

BIG HEARTED AMELIA



This is six year old Amelia Aziz, proudly holding up her plaits after a visit to Cleobury Barbers Shop for Melissa Wilson to give her a big trim.

It was all for the Little Princess Trust in Hereford, who provide real hair wigs for young people who've had treatment that resulted in hair loss. As well as giving her hair, Amelia's mum Heather took a Just Giving page and family, friends and local supporters raised a donation of £420.

When Heather asked her daughter what she wanted to

do next, this heroic young lady said "Let's let it grow and do it again next year." Magic!

ADRIAN SATTERLY

Mr Satterly appeared before Shrewsbury Crown Court on July 19th to answer the charges of 20 counts of theft.

He offered to plead guilty to 15 of the charges. If this offer was to be accepted by the court, the remaining five charges would be discontinued. The case was then adjourned for the Crown Prosecution Service to consider whether to accept the offer or to proceed to a trial on the matter.

The case will be listed at Shrewsbury Crown Court on August 9th and if the pleas are accepted Mr Satterly will be sentenced. If they are not accepted then the case will proceed to trial. Mr Satterly remains on unconditional bail.

CLEOBURY HILLS

CARE HOME

It came as a shock when those living near the Cleobury Hills Care Home received a note from Capulet Care, stating that problems with the building

had proved so serious that the safest way of dealing with them was to demolish the building with a view to immediately rebuilding.

That was a brave decision to make and all credit must go to MD Juliet Briggs for accepting the need and advising local people of the fact. The development has not been without headaches, but recent events have resulted in problems that had to be addressed.

The note described how the closure of the building during the pandemic and flooding, meant there a "significant quantity of water ingress." When the building was reopened there was evidence of spores, due to the place being damp and unoccupied.

Changes in building regulations since Grenfell were also considered. "Through no fault of Capulet Care," Ms Briggs wrote, "I feel the safest option for potential clients, staff and local residents is to demolish the building, with a view to immediate rebuilding."

Capulet promises to keep their neighbours updated on further developments.



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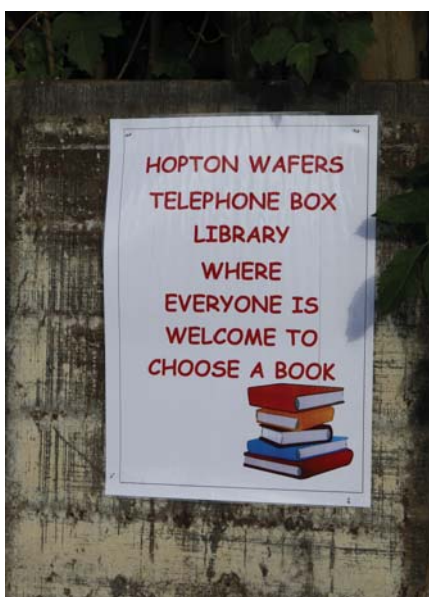


The Cleobury Clarion, August 2021

Volume Seventeen - Edition Five



*Knowledge and experience at Charlton Interiors.
See Page 11.*



*Not quite what you expect in a 'phone box.
See Page 19.*



*In Business - Tracey's Very Successful Kreations.
See Page 57.*

And On Other Pages....

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 5 - English Music at St Laurence's | 33 - Cleobury Mortimer Benefice |
| 7 - Tenbury Transport Trust | 35 - The Social Calendar |
| 9 - Potholes of the Month | 37 - Mad Dog Horseshoes |
| 13 - Far Forest Show | 39 - Simon Morton on Gardening |
| 15 - The Clarion Jobs Page | 41 - August in the Wyre Forest |
| 17 - Village Halls Conference | 43 - Mrs Grumpy |
| 21 - Stepping Out! Walking News | 47 - Mad Dog Horseshoes |
| 25 - Philip Dunne MP | 51 - The Town Council Report |
| 27 - The Festival At The Edge | 53 - Cleobury Hub |
| 30/31 - Doddington Lodge | 55 - Let's Beat the Scammers |
| 32 - Bewdley Festival is Back | 59 - Local Information |



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ALLISON'S MILLION STEPS DONATION



Allison with proud daughter Danielle at the handover of the £1835 cheque.

We've handed over the generous donations to Severn Hospice.

I am thrilled to say the cheque total was £1835 plus gift aid, which takes the total to £2040.

I was not expecting to raise as much as that, so it's quite overwhelming.

Severn Hospice and myself are extremely grateful to everyone that kindly donated. It means a great deal to be handing over such a fantastic

amount in memory of Pat Williams and to thank the hospice for their amazing care.

Allison Andrews

ENGLISH MUSIC AT SAINT LAURENCE'S

For those of you whom Storm Dennis prevented from getting to hear 'A Shropshire Journey' by former Cleobury resident, David Gaukroger in February 2020, there will be a further opportunity on August 7th at 1.00 pm in St Laurence's Church, Ludlow.

A Shropshire Journey is a suite of six piano pieces inspired by well-known poems by A E Housman. Also included in the programme will be Peter Grimes Fantasy, written by Scottish composer, Ronald Stevenson, based on motifs from Benjamin Britten's opera; David gave the first English performance in Birmingham in 1972.

On a lighter note there will be folk song settings by Percy Grainger and other works by David, including a fugue on the BBC Eastenders Theme, and reinterpretations of music by Fats Waller and the Queen classic, Bohemian Rhapsody.

There are no tickets but a retiring collection, mostly going to St Laurence's Church.

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Another sign of a return to normal is the announcement of an Open Mic Night at the Royal Fountain in Church Street tonight, August 1st. It starts at 6.00 and is a chance to sip a drink and listen to live music in friendly company. Just what an English pub can do very well.

AN ANONYMOUS LETTER

We received an anonymous letter on July 8th. I will not tell you what it was about and it went where any anonymous message goes - into the bin.

Anybody who writes to the Clarion must give their name and address. If they don't want it printed, that wish will be observed, so long as we know who the correspondent is.

Jim Reynolds

WISE BIT

Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here we might as well dance.
Anon.



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TENBURY

TRANSPORT TRUST

Due to the demise of commercial bus routes, community transport is becoming an important part of rural life and there has been a local community transport group based in Tenbury Wells for 20 years. This was formalised into the charity, Tenbury Transport Trust, in 2014. Tenbury Transport has been extremely busy during the pandemic taking people to both Leominster and Ludlow vaccination centres.

The Tenbury base of this group is a reasonable distance from Cleobury Mortimer but we frequently take individuals to Kidderminster, Worcester and Redditch Hospitals. So if you need help with transport to hospital appointments, or indeed any kind of appointment, Tenbury Transport is here to assist you. All our volunteer drivers are asked to provide two references and go through the DBS checking system therefore you know they can be relied upon and are trustworthy. On the payment of a £5.00 annual subscription, you can telephone the office between 9.00 am and 1.00 pm on 01584

810491 and book a car to pick you up from home, take you to your appointment and return you safely home again. When arranging your car and driver you will be informed of the cost of the return trip which will always be considerably lower than a commercial taxi. We also have mini buses that bring people in from some of the villages to shop in Tenbury, thus helping families and also the local economy. The £5.00 annual subscription covers both the car and mini bus service but seats on the bus do need to be booked by telephoning 01584 810491. This particular service may not be of such interest to Cleobury residents but we are constantly reviewing our bus routes, and transport between Cleobury and Tenbury may become viable in the future.

Both these services can only be provided due to the dedication of our volunteer drivers who are recompensed at 45p per mile. If you feel able to help your immediate community and those in more outlying areas by becoming a volunteer driver, please telephone 01584 810491 for further information.

Elaine Padwick

NHS TEA



Smiles all round; a good day.

It was a good idea for the Cleobury Mortimer and Neen Savage branches of the Women's Institute to cooperate in the organisation of an Afternoon Tea to raise funds for both NHS Charities Together and the National Care Association. It was at the Sports and Social Club on July 5th and when I got there at about 4.30 it looked pleasantly busy without being crowded, as you would expect of two responsible bodies in these social distancing times.

