

A very Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year to All

The Cleobury Clarion

**HISTORY COMES
THIS WAY**

DECEMBER 2011

On May 24th a little local history will be made, when the Olympic Torch passes through Cleobury Mortimer on its long journey to the new Olympic Stadium in East London. No names of the runners carrying the torch have been released yet, so we don't know if there'll be local athletes involved as well.

It's a great opportunity to put the town on show to the world and Councillor Madge Shingleton has called a meeting of any local association, business, clubs or schools who are interested in making this a day to remember. It will be in the Market Hall on Friday the 9th of this month, starting at 7.00, when anybody with an idea about getting publicity for the area will have a chance to speak up and maybe claim a place along the route. Even if you're not involved, put the date in your diary,



AND SOMETHING SPECIAL AT CLOWS TOP

This is Night Watch, who are coming to Clows Top's Victory Hall on Friday the 9th with an evening of music from the 12th to the 17th century, played on instruments of the period. If you've never seen or heard an oud, rebec, cittern or cornamuse, these two highly acclaimed musicians will

open your ears as they perform in the costume of the time. They are recognised as very fine singers, too.

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The Cleobury Clarion. December 2011

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

OUR CHILDREN RISE TO THE BLUE PETER CALL



Left with a lot of empty plates at St Mary's Centre were Julija Petrulyte (left) and Jessica Jones.

It was one of those Blue Peter calls to the conscience of our children that rang a bell. They were asked to bake cakes and sell them, to raise funds for the BBC Children In Need Appeal. In this stable society, young people know better than most how fortunate they are and are amongst the first to respond to a call to help those in need.

Jessica Jones and Julija Petrulyte worked with their mums to bake a wonderful selection to offer at St Mary's, where warden Jo Booton was very supportive. "We had lots of the residents here, including one man who hadn't been in the Centre for a year," she reported. They found a warm welcome and a wide choice: Flapjack, Pudsey Bear biscuits, Iced Buns, Tiffin, Apple Sponge with Almonds and the

exotic sounding Soft Cheese Crumble with Blackcurrant Jam.

Between 11.00 and 12.00 noon they almost sold out. Residents were smiling and full of praise for two young ladies who thought of others. And when the cash was counted, they had raised £58.30

Meanwhile at the Parish Church.....



Anna and Ruth Parker were offering the cakes they had baked with Mum and Grandma.

The Parker girls sold out after the Sunday morning service, to raise over £65.00 for the same cause. As their father put it: "Thanks to the generosity of those who cakes and biscuits and gave so kindly to this wonderful cause."

DON'T WASTE OLD CASSETTE TAPES!

If you have any of those old music cassettes lying around, made redundant by DVDs, iPods and other modern recording facilities, we can put them to good use.

A lady whose daughter is blind has asked the Clarion to help find old cassettes, because her child is fascinated by the feel of them. No need to play music, she just likes handling cassettes.

If you have some you want rid of, please contact the editor on CM 270642 and we'll put you in touch.

SPECIAL NIGHT AT THE FIGHTING COCKS

Tonight, December 1st, there's a very special Festive Shop at the Fighting Cocks in Stottesdon. It starts at 7.30, goes on 'til late and will be well supported by local traders with a range from glassware to scarves, and pet foods to portraits.

An opportunity to go shopping locally, in the friendly atmosphere of the Cocks, and help an event raising money for Alzheimer's Research UK. Free entry and at the end of the evening there's a raffle for samples of the goods on display. Think of the queue at Tesco and head for Stottesdon....

A NOVEL WAY TO SAY...

Shaunah Murrell would like to wish all her friends and neighbours a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and a Healthy New Year once again. The Homeless will benefit from a donation in lieu of not receiving a Christmas card from her.

AND AN UNUSUAL SPECIAL GIFT...

Just a thought...If you're looking for something out of the ordinary for your loved one, why not give him or her a Christmas voucher for one of Liz Vanegas de Quickenden's treatments? I gave one to the special lady in my life some time ago and she came home full of praise for the effect it had and grateful for a little pampering.

Liz is on 0779 059 2631 and her treatment is given in her home, on the edge of the town centre.

SILLY BIT

Attorney: "How was your first marriage terminated?"

Witness: "By death."

Attorney: "And whose death was it?"

Witness: "Take a guess."



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Clarion Clippings -The Local News

THE CRIB LEAGUE

Roy Powell explains the background to one of Cleobury's quiet but effective sources of enjoyment:

The Cleobury Mortimer Crib League was formed in the early 1980's, and at present there are ten member teams. They are all based in local pubs, matches are played on Wednesday nights through the winter months, and players pay 50p for every game. At the end of the season, the money is distributed to local organisations who provide opportunities for young people and children in the community.

Last year we gave over £2000 to the Scouts and Guides, Junior Football Club, Archery Club, various playgroups, Church Youth Club and Playing Fields Association. We also run some friendly/beginners evenings during the summer months, and this year the money raised went to Famine Relief, The British Legion and Air Ambulance.

The atmosphere is very friendly and the publicans must be thanked for providing excellent aftermatch grub. If you are interested in playing, or trying to play, please contact me, Roy Powell (the Chairman) on CM 270832, or Mick Cunliffe, aka 'Mick the Wood,' our secretary, on CM 271149. *Roy Powell*

PLAYERS PROGRESS

The best news from the Cleobury Players' recent trilogy was the emergence of youth talent. Adreanne Stinton and Jack Warner took the central roles in Jimmie Chinn's 'Room 504', the middle play of the three offered, as young newly weds with too little time before he goes back to the action, never to return. Una Widdett was the Older Edie, looking back with a commentary on hopes, fears and the final loss, and Ray Wilson played the manager of a mediocre hotel to perfection. The way Una and Adreanne spanned the years as the focus moved from then to now was truly touching. Two very welcome new faces to the Players' lineup.

Cathy Gasowski was another new face, taking a confident grip as a sister of the deceased in 'The Reunion', with Helen Roberts the other family member, the two bickering in Lancashire accents and the petty priorities of 1950s Britain. Jeanne Pugh and Judy Reid added experience and fussed around convincingly as ladies of a certain age but uncertain direction.

The evening rounded off with the company's establishment figures for 'Last Tango in Little Grimley'. If Steve Foster was as rude as that to Deana Kimber in

real life, I'm sure Alan K would floor him, while Gloria Cartledge wore an expression of wonder and surprise as a small theatre group had one last go at survival and stumbled into success.

A good evening's entertainment, with less than a full house on the second night. Could it be that the title "A Trilogy of the Unseen" put off followers? This group deserves better support.

The programme carried a get well message for stalwart member Tom Cartwright, absent for a stay in hospital and convalescence. We all hope to see you back soon, Tom. *JR*

THE READING GROUP

The group was unanimous regarding "The Saltmarsh Murders" by Gladys Mitchell, an implausible plot with a dated narrative. What will be the verdict on "Number 10" by Sue Townsend? Find out on Monday, 19th December, 7.30 at Cleobury Library when we have our Christmas get together. New members always welcome.

Deana Kimber. 01299 271754

SILLY BIT

Bill: "I just bought a brilliant new hearing aid. Top of the range, lasts a lifetime and perfect hearing. Cost £4,000."

Bert: "Really? What kind is it?"

Bill: "Half past twelve."



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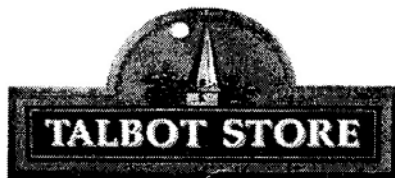
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CARE, PLEASE

The pedestrian crossing in the town centre gets a lot of use, but after several comments that it is hard to see in the dark, the street light there is to be uprated. Good common sense stuff.

But parking of cars and vans within the wavy lines remains a problem that is likely to get closer attention from the police. It's a thoughtless act that means pedestrians can't see approaching vehicles and drivers can't easily see them. It's tailor made for an accident.

Anyone tempted to park there really should be aware of the possible consequences. If you get a ticket it can mean a fine of £60 and three points on your licence. Hardly worth saving a short walk, surely?

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Two reports. Jenny Vanderhook first:

For weeks the children of Romania have known they are getting a shoe box from some kind person in England. Imagine the excitement when you've never had one before.

If you've seen the DVD that Samaritan's Purse put out each year, you'll have seen the wonder on their faces as they carefully take out all the things. It usually moves me to tears. I recently bought the book telling

the story of Operation Christmas Child, from its founding in Wrexham by one family. If you would like to borrow it, just tell me.

