

# The Cleobury Clarion

**SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY**

**August 2018**

## SUCCESS IN THE SUN



*A very happy Running Club committee: Ian Steele, Jo Watson, Andie Ford, Rachel Shields, Lindsey Tillsley and Lisa Bailey*

The first 10 kilometre race organised by Cleobury Mortimer Running Club took place in the town on July 1st.

Despite extreme temperatures, the sold out event welcomed almost 200 runners who took to the country lanes surrounding the town to battle the climbs, including the now infamous Ron Hill.

The first male runner welcomed back was Jamie Shingler from Ludlow in an excellent time of 37:58 and first

female was Jaydee Peters of Woking AC in 41:49.

Race Director, Ian Steele, commented: "We have had such a fantastic turnout from both the runners and all the supporters. We couldn't do this without the help from all our members of the club and their families who helped the event run smoothly.

"The club also want to thank everyone who helped by sponsoring the event and the local residents who showed real patience with the road closures, incredible support in cheering the runners on and providing them with much appreciated hosepipe showers.

"We keep receiving great feedback from people, which is a real buzz for the club and the 10k committee, and we look forward to running the same event in 2019."

*Lisa Bailey*

## OUR QUALITY COUNCIL

At the Town Council's July meeting there was a very special presentation by Katrina Baker MBE. She is the lady who chaired the panel that judged

the council's application to be nominated as a Quality Council.

It was quite a long process, about three months, when the council had to demonstrate their ability to communicate with the public and prove they had good policies and procedures. After a grilling at County Hall, the committee said they would recommend that our council be acknowledged as a Quality body



*Katrina Baker MBE, right, presents the certificate of a Quality Council to chair Debbie Brown and (from left) clerk Matt Sheehan and councillors Paul French and Jon Bodenham.*

**For more details, see the Town Council News on Page 61.**



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# The Cleobury Clarion, August 2018

## Volume Thirteen - Edition Five



*Classic cars on the church lawn?  
Must be Rock Church Fete  
See Page 17*



*When you see this hedge, turn  
left to Aardvark Books and Cafe  
See Page 45.*



*Phenomenal Fundraisers at our  
Golf Club, the Gaskells.  
See Page 57.*

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Nicholas Hughes on 01562 822295 or Wendy Beaumont on 01299 822033

## THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Cleobury Mortimer is holding another Food and Ale trail this year on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Since 2006 a team of volunteers have organised a Food and Ale Trail. The last in 2015 explored the area going south through the Shakenhurst estate - this time we go west in a loop that will include stops at Bransley, Hopton Wafers and Neen Savage before ending up at the Sports and Social Club. The formula is well established : we encourage families and occasional walkers by having refreshment stops at least every two miles and you can walk at a pace to enjoy the countryside and the views to Clee Hill. We give you detailed instructions and a map, and the route is waymarked and marshalled at key points.

Hobsons generously provide us with beer at the stops (soft drinks on offer as well) and we provide the best of local food, finishing with a hot course from the Spice Empire and music from the Ranters at the final stop. We welcome anybody who wants to join in this very sociable occasion - usually about 150 people walk. Pre -

booking is essential at the Cleobury Country Centre or online at [www.cleoburycountry.com](http://www.cleoburycountry.com) with adult tickets £15 and children under 12 £10 - to include food and drink at the four stopping points.

Despite the ground conditions, we managed to install a pedestrian gate at Sproseley to replace a wooden one which had rotted away. We expect the same conditions through the rest of the summer, so there will not be a work party in August.

NB There are no Parish Walks in August and September  
*Graham Simpson*

### CLEOBURY W.I.

The WI have been out and about in this wonderful summer.

In June, thanks to Jenny Vanderhook and Mike Williams there was an informative evening admiring meadow flowers and searching for bees and butterflies. Although later than butterflies are normally about, we did manage to spot one enjoying the late sunshine. Wild orchids, clover and other meadow flowers provided a stunning vista at The Old Forge. We then had a slide show of the butterflies and architecture of Thailand where Jenny and Mike visited with the Butterfly

Conservation Trust earlier this year. Some beautiful sights of the natural and manmade Thai world. Our trip on the Severn Valley Railway was a relaxing day enjoying the scenery and a lazy lunch by the river.

In July a visit to Wade Muggleton's permaculture garden in Stottesdon inspired ideas for including fruit and vegetables in the smallest of gardens. The next meeting will be a bring and share supper for members and visitors from Neen Savage WI with Clare in Heath Close. More information from me on 01299 270983 or on the Facebook page.

*Judy Sant*

### A POPPY WATERFALL

To celebrate the centenary of the First World War coming to an end, there is a drive to get a whole waterfall of red poppies flowing down the clock face at the Parish Church main tower.

Anyone is welcome to make a poppy, by knitting, crocheting, or crafting. You then bring them to the Friday craft group at the Market Hall between 10.30 and 12.00 noon and it will be added to the nets that will hang down the tower face.

A great idea to show the town's respect. Sarah Barnsley on 07837 126 827 can tell more.

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## HAVE YOU TRIED...

Billington's Gingerbread? It's a traditional Shropshire biscuit, originating in Market Drayton back in 1817. Baked then in Church Street, in premises still standing. Things don't change too quickly in Market Drayton, it seems.

It's a very pleasant little treat, which would go down well with ice cream or dunked in your morning coffee if you prefer. The potted history that came with my packet says that it was a local tradition with farmers to dunk theirs in a glass of port on market day. But then they had faithful old horses to pull the cart home without any need of sober guidance. Equine sat nav without the intrusive voice.

Stephanie's Kitchen in Church Street is the place to find it.

## CLOWS TOP

### GARDENING CLUB

Saturday August 18th is the date for our Summer Garden Show. It is open to anyone who likes to grow their own vegetables or flowers, making your own jams, cakes, biscuits, or handicraft and floral art skills. There's even a children's section, so something for all the family. It's in Clows Top Victory Hall with plenty of parking at the rear. Schedules are available from Clows Top

Shop, Colliers Farm Shop and Forest Stores. The Show opens at 2.00pm with an admission fee of £1.00.

There will be horticultural exhibits, refreshments, tombola, plant stall and other sideshows. Stall holders welcome; pre-book with Marion Wilson. A raffle will be held on the day and the cups will be presented at 4.00pm. All enquiries to Marion Wilson 01299 270475.

Our next meeting will be on August 22nd, when the speaker will be Tamsin Westhorpe with 'Top Tips for your Garden'.

Tamsin has over 20 years' gardening experience and was previously editor of the "English Garden" magazine. She is now Head Gardener at Stockton Bury Gardens, near Leominster. If anyone would like to attend, please come along, Garden Club will be pleased to see you, only £4 admission.

*Pauline Bowen*

## FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S

An afternoon tea party at Hopton Court, (by kind permission of Mr & Mrs Chris Woodward), is our next event on August 5<sup>th</sup> at 3pm.

We have Mrs Christine Holmes, a former High Sheriff of Shropshire, as our guest speaker

who will talk about her work and answer any questions.

Tickets are £15, available from Mrs Angela Drennan (01299 270636) or from members of The Friends' committee.

Further ahead is the welcome return of The Kidderminster Male Choir, singing in Saint Mary's Church on September 7<sup>th</sup>. The concert will also include a performance by The Ludford Duo, Cleobury cellists Ian and Janet Ludford, who have performed throughout the Midlands. With an extensive repertoire, they bring a wealth of professional experience.

*Alex Osbaldiston*

## CREATIVE WRITING

Six creatives met on July 9th to sip non alcoholic champagne courtesy of Diane Waddington and admit that only three had met the agreed task. No matter, we were as sociable and chatty as ever.

This month's poser is to write no more than 1,000 words, using 'triangle', 'sommambulist' and 'green' in a context that includes extremes - the author to choose just which extreme is appropriate. At some time we'll have to find the dictionary and see what sommambulist means before our August 13th meeting.

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**CLEOBURY'S SCOUTS**  
Chris Hughes explains what the Scouting movement means to a community like ours.

On the eve of the Festival, Cleobury Mortimer 1st Scouts gave up their Friday night and were out and about tidying up the church gardens in preparation for our special day. They sincerely hope that you enjoyed their hard work and also saw us on the field during the day. In earning their community badge, the Scouts will be undertaking lots more activities over the next few months in and around the town, making it a better place for us all. Look out for us and come and say hello if you see us out and about.



*"It's not all hard work."*

Although looking after our community is an important and traditional value of Scouting, it is not all hard work. Recently the Scouts have embarked on several camps, day and night hikes, kayaking, sailing, raft building and shooting. They have also met and grilled our local MP too. Term isn't even over yet, there is more to come.

Cleobury 1st Scout group is made up of different sections covering ages from 6 to 18 with over 40 boys and girls benefitting from it. In order to continue to support our local children we are looking for help. We are entirely run by volunteers and are currently looking for leaders for all age groups, executive committee members, donations and of course Scouts. This is a great opportunity to have some fun, have amazing experiences, meet great people and be part of the development of the future of the town. You don't need to have any previous experience and all training will be provided. Everyone has a skill they can share. Any time that you can spare will be greatly appreciated.