The admission was a simple fiver and for that one had a cup of tea and a choice of cakes. Good company and good value. And the fact that the event raised £250 for those two good causes tells you how many attended. JR

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POTHoles OF THE MONTH



Picking a path through this mess in the face of oncoming traffic is not at all fun.

Potholes in the plural this month, featuring a section of road past the entrance to Heath Farm Meats at Baginswood. If you know the road you approach with caution, but still it makes your teeth rattle as you traverse a series of holes and depressions of varying size and depth.

If you're unlucky with your timing, you can face oncoming traffic that leaves you with no room to manoeuvre a way around them. Unless you come to a stop and wait until it's safe to cross that white line down the centre of the highway.

Now please excuse me if you think that is a normal way of driving down Britain's roads; I don't wish to sound too much like an ageing whinger. But I've ridden and driven a wide variety of vehicles over the past 65 years and it is quite normal to expect to make smooth progress in rural areas like ours. You may have to stop if there is an emergency or a service vehicle blocking your way, but what we're looking at here is the highway. That it should be in such a disgusting and dangerous state is a disgrace.

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

We're back. Please spread the word

Members who have paid their membership last year will not have to pay again; it will be carried over.

Also, the £2 admission fee will be suspended for the rest of this year. Masks may be worn in the hall and sanitiser gel will be available on entry.

Unfortunately The Summer Show, usually in August has been cancelled for this year.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 25th, when the speaker will be Philip

Aubury with a talk entitled 'House & Conservatory Plants'.

Further details: Marion Wilson 01299 270475 or Elva 01299 832288 Email: clowstopdistrictgardeningclub@hotmail.co.uk

Pauline Bowen

C.M.FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We are open and running again at the Parish Hall on a Tuesday at 2.00pm.

Why not come and join us? We enjoy meeting friends, having a chat and a cup of tea, biscuits and cake.

We entertain ourselves playing all sorts of card games, dominoes, bridge and now things are opening up again trips out.

Call in on a Tuesday afternoon and see what we have to offer or call Val on 01299 270830 or Janet on 01299 270353.

We are also looking for ladies to volunteer to make teas for our members, it's on a rota basis so not every week.

Val Breakwell

SILLY BIT

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"Why" What's she got?"
"The car."**

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People when thinking of having Home Care often ask who are your staff? What sort of company are they?

TLC are a family run care provider supporting people with Disabilities, Dementia, Aging Population and Acquired Brain Injury to remain living at home for as long as it is safe to do so. Clients when considering home care will often find it difficult to accept and wonder about who are the staff and what qualifications they have? I cannot speak for other companies, however in our company it is made up from many sectors of our society and when these are put together, we have an Outstanding Team. 

One of those sectors are the future NHS professional, we have Daisy who is in her last year of her training to be a midwife, Lucy who is working towards the end of her training to be a Physiotherapist. Christina and Aila about to start their journey into nursing. We have further staff who have just been accepted into the NHS. These lovely kind young adults not only study many hours both in university, on hospital wards, they also give to us and have helped us support our clients for many years! Most joined us while still at college.

TLC have ex-nurses that come to us after raising their family and some, in recent times have re-joined their colleagues in the NHS.

We have staff who have raised their kids and now want a career, TLC will train or retrain people to help people reach their full potential and become one of our Outstanding Team.

We encourage kind caring and honest people of all ages and backgrounds who want to make a difference to people's lives to join our team. TLC invest heavily in people with ongoing support and training to help our new colleagues achieve their goals and reach their full potential. Once initial training is complete and they have been assessed as competent, TLC Induction Manager and our Training Manager will support staff through to achieve their Level 2/3 in H&S Care

Our Training

TLC's Training Team offers full free training on site and support staff through their Care Certificate. We have strong connection with an outside Training Provision who help our staff to achieve their Level 2/3 in H&S Care. Currently we have 32 members of staff that have already achieved Level 2/3 in Health and Social Care. We have qualifications at level 4 and five of our Senior Managers have Level 5. All staff that are new to care are required to achieve Level 2 within the first two years of their employment.

Contact us

For further enquiries please regarding Care or employment please ring TLC Care at Home 01299 272897 for an informal chat. Visit www.tlccareathome.com or wecare@tlc-careathome.co.uk

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COVID-19 Update

All our staff are provided with full PPE's including Gloves, Full Aprons, Sleeves, Visors, Gloves Surgical Masks.

Video training on Donning and Doffing PPE's sent out regularly.

Staff sign health declarations daily, Staff have weekly Covid-19 test. Most of our staff have now been vaccinated against Covid-19. TLC work closely with government regulation and update our risks assessment accordingly.

KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

Rosemary Jones of Charlton Interiors has 24 years experience in the upholstery and furniture trade. Once family commitments allowed, she completed a four and a half year apprenticeship in the Dartmoor area. Then bought a workshop and shop in Okehampton and traded until her move back to her home county of Shropshire.

During this time she gained a wealth of experience in all things upholstery, her forte being antiques and their traditional restoration. Rosemary is passionate about restoration and saving family treasures from landfill; this ethos is carried through all her work and wherever possible the materials she uses meet industry guidelines and fabrics used are fire retardant treated.

She works from home in Culmington, covering most areas of South Shropshire area. Rosemary's husband has always helped with the business, but is aiming to get fully involved on his retirement. They are building an oak framed workshop at their new residence, and restoring the bakehouse in the

garden for storage. In the meantime Rosemary works on customers pieces in the kitchen - quite literally a "Cottage industry". Working from home without costly overheads, means she is able to keep her prices competitive.



Before the pandemic Rosemary offered a free estimate service to locals at home, taking pattern books and supplying quotes, but she adapted to online estimates and customers looking at the website of the four fabric companies she works with to request samples. Where there's a will there's a way!

Her other business is Can Do Crafts, encompassing textiles and crafting for small groups, which she plans to relaunch as restrictions

allow. She has been asked to run upholstery courses too.

Reaching out via Social Media, she now has a very active following and plenty of posts on her facebook pages, which are very informative with before and after shots. Her website is currently being updated but soon be available www.charltoninteriors.com with 100+ examples of h work on her gallery page.

A very talented lady.

THE CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

The best things come in small packages and our July meeting of just three members was a happy, chatty occasion. 'Wire' was the subject and Sylvia described the painful process of extracting a pet dog who had attempted jumping a fence and been caught in top strands. Biting her in his panic did not help.

Vivian revealed details of the Forth Road Bridge, where big wires are part of the structure along with seven millions rivets. Seven million!


The editor covered early use found on an archaeological site 5,000 years old through to lifts and bridges. Good stuff, this wire.

On the 16th this month we'll hear about trains.



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WANTED

The Parish Hall Committee is looking for a volunteer to fill the post of Secretary to the committee. Duties: to take notes and prepare the minutes at our monthly meetings.

If you can commit to this role please call Val on 01299 270830.

BRIAN CARTER

CARTER Brian William Joseph, of Cleobury Mortimer, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on July 7th aged 84 years.

Beloved husband of Valerie, much-loved father, grandfather and great grandfather. Loved and dearly missed by all his family and friends.

A funeral service will take place at Wyre Forest Crematorium on Thursday August 5th at 3.30pm. The funeral cortege will pass through Cleobury Mortimer at approximately 2.45pm should you wish to pay your respects. Dress code optional. Kind donations received in Brian's memory will be divided between Midlands Air Ambulance and Forest Dog Rescue and may be sent c/o the Funeral Director.

All enquiries please to: Victoria Allen Funeral Services, 8 Charlton Rise, Ludlow SY8 1ND. 01584 879035

THE FAR FOREST SHOW

The Show takes place on the 14th and 15th of August, a little smaller than in previous years

as planning took place while we were uncertain whether we would go ahead. Now we can offer two days full of entertainment and interest, including falconry displays, dog shows and local musicians including the Tenbury Town Band.

Displays of vintage vehicles and small animals and in the main marquee entries in all categories of the horticulture competition. Categories include vegetable and fruit, flowers, cookery, home craft, floral art, photography, and a children's section.