I am very excited to be going to Kyrgyzstan with Samaritan's Purse in March, to help hand out the boxes. It's a Muslim country, so they don't celebrate Christmas. More when I return.

Jenny Vanderhook

And now Myfanwy:

Cleobury's 941 boxes were delivered by Mawley Milk to the Samaritan's Purse warehouse in November. Many thanks to the Robinsons for their support and arranging transport. Also to everyone who packed boxes, donated bulk items for extra boxes, or came to help pack them. For extra boxes we needed to raise transport money and this was done at the Coffee Mornings at Baveney Wood and in Cleobury. For the latter, donations of prizes, tea and coffee were made by Talbot Stores, Tuffins, Flowers by Fiona and Cobblers' Corner. Donations also came in from members of the public. We raised in excess of £880 which will be worth more once the charity has claimed Gift Aid. Finally, thanks to the 'chain gang' who came to ferry the

boxes to the collection point - a particularly noble task on the second night, standing in the dark and rain.

Myfanwy Baldwin

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

It's hard to believe this, but Tony Green, who still works as a linesman for Sunday soccer matches on the town field, is 80 this month.

Friends Tony and Merrill would just like to say Happy Birthday, Boy Racer, on the Big 80. Keep Running the Line.

I don't know what he's on, but it certainly works well! *JR*

AND A NEW YEAR PARTY

Farlow and Oretton Village Hall hosts a New Year's Eve Party, starting at 8.00 and costing only £5.00 for adults and free for Under 16s. Take a plate of communal food to share and there's a bar and disco. Proceeds to the Midlands Air Ambulance. Zella Bache on 01746 718102 will take your booking.

THE FUN RUN

Many thanks everyone who took part and helped organise this year's Fun Run. Any local children's organisation who would like to be considered for a donation please apply in writing to: Fun Run Committee, Walfords Bridge, Cleobury Mortimer DY14 8EW *Caroline Bills*



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The Clarion Jobs Page

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LEK/19466	Security Officer	6.70 ph	Various hours
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LEK/19486	Finance Administrator	Meets NMW	40 hours pw
LEK/19487	Chargehand	Exceeds NMW	Full time
LEK/19488	Labourer	Meets NMW	Full time
LEK/19477	General Assistant	Meets/Exceeds NMW	36 hours pw
LEK/19481	Domestic Assistant	7.11 ph	20 hours pw

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CLOWS TOP & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

At our October meeting Wade Muggleton, gave a talk on 'Vegetables in Containers'.

His power point presentation showed how his garden of raised beds and containers has evolved over the years. A very productive garden with plenty of produce for his family. The evening was a great success.

On November 4th Kidderminster hosted an Annual Inter-Club Quiz for the Jim Greenhowe Shield. Five teams represented Astley, Bewdley, Clows Top, Kidderminster and Stourport. The winning team was Astley by one point from Clows Top, after a round of tie breaker questions. A very enjoyable evening and thanks to the Team for a brilliant performance and to the club members who supported the evening.

Diary Dates:

No meeting in December.

Wednesday January, 25th:

Brian Draper will give a talk on 'Elgars Countryside'.

Further details: Marion Wilson
01299 270475, or
clowstopdistrictgardeningclub@
hotmail.co.uk.

Pauline

CLEOBURY MORTIMER W.I.

After welcoming everybody to our November meeting, the President introduced our speaker. Hazel Wood is well known and we anticipated an interesting evening making a Christmas card. She had come well prepared and we were soon busy at our task. Hazel always manages to find something that needs our concentration but is not beyond our capabilities. The finished article looked really good and we were able to make it our own by adding festive decorations. Thanks to Hazel and her helper Iris, we were all very pleased with our cards.

There was only one entry for the Filled Matchbox and two for Flower of the Month which was won by Stella Willcox, second Liz Smurthwaite. Our December meeting will be on the 13th, when we will be entertained by Ian Templeton and his wife with slides and music related to Christmas. Earlier this year we found them really entertaining so look forward to a festive evening; all are welcome. Later we will hold our Christmas Dinner at Addisons. For information, please contact our President.

Liz Smurthwaite

KINLET FAMILY PLAYGROUP

During the run up to Christmas our children will be doing festive activities, including making cards and presents, cooking Christmas goodies and learning about the Nativity story. We will also be treating them to a Christmas party and are expecting a very special visitor.

The children have already made their fundraising Christmas cards and we hope you will receive one soon. All profits go back into Playgroup for new equipment.

We have spaces available for January and can claim 15 hours of Nursery Funding for your child if they are 3/4 years. Please get in touch if you would like to come and see us. *Zoe Pearson*

YFC CHARITY BINGO

On December 15th Cleobury Young Farmers are holding a Bingo Evening in aid of Local Charities and also just to have an enjoyable social evening.

A 7.30 start at Cleobury Parish Hall, Tickets £5.00, to include Tea, Coffee & Cake. Also a raffle with some excellent prizes up for grabs!

For further details or to donate prizes, contact Sally Gittens on 07969989348.



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Philip Dunne writes from The Falklands

Last month I spent five days in the Falklands, part of the first parliamentary delegation to visit for three years. As the Whip to the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, I was well briefed.

A fascinating trip; we were there the week before Remembrance Day and laid a wreath at the Memorial to the fallen from the Falklands War, whose 30th anniversary is next year. We visited battle sites and saw the cross commemorating the spot where Sgt Ian McKay VC was killed near the summit of Longden. Members of the armed forces of my generation fought to allow the Falklands to remain free to decide their own future.

Much has changed. From a platoon of Marines and an icebreaking ship, the military presence is now almost 1,000 with a military airfield and naval port providing deterrence through a squadron of aircraft and roulement of Royal Navy ships. The Islands are more secure as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review last year, but also vibrant. The economy has grown from a GDP of under £5 million based primarily on wool exports, to over £100 million through fishing, tourism and oil and gas exploration, despite an increasing build up of an economic blockade from Argentina.

The sale of fishing licenses has provided the backbone to this prosperity. The government has derived income and fishing companies have been established by islanders, often in conjunction with Spanish trawler companies to catch the loligo squid, which accounts for much of the calamari sold in Mediterranean markets.

Tourism has started to play an increasing role. As the globe shrinks, the Falklands is a more attractive destination for adventure travellers and cruise ship passengers; some 60,000 visitors a year has been achieved, attracted to the uniquely accessible wildlife.

There is interest in identifying commercial quantities of oil within the territorial waters to the north of the Falklands. In January a second rig arrives to drill prospects to the south. By next year it should be apparent if the Falklands have sufficient reserves to justify the investment needed to extract. What impressed most of all is the resilience of the islanders, almost doubled in number since the war, working together to address the challenges of living on a remote set of islands.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Philip Dunne

Heather Kidd's Local View

Knocking on doors across South Shropshire every year, I get a feel for peoples' concerns. Speeding traffic is always in the Top Three in villages, hamlets and on main roads –as is the case in the Cleobury area. It seriously affects quality of life and the safety of children, older people and communities who can find their villages cut in two.

Why is it so difficult to engage those whose responsibility it is to slow traffic and enforce speed limits? One answer is that resources are limited and those in power prioritise in response to government targets, their own views and the outrageous costs incurred in road safety work. Remedies are only put in place when there are injuries and deaths - too late. Even when it is known that it is an accident waiting to happen.

One stretch of pavement I know, if widened would allow safe passage from the village to the school, from school to shop, but is unlikely to be carried out. The cost is estimated at £130,000 for about 150 yards of pavement, partly because narrowing the

road is not possible and the pavement must be wide enough for a pushchair. If the road was narrowed would the traffic be slowed? A better solution than leaving narrow pavements where people are hit by lorry wing mirrors?

With people out of work and money being short I would hope gold plated contracts and excessive regulation would be reconsidered and safety would win out. We might even create some jobs I also wonder if the 'preferred contractor' route by Councils pushes costs up and reduces competition for individual contracts?

The police have limited numbers across Shropshire and enforcement is more difficult than other local police forces. Again, priorities and resources. It is now time to work together, find ways to reduce speeds, pool budgets and tell Government when regulations make solutions impossible. A very Happy Christmas to you all.

Heather Kidd



Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club Christmas Menu



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Traditional Roast Turkey With Sage &
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE ESSENTIAL WATCH

Neighbourhood Watch is the kind of cooperative movement that will work best within a strong community. Ideal for Cleobury Mortimer then, with people reporting concerns and getting answers and action where appropriate. The November meeting in the Methodist Hall was a good example.

