of the Harvest it is all about Brexit. Despite the NFU (National Farmers Union) coming out on the side of Remain, the majority of grassroots farmers favoured Leave, possibly a result of their farming practices being so stringently regulated by the EU. The general consensus being it can't be any worse than it is now. However, with there being no plan post Brexit, farmers are becoming increasingly concerned that their position will be marginalised by other key governmental priorities. The other issue is that with power devolved to Northern Ireland, Scotland and

Wales, four separate systems could be developed with different levels of support depending on where a farm is geographically. Whilst these issues might not be felt relevant to the majority of the population, we all need to eat and if imports become more expensive or even embargoed, the ability of farmers to produce enough food for all will become increasingly important. Much of the funding received from the EU currently is dependent on environmental activities, designed to maintain the rural landscape and wildlife so a move away from this may result in wide ranging changes to the landscape around us; only time will tell.

Another reminder from last year's report is the hatching of nine chicks – not so lucky this year as I only have two new arrivals and I fear both will be cockerels as they already look tall and leggy. Another problem in the hen house is that something is stealing the eggs. There are two main suspects – either a very bold squirrel who is often seen jay-walking on the barn roof, or a greedy magpie who has found an extra source of food. I am having to check the hen house for eggs at regular intervals throughout the day to get them before my thief.

Catherine Evans

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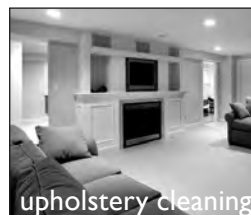
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THE TOWN'S BEST VALUE VENUE



Lynne with her runner beans in the Welch Gate back garden.

She opens the door to one of those lovely little Welch Gate cottages in Bewdley and welcomes us in. An interesting odour drifts from the kitchen: "I've been making some runner bean pickle," she explains. Are they locally grown? "Of course. We grow them in the back garden."

It's unusual to find a back garden in this street and the lawn is up a steep staircase. "It's like a Mary Poppins garden up here," she says. "You look out over chimneys and rooftops." All around are plants, plus a beehive in the corner.

Lynne and Phil moved in 30 years ago and trying to put a

window in the back wall they found the place on the verge of collapse and needing a major rebuild. "It's probably the most recently built house in Bewdley with a preservation order," grins Phil, the other half of the team. "Dates back to the early 1600s."

All the pickles and preserves she makes use crops grown here or on her daughter's allotment in Stourport. That includes chilli plants, developed from one she was given as a gift and has developed enough to take an occasional crop. Let's make it clear that this is not a business, it's a lady with a passion for cooking who finds it helps her deal with stress. She's been making pickles for 30 or so years, and for most of that time it's been just for family and friends.

Talking to people at Whiteledge Cafe, she met Jan from the Headway charity, who are regulars at Cleobury's Farmers' Market. Jan persuaded Lynne she should bring her pickles here. There was nobody doing quite what she had to offer and when she heard that profits from the market went to the church, she was convinced.

She lays out an impressive array of preserves in the church, six jars of each products. How many are there, Lynne? "Twelve

pickles, four chutneys and two relishes," she confirms. "What I want to do is cover the cost of the jars and any ingredients I have to buy, like lots of sugar for the chillis. Anything more goes to the church."

The prices are good, as you would expect. A twelve ounce jar of pickle or relish costs just £3.00 and the more expensive chilli costs £3.00 for an eight ounce. I've tried the Chilli, Orange and Cranberry Jam and it's a lingering combination of sweetness and sharpness that is like nothing I've tried before. I'll be buying more - it's a real treat.

The giants of the jam and pickle world are never going to be bothered by the quality coming out of a cottage in Welch Gate. But if you go to the Market you'll find flavours they will never match.

More from the Market:

Rhian from Magpie Hill Soap has added some new scents to her wonderfully aromatic range. Now you can try Lavender, Lemon and Eucalyptus or Strawberry and Poppy Seeds.

And Shroppie Sheep are offering little jars of fruit from their own crop. We tried a 60p pot containing 45gm of Damson Jelly, enough to make one slice from the middle of a loaf taste really special. Yummy.

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HISTORY CONNECTS ROCK AND AMERICA



This fine chestnut tree stands in Rock Churchyard, adding to the greenery of the scene and providing shade in summer and shelter from the rain. Just like many trees do, but this particular tree has a special story.