For children we have bouncy castles, the big yellow fun bus, the superheroes treasure hunt and tractor trailer rides.

A special attraction this year will be flypasts by the RAF in a Douglas C47 Dakota. These are scheduled for 2.15 on the 14th of August and 12.57 on the 15th.

Our food court has hog roasts, breakfasts, Thai food, steak and mushroom rolls, crepe house, coffee and pastries, and both Fletcher's Cider Bar and Lemon Tree licenced bar. While you are welcome to bring your own picnic, we ask you not to bring glass on to the site.

To welcome back our visitors we have reduced the entrance fee to £5, with free entrance to accompanied under 16s. Payment will be at the entrance gates, cash or we prefer contactless payment.

This year, more than ever, we look forward to seeing you all again.

John Guy

THE REGAL GOES RADIO

Tenbury Wells' Regal Theatre has what sounds like a great evening for fans of radio comedy on September 24th. They'll be presenting a fine selection of classics live on stage: 'Welcome to our Village', Please Invade Carefully', Around the Horne' and 'Clare in the Community', all in the style of the original recordings.

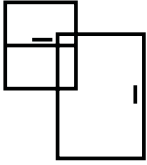
It's for one night only, with the doors opening at 6.45 and tickets are £11.50 with a special deal for the Under 16s and Unwaged at £6.50. What a friendly touch, to recognise the Unwaged.

Appreciating radio comedy may seem like a pastime for the aged, but there was some brilliant writing for that medium that's worth exploring.

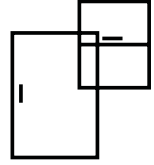


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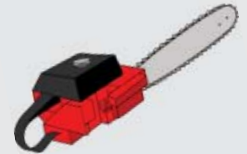


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VILLAGE HALLS CONFERENCE

Shropshire Rural Communities Charity is hosting a virtual coffee morning at 11.00am on Wednesday August 11th. It's for people who run village halls to share experiences and discuss concerns.

SRCC's Julia Baron said of the pandemic: "This has been a difficult period for many of our cherished halls and community buildings. In many cases they are crucial to the people they serve."

"We are able to offer a huge range of advice and we can help with grant funding, governance and recruiting volunteers and trustees and we want to see our halls thrive again."

The morning will be via Zoom and is free. To book tickets, visit the Eventbrite page on <https://vhcoffeemorning.eventbrite.co.uk>

THE READING GROUP

'The Last Runaway' by Tracy Chevalier. Positive vibes regarding this novel, although we were not all equally enthralled. Well

written, easy to follow, it's the story of Honor Bright who sailed from Bristol to the USA with her sister Grace in mid 1850s. Set mainly in Ohio, it was a fascinating insight to the life of a pioneer. The everyday domestic and farming jobs were described as were the types of shops opening in the blossoming townships. Quilting featured predominately and Honor's feelings skilfully revealed in letters home to her family. The main topics of Quakerism and helping runaway slaves was a huge conflict and one we discussed at length. The author's notes at the back provided informative, interesting and appreciated facts.

We don't meet again until September 20th so have plenty of time to digest Being Mortal by Atul Gwande.

Happy summer reading,
Deana Kimber 271754

ROAD WORKS

Night time road works on the A4117 from August 2nd to the 26th will see the road from Henley Hall to the Snitton Lane turning towards Knowbury closed from 7.30pm to 6.00am on these days: August 2nd; August 3rd

to 6th and August 23rd to 26th.

Information from the Street Works Team on 0345 6789006 or email streetworks@shropshire.gov.uk

COCO GOES UP IN THE WORLD

The popular CoCo Coffee Mornings have moved upstairs in the Market Hall. There's more room, you can see more of the town and the price of coffee or even tea with a slice of home made cake is £2.00

This month the dates are Wednesday the 11th and 25th.

THE CLARION WINS AN AWARD

The editor was flattered to be notified on July 19th that the Clarion has won the 2021 Global Business Award as the 'Most Outstanding Local Newspaper Publication - West Midlands.' The communication with the notice stated: "These awards are an illustration of the very best this competitive industry has to offer."

This publication only works because it has a body of very capable and reliable contributors. Many thanks to them all. JR

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THE BREAKFAST CLUB

On July 13th, the Breakfast Club met at the Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club on a dull morning, with rain threatening, so we were grateful for the temporary shelter on the edge of the patio.

Once again, adherence to Covid regs meant that a formal presentation was not possible and may not be possible on 10 August, but our leader, Angela Drennan, is hoping that our traditional meetings, with breakfast followed by a short talk, can be resumed in September.

Mark Baldwin

THE KITE FESTIVAL

They came, they observed the government's rules and the sun shone down on their noble heads. Being utterly decent people, they observed the need to have no more than 30 kite flyers on site. They accepted that everyone had to have a negative rapid lateral flow home test before they arrived. Masks should be worn by any members of the public looking in to see what this was all about. Anyone who did venture on to the Lacon Childe School sports field would have found hand sanitising stations all around the site.

A perfect situation for a gentle and friendly weekend. But there was no real wind, no breeze to lift these colourful creations into the sky to amaze any innocent early morning walker who passed by the site.

Helene and Paul of Sky Bums from Wem, organisers of

the weekend one of the few full time kite businesses in the country, were gently mortified but accepted that Mother Nature will not always offer the ideal conditions for this gentle and almost silent form of flying.

Paul explained that they'd had a weekend in Cardigan Bay two weeks before, with rain to greet the flyers, then a weekend of sunshine and 15mph sea breezes to make flying a simple joy to savour.

Lacon Childe cannot arrange sea breezes, but maybe next year.

Jim Reynolds

HOPTON WAFERS' NEW LIBRARY!



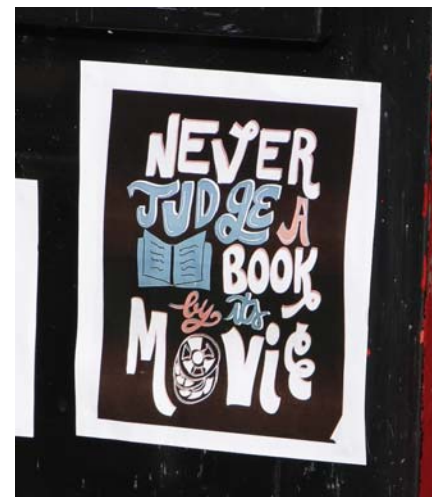
Dorothy McBride, Clerk to the Parish Council, cut the tape and officially opened the door.

The world is forever changing and as it does, so relics of yesteryear are too often left to rot and collapse into the earth on which they've stood for a long, long time. Unless there are people in the area who recognise that part of their landscape should be

preserved and adapted to a current use. They did just that in Hopton Wafers when their telephone box ceased to operate and the process of fading began.

Time for action and the box was purchased from British Telecom and passed into the Parish Council's ownership. Perhaps we should call it a caring possession, as the work of restoration began, with the rusting window frames cleaned, rubbed down and made ready for painting by Maria and Richard Cook before laying on the correct GPO red paint supplied by Crown Paints of Stourbridge and then the Post Office logo painted in gold to give it its proper standing.

Inside are shelves, just as you'd expect and provision of poo bags for dog walkers who look in, and finishing touch deluxe is the red, white and blue bunting by Christine Turner of Hopton Stitchery. As glasses of celebratory wine were handed round, locals took it in turns to look in and pick up a book. In there they found this special notice:



A lovely occasion. Well done, Hopton Wafers



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Stepping Out! Who's Walking, When and Where.

ROCK PATHFINDERS

This month's walks will be on Thursday the 5th, from Jubilee Bridge Car Park, Mill Bank between Cropthorne and Charlton, Worcs WR10 3NG

Thursday the 19th, Ironbridge, Telford TF8 7JP

However social distancing will still be in place and therefore if you would like to join the walk please email your request to suehumphries1@hotmail.co.uk
Sue Humphries

WALKING FOR HEALTH

Dates for the rest of the year:
August 11th and 25th;
September 8th and 22nd;
October 13th and 27th;
November 10th and 24th;
December 8th and 22nd.