To get in contact with us, email [DDC\\_South@shropshiresevernandtemescouts.org.uk](mailto:DDC_South@shropshiresevernandtemescouts.org.uk)

#Scouts #Skillsforlife  
Chris Hughes

**THE CARERS' CLUB**

Janet and Chris Manley welcomed local carers to their Tenbury Road garden once more for a Tea Party in June. The Clarion arrived a little late from another interview, but there was a happy atmosphere of an event that went well, everyone smiling if a little tired. In the kitchen was a new face; Cecilia is manager of the Shrewsbury based Care Trust For All that supports carers' groups and helps to arrange the basic items like insurance. She was well impressed with what she found here, particularly the people and their enthusiasm.

The object of the day was to raise funds for the Club's work and after counting all the pennies it was £300 better off. What you'd call a good day.

**SILLY BITS**

**"I predict the Internet will soon go spectacularly supernova and in 1996 catastrophically collapse."**  
Bob Metcalfe, speaking in 1995.

**"It's in our country's interest to find those who would do us harm and get them out of harm's way."**  
George W Bush 2005



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## **BANK ROBBER JAILED**

One man of the gang of five who robbed Lloyds Bank's Cleobury branch in December 2015 has been brought to trial and jailed for four years.

Jason Pallas, aged 40 and from Leeds, was traced by Automatic Registration Numberplate Recognition cameras travelling from Leeds to the Cleobury area and back to Leeds after the robbery. His DNA was also found on the tailgate of the burnt out getaway vehicle, which was found in Gloucestershire. No other members of the gang have been traced.

The ATM that was torn out of the wall using a stolen digger contained about £25,000. The total cost of the raid and the damage it involved, was estimated at £105,000.

## **JILLY'S BIG BRAVE SHAVE**

Jill Pottinger is doing something very brave in public on August 16th. She'll be in the King's Arms at 7.30 to have her head shaved!

All in memory of her father John Cope, who ran a great butcher's shop that made Gold Medal winning pies. John died of prostate cancer after working for years to raise funds to help

the fight against this horrible disease.

Jill's theme is that she's being Bold by getting Bald. She works as the office manager at Wolverley Surgery, who are 100 percent behind her.

There will be a raffle on the night and already local businesses have promised prizes. Hobson's are backing her as well, putting a poster up outside the pub two weeks before the big event.

This is a really brave thing for a young woman to do, losing her hair. It will win her respect and remind us what a fine man her dad was. You can make a donation on her Just Giving page: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/JillPottinger>. All proceeds will go to Prostate Cancer UK

## **THANK YOU**

The Cleobury Mortimer Macmillan fundraising group would like to say a huge thank you to all who supported our tombola at the Mawley Town Open Day. Those who came and had a go, those who donated soft toys and the Robinson family for inviting us to hold it. We raised £318 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Thank you all very much.  
*Sue Henderson*

## **DODDINGTON IN FASHION**

We're up to something, here on the hill, working on our project, *Honouring the Past - a Light for the Future* which we launched at our concert at the end of June. We were very grateful to all the performers there, a fabulous event.

There's no hold-up in our Event-a-Month programme. Strawberry Teas in July were popular, a chance for people to catch up with friends and enjoy delicious food. Thanks to all who contributed and came along.

Our August event sees the catwalk come to Clee: Bon Marché is bringing a Fashion Show to Doddington Village Hall on August 17th at 7.00pm. Tickets are £5 including refreshments and available from me or on the door (subject to availability). And book 20<sup>th</sup> October in your diary for our Auction of Promises; we have some great lots lined up and will soon be producing a catalogue. If you would like to offer a lot (an item or a promise), please contact me on 01584 318036.

*Celia Gibb*



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## **BROWN CLEE PATIENT GROUP**

Consultation is taking place about the reorganisation of services at Shrewsbury and Telford hospitals. To learn more, there are booklets at Ditton Priors and Stottesdon surgeries and online at [www.nhsfuturefit.org](http://www.nhsfuturefit.org).

From July 17th calls to the Out Of Hours services are going to 111 call handlers. Shropdoc doctors will do the home visits and staff the OOH walk-in centres.

Midwife Led Units in Bridgnorth and Ludlow now only provide antenatal and postnatal clinics. There are hopes of developing the rural MLUs into Family Centres where all children in a family can be seen together.

Brown Clee GPs are promoting activity to maintain good health. Also planned is a 'Falls Prevention' event.

The Men in Sheds group meets on the first Thursday of the month, 10.30 to 12.00 at Botwood Farm, Ditton Priors. New members welcome.

Six patients are receiving Companionship Compassionate Communities visits from trained volunteers. If you would like to

become a volunteer, please contact the surgery.

Ditton Surgery will close for two days when the car park is re-surfaced. Dates to be announced; patients will be seen at Stottesdon.

For more information about the work of the Patient Group, please contact Tins Ranson on 07790 230038.

## **ROCK PATHFINDERS**

Once more Rock Pathfinders are heading out into our wonderful countryside with a blend of local and distant walks. They start the month on the 2nd, with a rendezvous at the Mill Street and Crabtree Road car park in Kington, HR5 3UE on your satnav or SO map reference 295565. 10.30 start, bring a packed lunch as there is no pub base for the day and enjoy the Herefordshire scenery. Everyone welcome.

On the 16th they stay local, meeting at the popular Colliers' Arms on Tenbury Road, again for a 10.30 start. DY14 9HA if you need your satnav, or SO reference 725722. No packed lunch necessary this time - the food at the Colliers is renowned.

Alan on 01299 400304 can tell you more if you visit [www.rockpathfinders.16b.com](http://www.rockpathfinders.16b.com)

## **A LIVELY CHILDREN'S TREAT AT THE LIBRARY**

On Friday August 10th the Library plays host to one of Mark Bardsley's "Illustration and Poetry" mornings. It features live cartooning and poetry reading, aimed at younger children, who will appreciate his way of drawing and talking to amuse them.

It starts at 11.00 and runs through until 12.30. Admission is free and when the show's over you can buy Mark's new book 'Crazy Animal Poems'.

This sounds like a really fun morning for the children, who respond to live drawing and love the fun of silly poems. And it's free to get in - marvellous!

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Little Lakes Leisure Ltd: Part time office assistant	Friday 9-5, Saturday & Sunday 10-4 General clerical duties, answering the phone and dealing with park members on a daily basis	Please contact: Park@littlakesleisure.co.uk Tel: 01299 266400

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**For more details and job description. call Val on 01299 270830**



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**Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service is committed to equality and diversity at work. We positively welcome applications from disabled people and minority groups who are under-represented in our Service.**



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## ROCK CHURCH FETE



*Classic vehicles in front of an ancient church do seem at home. An Austin-Healey 3000-6 next to a Porsche Carrera-4.*

It's one of those events that just confirms summer is here. Games and dancing demonstrations on the church lawn, stalls inside and outside the church with the refreshments busy all the time, and an array of classic cars that park neatly, rather like a mechanical chorus line behind the stars of the day.

Not that cars cannot be stars. An Austin Healey 3000-6, surely one of the most elegant cars from that famous factory, had been completely rebuilt and looked splendid next to Ray Young's Porsche Carrera.

The Healey owner explained that Donald Healey had realised the Austin factory had a lot of engines for the remarkably ugly A90 Atlantic standing unused

and suggested that he could design a sports car to use them up. From that rescue mission the legend grew, an ugly cygnet growing to be an elegant swan.

Ray Blount's lovely 1953 Morgan Plus Four caught the eye, a car he's owned since 2001, but does admit it's not an easy drive in today's traffic. "I took it to Blenheim recently and it was a 140 miles round trip. Hard work," he told us.

Bewdley based Zennor's Dance and Musical Theatre Company showed their prowess when a number could not attend and the young dancers adapted to put on a flawless show. It was an example of grace combined with discipline and richly deserved the applause they were given.



*When the skittles stall was not busy, it made sense for two keen youngsters to have a free go.*

Wyre Forest MP Mark Garnier is a regular at this friendly event and was here again. It was a chance to relax, chat with local people and get away from the pressure of life in Westminster. He smiled a lot, clearly at home.

At the end of the day a lot of people walked out smiling and Rock Church had benefited to the tune of £1400. It was a brief day well spent.

### A SPECIAL REQUEST

We have had a request to ask the people that regularly enjoy a Kentucky Fried Chicken in the Green Lane/Walfords Bridge/Blackberry Lane area to please take their rubbish home. And if you don't want to eat the baked beans, then don't order them!

Some people.....

### COUNTY COUNCIL

#### SURGERY

Madge Shingleton and Gwilym Butler, our County Councillors, have a surgery in the Market Hall from 9.00 to 11.00 on Saturday the 4th this month.

No appointment needed, you just walk in, wait your turn and discuss any matter with one of the people who represent us at the County's headquarters.

#### SILLY BIT

**Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.**

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## BUY-FROM SHROPSHIRE

This is a young company with a mission, offering small businesses a range of services that will take away many headaches. Born out of a passion for small business, Buy-From Shropshire is an associate of the national Buy-From marketing agency, but manager Lindsey Rollings operates quite independently.