Clr Gwilym Butler reported that a town centre CCTV system is on the way. No date yet, but it will happen. There will be public consultations by the Parish Council about High Street parking and feasibility of a one-way system in the narrow part of Childe Road.

PC Tony Sewell reported crime at a low level; there will be an increased Police presence at some events in town. He works on being very visible and warning people in the wrong before taking action. If people see or suspect crime, they should report to him or to the Crimestoppers number. He outlined the new police contact numbers (See Clarion Coppers on Page 31)

Did you know Crimestoppers is an independent charity? George Munro talked about it and opened a few eyes. It

passes information to the Police and last year 8264 criminals were arrested, over £25 million of drugs seized and £3.15million of stolen goods recovered.

Members can buy the very clever Smartwater property tracer at a special price; the editor knows this stuff and it is very good indeed. Flo Hadley at the station can tell you more about the deal.

Organiser Betsy Pratt advised that Parish Council consent had been applied for to display NHW signs at the town approaches as a deterrent. (These are now in place. JR)

The next meeting will be in the Methodist Hall at 7.00 on March 21st All are welcome.

BOWLING NEWS

The End of an era at CMBC. John and Margaret Cadwallader have been looking after the Bowling Green in Cleobury Mortimer for many years and have finally called it a day.

They turned a very average patch of meadow grass into a Bowling Green any Club would be proud of. Year after year the Green has improved, new grasses taking over from the old until the green we have today emerged..

There is no greater praise than players from other clubs

congratulating us on the quality of our green and it has been mainly due to the efforts of John and Margaret.

They have seen many changes: our new pavilion being built, membership rising from about 40 to well over 100 and flower beds where the rough grassy bank was before.

John has been Club Captain, Greenkeeper and helped to run our Club Tournaments and Fund Raisers for The Air Ambulance. Earlier this year he became ill, but after treatment is getting better and we are sure he will make a full recovery to be bowling with us next Season.

Phil Pack & Dave Harley

ANOTHER GOOD RESULT AT LACON CHILDE

They seem to do everything very well at Lacon Childe School. A group of Year 10 pupils cooked up a batch of Pudsey Bear cupcakes for the Children in Need appeal and sold them all. Add on the money made when every child who came in civvy clothes made a small donation and the total was £940 on November 24th and they were still counting. In a world where too many seem not to care at all, this selfless effort was a fine example to us all.

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The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

It has been a busy year with the merger and all those new names and faces to learn, but that is no excuse for Christmas coming around so quickly. I was really proud of myself because I made an early start to my shopping back in August(!) Sadly I very quickly ran out of steam and now I am back to running around like a headless chicken trying to get everything done in time. My dog's stocking is full of goodies (healthy ones of course – mine is the one full of chocolate) although she isn't one for stuffed toys; she would choose a tennis ball over a teddy bear any day. Christmas can be a real minefield for pets with so many hidden dangers- it is a Health and Safety nightmare. Tinsel, baubles, fairy lights, chocolate, small bits of plastic, left over alcohol, all so enticing and all so much trouble when they get eaten and you end up with an emergency dash to the vets. Visitors and over excited children stoked up on e-numbers and anticipation are scary enough to the ordinary person but imagine how a nervous dog or cat would feel. Make sure you provide a safe place for your pets to go to before the annual invasion begins. If you want any advice on safety or behaviour issues – pet only I'm afraid, the kids are up to you – then call and speak to one of our qualified nurses at the surgery.

SPECIAL OFFER

Severn Edge Vets are offering a 20% discount on all pet neutering done during December so book now. If you are unsure about what the operation entails or of the health benefits from it come and talk to us.

OPEN DAY

Fancy a day out that doesn't involve spending money? Come and visit our newly refurbished premises at Bradley Road, Donnington, Telford on Saturday 10th December. From 12.30 until 4pm you can look behind the scenes and see the facilities in the new extension. It is so exciting that Father

Christmas may even pop in to take a look. And if you can't cope without spending anything there will be a selection of pet toys and treats on sale. The mince pies and mulled wine are free!

OPEN HOURS

Over Christmas we will be closed from noon on Saturday 24th until 8.30am on Wednesday 28th and also on Monday 2nd January. As usual we provide a 24 hour cover by our own veterinary staff so, if you do need us, call your normal surgery number (see below) and you will get through to the nurse on duty.

GOODBYE TO KATH

Kath Thornton our Practice Manager has retired after working with us for 10 years. Some of you may remember her from when the surgery first opened in Cleobury - she was here to welcome our very first client through the door. She will be missed a great deal but we do wish her and her husband Colin a long and very happy retirement.

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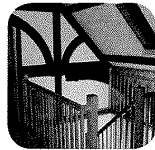
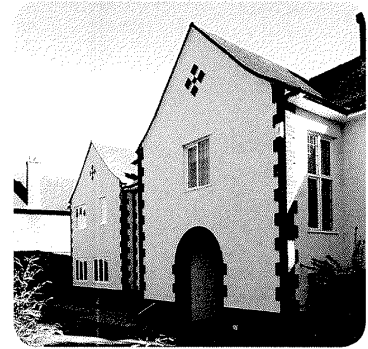
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The Remembrance Weekend

11.11.11 WAS TRULY
MEMORABLE



Trevor Burton (left), Rector Ashley Buck and curate Kelvin Price leading the British Legion's memorial gathering.

November 11th was a special day, with the British Legion and the clergy cooperating with a special ceremony at the War Memorial. Legion members almost filled the garden area, to hear Trevor Burton read the Roll of Honour and the Rector lead prayers before the two minutes silence. This was observed by all, including the very young children from the Market Hall,

who looked on in wonder. Even the traffic seemed to slow and reduce noise in respect. When it was over, the Legion's members were bussed off to Ludlow on a day out sponsored by the Rugby Club - a very fine gesture.

Remembrance Sunday itself was another remarkable display of the town's respect for those who died in conflict. The Bell Inn Band led the Legion in the parade, with other associations in the procession. The whole route to the War Memorial was crowded with onlookers, who were impressed by the impeccable behaviour of the children of all ages who marched.

After the silence, a host of representatives laid wreaths at the Memorial before the march into the Parish Church, where there was standing room only. Again the children featured - such a good idea to introduce them to this honouring of sacrifice - before Ashley Buck gave a brief and meaningful sermon. After the service people lingered and chatted, seeming unwilling to leave such a special gathering and its atmosphere.

This can only ever be a sad occasion, but its power to unite people is truly amazing.

Jane Key was one of those very impressed by the turnout on Remembrance Sunday. She recalls the day in rhyme:

Meet in Talbot Square,
Then up to Childe Road.
Adjusting our step
Into marching mode.
Onto the High Street,
No traffic is flowing,
Now we're into our stride
And really get going.
Shop workers and publicans
Stand at their doors,
Locals line the pavements
And give their support.
We reach the church
And our wreaths we lay,
A prayer is said
To commemorate the day.
Silence descends
As we remember the deceased
Who gave their lives
That we may live in peace.
The silence ends
Church bells ring loud
Be thankful for our freedom
Wear your poppy and be proud!

And a Thank You....

British Legion chairman Jim Hulme would like to thank the Rugby Club for the enjoyable trip to Ludlow, and our own Hobson's Brewery, who donated gifts of beer for those who could not join the outing across the Clee Hill.

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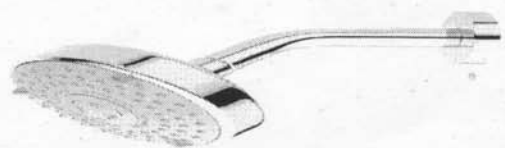
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Cleobury Patients' Voice

Jenny McCrorie reports: THE SNOWDROP PROJECT

Can you give a couple of hours to help people on the Age UK Winter List? Only in periods of severe weather conditions, when Age UK are unable to get to their clients in our local area. If you can, Age UK would like to hear from you. You would be added to a list for the area and only be contacted when you are needed.

For more details and to register your name, contact Jackie Willetts of Home From Hospital Age UK on 01584 878046.

GOOD NEIGHBOURS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Are you cooking Christmas Dinner this year? Would you be able to do an extra plate and take it to a neighbour who is alone and vulnerable?

If you would like to provide Christmas Dinner for someone, but are unable to approach or find people to help, please contact Jo Booton. Jo works with the older residents of Cleobury and will put you in contact with people who need your help. She's on CM 271412.