All walks meet for a 10.00am start from the Market Hall in Church Street, except walks shown below. Refreshments in the Market Hall provided by CoCo (£2.00 Cake + Drink). CoCo request that we find a seat and wait to be served.

Awayday Walks. Meet in time for a 10.00am start at the Sports Centre Car Park, Love Lane. Transport available. Venue may be substituted in

inclement weather. Turn up in good time with suitable clothing and sturdy footwear. Please remember that you are responsible for your own safety when walking.

Wyre Forest Visitor Centre (September 8th) Parking. £4 for two hours. Refreshments available at café, subject to Covid restrictions. Alternatively, bring your own.

Bewdley – Blackstone Car Park (October 13) Free Parking. Refreshments in Bewdley, subject to Covid restrictions. Alternatively, bring your own.

Further information from Alan Kimber 01299 271754 or ajkimber@hotmail.com

Alan Kimber

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

We are pleased to announce that our monthly Sunday morning Parish Walks will return on September 5th, starting with the Mawley Hall circuit. Meet outside the Market Hall at 10.00am. These walks are free with no need to book. Good news also for participants on the Walking for Health walks – CoCo will once again be providing

refreshments, including their fabulous home made cakes, in the Market Hall after the walk.

During July, work parties and individuals have cleared footpaths local to Cleobury including those at Jacobs Ladder, Pinkham, Cleanly Seat and Newbridge. We appreciate the efforts of our volunteers and others who snip as they walk. Work in August will include repairs to the footbridge between the Glen Caravan Park and Green Lane.

Graham Simpson

Editorial Note: This is the final report from Graham Simpson, who has been a true and trusted friend of the Footpath Association since its founding. Graham has been one of those people you know you can rely upon to do the job and do it well with minimal fuss.

His place will be taken by Veronica Hargreaves, who we welcome into the fold of Clarion contributors and hope she enjoys taking on the task of following in Graham's footsteps. JR



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Philip Dunne's Letter from Westminster

Parliament rose for the Summer Recess last month, after yet another period of working with social distancing under COVID restrictions.

As I write, these are being relaxed in England as we move through Step 4 of the planned emergence from national constraints on the conduct of our daily lives.

It provides a time to reflect on this unprecedented period in peacetime, in which the nation has been obliged to live our lives without normal contact with each other. I have been struck by the impact this has had on our relationships.

The lack of day to day contact with family and friends has been very difficult over the past 16 months or so. For those who have lost loved ones especially so.

But there has also been a remarkable resilience shown by people across our communities, with helping hands extended to those in need, as the whole country has come together to combat this pandemic. None more so than those in our NHS, treating those caught up with COVID, and the volunteers helping others and the teams of people enabling vaccination of the adult population.

I was briefed on the day I write this by NHS leaders in Shropshire who pointed to their expectation that by mid-August all adults in the county will have had the opportunity to have received their double dose of vaccine. They are finalising plans for booster doses to be given alongside annual flu jabs from September to those most vulnerable. This has been a monumental effort and we are all grateful for the extraordinary commitment they have shown to keeping us safe.

The latest delta variant of the virus is increasing cases rapidly, but the incidence of hospitalisation is vastly lower thanks to the efficacy of the vaccine. As of today there are ten patients with COVID in Shropshire's hospitals, six of which have not been vaccinated. The SAGE committee advising the Government expect cases to rise and that this will lead to an increase in death rates across the country, but to less than the number of people who die from smoking related causes each day.

I am struck by the division of opinion locally between those with understandable anxiety about the risk posed from new variants and the relaxation of restrictions, and those who feel we have to find a way to live our lives by managing the virus through vaccines and treatments like we do other diseases.

There is no right answer to this conundrum, only a balanced judgement. Governing the country requires making difficult decisions. I think the success of the vaccine programme justifies the decision to relax restrictions.

But as someone with an underlying lung condition which has required me to be cautious and vigilant through this long period, I shall continue to take precautions to limit exposure to the virus in confined spaces. I am looking forward to spending as much of August as possible out of doors enjoying what I hope will be a splendid month of summer sunshine in Shropshire. I hope you can too.

Philip Dunne

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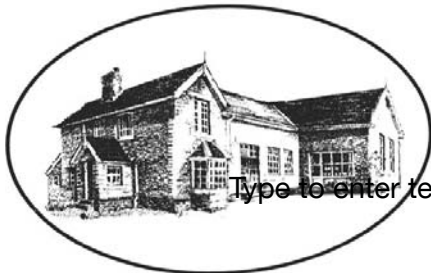
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The Festival at the Edge

You're seldom sure what you're going to find when you go to a festival for the first time. It could be just what you were looking for, or it might miss the spot and disappoint. As this one promised story telling - which did intrigue me - with poetry and folksy music, it really couldn't fail. And set in the lovely grounds of Hopton Court, even better.

On Friday evening the crowd was not big, but a stroll around found Stonaleigh telling her tale of The Song of Lilith that held her audience and got warm applause.

Music was the theme in the Silver Marquee and I arrived in time to hear Anne Lister offer her gentle chatty introduction of songs traditional in style and ranging from old to new. This lady has been around the folk scene for quite a while and does know how to make friends with her audience, with a smile on her face and in her voice.



Anne Lister, charming her audience.

Moving on, I couldn't pass up the chance to see what was happening in what most people would call the

Orangery, but at Hopton it's the much more down to earth Glasshouse. I caught only the final 15 minutes of Mike O'Connor's talk about 'Music in the Words' and regretted I hadn't come earlier. He described how important it is for different elements to work together, in this instance poetry spoken to accompaniment by his violin playing or Hannah's harp.

Hearing this explanation reminded me of a long awaited visit to the Symphony Hall to hear Joan Baez singing, only to find her drowned out by the backing band. In one of the finest musical venues in Europe! That band needed to talk to Mr O'Connor.



Hobson's smart new bar trailer - made down the road in Cradley Heath - was a popular place over a warm weekend.

I didn't make it on Saturday, when there was so much going on here in Clebury. But I did get there late on Sunday afternoon, to sit and listen to more good music from Belinda O'Hooley, a woman with the kind of stage presence you see with big stars, who got a prolonged applause when the set ended. And as we stood up

to leave I recognised Nick Davies of Hobson's Brewery a few seats away. He was as keen on what we'd seen and heard as I was and you can bet he'll be involved next year. Next year? This event fitted into the gentle friendliness of Hopton Court so easily it must surely look upon the place as their future venue.



Belinda O'Hooley wasn't allowed to leave the stage before Anne Lister presented her with a 50th birthday cake from the event organisers. Another nice touch.

There was a good story behind the presentation of the cake. Belinda and her partner had jointly composed a song about 18th century notable Anne Lister, who wrote a diary in code about her romantic adventures. It was used by the BBC as a signature tune for the programme 'Gentleman Jack' they produced about the lady. So here was one of the composers of the song, presented with a special cake by another Anne Lister. As people sometimes say: "You couldn't make it up."

The Festival At The Edge came to Hopton Court looking for a new home. If this is what they offer, they deserve to stay as an attraction for a long time.

Jim Reynolds



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Doddington Lodge News



ROYAL ASCOT LADIES DAY COMES TO DODDINGTON

Everyone got into the spirit for the Doddington Lodge Royal Ascot Ladies Day. All our residents dressed in style for the nation's biggest race meeting fashion event of the year. As one of the main features of the summer social calendar, it was the first time in 69 years that the Queen was unable to make the race, but she did make a special appearance here at Doddington Lodge.

The sun shone and residents and the Doddington Lodge team looked wonderful in their finest. The day started with smoked salmon and scrambled eggs and Pimms in the afternoon.

We had a very special visit from DML Racing, Trainer Mark Loughnane, Jockey, Cameron Hillhouse, Bessie Greenow leading the horse and of course Takeonefortheteam, also know as Smiley. We all enjoyed a few bets and prizes were given to the winners.