It was planted in 1988, to commemorate the visit of members of the Hubbell family from America and Canada. They were descendants of Richard Hubbell of Rock Parish, who in 1642 set sail for America. He clearly established a good

scientific line, as the Hubbell Telescope is named after him.



HISTORY COMES ALIVE ON CLEE HILL



Glynn Barratt has a deep affection for Titterstone Clee Hill and its rich store of history.

It was just a walk around Clee Hill, a familiar feature of our landscape. But this one was to be led by Glynn Barratt, who knows the hill well and can tell many a good story when the

wind isn't so strong that it carries his voice away. On this occasion he had a very sore throat and was not in the best form to take on the noisy forces of nature.

We met in the old parking area on Dhustone and after an introductory description of the old quarry working by Glynn and Alf Jenkins set off to walk around the summit. It proved to be part lecture and part swapping of opinions about the early settlement of the hill with people who knew certain aspects of history but were prepared to listen and learn from others.

From what snatches of conversation that I could hear, it seems that this was a centre of population as far back as the Bronze Age, though whether the remnants of walls were of defences or there to keep herds in place was not clear. Listening to others and their exchange of diverse views is part of what makes history so fascinating; who knows for certain just what was happening here many centuries ago? The effect of the journey was to arouse curiosity and make you want to walk that way again and look more closely at what might have been.

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GREAT LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT

John Etheridge, something of a guitar legend, filled the Clows Top Victory Hall on July 19th. You have to go to a gig like this to realise how eclectic many local people's musical taste is.

Etheridge has one of the most diverse guitar histories you could imagine, including six years touring with Stephane Grappelli, more recently with eminent classical guitarist John Williams and tucked away in his CV are a recording with Yehudi Menuhin amongst others. This is not a man you can file away under any known musical discipline - he covers most of them.

There was hint of what was to come when we queued to pay and found gypsy jazz guitarist Remi Harris on the desk. One highly acclaimed musician just helping another; you don't get that at Symphony Hall.

Etheridge held his audience with a blend of playing both electric and acoustic instruments, with a gentle way of telling tales and jokes between each offering. No vocals, apart from a lapse into scat singing, just a true craftsman showing his skill.



He played a number of jazz favourites, reflecting his own days with jazz fusion band Soft Machine before he moved on to hone his skills with Hawkwind. The effect upon people you'd not expect to see on the edge of getting up and dancing was something to behold, with hardly a foot in the hall not tapping. When he set out to show what modern add-ons can do to what looked like simple guitar, it was almost like a full band in flow as he exploited the full potential.

To round off the evening, he was joined by Remi Harris, the two obviously sympathetic to the other's style as they exchanged phrases almost like the famous Duelling Banjoes

sound that stops people in their tracks. It was two hours of rattling good entertainment and at £12 a head, remarkable value for money when you can pay £75 or more for a big gig in a leading venue. Top marks to Yard Bird Entertainment for this; may they continue to bring such good music and value to local venues.

THE CLEOBURY OPEN

This established event has been revised and at the end of July attracted entries from all over the West Midlands to our local golf club.

In the Mixed Teams contest the winning quarter was Mr and Mrs Butcher teamed with Mr and Mrs Pope. In the Men's Teams the Shifnal visitors looked very strong until locals Clarke, Snape, Trevor and Justin were the last to tee off and came on strong to snatch victory.

Darren Clarke and Welwyn Snape are recent recruits to the club and were obviously well pleased to return home victorious and looking forward to some more competitive outings.

The club does seem to be growing as its reputation spreads. It must be that fresh Shropshire air.

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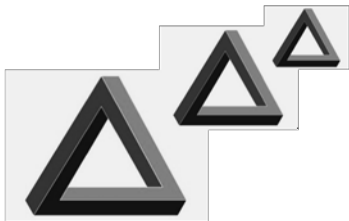
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SRP,MCSP,BSc(Hons)

Irena's route from her native Ukraine to work as a specialist chiropodist here in Shropshire was a testing one. She spent 20 years in nursing, including a spell as matron of a large military hospital in Mongolia, before moving to Britain in 2004. She arrived very well qualified in chiropody, only to find the NHS didn't recognise that.