She has a good background, having previously been Events Manager of the Ludlow Food Festival. That gave her a huge list of contacts and good business experience to help start-ups deal with what can be a daunting range of jobs. "These are people who have gone into business because they have a great talent or a really good idea," she explains. "They want to do what they know best and we can help them."

The concept is really rather simple: become a member of Buy-From Shropshire for £16 a month and benefit from marketing advice, retail support, and opportunities and networking meetings as well as an online presence on the Buy-From Shropshire website. They are building up a chain of Buy-From Shropshire displays in shops and other outlets, which gives smaller businesses access to retail. So far they have the British Ironworks Centre, Acton Scott and Ludlow Castle on board. Being on a shared basis, the price is one that a small business can afford.

This business of bringing maker and customer together is what Lindsey calls "Us sitting in the middle and joining the dots." It's also a common sense

idea that has persuaded 100 people to sign up, with others signing up on a daily basis

Both companies have offices in Grainger and Worrall's Marches Centre of Manufacturing at Bridgnorth and Lindsey doesn't have a nine-to-five attitude to the telephone - her customers are vital.

One very good service is a closed network on-line forum for members only. A place where you can exchange information about sources and even how a business is paying its bills. Vital information for a start-up.



*Lindsey Rollings, county-wide manager for Buy-From Shropshire.*

They can help with using social media - a vital activity in today's business atmosphere - and have recently set up a Food and Drink Hub to get people in the hospitality business talking to one another.

One aspect that came over strongly when we talked is that simple truth and logic drives the growth. They won't make silly promises and have unrealistic expectations if you are a business novice. Not revolution, more nurture and evolution.

What do others think of Buy-From Shropshire? Clare Todd at Clebury Country knows her

well and told us: "She's very enthusiastic, hard working and would really like to see Shropshire succeed." And do you think she'll succeed? "Yes."

Rachel Robinson at Mawley Milk is another fan. "They're great," she told us. "It's a good way of bringing business heads together. Lots of opportunities and they're very supportive."

Lindsey recently supported a trade event for Mawley Milk as part of their Buy-From Shropshire membership, which brought no less than 70 people in the trade to their premises. That level of success is a great support for any business.

Lindsey is on 07854 170 307 or 01746 769351

## DODDINGTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

At our July meeting John Turrell spoke about Children's Traditional Games and Rhymes. A fascinating talk about the games we played and the rhymes we recited, it brought back many memories of our childhood and things we had forgotten about.

We plan just one meeting in August, on Tuesday the 14th at 2.00, when we are having a cream tea and entertainment. Do come along to the Village Hall, visitors and new members are always welcome.

*Alison Osborne*

### SILLY BITS

- 1. If at first you don't succeed, sky diving is not for you.**
- 2. Before you criticise someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you speak, they'll be a mile away and you'll have their shoes.**
- 3. Never test the depth of water with both feet.**



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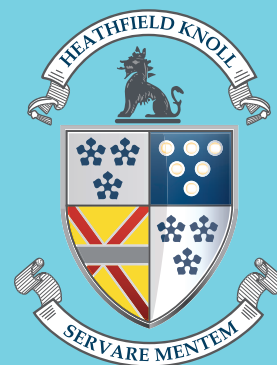
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Twenty to thirty years ago, small companion animals such as rabbits and guinea pigs were not regularly seen at veterinary practices, but in the last twelve years there has been an increase in the number of small pets being brought to the vets. We also see an ever increasing variety, but why is this?

Perhaps in this day and age, people are so busy they may find the prospect of caring for a cat or dog too time consuming, so they opt out fearing they may not be able to offer the pet the attention it needs. However, small animals offer people companionship and something to care for but they do not necessarily require as much time and attention as a dog or cat. Also, with advances in veterinary medicine, more is known about our small furry friends and how to care for them.

So, have you ever considered a smaller pet but cannot decide which one would be best? Why not visit Severn Edge Veterinary Group and speak to a nurse who can offer advice to help you choose the right pet for you and your circumstances. For example, if you have children maybe the choice should not be the nocturnal hamster that your children insist on digging out of his nice comfy bed; he will be bad tempered by being woken up during the day then seek revenge by spinning in his squeaky wheel all night keeping the children awake. Instead perhaps think of the diurnal little gerbil, a native desert animal that drinks very little, so passes less urine and does not need the twice weekly cleaning out that

some other small pets may require. This may be a sure selling point to a child responsible for the care of the pet.

The days of owning just a dog or cat have gone and there is a definite increase in the number of pet rabbits in the UK, making them the third most popular pet. Severn Edge have taken a special interest in rabbit medicine. Rabbits are never deterred by the weather, they play come rain or shine. Rabbits make great pets for all ages providing company and entertainment. They can live indoors or outdoors and are no longer viewed as a boring pet sitting in a hutch at the bottom of the garden.

So which pet would you choose? A rabbit, guinea pig, rat, hamster, gerbil, chinchilla, mouse or ferret or would you choose to be a little more exotic with a degu, a chipmunk or a sugar glider?



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## HELP MAKE THIS A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY TOWN

**Councillor Jon Bodenham outlines plans to improve life for dementia sufferers:**

Cleobury is a very friendly town, no argument. But is it a Dementia Friendly Town?

“A town where people with Dementia are understood, respected and supported, and confident they can contribute to community life. In a dementia friendly community people will be aware of and understand dementia and people with dementia will feel included and involved, and have choice and control over their daily lives” – Alzheimer’s Society.

In practice this means people with dementia can find their way around and be safe, access local facilities such as banks, post offices, shops, cafés and pubs and maintain their social networks so they continue to belong

A new Care Home, Cleobury Hills run by Capulet Care will soon be opening, with a specialism in complex needs, particularly Dementia. As a town we need to be ready to welcome these people and their families as well as those already affected by dementia. Capulet

Care and the volunteer steering group can offer awareness sessions to become Dementia Friends and free assessments of local businesses and organisations.

If you are a public facing organisation in our community, or just want to help out ensuring we join a growing number of Dementia Friendly Towns in the country, then please get in touch with the leader of this project, Head of Living Well at Capulet Care, Caron Rogers [wellbeingmanager@capuletcare.co.uk](mailto:wellbeingmanager@capuletcare.co.uk)

You can ask to join our volunteer steering group which will have its first meeting on Monday September 3rd at 11.00am, in Cleobury Country Centre, or just ask to be kept informed.

The project is fully supported by Cleobury Town Council, Cleobury Patients Voice and Cleobury Compassionate Communities. *Jon Bodenham*

### THE SOROPTIMISTS

Kidderminster SI is now 70 years young. A celebratory luncheon took place in the restaurant of Spring Grove House in the West Midland Safari Park.

Our club was chartered in 1948 with our first President Miss V.G

Stuart, a matron at the General Hospital. Since then our membership has reflected a diversity of local occupations. In 1966 we supported the charter of our daughter club: SI Bromsgrove and Redditch and since 1967 we have maintained a very active Friendship Link with SI Heidelberg in Germany. Members of both clubs have enjoyed the friendship and fellowship of many visits and we were delighted to have four of their members plus partners sharing our celebration.

Our speaker was Gillian Cain, one of the first women to train at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst and then the first woman to serve with The Royal Green Jackets. Since retiring from the army, Gillian has become a sought-after speaker and her informative and highly entertaining talk: “It’s A Girl’s Life in the Army” was proof of that.

Our President Sue Merrill’s motto for her year of office: “The Next Generation” seems very appropriate and we hope that our club’s continued efforts will ensure that SI Kidderminster will be celebrating many more happy anniversaries.

*Elke Jury*



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## THE CLEOBURY FESTIVAL

**Councillor Paul French writes about future plans:**

The Festival Volunteers Group would like to thank all those who made June 23rd a special day for the community. The Group had in mind to improve on the 2017 event and all comment and coverage seem to indicate this was the case.

By the time you read this we will have met to discuss how we should proceed for 2019 and to set a date for next year. The group is a small one - under 15 in number - who meet regularly to plan and organise the day. We are supported by volunteers and are most grateful to them.

If we are to continue with the event we need more people to help us within the group and as volunteers. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity please use the contact details below.

We particularly wish to have representatives from the business community on the working group to have innovative ideas to make next year even better. If you want to have a say in what we do, or want to promote your business please, come along and help

decide what the Festival will look like in 2019.

*Paul French*

*Festival Volunteers Group*

01299 270010 or 07808 682715

## CATHERTON COMMON UPDATE

With the wetter habitats of Catherton being some of the most valuable parts of the common I wanted to continue where I left off last month. The wet flushes are all protected with Sites of Special Scientific Interest status. I mentioned Catherton being the only site in the West Midlands for the Keeled Skimmer dragonfly, with its powder blue body.

The other rarity, Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary butterfly is short lived, only flying from early June to the start of July. They lay their eggs on marsh violets and sip nectar from marsh thistle. I spotted a few of each amongst the clouds of moths and other insects. Other particularly beautiful specimens are two damselflies, Large Red and Beautiful Demoiselle.

There are also many small but rare and beautiful plants in these secluded spots including carpets of bog pimpernel, sundew and yellow clouds of bog asphodel.

There are still places on our doorstep to see something special.