Remember, there are 365 days a year and Christmas is only one of them. Helping one person on Christmas Day could be just a small effort, but could be so much more to the one you help.

TALK FROM DEMENTIA SUPPORT WORKER

In November Sally Powett, a Dementia Support Worker for the Alzheimer Society, gave us an interesting talk on her role and how she helps the carers who look after their loved ones for 24 hours, seven days a week.

She recently started a Dementia Cafe, held on the first Wednesday of every month, 10.00 to 12.00 noon at the British Red Cross Centre, Lower Galdeford, Ludlow SY8 1RT. All sufferers can come with their carers and friends, and will be offered information and support. For more information, contact Sally on 07921 068074.

CPV MONTHLY MEETINGS AND AGM

Our December meeting is a Christmas Curry, on December 8th at 7.30 in the Spice Empire. For details, please contact Jenny or Sarah.

Our AGM will be on January 19th, 7.00pm in the Market Hall. It will start with a presentation on the results of our Medical Centre Patient Survey. The results will be placed in the Medical Centre and in The Clarion.

Everyone is welcome to attend our Annual General Meeting.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH THE NEW CENTRE?

Solicitors for Matrix and the Parish Council are dealing with the legals for the sale of land to Matrix.

The Business Case for the new Medical Centre is due to go to the Finance Committee of the Primary Care Trust before Christmas for final approval. We have met with the PCT twice, to agree final details on the number of rooms and any changes that might be needed to the plans, to comply with NHS Building Regulations and Infection Control.

Once Final Approval has been given by the PCT, Matrix can then put in for planning permission, which we are hoping will be early in the New Year.

We would like to thank all our patients for the support they have given us over the last year. We will be able to give a more detailed timeline once the PCT has formally signed off our scheme.

CPV NEEDS NEW MEMBERS

Please join us to help our community. If you are concerned about Health and Social Care in Cleobury Mortimer and wish to improve it, please join us and work to do this.

Jenny 271383; Jacqui 270019.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

A SHINING EXAMPLE



The smile is for the most important people at Bayton School - the pupils. But Avis Pounder is no softy, taking Bayton Primary from 40 to 104 pupils in ten years.

Let's be realistic. Most people wouldn't expect to find an outstanding combination of a nursery and primary school tucked away in a small village on the Shropshire/Worcestershire border. They obviously haven't been to Bayton.

This is the village that has stood up and fought to keep its school, and then took on the developer who wanted to build lakes, divert streams and change the local landscape. That idea died with the proverbial flea in its ear; you

underestimate the willingness of the rural English to stand up and fight at your peril.

Ten years ago the primary school was threatened with closure, its pupil roll down to 40 and the men behind desks said they should be bussed to Far Forest, and the school closed. Enter Avis Pounder, newly appointed head teacher, who didn't think this was a good idea. She built a community feeling, the village backed her and the school climbed out of the closure category and on up the testing slope of success.

In October 2011 it has 104 pupils, the Office for Standards in Education thinks it is "Good with Outstanding Features" and the whole place blooms with success. And next door, so close that they share some facilities in a gentle, lovely rural setting, is the Little Learners Nursery. A place that Ofsted says is "Outstanding", the most obvious source of new pupils for the primary school.

At the Open Morning on October 8th, they were showing off the school's Reception Unit for new pupils, an essential facility for young children taking the step from nursery to the discipline of school. It's roughly the size of a two bedroom bungalow, with its own toilet and kitchen.

And here is the most remarkable part of this story: the new unit

didn't cost the County Council anything. It was financed by local fundraising and savings from devolved capital. The building went up at a very affordable cost after a bidding process won by a local company with grandchildren who are pupils.

Here is a school that thrives because it's a true community place. Out in the grounds - not far from the Forestry School area with its range of bushes, trees and a seat cut from the trunk of an old tree in the same grounds - a new greenhouse was being built. Not an expensive unit from a catalogue, but a simple wooden frame erected by builder Andy Howells and the walls and roof of plastic bottles. It cost about £180 and will be used by the pupils to grow produce. To call this a special place hardly does it justice.



Andy Howells and helpers building the plastic bottle greenhouse in the school grounds.

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John Masefield

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CAROLINE'S IN THE AWARDS



Caroline Bills, a Higher Level Teaching Assistant at Lacon Childe School, has been awarded a Distinction in the National Association School Business Management Awards. She was nominated by the school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator, Jo Wood, who said: "She truly deserves this. Caroline is totally dedicated to supporting pupils and getting them to achieve their very best. She organises a range of activities, including the Keilder Challenge, Sportsability Club and the annual trip to London."

Head Teacher Allan Gilhooley was naturally happy. "We have managed to become the outstanding school we are

thanks to the dedication of our staff. This is the first time we've nominated staff and were very pleased that Caroline reached the final stages and received this award."

Pictured above is Caroline, with Lucy Brown, Lewis Carter and Matthew Yates. Of course, she's also known as a driving force behind the Children in Need Fun Run.

The final word goes to another of her happy pupils, Laura Callwood:

"Mrs Bills is so helpful and friendly. I love going to Sportability every Monday after school and I can't wait to go on the London trip in December.

"She's fantastic and deserves to get this award."

WALK THE ROCK

PATHWAYS

Rock Pathfinders have two December ramblings planned. These are designed to take you off the highway and into a scenic wonderland for two or maybe three hours at most. Stout shoes and walking stick will help; expectations of a five course lunch with silver service will not be met.

On Thursday December 1st they meet at 10.30am on Blackstone car park off the A456, on OS reference 796743, for a morning of amazing scenery and social blending.

As Christmas looms and the need to escape Tesco becomes more urgent, they'll be gathering at 10.30 in the very fine Rock Cross Inn (OS reference 735487) on the 15th to offer another escape from the 21st century to a place more in keeping with where we live. Alan on CM 400304 will tell you more; a nice man, he lives in the real world.

TRULY CIVILISED

Des and Beverley Edwards had an approach from a neighbour, whose view up on Clee Hill was being blocked by the Christmas trees they'd planted. Not a problem, they're selling the trees off.

Talk to Des or Beverley on 01584 890 768 about the range of sizes and the prices. They're at White House Farm, just down the Farlow Road from Doddington.



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The December Monthly Social Calendar - Part 1

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Thu 1		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY. REMEMBER – NO CARDBOARD. REVISED COLLECTION DAYS - CALENDAR WILL BE SENT TO YOU		
	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders walk starts from Blackstone Car Park, off the A456.	Alan	01299 400304
	7.30pm	Festive Shop at The Fighting Cocks in Stottesdon. Local produce and companies in support, to make shopping more enjoyable.		
Fri 2	12.45pm	Advent Lunch in the Market Hall, just for a donation. Raffle and stalls to try as well as the home-made soup	Shaunah	CM 270386
	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington's Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 3		Sponsor a bag of logs for the older residents. The Rugby Club will be in the town centre to take your sponsorship of their Christmas Log Drop.		
	2.00pm	Father Christmas opens the Christmas Fair at the Parish Church. Santa's Grotto, lots of stalls and the Crooked Steeple Morris Dancers in action.		
	3.30pm to 7.30pm	Singing by Candlelight at Cleobury North Village Hall. Traditional sacred songs in rounds and harmony. £14.00 adults, £5.00 kids	Jane Read	01584 891656
Sun 4	10.00am to 2.00pm	Farlow Fayre for Christmas. Farlow and Oreton Village Hall hosts local traders and craftspeople to show their wares. Much nicer than Kidderminster....		
	10.00am	Parish Walk starts from St Mary's. All welcome; wear boots.	Graham	CM 270655
Wed 7	10.30am	Meeting in the Methodist Hall, Church Street, for any who suffer from or are helping a loved one with depression. Gentle understanding and listening.		
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington's Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Fri 9	12.45pm	Advent Lunch in the Market Hall, all for charity remember.	Shaunah	CM 270386
	8.00pm	The remarkable Night Watch perform a range of traditional music on instruments of the age at Victory Hall, Clows Top. £7.00/£5.00 concessions.		
	8.00pm	Christmas Bingo Night at Silvington Village Hall	Eula Rutter	01584 891200
Sat 10	12.30pm	Open Day at Severn Edge Vets' new premises in Bradley Road, Donnington, Telford		01952 677133
Sun 11	4.00pm	Green Gap Kennels Christmas "Bit of a Do" at their Far Forest address.		
Mon 12	8.00pm	Horticultural Society's Christmas Social at St Elizabeth's Hall, Lower Street		
Tue 13	7.30am	The Breakfast Club are at the Golf Club, where Ian Suthers speaks about Life as a Police Diver	Gill Chapman	CM 270575
	7.30pm	Cleobury WI Christmas slides and music in the Parish Hall		
Wed 14	12.30pm	The Ladies Luncheon Club meets at The Crown in Hopton Wafers	Alison Osborne	01584 890414
	1.30pm	Senior Citizen's Party at Lacon Childe School		CM 270312
	7.00pm	Carol Service by Lacon Childe School at St Mary's, all welcome		CM 270312