She's made of stern stuff, so set about learning English and took a job as washer-up at the Ramada Inn in Bewdley; she ended her time there as Breakfast Chef. It was at this stage that she met her partner Charles, and he suggested she take a three year Foot Health Practitioner course. In just ten months, in June 2013, she passed her finals with distinction!

In January 2014 she opened her clinic at The Old Farmhouse in Button Bridge and set about building the reputation that brings clients from as far as Bromsgrove and Tenbury Wells. A visit to the clinic is a delight, with a room in the 16th century building converted as the clinic and tea or coffee offered when you arrive. If you can't travel easily, home visits are another part of the service; they account for 20 percent of the business.



It's a winning smile when you walk into the spotless clinic.

Her long nursing experience shows in the thoroughness of the examination every client gets. Like the full vascular check of the feet to check the blood flow; if there is any doubt of the suitability for treatment, she advises them to see their GP. Amongst the equipment she uses is a Doppler gauge to check the blood flow and she checks and records everyone's blood pressure. She also offers paraffin wax therapy, something she learned in Ukraine that has helped clients suffering with arthritis.

A foot bath is part of her standard procedure, using aromatic herbs in an anti-bacterial mix to which she adds

warm water before switching on a gentle agitation. This is also part of the service on home calls, which she says help those who have trouble reaching their feet, like the five clients over 100 years old.

I tried the experience for myself, and was surprised when she suggested I hadn't listed all the medicines I take. She was right, I had overlooked one and she detected its presence in my system during her examination of my feet. The foot bath makes cutting the nails easier and she examined each foot in detail before buffing the hard skin, tidying of the cuticles and the final touch of a cream massaged into the whole lower leg. It's a thorough check delivered with a touch of gentle luxury and you can see why her client list is growing every week. Irene aims to give each client an hour of her time and I can tell you that after 60 minutes my feet hadn't felt so good in years.

What do others think of her? Dorothy Tysull is full of praise: "We used to go to Pershore for a chiropodist, who did my feet and my husband's in half an hour. Irene takes an hour for each and charges the same! She is absolutely wonderful and I recommend her whenever I can"

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ANOTHER SUCCESS STORY

There's been a big change at the Sports and Social Club in the past 18 months. It started when an advert appeared for a new Club Steward in February 2015. There were resignations from the governing board and the need for new blood was evident. Andy Goolding was Vice Chairman then and resigned when he realised that he could do the job and change a place rather settled in its ways. He applied for and got the post, as Guy Turpin agreed to take over as Chairman. "I realised the club needed a strong personality as steward," explains Guy.

They've done a remarkable job in 15 months. "The first move was to put four benches out here at the front of the building," Guy recalls. "We decided our ethos was going to be to encourage families here, plus sports clubs and to promote community events."

So how well has that policy worked? "A 250 percent increase in turnover and the footfall has increased by 8,000 in a year," says Andy. So what have they done to generate that much support for the place?

"We refurbished or replaced the furniture, because it was looking tired, and Guy raised a donation to put a 50-inch TV in the bar. The best bit we'd like people to know is that we've earned a Five Star rating with Environmental Health."



Chairman Guy Turpin (left) and Steward Andy Goold. Happy with progress so far.

The Club is a not-for-profit organisation, so whatever profits they do generate are put back into the development of the place. Like a new water and heating system that feeds the new showers, plus the changing rooms have been refurbished. All done with a £7,000 grant from the Parish Council, match funded by a local business who covered the cost of PV panels on the roof that help generate

electricity. With the finances looking in better shape they've updated the lighting to LED - not cheap at this stage but saving on the bills in the long run. There's a new security system, too.

All of this work is the kind of common sense you apply to your own home or business to keep it up to date. But has it brought more people into the place? Andy reached for his diary at this stage: "In the year before we took over, there were 21 functions booked. In the nine months from us taking over there were 51 and this year so far, from January to July, we've had 44 functions." Question firmly answered.

There are 15 clubs using the place regularly and in the 15 months since the management changed, charity events have raised over £30,000. Opening hours have increased 46 percent, they employ 11 part-time staff and the wages paid to those people puts £45,000 into the community economy.

So where do they go from here? Guy: "Refurbishing the toilets is next and we're aiming to do food. But we can't pay someone to stand around, we'll do it when it's economical." Job well done so far.

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THE CLARION KEEPS ON GROWING

It seems that the bigger this thing gets, the more people want to get a copy. So with effect from this issue, we are printing 925 copies every month.