At the end the day we enjoyed homemade fresh strawberries & chocolate cupcakes and a nice cup of tea. Doddington Lodge was the perfect setting for our day at the races.



www.doddingtonlodge.com | E: enquiries@doddingtonlodge.com | T: 01584 707084

We are so excited & busy planning the Doddington Lodge Summer Garden Party

Starts at 11:30am until 4:30pm

It's going to be a fun day with delicious BBQ, afternoon tea, music by JDR & Shred Belly.

We have lots of wonderful stalls, jewellery, BeeBiotic, cakes, soft furnishing, family photography, wood & crockery arts & crafts, horseshoe crafts. Local community organisations, Cleobury Fire Engine, First Responders. Live music, Concordia Choir, Belly Dancers, bouncy castle & so much more.

The event will help us raise funds for our local charity 'Connect for Life' charity providing support to those suffering from Dementia. Also raising funds for our Residents Mini Bus. You can now purchase your Doddington Lodge raffle tickets easily online on our prize draw crowdfunding page as well in our reception.

We can't wait to welcome you to Doddington Lodge.

For more information please follow our Facebook page or contact Lorraine:

reception@doddingtonlodge.com

Employees of the Month



Our wonderful and very talented Doddington Lodge Chef, Rachel is always creating delicious food & fabulous celebration cakes for all our residents. Taking time to understand everyone's individual needs. A very special member of the Doddington Lodge team.



Our amazing Sophie always goes that extra mile to help others and is a real shining star. The residents love to spend time chatting and reminiscing with Sophie. We are very proud and lucky to have Sophie as part of our Doddington Lodge Team.



Joan & Derek on their amazing 69th Wedding Anniversary

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INFO UPDATE

The editor apologises that the Local Information on Page 59 is not up to date; it's being addressed this month. In the meantime, contact you may need is our local policeman, PC Wayne Strangwood, who has moved over from Ludlow. Wayne is on 07773 054 587 or you can email wayne.strangwood@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

CLEANER WANTED

No room on the Clarion Jobs Page for this, just in: Cleaner wanted for a private house in Cleobury. One day a week, £12per hour. Call CM 270 758

ALBUM LAUNCH THIS MONTH

The Andrews family are emerging as a multi-talented

collection of people. Allison was big news with her one million steps for Severn Hospice, and now daughter Danielle is releasing her debut album, co-written and produced by David Coleman.

It's not just going to creep into a few local shops, as they've organised a launch party at the Royal Fountain pub on Saturday August 28th from 9.00 in the pm. The title of the album is 'Heart Left on the Floor' and tracks will be performed live on the night. Everyone welcome and it should be a good night.

BEWDLEY FESTIVAL IS BACK!

This is great news after last year's event fell victim to Covid-19 and the lockdowns. Always a great offering of art and music to suit all tastes, it

will run from October 8th to the 16th and will start with the wonderfully titled 'Police Dog Hogan' a seven piece group getting great reviews. The week is then crammed with big and growing names, like Dom Joly, Lemn Sissay MBE, Ronnie Scott's All Stars, Cerys Matthews MBE, Fairport Convention, The Allegri Quartet, Michael Pennington, Stephen Moss, Lesley Smith will tell the story of Peggy Knight, a heroine of the Special Operations Executive in WWII while Jonathan Darby and Claire Worboys star in a new play 'Hymn and Her', written by Nick Wilkes.

Something a little more serious? Greg Foot will be asking the question "How do we feed 10 billion people on our planet in 2050?"



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Cleobury Mortimer Benefice Church services throughout the Benefice in August

St Mary's Cleobury Mortimer

Sunday 1st August – 10.00am Eucharist
Sunday 8th August– 10.00am Eucharist
Sunday 15th August – 10.00am Eucharist
Sunday 22nd August – 10.00am Eucharist
Sunday 29th August – 10.00am Benefice Eucharist

St Michael and All Angels', Hopton Wafers

Sunday 1st August- 9.30am Eucharist
Sunday 15th August - 9.30am Eucharist

St John the Baptist, Doddington

Sunday 1st August – 11.15 Eucharist
Sunday 15th August – 3pm Evening Prayer

All Saints', Neen Sollars

Sunday 1st August – 11.00am Village Worship
Sunday 8th August – 11.00am Eucharist
Sunday 15th August - 11.00am Village Worship
Sunday 22nd August – 11.00am Village Worship

St George's, Milson

Sunday 15th August – 11.15am Eucharist

St Mary's, Neen Savage

Sunday 1st August – 6pm Evening prayer
Sunday 15th August – 11.00am Eucharist

St John the Baptist, Kinlet

Sunday 8th August – 11.15am Eucharist
Sunday 22nd August – 6pm Eucharist

The Church Office is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9.00am-3.00pm
Contact details: Grace Johnson cleoburychurch@hotmail.com
Tel: 01299 272916



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The Social Calendar for August

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Sun 1 st	6.00	Open Mic Night at the Royal Fountain, Church Street		
Mon 2 nd	7.30pm	Star of road works on A4117 near Henley, variety of dates. PAGE 17		
Thurs 5 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	3.30	Brian Carter's funeral at Wyre Forest Crematorium. PAGE 13		
Sat 7 th	1.00	"A Shropshire Journey" and other piano works presented by David Gaukroger at St. Lawrence's Church, Ludlow. PAGE 5		
Mon 9 th	6.30	The Creative Writing Group gather at the library. PAGE 11		
Tues 10 th	11.30	Doddington Lodge Summer Garden Party. PAGE 37		
		Cleobury WI take a History Walk around town with Dr. Robert Hodge. PAGE 37		
Wed 11 th	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning, Market Hall.		
	11.00	Village Halls Virtual Conference. Much Information. PAGE 17		
	7.30	Royal British Legion meet at the Sports & Social Club. PAGE 37		
Thurs 12 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIN BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat/Sun 14 th /15 th		The Far Forest Show is back. Great family country fair. PAGE 13		
Thurs 19 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Wed 25 th	7.30	Clows Top Gardening Club meet at Victory Hall. PAGE 9		
Thurs 26 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Tues 31 st	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poets Society meet at the library, all poets welcome. Note later date due to Bank Holiday		
		AND LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER....		
Thurs 2 nd		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Sun 5 th	10.00	The Parish Walk starts from the Parish Church. All welcome. PAGE 21		

EVENT ORGANISERS

With the easing of restrictions and events coming back onto the calendar, the Clarion's wide readership makes it the place to tell the public about your offering. Entry on this page is free and when normality is firmly re-established this calendar will grow back to the two-page format it used to serve. Basic details, with dates, time and venue sent to the editor gets you space here. And the entry is free of charge.

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CHILDREN'S CLOTHES INITIATIVE

Now most restrictions have been lifted Neen Savage and Cleobury WIs are relaunching the Children's Clothes Initiative. We hope that it will be treated as an upcycling resource to minimise the amount of clothing going to land fill. It is accessible to all and we would like to encourage all members of our community to take advantage of the clothes on offer. The scheme is located in the Market Hall, under the stairs in clear plastic boxes labelled and sorted by age, up to 13+. Please help yourself to anything you can use for your family, there is no charge. There is also a box for donations so if you want to donate clothes please leave in the marked box. Boxes will be checked and restocked regularly and any items not taken each month will be donated to the Severn Hospice shop and Keith Balmer. For further information please contact Catherine Evans 01299 270647

THE LEGION

With the lifting of COVID restrictions the Cleobury Mortimer Branch of the Royal British Legion will restart monthly meetings on 11th August at 7.30 pm at the Sports and Social Club. Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

*Mike Hermolle
Chairman CM RBL*

CLEOBURY W.I.

Post pandemic, we had our first W.I. meeting for members in Kate's garden where we learned about 'Keeping Flexibility'. Vicky Franklin taught us how to exercise to improve our flexibility while brushing your teeth and a wide range of normal situations. Vicky gave us what she called 'sneaky' ways to exercise without taking up too much time and underlined that 'Perfect Practice makes Perfect'. Thank you Vicky for an interesting evening and your handouts to help us on our way and if we remember the PPP, we have a better chance to stay healthy and fit.