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The December Monthly Social Calendar - Part 2

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
	8.00pm	The Royal British Legion meets at The Bell Inn in Lower Street		
Thu 15	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders out again starting at the Rock Cross Inn	Alan	01299 400304
	7.30pm	Cleobury Young Farmers host a Bingo Night in the Parish Hall in aid of local charities. £5.00 ticket includes tea, coffee and cake.		
	7.30pm	Winter Concert at Lacon Childe School. Tickets from the School		01299 270312
	7.45pm	Whist Drive at the Sports & Social Club, Love Lane. Proceeds to OAP entertainment.	Alan Evans	CM 270114
	8.00pm	The Royal British Legion meets at The Bell Inn in Lower Street		
Thu 15	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders out again starting at the Rock Cross Inn	Alan	01299 400304
Fri 16	12.45pm	Advent Lunch in the Market Hall. Good food, goodwill, good cause	Shaunah	CM 270386
	6.30pm	Father Christmas out around town, with gifts for the children, all courtesy of The Chamber of Trade		
	7.30pm	Senior Citizens Party at the Sports and Social Club, Love Lane, with Derek Kade entertaining.		
	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 17		Rugby Club back in town to take your money to sponsor bags of logs for Sunday's Log Drop		
	6.30pm	Father Christmas out for a second night, spreading goodwill		
Sun 18		After all that fund raising the Rugby Club will be delivering free bags of logs to the more mature residents.		
	7.30pm	Cleobury concert Brass entertain right royally with their traditional Christmas Concert in the Parish Hall. Tickets from Cleobury News.		
Mon 19	7.30pm	The Reading Group gather at the Library in Love Lane	Deana	CM 271754
Wed 21	7.30pm	Stottesdon WI make Christmas cake decorations and savour a glass of wine and nibbles at Chorley Village Hall.		
	8.00pm	Final Whist Drive of the year at Doddington Village Hall		
Thu 22	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Neen Savage Village Hall	Clare Ratcliff	CM 270173
Mon 26	10.00am	Clear your head on a walk with the Footpath Association. Meet at the Parish Church.		
Tue 27	11.00am	Christmas Sponsored Walk for Forest Dog Rescue starts at Wyre Forest Visitor Centre, Callow Hill. Register at 10.30am. Details	Maureen	01299 266722
Wed 28	1.00pm to 3.30pm	And 4.30pm to 7.00pm. The Blood Transfusion Service will be at Lacon Childe School. Give blood and save a life.		
Sat 31	8.00pm	New Year's Eve Party at Farlow and Oretton Village Hall. £5 adults. Under 16s free. Bring a plate of communal food, bar and disco. Proceeds to Midlands Air Ambulance.	Zella Bache	01746 718102
		Jim Onslow entertains at the Sports and Social Club's Big New Year Party. Ticket entry only – available at the Club Bar.		
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO JANUARY...		
Sun 1	2.00pm	The Footpath Association gather at St Mary's for a walk and maybe a chat in the pub.		
Fri 13		Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874

From: Jim Reynolds <jimreynolds@mopro.freeserve.co.uk>
 Subject: **Turner Advert**
 Date: 25 November 2010 18:44:24 GMT
 To: editor@cleoburyclarion.co.uk
 ► 1 Attachment, 221 KB

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Clarion Coppers - P C Tony Sewell

Unfortunately this month there have been two house burglaries. You may have seen an increase in police patrols recently; there have also been uniformed, plain clothes officers and police dogs patrolling all times of the afternoon and into the night. If you see something suspicious, report it, there are a number of ways to report it and the details are below.

We have had a number of calls in relation to a suspicious red transit van, near to the scene of the burglaries and thanks to the calls we were able to stop and search the vehicle nearby and its occupants. It transpired that they had been working in the area, but we are aware who is in the area, and they are aware that they are being watched, which is what working in my community is about.

An example of this is mid November a male local to Tenbury was been arrested and charged in relation to house and commercial burglaries in Ludlow, this was brought to the attention of the police by a call from a member of the public, so any information about any offence is treated as confidential, or people can contact Crime Stoppers anonymously.

On 14th October there was an incident of fighting in the town, a number of people have been helping me with my enquiries and with the help of CCTV a number of prosecutions for public order are pending.

I would like to thank all the people who took part in Children In Need, the evening went well and everyone was well behaved and we are now looking forward to the festive season to be the same.

With reference to the festive season, have you ever wondered what lies behind the police station door? Who works there? What information you can find there? Then, come along on Saturday 3 December between 10am and noon, meet us and enjoy a festive mince pie. Then, if you ever need to come to the station for any reason, you won't be apprehensive and you'll know what to expect!

If you have an incident locally and wish to discuss it with me then call the Cleobury Police mobile number on 07947806052. This is used by myself and CSO Morris. If we are on duty we will answer it, if we are not there and it can wait we will return the call on our return to duty.

If it needs police attention straight away, but not an emergency then call 101, the new police number. If it is an emergency then call 999. The old West Mercia Police number is still in use for calls to the force and officers working within it 03003333000.

Looking forward to a good festive period and see you around town.

PC 3977 Tony Sewell



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

FROM THE BANDROOM Stella Wilcox brings us up to date with Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass...

It's all getting very Christmassy in the bandroom. Christmas music being rehearsed that even prompted some carol singers outside the Parish Hall as they passed by.

We have had a very busy summer with outdoor concerts and even a Jewish Wedding. The highlights were being declared the winners of the fourth section at Wychbold Brass Band Festival and the organising of the popular Beer and Brass Festival in Cleobury Mortimer.

We will shortly be playing for the wedding of one of our former players and playing for the Christmas Carol Service and concert at Ludlow Methodist Chapel. All this before the one we always look forward to, the Annual Christmas Concert in the Parish Hall in Cleobury Mortimer. This year it will take place at 7.30p.m. on Sunday 18th December. Mulled wine and mince pies organised for this event as well as a bar, other refreshments and a raffle. Tickets from players and Cleobury News.

2012 is looming. We are expecting a new baby for one of our players and plans are afoot for a new Training Section for

the Band. Details will be announced as soon as possible.

Stella Wilcox

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Welcome back Graham Simpson after recent illness:

The next Parish Walk is on December 4th starting at 10.00 o'clock. Continuing our Christmas tradition of short walks to help digest the rich fare, we will be meeting on Boxing Day at 10.00 and again on New Year's Day at 14.00. Do come and join us; all the walks start outside St Mary's Church. A good pair of boots is always advisable in winter.

Our work parties have been busy outside of town, clearing the route between Ditton Mill and Hopton Wafers (this route is featured in two of the published walks that start in Hopton Wafers) and rebuilding a stile on Common Lane.

Graham Simpson Tel: CM270655

THE FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

A number of our events in 2011 completely sold out and some members were unable to obtain tickets. In order to facilitate priority booking for members it is proposed to offer members the opportunity to purchase tickets before they go on general sale.

If you are not a member please consider joining us to help

maintain and preserve the fabric of St. Mary's Church. Our membership secretary is Mrs. Diane Waddington, Tel. 01299 272820. *Alec Osbaldiston*

STOTTESDON W.I.

Our AGM on November 16th was an opportunity to look back on the year on a varied programme of speakers and activities, ably planned by Clare Tibbits to engage the interests of our members. Next year promises further hands-on activities and stimulating talks from Shropshire personalities. Open to visitors as well.

Steff Bryan was voted our new President, a worthy successor to Jenny Everingham, who brought enthusiasm and commitment to the post for many years. She leads our WI Public Affairs team, as a local voice of national campaigns.

We round off 2011 with an evening making Christmas cake decorations with Kim Fisher, a glass of wine and Xmas nibbles. Come and join us at Chorley Village Hall on Wednesday 21st December at 7.30.