*Clive Dean*

SWT Reserves officer south

## BREAKFAST CLUB

A reporter from BBC's Radio Shropshire was staying in the Talbot overnight, and had offered to say a few words to members before the main speaker at our July meeting. In the absence of the main speaker, this expanded to fill the normal 25-minute slot. The man who came to the rescue: James Bond!

Mr Bond explained that Radio Shropshire feels that Cleobury's remoteness means we aren't getting the attention we deserve. The proliferation of TV and radio channels since the war has eroded the BBC's position, but surveys confirm it is widely regarded as authoritative and reliable.

Many people only tune in to one station (often a national one), and thus fail to benefit from the excellent local coverage which BBC Radio Shropshire provides. Mr Bond encouraged everyone to tune into Radio Shropshire from time to time, and to recall that local radio furnishes excellent information.

*Mark Baldwin*

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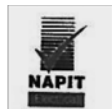
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Parliament is in recess for all of August, so MPs tend to fit in a family holiday as well as much as we can in our constituencies before the House of Commons resumes in September.

For me, this is a wonderful time to take in the beauty of South Shropshire, as I spend much time driving across the constituency, meeting constituents and attending events.

As I predicted, much Parliamentary time in 2018 has been taken up by Brexit. So the summer break also offers the chance to reflect, without the pressure cooker effect of Westminster.

For school pupils and university students, I am sure this month will also provide some welcome respite from studies, particularly so if we have good weather.

I suspect and hope that the unusually warm weather over the past two months will have encouraged many people to consider taking their holiday in the UK, which should stand Shropshire in good stead.

In South Shropshire we welcome over five million tourists throughout the year - especially in the summer visiting our popular local festivals and shows. Our food and drink offer is exceptional, with produce on display at agricultural shows at Burwarton and Burford as well as fetes in many villages. Our fantastic farm shops, specialist food shops, pubs and restaurants also attract visitors. Next month's annual Ludlow Food Festival attracts thousands of visitors from across the country.

The Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is also a particular draw to South Shropshire, attracting many walkers and cyclists. With Offa's Dyke running inside the Welsh border to the west, and the Jack Mytton Way, starting in

Cleobury Mortimer and stretching over some 100 miles of glorious countryside, South Shropshire has much to offer those who like to walk.

Tourism helps to maintain, both directly and indirectly, over 5,000 full time equivalent jobs in the Ludlow Constituency. So with fine weather providing added incentive, I hope we will see more people coming to our area to enjoy the stunning scenery and local life, and ultimately, growing our local economy and providing employment.

For those wanting inspiration for a holiday in Britain, information and ideas are available on the VisitBritain website, at [www.visitbritain.com](http://www.visitbritain.com). I shall be going to Scotland with my family.

If you are venturing overseas this summer, please consider the importance of travel insurance. I was concerned to learn recently that a large number of British travellers are still going abroad without adequate travel insurance, risking thousands of pounds of expenses should they experience any difficulties while overseas. If you are unsure how to choose the right travel insurance, there is help and advice available at [www.gov.uk/guidance/foreign-travel-insurance](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/foreign-travel-insurance).

The Foreign Office also provides advice for travelling to different countries around the world, including best Consulate contacts for emergencies, and advice on how to ensure your trip is safe. This can be accessed via <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>.

Whatever your plans for the summer, I hope you have a chance to take a break and enjoy some time off, whether at home or abroad.

*Philip Dunne*

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## **Cleobury Mortimer Benefice**

### **Services, Events and Activities throughout the Benefice—August**

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

**Services:** 5th-8.30am Said Eucharist & 11.00am The Eleven O Clock Service.

12th, 19th & 26th-8.30am Said Eucharist & 9.45am Parish Eucharist.

#### **Events/Activities:**

**Benefice Service**-Sunday 12th. All welcome to the annual Summer Benefice Service at 9.45am.

**Farmers Market**-Saturday 18th. In and around St Mary's Church, 9.30am-12.30pm.

**Friends of St Mary's Afternoon Tea at Hopton Court**-Sunday 5th 2.30pm. Tickets £15.00 now on sale from Anglea Drennan 270636.

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

**Services:** 5th-10.00am Eucharist, 12th-No service, 19th-10.00am Matins, 26th-6.30pm Evensong.

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

**Services:** 5th-No service, 12th-No service, 19th-6.30pm Evensong, 26th-9.00am Eucharist.

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

**Services:** 5th-10.00am Eucharist, 12th-No service, 19th-10.00am Family Service, 26th-10.00am Eucharist.

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

**Services:** 5th-No service, 12th-No service, 19th-No service, 26th-3.00pm Evening Prayer.

**Events/Activities:** Friday 17th, 7.00pm at Doddington Village Hall, Bon Marche Fashion Show.

The popular chain bring their latest fashions to us, for more details contact Tel: 01584 318036. Tickets £5.00.

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

**Services:** 5th-No service, 12th-No service, 19th-No service, 26th-11.00am Family Service.

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

**Services:** 5th-No service, 12th-No service, 19th-11.00am Eucharist, 26th-No service.

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

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

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## **WALKERS ARE WELCOME**

There are 'Walkers Are Welcome' signs around the town and a range of signs appeared recently in the Market Hall and at the Library. Val Simpson explains.

We became an accredited Walkers Are Welcome town in 2008 but this is the first time we have loaned the wall hanging for our town festival in July. Each panel was sewn by volunteers in the relevant town, ours by Catherine Evans. There was so much interest when five panels were displayed in the Parish Hall that Council chairman Debbie Brown asked for it to be moved to the library for more people to see. It was not needed by another town so went there for a further five days.

Being accredited as a WAW town helps our reputation as a destination for visitors, and also brings benefits to the local economy, encouraging the town to view walkers as an economic asset. We are lucky that the Footpath Association has supported WAW in the last 10 years, through our miles of open and well maintained paths. The town council has written the

role of WAW and CMFA into the emerging town plan, which has led to changes being considered by the council for signage of paths leading into our town.

Further information and stickers to display "Walkers Are Welcome" on business premises are available from me on CM 270655 *Val Simpson*

## **THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB**

From July 27th, Chinny's Mobile Fish and Chips will be parked on the Social Club car park every Friday and Saturday between 6.00 and 10.00pm. This is a local family business cooking fish and chips using old fashioned methods. Fancy a chippy tea? You know where to come!

The annual Clubfest will take place on August 18th starting at 1.00. There will be local bands playing, as well as local food, stalls, the ever popular Mr Tee's ice cream, a raffle and the final of Cleobury's Got Talent. This is a family fun day with everyone welcome to come and join in - we hope to see you there.

August 4th sees the Cricket Club play Luctonians, on August 11th they play Goodrich and on August 25th they play Brockhampton. All matches start

at 1.00. On August 12th the Rugby Club will play the Cricket Club; match starts at 2.00.

On August 5th the Club will be having a 'Clean Up Day,' starting at 9.00am, when we will be giving the interior and exterior a general sprucing. We are looking for willing volunteers to come and help, so if you have the odd hour you could give us, it would be much appreciated.

It's a Bank Holiday weekend on Monday, August 27th. If the weather is looking kind, the Club will open at 3pm.

The Stroke Support Group will meet at 2pm on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> August. Please contact Katja Jones at the Medical Centre for more details.

And finally, the Ale Trail will be finishing at the Social Club on September 1st.

For more details and information, please contact our Steward, Gemma Canty on 01299 271448 or via our Facebook page.

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## The August Clarion Social Calendar

## Part One

Wed 1 <sup>st</sup>	10.00	Walking for Health visits Clee Hill. Transport provided	Alan Kimber	CM 271 754
	1.00	Free NHS Hearing Aid service and advice. St Mary's Place, Love Lane		
	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall. Good parking facilities	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup>		GREEN GARDEN WASTE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders walk out from Kington, Herefordshire. PAGE 13		
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00	First Dementia Friendly meeting, Cleobury Country Centre. PAGE 23		
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	8.00am	Sale of Household Goods, Knowle Sports Club, Clee Hill.		
	9.00	County Councillor's Surgery, Market Hall. No appointment needed.		
	1.00	CM Cricket Club play Luctonians at home. PAGE 31		
Sun 5 <sup>th</sup>	9.00	Clean Up Day at the Sports & Social Club. Volunteers wanted. PAGE 31		
	3.00	Afternoon Tea Party at the lovely Hopton Court. PAGE 7	Angela	CM 270 636
	6.00	Open Mic Night at the King's Arms, Church Street. Acoustic only		
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup>	7.00	Cleobury Town Council meet at Cleobury Country Centre, Love Lane		
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall. Affordable social occasion		
	8.00	The Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street		
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 11 <sup>th</sup>		Coach outing to Rhyl	Mrs Gregory	01584 891464
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup>	11.00	"Illustration & Poetry" morning at the Library for kids, free admission. PAGE 13		
Mon 13 <sup>th</sup>	6.30	Creative Writing Group meet in the Library, Love Lane. PAGE 7		
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00	Walking for Health visit Arley. Transport provided	Alan Kimber	CM 271 754
	8.00	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders gather at the Colliers Arms, Tenbury Road. PAGE 13		
	7.30	Jilly's Big Brave Shave at the King's Arms. PAGE 11		
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.00	Fashion Show at Doddington Church. PAGE 11	Celia Gibb	01584 318036
	7.00	Neen Savage WI Chees and Wine Party. Everyone welcome. PAGE 35		
Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	9.30	Cleobury Country Farmers Market, in & around St Mary's Church		
	1.00	Clubfest at the Sports & Social Club, Love Lane. PAGE 31		
	2.00	Clows Top Summer Garden Show, Victory Hall. PAGE 7	Marion	CM 270 475

### CLEOBURY CONCERT BRASS - ANAPPEAL

Rehearsals have now started for the National Finals in September, the piece is called 'Episodes for Brass' by Gareth Churcher and has all the makings of a good competition piece.