Our visit to Pear Tree Cottage was enchanting and inspired our members to greater gardening adventures.

We are looking forward to going with Dr. Robert Hodge on a History Walk around Cleobury Mortimer and afterwards to have a BBQ at our President's garden on August 10th.

Gabby Franklin

DODDINGTON LODGE GARDEN PARTY

They're in a party mood up at Doddington Lodge. They have a summer fete and garden party on Saturday, August 7th, with a big range of attractions, from music through many craft stalls to the Cleobury Fire Engine, Concordia Choir, Belly Dancers and even a Bouncy Castle for the children.

They'll be raising funds for 'Connect For Life' that offers support to dementia sufferers and also for their Residents' Mini Bus fund.

It opens at 11.30 and runs through until 4.30 and will give you a chance to see what a lovely restoration job has been done in the grounds. For more information, look in on their Facebook page or contact **L o r r a i n e** at reception@doddingtonlodge.com



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Simon Morton in the Garden.

A Bluffer's Guide to Open Gardens

At the time of writing, it's T-minus six days until we throw open the gates and (hopefully) welcome the masses into our patch of land as part of Neen Savage's Open Garden event.

This in itself is proof positive that the 'rock and roll' years of my youth are far behind me. The very concept of an 'open garden' event is the epitome of gentle middle England at work - nice people doing nice things for charity. Yet despite the bucolic haze that surrounds this biannual event, I'm still stressed to the eyeballs. I shouldn't be writing; I should be out there planting/weeding/mowing/digging/titivating...in short, panicking.

There is no logical reason for my heightened blood pressure. These visitors are our friends who will play their part by 'ooh-ing' and 'aaah-ing' at just the right moment as they walk around the garden, both because they are generous people and that this sort of gentle recognition of the long days spent by the host sweating and swearing at weeds is the polite thing to do.

This isn't our first rodeo - we opened up our garden two years ago and went through this same stressful and time-constrained process. However, the lessons learned last time have proven invaluable, and it seems only fair to share with you, dear reader.

Lesson 1 - They're not weeds. They are part of our 'nature garden.'

Greta Thunberg should be celebrated for many reasons. Yes, there's the obvious stuff about protecting the one and only planet we have (obvs), but then there is the lesser-known side benefit of allowing the weedy bits of open gardens to be viewed as 'giving back to nature'. We are giving A LOAD back

to nature this year...

Lesson 2 - Chickens: scapegoats

For 51 weeks of the year, I love our four free-range chickens. Their happy clucks and studied scratching brings even more life to our garden. However, in the week leading up to an open garden, they risk finding themselves KFC'd. This year is no different - they've decided to take a major dislike to my many Cosmos Purity plants, leaving my fancy new beds looking more than a little dishevelled.

Lesson 3 - Mown Paths = Sophistication and Style

The problem with grass is that it grows. A lot. Fret not - the years of investment I have made in glossy gardening magazines has finally paid off. I'm now rocking the 'mown path through wildflower meadow' look for large swaths of the more unkempt parts of my lawn.

Lazy or style icon? You decide.

I could go on and reference the social dilemmas attached to refreshments (water, tea or booze?), the do I/don't I thoughts around a garden map (our patch really isn't that big, but it seems to be the thing to do) and the power of a carefully cut border edge, but frankly time and a rising sense of panic mean I must dash and continue to make my way through the long to-do list.

Wish me luck...Footnote: We were lucky enough to visit the fantastic garden at Upper Marshes on Catherton Common when they opened up for the National Garden Scheme. Now THAT is how you do an open garden.

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The birdsong has been absolutely riotous this year but now that we are into the summer there is a change in the message. We still hear 'Here I am!' and 'This is MY territory' but also a lot of 'Where are you, baby?' and 'FEED ME!' (I wrote about the noisy dusk-time squeaking of the Tawny Owl chicks last month). We're particularly pleased to hear frequent contact calls from Redstart families in our orchards and the woodland edges, proving that they are breeding well in the Wyre Forest despite a general decline in Europe as a whole.



Mick Farmer's photo is of a Pied Flycatcher. Numbers of these birds fell to a few breeding pairs in the late 2000s but have since recovered and are up to at least the mid-teens. (The count is based on the number of males heard singing, but as they may have more than one mate it's difficult to say how many will nest). Pied flycatchers arrive here in April from West Africa and if their arrival coincides with

an abundance of invertebrates in the oak trees then they have a good chance of success. Their natural nest sites are woodpecker holes in older trees but they readily use nest boxes as long as other occupants haven't got there first! Additional human intervention can prevent Great Tits and Blue Tits from occupying boxes by blocking the holes until the Pied Flycatchers appear but, as we have found trying to do the same for Redstarts in the Uncllys orchards, the timing is tricky and the tits are always ready to take up residence! (Thanks to the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's surveyor, Craig Reed, for the update on the Pied Flycatchers).

We all need as much good news as we can get, and I was delighted to learn that the new Burlish Meadows reserve (the old golf course and landfill site on the edge of Stourport) has, under the management of the District Council Ranger Service, already become a diverse habitat rich in wildflowers and crammed with all kinds of insects including Common Blue, Small Copper and Brown Argus butterflies and the Six-belted Clearwing moth. OK, I know it isn't the forest but in conservation terms connectivity is vital, and Burlish Meadows connect to Droppingwell Farm (Worcestershire Wildlife Trust's new acquisition), which connects to the River Severn, which connects to the Wyre Forest. Among many other volunteers I helped to plant trees at Burlish Meadows last winter, and I'm looking forward to seeing how this important tract of land grows and develops.

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There is a suggestion that appointments to the Cabinet should not necessarily be filled by an MP. This, the authors say, would widen the talent pool that could be trawled. I have some sympathy with this approach as looking at the current residents of the House of Commons, I see not so much a talent pool as a talent ever so slightly damp patch. I'm not sure whether the gender of potential recruits would make a difference but Maggie Thatcher always said that when she wanted someone to talk about a problem, she would ask a man. If she wanted someone to do something about it, she would ask a woman. This approach certainly worked in the case of the vaccination programme (just don't mention Track & Trace...)

Some 60 elderly members of the House of Lords have recently been threatened with sanctions for failing to attend an in house anti bullying course (total cost around £885,000). Reasons for non attendance included recent heart surgery and recovery from a knee operation. Nevertheless, several have been placed under formal investigation for this 'offence'. Sounds like a classic case of bullying to me.

I recently saw the CEO of Oxfam complaining bitterly about the recent cuts in the Overseas Aid budget and how people in poorer countries would suffer. How unfortunate that his plea for extra funding came at the same time that it was revealed that Oxfam had suspended their country director in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and another staff member, sacked three other staff and told another that their contract would not be renewed. This followed the results of an external enquiry into local activities that had been commissioned after many complaints from fellow staff dating back to 2015. Misbehaviour included sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, intimidation, bullying, nepotism and fraud. Apart from that, no reason at all not to shove even more of your taxes their way. Still, at least they haven't tried

to cover it all up as they did in Haiti last time...

It appears that the ability to waffle and bluff is a useful attribute as humans are not good at spotting this and will believe any nonsense if it is spouted convincingly. The ability to flannel and have people believe it can also be a sign of high intelligence. In which case, our current PM should be a genius. This reminds me of the old saying 'B*****t baffles brains'. Perhaps that should be modified to say 'B*****t requires brains'. If he is a genius, Boris may be in a small minority as a recent book describing all the 55 Prime Ministers who have served since the post was created, was reviewed by one erudite observer who remarked that it is a miracle that our democracy has survived as at least 45 of the 55 had been 'absolutely useless' – incompetent, dim-witted, corrupt, ill- judged or simply lazy. Deciding who each of these refers to is a matter of personal opinion. Despite all this, the British ship of state sails on regardless.