Marian Wootton

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Mick Fox

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Clive Davies' Westwood Farm Diary

Work goes on with the livestock at Westwood. In the sheep department the buoyant sale trends have led to us selling out of all the sheep that we can spare. The surplus male lambs have left the farm, most of them as finished lamb but a couple for a specific order for store lambs. They are those that will be fed on for a while longer before reaching enough weight and condition. The autumn period has seen us move on the ewes surplus to breeding requirements. In fact demand has been such that we have retained just twenty to mate to the rams this time. With that period now finished the sires have also left. The senior stock ram that we wouldn't be using again has gone to a recently established flock near Wolverhampton and our show ram of summer 2011 has been loaned out for a while to work in a small pedigree flock not far away. He will return during the winter to enable us to prepare him for some early summer events and then be offered for sale at the Shrewsbury Shropshire Sheep sale. We now have a few shepherding jobs to complete including a worm drenching programme on the ewe lambs before things settle down for the winter period. At the turn of the year we will pregnancy test the ewes to establish the expected lamb crop. This will give us some guide to their future management requirements as we move toward the start of the lambing season in March. We have recently completed the most recent calving period for the Herefords. With the main stock bull only used over a seven week period last winter, this year's autumn calving was completed by mid November. The resultant calves are pleasing and with some

kind weather up until now, they have had a good start to their first winter. Most of the calves have yet to be disbudded so that they do not grow horns and then it will be time to get the stock bulls out to commence the process once again. The spring calving herd are approaching weaning time so that we can give the cows a rest before their next calves are due from mid March. The scanning results have revealed one barren cow and one carrying twins, so mathematically a 100% calf crop. The 'empty' cow is a disappointment, but when one day the vet visits we may have a look into why this might have been the case. She is a cow that we would particularly like to breed from again and so it will be best to search out the situation. The spring born calves are half way through a vaccination programme designed to safeguard them from respiratory diseases. When they are housed for wintertime they are always under more disease pressure and conditions like pneumonia can be devastating if they really get a hold. These animals are now due for their second dose and when weaned over the next couple of weeks or so should have better protection. The calves will then go onto full winter feed ration and the cows settled as they move toward their spring calving period. We still have a few cattle to sell but fortunately a number of clients are making enquiries so it is hoped we can find them something that appeals so that we have manageable numbers for when winter sets in. Therefore, over the next couple of weeks we have treatments to complete, winter housing to start and a suitable fee regime to adopt. Livestock work goes on at Westwood.



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The Clarion Weekly Calendar - Part One

day	time		contact	phone no
SUN	8.30	Holy Communion)at the Parish Church of St Mary		CM 270264
Sun	9.45	Parish Communion) the Virgin, Church Street		
Sun	9.00	Mass at St Elizabeth's Church, Lower Street	Fr J Robinson	01584 872906
Sun	09.00	Cleobury Country Archers, Sports Centre	Lesley Burnside	CM 271374
Sun	10.30	New Life Church, for venue call	Derek Morris	CM 270787
Sun	10.30	Health Walk in the Wyre Forest, Visitor Centre A456	Visitor Centre	CM 266929
Sun	11.00	Morning Service at the Methodist Church	Rev H Roberts	01584 819649
MON	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe (term only)	April Rogers	CM 271418
Mon	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Mon	8.00	- 17.30 Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Mon	10.00	-19.00 Library open at Cleobury Country Centre	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Mon	9.30	Morning workout in the Sports Hall £2.00	Deena Edwards	01299 271217
Mon	9.30	Belly Dancing Class at Victory Hall, Clows Top		
Mon	9.30	CM Playgroup, Market Hall (term only)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Mon	10.00	Monday Club, St Mary's Place £5.00 for day incl 2 course meal	Jenny Ferriday	CM 400773
Mon	17.30	Cubs meeting (term-time only)	Karen King	CM 270001
Mon	18.30	Karate Club, Lacon Childe School	John Nelson	CM 879210
Mon	19.00	Tai Chi Class, Lacon Childe School	Rose Jacks	01584 875544
Mon	19.00	Cleobury Mortimer Ladies Rugby Team Training	Sarah Cound	07977 120272
Mon	19.15	Yoga Class, Bayton Village Hall	Linda Thomas	CM 832998
Mon	19.30	Rangers Meeting (term-time only)	Judy Ellis	01584 890759
Mon	19.45	Bingo, CM Sports & Social Club (exc. Bank Hols)	Alan Evans	CM 270114
Mon	20.00	Prize Bingo, Sports & Social Club, Love Lane		
TUE	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Tue	8.00	- 17.30 Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Tue	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe till 3.15pm	April Rogers	CM 271418
Tue	09.00	-17.00 Library open	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Tue	9.30	CM Playgroup, Market Hall (see Mon)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Tue	10.00	Nippers (Mothers & Tots), Methodist Hall,	Emma Greenaway	CM 272959
Tue	10.30	Health Walk in the Wyre Forest, Visitor Centre A456	Visitor Centre	CM 266929
Tue	17.00	Sports Roundabout, CM sports Hall. £1 per hour		CM 271317
Tue	17.30	Beavers meeting (term-time only)	Becky Keeley	CM 271416
Tue	17.30	- 19.30 Youth Forum meets at 8 Talbot Square	Sandra	07964902549
Tue	18.45	Bridge Club, Hopton Wafers Village Hall	Wendy Duley	CM 270562
Tue	18.45	Yoga, Victory Hall, Clows Top	Linda Thomas	CM 832998
Tue	19.00	Bellringers' practice night. St Mary's Church	Liz Walker	CM 271808
Tue	19.00	Dog ringcraft class, Clee Hill Village Hall	01584 890999	or 890478
Tue	19.00	Zumba Fitness, Lacon Childe School	Faith Thompson	07517 753375
Tue	19.30	Peak Physique, Lacon Childe School	Kim Bills	01384 877702
Tue	20.00	Charles Beale Modern Dance Sequence Club, Lacon Childe	E Wrigglesworth	01562 822291
Tue	20.30	Aerobics, Lacon Childe School. £2.00	Ms K Bills	01384 877702
WED	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Wed	8.00	- 17.30 Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Wed	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe (see Mon)	April Rogers	CM 271418
Wed	9.00	Open Doors in the Market Hall. Parents & toddlers 1 st monthly	Rachel	CM 272920

The Weekly Calendar continues on Page 41....

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Dining with Mr Davies - An Evening at Addison's

Clive Davies is something of a favourite in the Clarion office. A contributor whose page is always interesting reading for people who know little or nothing about farming. With his background knowledge about production of food, he seemed the right chap to invite to an evening at Addison's, a recent addition to High Street dining.

It was a quiet evening when we sat and chatted in the bar, browsing the menu before making our choices. When Clive opted for the sirloin steak, I thought it a good move to follow a man who definitely knows about beef. His single Scotch with plenty of water kept well within the drink-driver limits and reminded me of the habit in Scotland of a dram or two with your steak. The Scots know how to produce both beef and whisky, after all. The meat at Addison's comes from a Bridgnorth butcher Ros has known for a long time and who always delivers good quality.

Clive went for the selection of pates, on the menu as a shared dish for two, but willingly served for a solo choice. Such flexibility is a good sign. Mushrooms with garlic bread are a favourite with my better half and went down well.

The sirloin steaks came with a very generous portion of chips and the offer of more if we wanted them, I could feel my belt straining at the very idea. Red wine helped it down, and as a non-specialist I cannot recall its name. If you are looking for one of those finely detailed

records of every item, its constituents and served temperature you're not going to find it here. This was a social evening, with concentration on the pleasures of the occasion.

My wife's main course was pork, well cooked but with a sauce too sweet for her taste. And we rounded off with treacle tart for madam and the men couldn't resist the siren call of a Bailey's Cheesecake.

Clive is an interesting talker, his recent visit to Brussels part of his responsibilities representing livestock farmers' interests to the body who lobby on their behalf in the EU. They may have been out to eat in the evening, but the trip was clearly no holiday, as Clive own report suggests.

Should we call this part Letter From Brussels? Over to you, Clive:

Recently, a number of eating establishments were visited. Three were memorable, for varying reasons. Two were in Brussels. The first, Moroccan styled, offered an experience! Three courses were accompanied by free flowing wine; the first course a pate selection, followed by a main course of mainly skewered meats. The chicken was recognisable and good; not sure what else was served! The sweet course was various marzipan based choices. The most amazing part was that our party of 24 plus other diners were all served, without any delay by just one waiter.