We are still hoping for some more donations to our 'Finals Fund' and look forward to hearing from anybody or any business that might be able to help us.

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Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.00	Coco Coffee Morning, Market Hall, Church Street		
	7.30	Clows top Garde Club, Victory Hall. PAGE 7	Marion Wilson	cm 270 475
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup>		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	Bingo Night, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup>		BANK HOLIDAY, RELAX.....		
	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poet's Society meet in the library.....		
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>		Stroke Support Group meet at the Sports & Social Club. PAGE 31		
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup>		GREEN GARDEN WASTE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.30	Bingo Night, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
		AND LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER.....		
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup>		The food & Ale Trail draws walkers from all over to enjoy our countryside. PAGE 5		
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup>	11.00	Dementia Friends Group meet in Cleobury Country Centre. PAGE 23		
Wed 5 <sup>th</sup>	8.00	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup>		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		

### THE FOOD AND ALE TRAIL

As this very popular event is on September 1st, when our next issue hits the streets, this is the time to give it a good push and remind everyone who enjoys a walk in the countryside what an excellent day it is. A real family day, it will take you out towards Neen Savage before coming back to the Sports and Social Club on Love Lane, so no parking problems for those travelling in. Food and drink stops along the way, Spice Empire food and more drinks at the end and music to serenade those who make it back and just want to sit awhile and rest.

Tickets from the Cleobury Country Centre on Love Lane.

### THE POPPY WATERFALL

Such a lovely idea. Make a poppy from whatever red material you have and it will be part of a cascade of red down from the Parish Church tower to remind us all of the sacrifice made by so many people in the Great War from 1914-18. If you want to make a donation as well, that will go towards buying further nets from which the poppies will hang. More from Sarah Barnsley on 07837 126 827.

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**NEEN SAVAGE W.I.**

At the end of June Neen Savage WI attended another successful Scarecrow Convention, gaining a Highly Commended rosette, whilst Sandra and Audrey did a sterling job running the Cake Stall. I hadn't realised how competitive some members are until they took part in the Marble Challenge!

On the July 11th a small group visited Pams Pools, a permaculture and wildlife smallholding near Bridgnorth. We toured the garden and orchard, where Pam manages to grow peaches, apricots, lemons and kiwi fruit as well as all the conventional orchard fruits! We didn't have enough time to explore the entire 50 acre site which is managed under the umbrella of Shropshire Wildlife Trust. Well worth a visit if you get the chance.

This year our summer fundraiser is a Cheese and Wine Party on August 17th, 7.00 to 10.00pm at the home of Jayne and Gareth Leach in Larks Rise. Tickets £10 each from the Committee or the Severn Hospice Shop. Proceeds will be shared between Neen Savage WI and the Cleobury Mortimer Stroke Support Group. Everyone is very welcome to

come along on the evening but please buy tickets in advance so we can cater for you all.

Looking forward to September we are sure to make a big noise as we take part in a drumming workshop! Come along and have a go on Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm at Neen Savage Parish Hall. For more details please contact our President, Sandra Dodd, 01299 271563.

*Catherine Evans*

**THE READING GROUP**

'Stargazing' by Peter Hill. Memoirs of his life as a relief lighthouse keeper in the early 1970s, when he was nineteen. A light, amusing tale recalling a now extinct way of life. The majority of the group really enjoyed this biography. Of the rest, one thought it was rather self-indulgent, another found it just didn't appeal. Most of Peter's postings were on remote islands off the coast of Scotland. We thought his descriptions both informative and delightful. His cultural references and musical tastes, struck a chord of nostalgia with several folk, including partners of group members.

His way of life changed quite rapidly whilst learning to live with the regular keepers. These

various companions were a fascinating bunch of people and we felt we would like to have met them. Would recommend, maybe a good holiday read.

We have two months to read 'H is for Hawk', by Helen MacDonald, our next book. We meet on September 17<sup>th</sup>, when we hope to remember how well we got on with it.

*Deana Kimber 271754*

**NEW FACE ON THE MARKET**

Good to see a cheese specialist joining the line-up at the Farmers' Market. Whey More are from Stroud and specialise in lesser known types, like Saint Antoine Comte. This product of the Jura Massif region in France uses unpasteurised cows milk and has a nutty, smokey flavour. It is rated in the top 62 cheeses in the world.

I also tried Lanark Blue, which has been described as Scotland's answer to Roquefort. A soft goat's milk variety with blue veining, it has a very rich tangy flavour that I loved. Must buy more at the next market.

Good to see such a specialist travelling this far to spread their reputation. Take a look at their big selection at the August market on the 18th. *JR*



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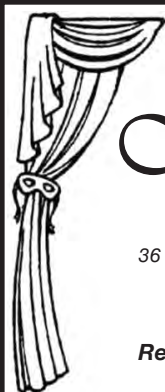


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Nothing from the Transport Commissioner yet on the decisions taken following the Public Enquiry into Diamond. He said at the time that he was required to produce these within 28 days of the hearing and had not failed yet. As the Enquiry was held on 21<sup>st</sup> June and I am writing this on 23<sup>rd</sup> July, he has now. Apparently he is 'still working on it' so we shall see whether there will be anything to include next month.

The 292 service seems to be performing well subject to a few teething troubles. These are largely related to the time table which has little slack and concern has been expressed by several passengers that although the vehicles are much more lively than the Diamond offerings, the timetable is so tight that drivers have to use all the performance available to stay on time (as a comparison, Diamond usually build in a 'buffer' of about 7 minutes at each end of the route). The times were set by Worcestershire Council to ensure that the service ran at exactly two hour intervals but it might be worth considering a slight relaxation to ensure that the drivers are not flat out all the time. I gather that in one instance a passenger had her arm trapped in the door as it closed too promptly and this

may also be the result of the tight timescale. As the service is to be reviewed in August, that might be the time to look at this.

Apart from this, most people I have spoken to are pleased with the much quicker trip to Kiddy and the fact that the £1 charge no longer applies to the 08.54 service. This should never have been levied and it is sad that the correction had to wait until a more 'straightforward' operator took over. Perhaps Shropshire Council could invoice Diamond for the wrongly charged sums which must run into thousands by now although this is a vanishingly small prospect. One driver was charging in error at one point but I understand that this is now sorted (but let me know if it is still happening). It would appear that passenger numbers are increasing and the numbers from R&B are as follows: April (two weeks only): 1655, May: 3409, June: 4196 so this seems like an encouraging start.

I have taken my first trip on the 292 and it was spot on time both ways. The bus is certainly faster than the old 2L vehicles and the driver seemed very competent. He even slowed when he saw an elderly lady walking towards a stop as we approached in case she wanted to board. As it happened, she

didn't but it was a nice gesture and good PR.

Having said that, I have been told that both the 1.30pm and 3.30pm return services from Kiddy failed to run on 21<sup>st</sup> July resulting in people having to pay taxi fares of around £20 to get home. I had seen the Kiddy bound 10.54 go past on time so I spoke to R&B who said that a faulty door had caused the cancellation of the 1.30 service but that it was fixed in time for the 3.30 to run.


Nothing seems to change in respect of Diamond reliability. Apparently the passengers on a service in Kinver heard a bang and discovered that they now had a three wheeled bus!. Given that there are all sorts of safety features on commercial vehicle wheels including tell tale markers to show if the nuts are starting to loosen, this may indicate a lack of routine servicing and is a worry, at least for the poor devils still doomed to use Diamond buses. This was covered at the Public Enquiry and, at that time, Diamond could not explain why this happened although they insisted that all their servicing procedures were properly followed...

*Steve Todd*

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## **CLEOBURY COUNTRY GOES DOWN ON THE FARM**

For their quarterly 'On Tour' visit in June, members of Cleobury Country went up the hill to Mawley Town Farm, home of the famous Mawley Milk. It was four days after the Cleobury Festival, when they'd had something like a thousand people looking around, so this was a very quiet occasion.

Adrian Robinson runs the farm now and he told the story of hard work and growth since the family arrived in April 1978. From the beginning they aimed for quality, good feed producing good milk and dependence upon bulk buyers eased with the growth of their own brand.

The farm has grown to its present size of 700 acres with careful management. Where feed crops can be grown economically they are: oats, wheat, barley, maize and rye grass. Others are bought in and stored in bulk. Those big sheds you see when you drive past house a lot more than the hundreds of Holstein and Ayrshire cattle that are the core of the business.