Apparently focusing on correct answers in maths is 'racist and perpetuates white supremacy' according to a group of educationalists in California. They say that the curriculum should be overhauled to concentrate more on theory than accuracy so that non white pupils should 'reclaim their mathematical ancestry'. I'm unsure that not getting the right answers would be a good thing for the designer of your car brakes but at least if they fail, you could be content that their teaching wasn't racist...

It is claimed that shark attacks should be renamed as 'interactions' or 'negative encounters' according to a shark researcher in Australia. This would ensure that sharks did not continue to have a bad press and be looked at in a negative light by the public. Last year, eight people were killed by sharks in Australia, so when a Great White is gnawing at your leg, don't worry, as it is just an 'interaction' or, at its worst, a 'negative encounter'.

Ariadne J Grumpy

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MAD DOG HORSESHOES



Seen outside the Market Hall at the July Farmers Market was Greg, ex Light Infantry and Rifles veteran with this collection of horseshoe creations. All made from old shoes that would normally be dumped as scrap and returned to basic steel.

In September Greg and other veterans will be on a 50 mile trek along the Jurassic Coast in Dorset. Instead of asking for money, he's selling these unique pieces at local events, with half the proceeds going to the Care For Casualties charity that supports veterans suffering from PTSD. Look out for him at this month's market.

WORKING TOGETHER

Two talents that could make your life better were talking to potential customers at the Market Hall on Farmers Market Day in July.

Tina Hobin is well known in the area for her belly dancing tuition, with classes held in the Market Hall from 6.30 to 7.30 on Tuesday evenings. If you meet the lady, she's evidence of the benefits of her dance practise, full of vitality and enthusiasm although she's quite a way past 21.

Tina also offers child birth classes, as the dancing movements provide exercise during pregnancy and help with natural childbirth in the final stages of labour. These classes will be held in the Talbot Hotel on Tuesday, from 7.00 until 8.00pm. You can call her on CM 272 882 or email tine.hobin1@gmail.com

Sharing space with Tina was Mary Ann Taylor, qualified as a therapist and as a Reiki Master/Teacher. She has also found benefit from Tina's dance classes, which helped her relax. Her own services cover Angel Card Reading to communicate

with loved ones, Reiki treatment ether hands-on or hands-off to help relieve stress and there's also a sitting Reiki, providing hands-on healing or you can have a full session of combined Reiki healing and Chakra balancing. It's a very wide range that Mary Ann will talk through and advise what is best for you. She's on 07404 383 409 or email her on wellbeingbalance@yahoo.com



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CYNICAL BIT

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Josef Stalin



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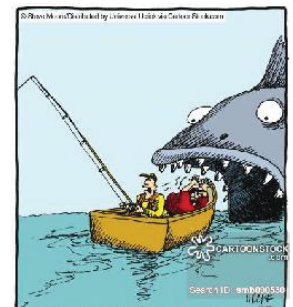
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Cleobury Clarion - Page 50 - August 2021



"We tried artificial flies. We tried lures. We tried live bait. Nothing works ... it's like they're psychic!"



"Blood-curdling screams. Hayes, will do nothing to help us catch a fish."

AUGUST 2021 Clarion Report

The Town Council still has a vacancy for a Town Councillor. It is a voluntary position but working as part of a team to help our community grow and address issues we have in the Town. If interested then please contact the Town Clerk for further details. cleobury.clerk.matt.sheehan@gmail.com

We are being quite vocal with Shropshire Council Highways about the state of our roads and are keeping the pressure on. We have also been made aware that they are to close the main Highways depot at Bridgnorth and have raised concerns at the highest level straight away, due to Craven Arms the only depot in the south, while also letting other councils in the south of the county aware. We have asked for answers from our Unitary councillors at the August 2nd meeting. Takes long enough getting things done now so it should be interesting.

Our projects for this year are underway with the new solar lighting for the QEII area being fitted under the guidance of Cllr John Greaves and the new steps into the area being built under the guidance of Cllr Guy James. The drainage system to help stop the paths getting covered in ice is due to start at the end of August. The Bulb planting will start in October and the Primary school and volunteers will be helping, but if you want to help, please contact Cllr Paul French.

We are looking at refurbishment of the Bus shelters in the town and the Wells, so please know that we are looking at many more items that need attention. This as well as day to day issues, like the CCTV requests from the police which helped to locate a missing woman that was found safe and well. Please know that we try hard but sometimes we cannot find anything due to the location of vehicles that are damaged but in the main it really helps.

The Foodbank is a real help to many families and we are getting busier by already far exceeding how many we helped in the whole of last year. We would not be able to do this if not for the generosity of our wonderful community, who never cease to amaze us with weekly donations. THANK YOU!. Also Cllr Brown and all our volunteers, but we could do with a few more volunteers if you have a few hours on a Friday morning. Please contact the Town clerk.

Cllr John Greaves is our lead on what we can do to help with Climate change, so if you have an interest in helping then please contact him through our website. As well as this we must commend Ali and the Cleobury Fish and Chip shop, for going over to cardboard and are now plastic free. Well Done!

We will be looking at the Cleobury Festival next year and may combine it with the Queen's Jubilee and again we need volunteers to help us move it all forward, so please contact us. But before that the Christmas lights will need checking ready and to look at where we can improve on what we have. Again without the help of volunteers it would be a lot more difficult to do.

Information supplied by our Unitary Councillor Simon Harris about the introduction of a large recycling bin – again there has been considerable misinformation regarding whether this covered bin for recyclables will be free or will cost. The Leader of Shropshire Council has advised that it will be free.

Finally we hope that you all stay safe in these uncertain times and be respectful of others, whether it is to do with Covid, parking sensibly and not fully on the pavement, helping a neighbour that is struggling, or just saying hello. Please be kind to others and it will come back to you.

M Sheehan Town Clerk
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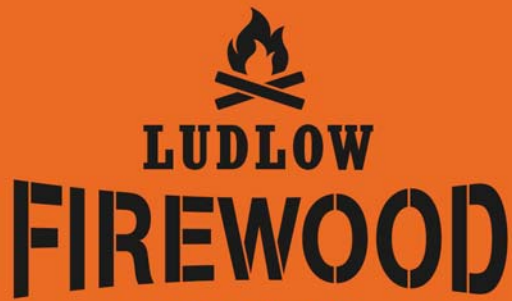
3rd - 6th August - Come and watch Sport Climbing in the Olympics on our 3 metre screen. Stay afterwards and have a boulder at Climb61. Check out our social media for updates and timings.



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Over the last few months, I have been writing about the various scams that have a single purpose and that is to defraud you or more simply steal your money. I have shown how there are many ways these scammers work, contacting you either in person, on the telephone, by email or sometimes even by letter. All of these are direct approaches but there are still some indirect approaches usually through Internet and social media communications that can, on the surface, appear attractive but are far from that. In this article I will summarise some of the many email and telephone scams that are doing the rounds today. Email scams are very prolific these days and scammers have the ability to send an email where the senders detail looks very authentic, eg. HM Revenue, TV Licensing, DVLA, BT and other mobile providers. The scammers also mimic the real pages that these companies use so if you click on the e-mail you will be directed to a web page that looks very authentic. Here are 2 tips to check if what you have received, or are looking at, is authentic. First of all, when you get an email that you were not expecting, click on the name of the sender. Sometimes you need to click twice to expand the senders full email identity. One from the mobile firm EE came up as this [EE couk@limited-invoice.co.uk](mailto:EE_couk@limited-invoice.co.uk) Another one from .GOV.UK about self-employment support came from the spam address [GOV.UK contact@gobotify.com](mailto:GOV.UK_contact@gobotify.com) These are just 2 examples of spotting a scammers real email address. **TIP**, do not ever try to respond directly to any of these spam addresses because if you do, the scammer will then know that you have a valid **and** active email address and that has a value to them as something that can be sold on to other rogues. The second thing to look out for in a scam email or web site is the fine detail (usually at the bottom of the web page). Here you find things like, Help and Contact or About us, which on a genuine web site you can click on and be directed to the company or organisations help pages. Frequently these items look like they can be clicked on as they are underlined and highlighted, but if you do click on them and nothing happens you know