Next evening the party had grown to 30, less than a tenth of the

people enjoying the delights of Chez Leon in old town Brussels. What a place this is and has been over its 100 year plus history, do visit its website. The meal of soup, beef steak and meringue was just the job in the busiest restaurant you could ever imagine. There was some room for improvement in the steak department. Thank goodness there was the chance of a remedy when getting into Addisons a couple of evenings later. This recent addition to Cleobury's eating experiences offers a comfortable reception area where pre-meal drinks can be enjoyed and the menu pondered. I settled for a fairly direct comparison with the long established Belgium venue. The soup and the sweet were quite equal, although we did just rush the chef with the Baileys Cheesecake! What of the decisive main course? Was the British steak dish any match for its Continental European counterpart? You bet it was! The Addison chips must be something of a speciality but the sirloin was excellent. Thank goodness that our British farmers and butchers can still produce taste, succulence and tenderness. And that Addisons can cook it!

Clive Davies

Addison's answered the need for an English restaurant in town and they offer special themed nights every month to give you the chance to expand your tastebuds.

Ros Addison is the lady very much in charge and the telephone number is CM 270389.

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The Weekly Calendar - Continued

<i>Day</i>	<i>time</i>		<i>contact</i>	<i>phone no</i>
Wed	09.00	-17.00 Library open	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Wed	9.30	Rising Fives Playgroup, Market Hall (see Mon)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Wed	10.00	Citizen's Advice Bureau, CM Library (appt only)		01584 876933
Wed	10.30	Over 50s Relaxing Exercises, Doddington Village Hall	Freda Childe	01584 891180
Wed	14.00	- 17.30 Library open, Cleobury Country Centre, Love Lane	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Wed	17.15	Brownies meeting (term time only)	Jadwiga Borns	CM 270215
Wed	16.30	Gym Club for ages 6 and over £3 (booking essential)	Don Carter	CM 270312
Wed	19.00	Guides meeting (term time only)	Bev Pearce	CM
Wed	19.00	Heartbeat Fitness, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
Wed	19.00	Yoga Class, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
Wed	19.30	Rugby Club Training, Lacon Childe		CM 271317
Wed	19.30	Band practice, Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass	Stella Wilcox	CM 270560
Wed	19.30	New Life Church Prayer meeting. For venue, please ring	Derek Morris	CM 270787
Wed	19.30	Choir Practice, St Mary's Church	Philip Englehart	CM 270627
THU	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Thu	8.00	- 17.30 Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Thu	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe till 3.15pm	April Rogers	CM 271418
Thu	9.00	-17.00 Library open	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Thu	9.30	Little Tiddlers, birth onwards at demountable, Kinlet School	Sam	CM 271847
Thu	9.30	CM Playgroup, Market Hall. (term-time only)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Thu	11.00	Sale of second-hand goods, Knowle Sports Club,	Mrs A Taylor	01584 890644
Thu	13.30	Cards and Scrabble, St Mary's Place, Love Lane	Jo Booton	CM 270792
Thu	14.00	Scrabble Club, St Mary's Place, £1 non residents	Jo Booton	07969 104808
Thu	17.30	- 19.30 Youth Forum meets at 8 Talbot Square	Sandra	0796 4902549
Thu	17.30	Brownies meeting (term-time only)	Jadwiga Borns	CM 270215
Thu	17.45	Cleobury Comets Netball at Sports & Social Club		CM 270317
Thu	19.00	Bell Inn Improvers rehearsal. Bell Inn, Lower Street		
Thu	19.30	Tums & Bums, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
Thu	19.30	Adult 5-a-side Football League, CM Sports Centre	Dave Hives	CM 271317
Thu	20.00	11-16 Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317
Thu	21.00	Over 16s Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317
Thu	20.00	Bell Inn Band rehearsal. Bell Inn, Lower Street		
FRI	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Fri	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe till 3.15pm	April Rogers	CM 271418
Fri	09.00	-17.00 Library open	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Fri	9.30	CM Playgroup, Market Hall (term-time only)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Fri	10.00	Tiny Tots, Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Fri	10.00	Tiny Tots, Parish Hall £2.00 per family	Bettina Poole	CM 271868
Fri	17.00	Junior 5-a-side Football League, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317
Fri	17.30	Rainbows Meeting girls 5-7 years (term-time only)	Jean Basham	07792813774
Fri	20.00	Badminton, CM Sports Centre. Adults £2.50,		01584 881359
SAT	8.30	Sale of second-hand goods, Knowle Sports Club	Mrs A Taylor	01584 890644
Sat	10.00	-13.00 Library at Cleobury Country Centre	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Sat	10.00	Telephone advice line to Citizens' Advice Bureau		01584 810860
Sat	11.00	Junior Golf Coaching for boys and girls, CM Golf Club	John Jones	CM 271628

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Clarion News - High Street Happenings



Happy night at the King's Arms, when Pat Williams (left) handed over a cheque to Lesley Leach of the Haven breast cancer care centre, in company with Steve Ramsey, who ran a half marathon to raise £150.

GOOD NIGHT, GOOD CAUSE, GOOD RESULT

Friday November 18th was a very happy night in the Kings Arms. Apart from the visits by some very individually dressed people raising Fun Run money for Children in Need, there was a party atmosphere for a friendly handing over of a cheque to The Haven breast cancer care centre in Hereford.

Pat Williams did the presentation honours with a cheque for £245 that was rounded up to £250 with a last-minute fiver. Pat's an avid speaker for The Haven, having experienced their very particular care as a cancer sufferer herself.

Pat's friend Steve Ramsey stood with a quiet pint and admitted he'd run the Wyre Forest Half Marathon in June, raising £150 for the cause. A regular player with Cleobury's football club, he had no marathon experience and did a little training. His time? "very slow," he laughed. "Over three hours, but it'll be less than three hours next year."

Lesley Leach was impressed by a pub this busy on a Friday and so welcoming to families. Her Community Fundraiser role takes her to a lot of events like this and we suspect she'll be back next year.

Our thanks to Pete Williams for the photo of the occasion.

THE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Don't forget that this year's St Mary's Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday December 3rd from 2.00 to 5.00pm. It will be held in St Mary's Church and opened by Santa Claus at 2.00. As before, there will be a number of activities including Santa's grotto, the usual stalls plus some new ones.

In addition, there will be entertainment outside as the Crooked Steeple Morris dancers will be performing at 3.30 and Santa will switch on the town lights at 4.30 pm. All proceeds will be divided between the Church and the Friends of St Mary's so please come along and support this worthy cause.

If you are looking for that elusive Christmas present, why not come in and have a look? You might be surprised at the variety of items to suit all pockets.

Steve Todd

THANK YOU FROM DAVID

David and Janet Percival would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for all the help, cards and good wishes they received during David's illness. This was greatly appreciated.

David is now making good progress

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE LOCAL CHRISTMAS POST IS BACK

Once more the Cleobury Scouts and Guides are offering a wide Christmas Post. And it's another bargain - just 15p per stamp. Post your letters or cards by the 16th and they'll be delivered by the 24th. In these straitened times, a very appealing bargain.

Stamps are on sale at no less than 13 outlets, and you'll find the posting boxes in the same places. They are: Cleobury News, Talbot Store, St. Mary's Place, Purslow's sales office, Crusty Cob, Cleobury Cafe, Cleobury Country Centre, Spice Express, Heath Farm Meats, Hopton Bank Garage, Doddington Lodge, The Live and Let Live and Stottesdon's Fighting Cocks.

At each of these place you find a map detailing how far the service spreads. They cannot deliver beyond this area, so you'll have to pay the full Post Office for that card to Auntie Sybil in Scunthorpe....

Some tips to get the best out of the service:

1. Don't send money or cheques.
2. Address envelopes clearly
3. Use the postcode if you can.
4. 4.00pm Friday the 16th is Last Post
5. Cards will be delivered between the 18th and the 24th

THE FUN RUN

A Very Big Thank You to everyone who took part in this year's Fun Run. Nearly £4000 was raised, so another successful evening.

The winners of the Fancy Dress were:

1st: Egg & Soldiers. 2nd: The Umpah loompahs. 3rd: The Lego Men. Highly Commended - The Zoombies

Most money raised in sponsor money was Lin Rolston. Well done. Prizes will be one their way to you soon.

Another big thank you to all the shops and businesses who donated raffle prizes and to those who bought tickets - prizes on their way too!