The simple matter of milking was mechanised ten years ago, with cattle allowed to walk into the milking parlour when they

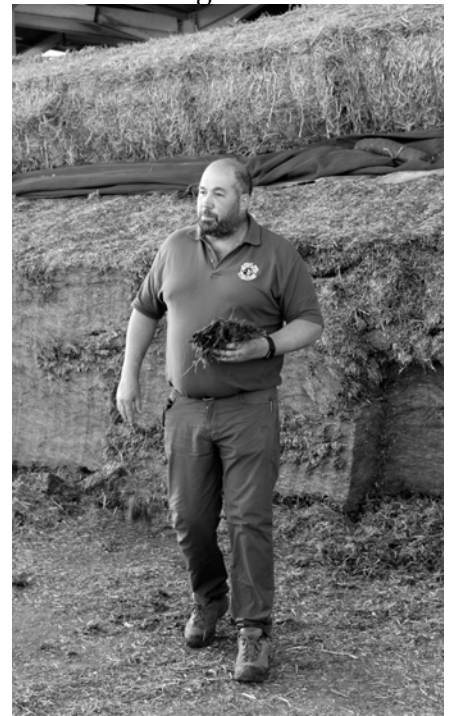
are ready. There they queue to have the milking mechanism attached after their teats have been washed, the sucker guided by a sensor to fit comfortably. Once the milking is over the cow moves on and is fed a small treat; if she thinks she can go round again and get another treat the machine reads the identity anklet and ignores her. If she still lingers, a short, sharp breeze at the back end moves her on.

The milk is pumped straight to the storage tanks, from where it can be bottled and on the delivery van in just one day. This is truly fresh milk, pasteurised and bottled on the premises, six mornings a week.

The farm is run on very climate conscious lines, that tall wind turbine providing electricity as well as that produced by the solar panels installed on the barn rooftop by EZ Solar. The combined output sees them feeding back into the National grid to earn a payment from the government.

In the livestock buildings is an automatic slurry clearing device, rather like a series of large windscreen wipers moving slowly along and gathering the livestock's waste material. It is then transferred to a huge silo and gives off methanol gas that is used to fuel the pump and in

the winter fuels heating for the livestock. When the methanol is exhausted, the slurry is then used as a fertiliser. It seems that little or nothing is wasted.



*Adrian with a sample of the silage made from their own crops and stored for vital winter feed.*

The visit ended with tea or coffee and a selection of cakes from Stephanie Morrison's fine Kitchen. By that time Rachel had joined the party, the driving force behind much of the effective marketing that has made Mawley Milk such a good name. The whole place is a tribute to the family's belief in honest trading and a quality product.

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The forest has just said goodbye to about 60 practicing architects and students on a three day residential summer school. 'Studio in the Woods' is held annually, this time hosted by the Guild of St George and Wyre Community Land Trust in the area of woodland known as Ruskin Land. The teams collaborated in the design and construction of six unique and individual structures using timber from the Wyre Forest which otherwise had little or no commercial value: everything from small laths and branches to planks of slab wood still with bark attached. The photo shows my personal favourite which, as I took the picture, twinkled with light as the canopy above moved in the breeze. These structures were temporary but have still been an important part of the 'Ruskin in Wyre' project which celebrates the cultural legacy of John Ruskin and his followers in our neck of the woods.



By the time you read this I'm hoping that the drought will have broken. The hot weather brought

fruits and nuts on to ripen early, but the extreme water shortage last month halted flowering and sequential fruiting in many food plants. Bell Brook managed a mere trickle of water between pools although the old well that supplied Uncly's Farm maintained its supply. I could imagine the anxiety that people would have experienced in old days as they saw vital water supplies dry up and crops wilt.

Some creatures seem to have done well this year. Pearl-bordered and Silver-washed Fritillary butterflies have been flying in the newly-created rides, warmed by the sun. Under the safety of our corrugated iron refuges we have seen many juvenile Grass Snakes and families of Slow Worms. When disturbed, the latter take a moment or two to take stock of the situation then can move off at speed, belying their name. They have the ability to shed the tip of the tail to escape predators and I have seen a few individuals with evidence of a regrown tail. As Norman Hickin says in 'The Natural History of an English Forest', 'the scaling at the joint does not always appear to fit very well'. I'm fond of these bronze-coloured snake-like lizards, and would be pleased to have more of them tucking into the local slug population. The young, I learn from Norman Hickin, hatch from the eggs on being laid, or very shortly afterwards, and are silvery with a black line down the centre of the back.

Lastly I'm pleased to report that swallows came at last to Uncly's Farm and two nests were built in the eaves of the Studio. We hope to see house martins joining them next year.

*Linda Iles*

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## **TOM MADE IT!**



*Tom Redfern, at the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro.*

Tom Redfern made it to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro in his bid to publicise the name and raise some funds for 'Mind', the charity that supports those with depression. He earned £731 for the charity's funds.

It was no easy picnic, walking through deep snowdrifts to reach the 5895 metre (about 20,000 feet) summit. Kilimanjaro is the highest peak in Africa, rising from the Eastern Rift Mountains in Tanzania.

Quite a change from his usual training for rugby.

## **A VERY SPECIAL PARTY**

This was a special 'Thank You' event, originally scheduled for March 1st in the Parish Hall. You may remember that the weather rather hit such ideas

then, and organiser Jenny Vanderhook wisely postponed it until the end of May.

The idea was to celebrate the success of the annual Shoe Box Campaign that sees gifts sent to deprived children in distant countries, both in Africa and Eastern Europe. Everyone was invited to bring food for the feast, the Parish Hall bar was open and a good crowd of volunteers gathered.

The Shoe Box operation is overseen by the Teams4U charity, whose local representative Paul described the joy of giving a simple shoe box with small gifts to a child who has never experienced such a thing before: "There are no words I can use to describe the faces of the children and their delight in discovering each treasure in their box and how afterwards they clung to it so tightly as if in disbelief that it was truly for them."

That was the experience in Eastern Europe; in Uganda the needs of the children are very different. Teams4U have put 1000 litre water tanks with taps and drainage into eight schools; this in an area where single hand washing facilities were unknown. Over 5300 children were educated in basic hygiene, 600 schoolgirls were educated on menstrual health and 300

packs of washable sanitary pads were given out. This was under the Hub Cymru banner, whose base is across the border in Wales.

Our shoe-box efforts once again saw more than 1,000 sent and Jenny Vanderhook got a big round of applause for her work, followed by a chorus of "Happy Birthday" because this was a double special occasion.

## **MR BOND CALLS**



James Bond was in town in July. Nothing to worry about, this was BBC Radio Shropshire's man, here to listen and learn.

He stayed overnight at the Talbot Inn, his signwritten Ford van much noticed on the High Street. He spoke to the Breakfast Club and did a large series of interviews with people in the community. Listen in to his popular news reporting and chat on 90, 94, 95, 96 or 104.1 MHz. A very nice guy.



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**Cleobury Clarion - Page 44 - August 2018**

## **WELL WORTH THE TRIP - AARDVAARK BOOKS AND CAFE**

It's hardly local to Cleobury Mortimer, but the 22 mile journey to Brampton Bryan is nearly all through picturesque countryside. And when you arrive at Aardvaark Books in one of the Manor Farm's large barns the day just gets better.

There are 5,000 square feet of the book display and cafe, with another 2,000 for storage. If you love serious books, this is a place to spend time. Where there is no pressure and the cafe serves excellent coffee and a range of meals prepared to order.



*Serious books - nothing frivolous - by the mile. About 50,000 of them.*

The business was started in 2004 by Sheridan Swinson and Edward Tobin, working from a pig shed in Leominster and driven by a love of learning and the arts. It grew as they learned what their customers were looking for and where to find it. It was natural to move on from humble beginnings and good fortune brought them to the

Harley Estate in Brampton Bryan, a place that has been in the same family ownership for some 700 years. The barn was no more than a redundant farm building, but with a mix of sweat and imagination it was turned into a place that attracts visitors and their children.



*The entrance to The Book Burrow, a magic place for children.*

It's a reflection of the careful thought behind this place that the entrance to The Book Burrow leads you through to lots of space, bookshelves all around and decoration by an artist friend who clearly took the task seriously. Sit on cushions or soft animals, browse books to appeal to all younger tastes while your parents browse books of their more adult choice. It is the best children's department in a bookshop or library I have seen since viewing a major professional job in Shanghai.

At the heart of the ground floor is the cafe, complete with a wood burning stove for the winter months. The standard is again high and the coffee is rumoured to be the world's best.

I can offer no judgement on that, but I do know it is very good.

Sheridan and Sarah Swinson are the owners today, both of them with an easy-going way of talking to both strangers and regular customers. My chat with Sheridan was politely broken to greet friends and occasionally to give advice or exchange news. It did nothing to stop the flow of conversation, Sheraton picking up the threads of the talk with no hesitation.

The main stock is dominated by scholarly works, with some rare titles amongst them. A brief browse revealed a 1983 copy of *The Letters of Antoni van Leeuwenhoek*, also known as "The Father of Biology", Part IX, covering 1695-1696. If your taste runs to historic maps they have an impressive range of reproductions, including Humphrey Llwyd's 1591 sketch of Wales or Greenwood's 1827 view of Shropshire. So much to see and marvel at.