If it's a 64 page version, like this is, it means that Linda at Glint Print uses more than three quarters of an acre of paper. That figure comes from the editor, playing at being a nerd and multiplying up from an A3 sheet; what a pity he has nothing better to do. Linda tells us this quantity means she uses 2.25 litres of ink for each issue.

Another development this month is the appointment of two new distributors. Brian Link in Bayton suggested we should leave a batch in the church porch, then realised that there is work being done on the building for some months, so he volunteered to distribute around the village. Our grateful thanks to him for all his help.

Then Sue Moore at Coppice Lodge, the big campsite alongside the A4117 at Mawley, called. Could she have the Clarion for visitors to the area to learn what's going on and maybe come into town and spend a little cash into the local

economy? We'll be delivering there on the first day of the month. Thank you, Sue.

And thank you all our keen readers and the distributors who make these pages available to them. It would be nothing without you.

KUDOS BLENDS

That remarkable company up in the Old Station Business Park has another very special award coming its way. It's the Queen's Award for Enterprise: International Trade 2016 and on August 11th the Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire will be here to make the official presentation.

The success and growth of this company has been quite remarkable and is a tribute to the vision and determination of managing director Dinnie Jordan. The Clarion first spoke to her when the company occupied one modest unit, since when they've grown at a phenomenal rate. It's an inspiration to any young person with a bright idea and the energy to carry it forward.

BEWDLEY FESTIVAL

You should be able to pick up a programme for this year's Festival when you collect your Clarion - we're trying to get them into all our distributors.

It's become an established favourite attraction in the area, with an array of artists and interesting people to hear talk, sing, tell jokes or just chat and inform. This year there is quite a strong Cleobury Country flavour to the mixture.

David Tedham has an exhibition of his art in the Wyre Forest Gallery in the town museum throughout October. A lecturer at Stourbridge and Halesowen, he's a man with a wide range of expression and experience whose work should warrant close scrutiny. As you would expect of a lecturer, he's an easy man to talk to. Well worth a visit.

Preceding the Festival is Bewdley Book Week, running from September 5th to 11th with a series of talks in St George's Hall. Opening the week will be Cleobury resident Marline DeLargy, an unsung heroine of the literary world with her work as a translator of Nordic novels into English. So valuable is her contribution that she was awarded the Crime Writers' Association International Dagger in 2010 for her work on Johan Theorin's 'The Darkest Hour'. Modest, quiet and well worth listening to.

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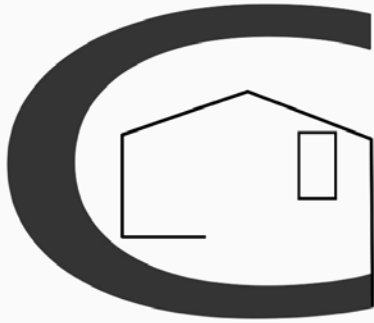
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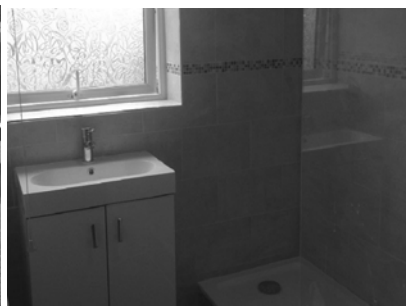
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THE DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE IS AUGUST 24th

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Residential Sales

The property market has seen a marked increase in activity since the beginning of the year. Various unrelated events such as elections, referendums and Stamp Duty Land Tax changes inevitably have an impact, but it is fair to say that there has been an increase in properties coming to the market, viewings and sales. Properties are achieving realistic prices and a number of agents are seeing levels of interest not seen for nearly a decade. Traditionally the market peaks in spring and autumn, however we are seeing a constant stream of both sellers and buyers getting in touch which can only bode well for the year to come.



Erica Hinwood MARLA
Office Manager

Residential Lettings

As we bask in the long, hot summer days, many of us will spend a lot of time in our gardens. But who's responsibility is it to keep a garden in good order when the property is rented? It's an issue which needs addressing right at the start of a tenancy. Ultimately, it's up to the landlord to decide who maintains the garden but the majority give responsibility to their tenants. However, if the garden requires a lot of upkeep, landlords might want to consider employing a gardener to keep on top of things.



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