you are on a scammer's web page. Again, **DO NOT** click on any request on these pages as they can take information from you that may compromise you in the future. There has also been an upsurge (due to the good weather) of scammers knocking on doors claiming to be contractors to the local government and that they have spare materials that could be used to fix your drive or path or whatever. A reasonable price is quoted but always beware that these people are usually not genuine and will, if you agree to, undertake work that ends up being considerably more and of course more expensive than you will have agreed on. In cases like this note any relevant details of the individuals, their vehicles and what they are offering to do. Ask for a number or a reference of work they have done locally and if you are at all uncertain then politely refuse and if you feel threatened in any way call the Police on 101 or 999 if a more serious immediate threat exists. There are many ways the scammers are trying to break through our barriers and fortunately the authorities including the major banks and Government agencies are stepping up to the plate to make the public more aware. If you have access to the internet, it does no harm to sign up to local Neighbourhood Watch groups on social media such as Facebook or to register with the national Action Fraud Alert scheme. Our West Mercia Police have a local alerting scheme running and our Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) for Cleobury and District also are now sending out warning and update messages relative to activity in the area. Browse for these organisations on the internet and feel free to sign up for any or all of them. None of them will cost you any money but information from them may save you the loss of a significant amount of your money through fraudulent scams. The message is as always, **BE AWARE, STAY ALERT , STAY SAFE** Thanks again for reading.

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In Business - Tracey Kidd at Tracey's Kreations

There's a gentle change in the business atmosphere in the town. It reflects in this edition of the Clarion by the two featured businesses being run by ladies. A short walk up the Bridgnorth road and you'll find the business park dominated by Kudos. Founded, run and led to great international success by a lady, Dinnie Jordan.

In the town centre is another growing success, Tracey's Kreations. It started in late 2019 as a small sweet shop in Lion Lane and made a lot of friends with Tracey's smiling face and friendly words. Soon she was offering balloons and party treats and if you took your child there in fancy dress for Halloween, they got a treat.

In the first lockdown, Tracey noticed that the town centre 28 High Street shop was vacant. She moved there in July last year with a larger range of stock, but when the second lockdown hit and only vital food shops could stay open, she needed a survival plan - sweets and toys are not vital supplies. Tracey looked around and realised there wasn't a greengrocer on the street.

Enter Tracey the Action Lady! "Boris announced the lockdown on Friday and on Monday we opened as a greengrocer, with local fruit and veg," she recalls. "I thought we'd only do it for a month, but after just a week I decided to stay with it."

She expanded the range of stock, with the fresh produce at the front. "It's easy shopping for local people -

not everyone can drive into Kidderminster or Ludlow. And if you want just one of anything, we can supply it." If you're living alone and only need small amounts, that flexibility is a real help.

The regular staff are Tracey herself and Sophie, who's learning the trade fast and welcomes customers with a smile. They're a great pair.



The Tracey's Kreations charm team - Sophie (left) and gaffer.

There's a subtle support of local feeling about plastic pollution, so you'll find paper bags to collect your choice. And if you want to call in and have it delivered, that service is free, with no minimum order rule to hit your pocket. It works well for them, with the Kreations van going out as far as Highley and Little Hereford. They'll deliver balloons for free as well.

Tracey's a great supporter of the community she serves. Like providing hampers and fruit baskets to the Lacon Childe PTA as well as donating prizes, she happily puts posters for events in the window and she'll take Food

Bank vouchers in payment. A really kind touch is the shelf unit at the front of the shop, where any out of date fruit and veg is left overnight for those in need to just collect.

She has a range of cards on show and the pricing is one of those simple Tracey ideas - they are all just £1 each. That's a sign of her early days in business as a teenager working the markets and car boot sales. Whatever happened to car boot sales, Tracey? "The traders came in and it all turned commercial, so you couldn't find bargains so easily."

You'll find collection boxes for the Cleobury Men's Shed, Cleobury Responders and the Cats Trust, all designed to help others.

The shop is crowded with stock, which she estimates at about £15,000 value. That's a lot of items to watch over and make sure she doesn't run out. "I couldn't take one item out of the shop and not miss it," she explains. "Everything is wanted."

The latest addition is a display of hardware, brought in after the hardware shop nearby closed its doors. "I hadn't got a clue what to get in when I started it," she says. "But there was nowhere to buy hardware in the town, so I just asked people what they wanted." It's working well and people are coming in and asking her to order what they want.

The future for Tracey? "Expand hardware and open another shop, away from Cleobury."

Watch this space.

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THE PHARMACY		01299 270219	Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions
NEWLIFE CHURCH	Pastor E Stirrup	01562 630595	Sunday services at 10.30
NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND	Rosemary Abbiss	01746 718451	
TOWN COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Cleobury Country Centre 9 to 2 pm, Mon to Fri. www.cleobury.org.uk . Council meets in the Centre on the first Monday of the month
POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Select and Save Grocery Store, Church Street
SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT	Mark Greaves	07828 116810	mark.stmarys@live.co.uk
SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL		0345 678 9000	
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM			richard@ssyf.net .
VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME		01299 666119	Mandy Smith
WASTE DISPOSAL		0345 678 9007	The contractor is Veolia
WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCIES	Severn Trent	0800 783 4444	

Collect the Clarion in Cleobury from: Select and Save Grocery, Butler's Store, Cleobury Cafe, The Severn Hospice Shop, Mid Counties Co-op, Purslows, The Library and Swift's Bakery Tea Room.

Out in Cleobury Country at: Heath Farm Meats, **Bagginswood;** **Clee Hill Stores;** The Village Store, **Cleobury North;** **Clows Top Stores;** The Sun and Slipper, **Mamble;** **Hopton Bank Service Station;** Bennetts End Inn, **Knowbury;** **Ludlow Library;** **Mawley Oak Garage;** The Colliers Cafe & Shop, **Rock;** The Fighting Cocks, **Stottesdon;** The Duck Inn, **Chorley;** The Live and Let Live, **Neen Sollars;** The Eagle and Serpent, **Kinlet;** Parker Motors, **Ditton Priors.**

Copies are also available from the Parish Churches in: Cleobury Mortimer, Bayton, Doddington, Hopton Wafers, Milson, Neen Savage and Neen Sollars.

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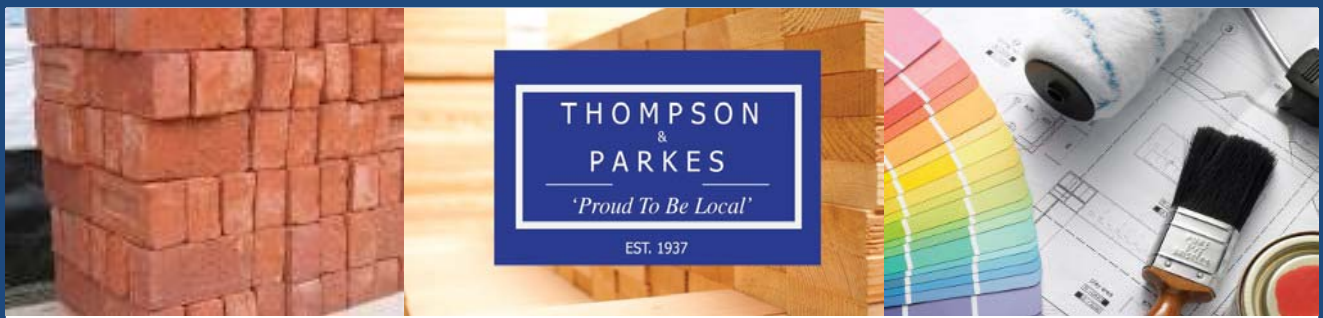
Editor and Advertising Sales: Jim Reynolds, 4 Childe Road, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire

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E-Mail: editor@cleoburyclarion.co.uk or uncle.jim@icloud.com

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