*Sheridan and Sarah run a very special friendly place.*

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### **The Beginning of the End: The Battle of Amiens August 1918**

The Allied offensive began on August 8<sup>th</sup> and became known as the Hundred Days Offensive. We saw in the last piece how the battle of Hamel earlier in the year was the start of the final push and how important the capture of Hamel was.

The battle was seen as one of the first major set pieces to involve armoured warfare and effectively marked the end of trench warfare on the Western Front.

By July 15<sup>th</sup> a German offensive had run out of steam, leaving manpower depleted and supplies nearly exhausted. It was then that the newly promoted Marshal of France Ferdinand Foch started to plan the counter offensive. The thrust of this was to free the railway in Amiens from German shellfire and ensure the railway was clear to use in the progress Eastwards.

The British Expeditionary Force commanded by Sir Douglas Haig already had such a plan and one of the planners was John Monash leading the Australian Corps. This was the same Monash who brilliantly planned The Battle of Hamel which was featured in the July issue.

The Monash plan involved large scale use of tanks (now available in large numbers) to achieve surprise as their use avoided a preliminary bombardment before the infantry advanced.

The French had no tanks so they would be forced to bombard German positions alerting them to an advance. As ever a compromise was reached and the French were involved but not until 45 minutes after the British operation had begun.

For the first time Australians and Canadians went into battle side by side, they both had reputations for aggressive and innovative tactics, built up over the previous two years. Tactics for Amiens were based on those of Hamel, the key one being surprise achieved by the absence of bombardment together with artillery fire only immediately prior to advance.

The numbers of artillery pieces utilised is mind boggling... 1386 field guns and howitzers and 684 heavy guns plus infantry artillery together with 580 tanks.

Artillery planning was meticulous. Techniques had advanced so "sound ranging" and aerial reconnaissance allowed the Allies to dispense with "ranging shots" ensuring accuracy. There was a timetable which allowed 504 out of 530 German guns to be hit at "zero hour" with a creeping barrage preceding the infantry.

As Amiens was significant for its reliance on tanks to get the job done it is worth quoting one observation made at the time. As Monash was involved in the plan it is probably his attention to detail that accounts for the following remark in this extract:

Tank no 9003 Barrhead 8<sup>th</sup> August

"Plans of the attack had previously been explained. Each tank was given a certain task to perform on the day.

"The approach march is always a most important and trying part of the tanks work... as much of the tanks' success depends on taking the enemy by surprise. The first part of the approach was comparatively easy but afterwards became difficult, therefore guiding tapes were laid down."

"Everything worked well and it is certain from prisoners' reports that the enemy had no knowledge of our presence previous to the attack"

By the end of the day total German losses were estimated at 30,000 with British Canadian and Australian casualties of 8,800 not including those of the French or tank crew and air losses.

The real significance of the first day of the battle can probably be summed up by a quote from each side.

German General Erich Ludendorff: "The black day of the German Army."

War correspondent Phillip Gibbs: "The enemy is on the defensive, the initiative of the attack is so completely in our hands that we are able to strike him at many different places"

Amiens is acknowledged as a major turning point of the Great War and though there was much more to happen before the surrender, the writing was truly on the wall.

John Monash was knighted by George V in the days following the battle.

*Paul French*



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## **MORE CUTS COMING?**

The free phone link to County Hall in the Library is a vital service to those without transport or telephone. Less well-off people need them and we can make that clear by just filling in one of the forms in the library and posting off before August 25th. Clare Todd explains:

Shropshire Council are reviewing their Face to Face Customer Services in the county. This proposal will affect staffed days at the main offices in Shrewsbury, Oswestry, Whitchurch, Market Drayton, Ludlow and Bridgnorth and the viability and the continuation of services in the smaller offices at Albrighton, Bishops Castle, Broseley, Church Stretton, Cleobury Mortimer, Ellesmere, Shifnal and Wem. They propose to consult on the changes from 30<sup>th</sup> July to 25<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

To this end, paper copies of their proposal will be available in the Cleobury Country Centre or comments can be made via the "get involved" tab on Shropshire Council's website <http://www.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/>

The services in question provide those unable to travel to larger libraries (ie Ludlow, Bridgnorth) or without access to the internet, to apply for and renew, their Blue Badges, Bus Passes, and access other council services and information.

Please help us to keep these services in the Centre.

*Clare Todd*

## **THE WORLD WAR ONE GROUP - UPDATE**

The plaque for the Market Hall is in production and on track for delivery by early August. It will be fitted as soon as possible.

Silent Soldiers have apparently been seen around town making their way home.

An exhibition of WW1 items and ephemera will be mounted, probably in the Market Hall on November 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November.

We are considering a Vintage Tea Party to mark "the beginning of the end" of the Great War. We would like to theme it around the period ... ample opportunities to dress up? It would help us decide this is worthwhile if you would contact me on CM 270010

Full details on these events will be in the September Clarion. *Paul French*



Progress continues with the shed project, the lease almost ready to sign, public liability insurance arranged and B&Q very generous with offers of paint for both caravan office and the shed itself.

Letters out to local businesses inviting support brought rapid responses from Hilton Smith of Specialist Foundations with an offer to lay the concrete foundation for the shed at no cost, and Andy Perkins of EnergyZone ready to give advice and help with electrics and heating. Cleobury's big heart at work again!

Mike Patterson has been given three substantial work benches, now in store until needed and we will be looking at a fine offer of both wood and metal working tools from a town source. As ever, the generosity in this community is remarkable.

Hilton Smith summed it up well: "It is a very worthwhile project and I'm more than happy to put something back into the community."

Onward and upward.

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## SAVE OUR CURLEWS

The June edition of *The Clarion* described the work of the Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group, looking for curlews, and protecting nests. Landowners who had them on their land were visited, and all gave their support; greatly appreciated. The project was also explained to the Clee Hill Commoners Association on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, and they too gave their support.

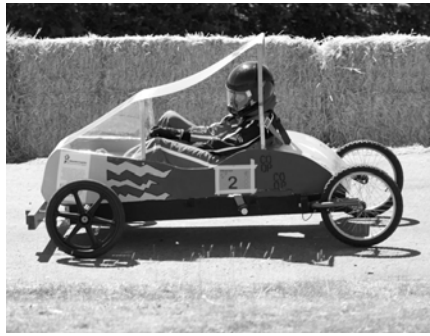
Three nests were found and protected. Only three of the 13 eggs didn't hatch, an excellent result. Chicks that hatched were radio-tagged, to see where they go, and what happens to them.

The article in the June issue resulted in a report of a pair near Stottesdon, outside the area searched so far. We can extend the area if readers tell us where to look. There were also other nests that we didn't find, so if you located Curlews this year your record is very important. Details to Chris Bargman (01299 270514, email: [chwgbirdgroup@gmail.com](mailto:chwgbirdgroup@gmail.com)) as soon as possible.

Part of the reason for poor breeding success is predation by foxes, and the issue of urban foxes being dumped in the area was raised at the Commoners meeting. If anyone has seen it happen, we would like details, please.

It will take years to reverse the curlew's decline and we need to raise enough to keep the campaign going. For more info see [www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/](http://www.shropshirebirds.com/save-our-curlews/) To donate see [www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/appeals](http://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/appeals). It is up to local residents to save the local Curlews, so their fate rests in our hands. If they are lost, they won't come back. *Leo Smith*

## LACON LIGHTNING TRIUMPHS



*The impressive 'Lacon Lightning' making progress on its way to victory in the Junior Class.*

*Photography by Keith Gluyas.*

Lacon Childe's 'Lacon Lightning' soap box racer, shown in the June Clarion, was a multiple winner at the Richards Castle Soapbox Derby. It not only made Fastest Time of the Day in the Junior Class, it was winner of the Most Innovative Design award for its joystick steering control. That's a huge tribute to the effectiveness of the school's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics scheme, with teachers Andy Evans and Ken Smith watching over the building of 'Lightning'.

There were two drivers, Oliver Booton and Isaac Taylor, who both had a morning practice run to decide who would handle the actual competition driving. Oliver was the quickest on the day and to him went the honour and responsibility of getting down the 550 metres course as quickly as possible.

This event is more than a good laugh, with overall winner Steve Thomas from Chippenham in 'C12' hitting a top speed of 40mph with only gravity to power him. There's also the matter of raising sponsorship for local charities, with Team WOW (Women On Wheels) hitting the high spot with £1,000 gathered

over a series of fundraising events. Great stuff.

The entrants included a tank, rumoured to have been disqualified for plotting the Invasion of Ludlow. That's not 100 percent true, just an attempt to outdo President Trump in the international business of fake news.



*The tank wasn't fast, but it made some impressive smoke.*

After such an impressive debut at the Soapbox Derby, will the team and Lacon Lightning be back there next year to defend their title? STEM Co-ordinator Charlotte Johnston could not make such a promise so soon after the event. "It will have to be a new team as these children will have moved on," she explained.

But after such a successful Border Raid into Herefordshire, the honour of Shropshire will be at stake. We have a reputation to defend.

Congratulations to all the team for taking on the challenge and coming back with such a haul of awards.

## MYSTERY MESSAGE

Delivered to the Clarion office with no signature: "Congratulations to Val and Brian on your 60th Wedding Anniversary from all the £1 a week girls and their men."



# CLEOBURY THE COUNTRY CENTRE

Contacting us:

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e: [business@cleoburycountry.com](mailto:business@cleoburycountry.com)

[www.cleoburycountrycentre.com](http://www.cleoburycountrycentre.com)

## Training Courses Upcoming:

- Emergency First Aid at Work—18th September—£ 70.00
- Foundation Cert in Food Safety—18th September—£ 70.00
- Paediatric First Aid Course—10th & 11th October—£ 112.00
- Fire Marshall— 15th October—£ 65.00

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## BIKE TRADE BOOSTS CANCER CHARITIES

The motorcycle trade boosted the Charity Day at Cleobury Golf Club on July 6th. This was the 10th event organised by John and Ange Gaskell of Bromsgrove. John is a multi European and British Sidecar Trials Champion and today the pair run Revs Suspension Products.

It all started with John's 60th birthday, booked as a golf day for friends, but Ange's mum died two weeks before it was due to happen. They agreed to go ahead, with a raffle for Cancer Research and the result was an amazing £500 raised and the seed of an idea sewn.



*John and Ange Gaskell, fund raisers supreme.*

They set up the Rainbow Cancer Care Foundation and

estimate they've raised over £60,000 for Cancer Research, Macmillan, Prostate Cancer UK, the Acorns Hospice and Midlands Air Ambulance.

That's the story so far, with last year's day setting a new record at £15,700. This year they were full of confidence that they'd do better, with 170 golfers taking part, a long list of trade sponsors and £14,500 reached so far this year with more money to come in.

It was a gala atmosphere on the day, John and Ange meeting and greeting and Triumph bikes adorning the first green, courtesy of dealers Streetbike of Halesowen. Lots of car and bike dealers with a presence, including the Double 2 Racing Team, leading the British Endurance race series and looking making it three championships in a row. John's Revs business is one that helps this mustard keen young men as they drive all over the country to whichever track is staging a championship round.

The Gaskells are long term Cleobury club members and are full of praise for both the way the staff have helped them and the friendly atmosphere about the place. They certainly won't be going anywhere else with their very special event.

## PLASTIC - NOT SO FANTASTIC

With the hot weather recently, it's easy to buy a plastic bottle of water when we are away from home. And we all know the importance of staying well hydrated and the benefits of drinking water. But to help reduce the 8.8 million tons of plastic trash that flow into the ocean each year (National Geographic, 5th June 2018) this month the Cleobury Mortimer Plastic Reduction group have been thinking about how we can avoid buying single use plastic water bottles.

Plastic: Not So Fantastic Tip 3: Get yourself a reusable water bottle and (now the hard bit!) get into the habit of taking it with you wherever you go. But make sure your reusable bottle is stainless steel, glass or BPA-free plastic.

BEWARE: Refilling plastic water bottles is not a good idea. Biphenol A, a chemical used to manufacture plastics, is harmful and can leach into the water and grow dangerous bacteria in the bottle's cracks.

We would love to get your feedback on our Plastic: Not So Fantastic Tips and will promote other tips you send us. You can contact us by email at: [Neil.tysall@cleobury.org.uk](mailto:Neil.tysall@cleobury.org.uk)



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Fire Marshall— 15th October—£ 65.00

Foundation cert in Health & Safety—17th October—£ 70.00  
Level 2 Award in Health & Social Care—30th October—£ 70.00

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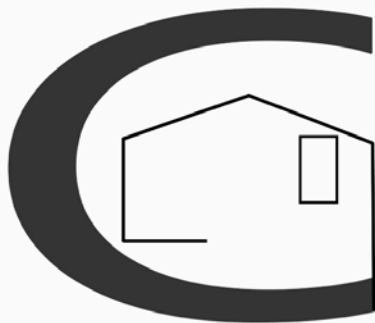


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Another busy month for the Town Council as we had a great family day with the Festival; thanks to the volunteers who organised everything with the councillors. So many things to see around the town, including Cleobury Creatives, Health and Wellbeing, open day at Mawley Farm and the events on the Field. The day again brought visitors into the Town and produced good community spirit, so when announced for next year put it in your diary. The Festival group needs more community help and input, so if you would like to join the group, please notify the Town Council.

You may be aware that Cleobury Mortimer Town Council has received a prestigious award as part of the Local Council Award Scheme. This achievement recognises that the council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Cleobury Mortimer Town Council goes above and beyond their legal obligations, leading their communities and continuously seeking opportunities to improve and develop further. The Local Council Award Scheme is a peer assessed programme that has been designed to provide the tools and encouragement to those councils at the beginning of their improvement journeys, as well as promoting and recognising those at the cutting edge of the sector.

In terms of the future, the council is now reviewing ways in which it can keep on improving what we offer to the community and welcomes input from local people and partners on this. We are at the front line of the government's localism agenda and are doing as much as we can to deliver services whilst being efficient, cost-effective and want to improve our community engagement through this.

We are now moving forward with other projects: the Adult Gym equipment, new equipment in the Love Lane play area, BMX track and Dog training area, Neighbourhood plan, again guided by members of the community, who are working and leading the projects to ensure you get what you

want. If you have an interest in any of these and want to be involved please let me know to add you to the group. Consultations have taken place with these, and we are now looking at quotes and ways of applying for Grants and funding options. The Christmas Lights is another project that we are starting to get ready for, so if you would like to join our volunteers, please contact the Council office.

CCTV requests up to this report so far this month. We have had five cases of anti-social behaviour, (one with footage requested by police), one criminal damage to a memorial bench (footage given to police of two drunken males at 2.00am, removing bench), two vehicles damaged (one footage required by police that proved that it was already damaged before it was parked in Cleobury) and one mobile phone theft.

To clarify, all incidents are reported with an Incident and Crime number and can only be viewed by any two of five authorised people or with the Police at that time and logged in the book. The only access to the CCTV system is by the authorised individuals to view and obtain images. Once obtained the recorder is then disconnected and secured in a lockable box to ensure it is not viewed again unless by any two authorised individuals with a key. Every effort is taken to ensure that only the Police and authorised persons can access the system. It is only for public safety and criminal actions.

I am getting a lot of complaints about overhanging hedges obscuring vision and passage on pavements. Can residents responsible for this please help to keep our footpaths and walkways clear. Thank You.

In the next edition I hope to have an update on The Manor House, Talbot Car Park refurbishment, the Co Op crossing and parking issues in the Town.

The next Council meeting is on Monday, August 6th at 7.00pm in the Cleobury Country Centre.

*M Sheehan*  
Town Clerk

**CLEOBURY MORTIMER PARISH HALL**  
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## Community Contacts for Clarion Readers

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR	Theresa Ray	07703 965 064	theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk
CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE		01299 272300	In Love Lane, 9 to 5 Mon to Fri.
CITIZENS ADVICE		08444 991100	Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00
CLEOBURY CARERS	Wendy Duley	01299 270562	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 Weds
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 5 Monday to Friday and 10 to 12 Saturday
LOCAL POLICE	Constable Anne O'Leary		ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Iain Smith	01299 271809	
CRIMESTOPPERS		0800 555 111	Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE		0800 783 1359	Women's Aid, 24 Hour support:
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TOWN COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Cleobury Country Centre 9 to 2 pm, weekdays. www.cleobury.org.uk. Council meets in the Centre on the first Monday of the month
POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Spar Grocery Store, Church Street
SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT	Mark Greaves	07828 116810	mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
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### THE DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE IS AUGUST 22nd

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The Clarion On The Web: [www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk](http://www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk)

Printed by Glint Print of Much Wenlock. Telephone 07809 228 2578



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**Residential Sales**

*Did you know the most popular home improvements – new bathrooms and kitchens – are actually unlikely to result in a profit in many cases? According to new research, the average cost of a new kitchen is £7,000 and yet only adds about half of that amount to the value of a property. Energy Improvements, such as a new boiler or central heating system, can increase the price of a property by close to 4%, the equivalent to just over £9,000. The average cost of a new boiler cost is around £2,000, providing the householder with a net profit of close to £7,000. Other improvements can be more subtle. A fresh coat of paint may add little to the value of a property, for instance, but making your home look as welcoming as possible can undoubtedly encourage prospective buyers through the door.*



Erica Hinwood  
MARLA MNAEA  
Office Manager

**Lettings**

*Choosing the right tenant can be a headache for landlords, as there are pros and cons to every type of tenant. Professional couples do tend to look after a property well but can be difficult to keep as tenants because they will often see a rental property as a short-term commitment. Families with young children can be viewed by some landlords as risky tenants because of the potential for mess or damage, but this is offset by a more long-term tenancy. And in actual fact, many of our landlords find that families view their rental property very much as their own home so will look after it as such. The most important thing is for a landlord and letting agent to have a good relationship with their tenant.*



Coral Walrond  
MARLA MNAEA  
Lettings Negotiator

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