Finally, this event wouldn't be possible with out the help and support of the Fun Run Committee-Dan Bills, Mark & Jo Booton, Pete & Sally Howman, Dawn & Graham Phillips, Mark & Bev Williams, Cindy Fidoe, Karen Gallagher & Jane Skellern. Also Mark Tennant's Disco, Apollo Security, Parish Hall and Nick from Hobson's who had the difficult job of judging the Fancy dress costumes. Thank you all very much.

Kind Regards
Caroline Bills

TOTS NEED VOLUNTEERS



Bettina Pool with two year old Jake and year old Katie.

There's been a nursery in the Parish Hall for at least 25 years. Today it's called Tiny Tots and welcomes children from babes in arms to four-year-olds every Friday from 10.00 to 11.30. It's a not for profit exercise that gets a little financial help from the annual Fun Run.

Bettina Pool runs it, combining looking after her own seven children with watching over anything from five to 25 little ones. She really needs a little help, particularly on the busy days, and volunteers can contact her on CM271868, to learn more and to help keep an invaluable service running.

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(V) Soup of the Day

Pate served with Onion Chutney & Warm Toast

Deep Fried Breaded Brie served with Dressed Leaves
& Redcurrant Sauce

Whitebait served with Dressed Leaves & Tartare Sauce

Roast Shropshire Turkey with Roast Potatoes & Cranberry Sauce

Salmon Wrapped in Parma Ham served with Pesto Sauce
& New Potatoes

Beef Bourguignon served with New Potatoes

(V) Vegetable Wellington served with a Vine Tomato Sauce
& Roast Potatoes

Rib Eye Steak with Peppercorn Sauce (£4.00 Supplement)

*All main courses are accompanied with
steamed seasonal vegetables*

Brandy flamed Christmas Pudding with hot Custard

Crème Brulée served with an Amaretto Biscuit

Chocolate Brownie
served with Chocolate Sauce & Vanilla Ice Cream

2 Course £12.95 3 Course £14.95

Boxing Day Lunch

3 courses £21.95 per person

2 courses £17.95 per person

Winter Menu

STARTERS

Chef's Homemade Soup of the Day £4.50

Crown Pate served with Redcurrant Sauce & Warm Toast £5.95

Crayfish & Prawns served with Apple & Mayonnaise on Dressed Leaves £6.25

Whitebait Served with Tartare Sauce & Salad Garnish £5.50/£10.95

Wild Mushroom Risotto Topped with Rocket & Parmesan Shavings £5.95/£11.95

Smoked Salmon served with Beetroot, Salad &
A Creamy Horseradish Dressing £6.95

Hummus served with Roasted Peppers & Bread £4.50

Hot Belly Pork with Plum Sauce & Dressed Leaves £5.50

Cajun Chicken Strips served with Salad and Garlic Mayonnaise £5.95

All starters served with bread and butter

MAINS

Braised Beef on a Bed of Horseradish Mash £11.95

Beer Battered Cod Served with Chips & Mushy Peas £10.95

Slow Baked Pork Belly with Dauphinoise Potatoes £11.95

Chef's Chicken Curry Served with Rice (Vegetarian option available) £10.50

Lamb Shank in a Red Wine Jus served with Spring Onion Mashed Potato £12.95

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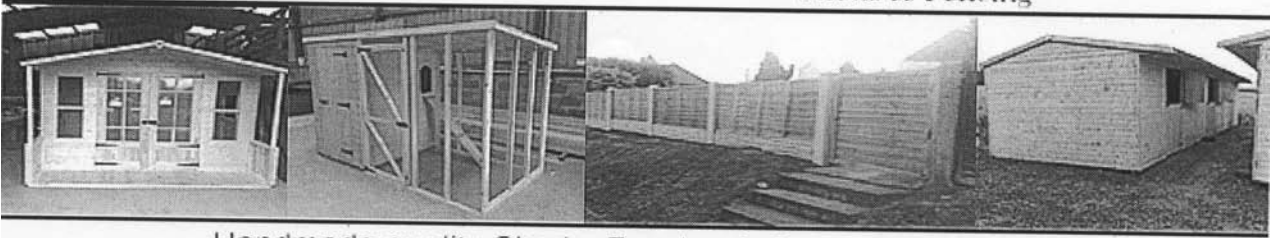
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

DECEMBER IN THE WYRE FOREST

Seasonal wisdom from Linda:

Brrrr! Cold weather is here again. The berry crop on most trees has been excellent during the autumn but I noticed that the birds were stripping the trees fairly early in the season. I hope they will be able to find enough food for the winter – we'd better keep topping up the bird feeders.

Hollies seem to be doing well in the forest where I live. I thought it would be fun to find out more about this seasonal symbol and turned to the Flora Britannica by Richard Mabey. Among all the facts, folklore and anecdotes I found the following:

Holly was cut as winter feed for sheep and cattle. Apparently it is a good source of energy and nutrients, so the deer know what they are doing! A group of hollies cut regularly for feed was called a "hollin," a word that appears in place and family names in the north of England.

There was a widespread belief that cutting down a holly tree brought bad luck.

Holly is one of the hardest woods and was used to make walking sticks.

Holly is tolerant of shade and seedlings often sprout among

the bird droppings under trees used as roosts.

The leaves stimulate sweating so were used to treat fevers in colds, flu, bronchitis and rheumatism.

Christmas is coming and we will be hosting schoolchildren visiting the forest to enjoy the season and make a natural Christmas decoration. We hope they'll also find out a little about the animals that live in the forest. Whether you want to gather evergreens and cones for festive decorations or get away from it all, the forest could be the place for you. There are Health Walks every Tuesday and Sunday, meeting at the Visitor Centre at 10.30 for an 11.00am start. The walks are free, led by trained leaders, and are especially for those who wish to improve their fitness – perhaps after illness. Forest Friends meet outside the Forest Café at 10.00am each Thursday in term time for an hour of forest activities for pre-school children and their carers. The charge is £3 per child.

It's good to share good news. Since I sent that "Endangered Species in the Wyre Forest" article last month there has been a stay of execution from the Forestry Commission. The team at the Discovery Centre can now

deliver educational programmes to schools and others until 2014/15 while still looking at alternative models of doing things and doing our best to match income with expenditure. However we do value everyone's support and would be delighted to receive your messages, which we will keep on file and use when necessary.

Linda Iles, Forestry Commission

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Our AGM was well attended and members heard of our activities from Chair Flo Hadley. The treasurer's report was gratifying; no need to increase subscriptions this year. Main talking point was the enlargement of the allotments; a working party was convened for the 19th. Committee positions remain the same except for Vice Chairman, taken by Aileen Hood. Jenny Vanderhook has ably filled this post previously.

Members then enjoyed homemade soup and breads, we have some good culinary experts! As a postscript the working party had a very successful morning under the guidance of Steve and Malcolm erecting all the posts and will meet next weekend to fix the wire.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

FUNDING FOR VOLUNTARY GROUPS

Voluntary workers from Cleobury areas are invited to submit funding applications by Wednesday December 21st for the final round of the Cleobury Rural Local Joint Committee's funding allocation this year. Groups wishing to apply for funding should send an application form to Shropshire Council's community action officer, Tracy Johnson at Southern Area Team, Shropshire Council, Westgate, Bridgnorth, WV16 5AA. Applications will be considered before the committee meeting on Wednesday 29th February 2012 at Cleobury Mortimer Parish Hall

Cllr Madge Shingleton said: "We want to reach local groups in our area, especially those who haven't applied before."

For further details about Cleobury Rural Local Joint Committee, visit www.shropshire.gov.uk, call 01746 713111, mobile: 0758 200 2005 or email tracy.johnson@shropshire.gov.uk

CLEOBURY MORTIMER OLD PEOPLE'S FUND

Roger Gittins has an amazing history to tell:

The Old People's Fund began back in December 1971, when

customers at the King's Arms raised money by playing dominoes and running raffles. This first year 28 people, nominated by the two local nurses, received £1.00 each. In 1973 the Sunday Domino League was formed, which raised £116.

The formation of the committee changed to Chairman Harry Heath, Malcolm Forrest as Secretary and Treasurer and the Captains of the Domino Teams. New rules were agreed that only pub teams in the town could contribute and those receiving gifts must live in the parish.

In 1979 the Darts League was added, spreading fund raising over 12 months. The committee changed over the years, but Malcolm Forrest remained in office until 2005, by which time over £100,000 had been raised.

I took over from Malcolm and have distributed £23,250 over the last six years. At the AGM in June it was agreed, 100 percent in favour, that money raised by the Sunday League would now be donated to worthwhile charities. This year the Nightingale Nurses and MacMillan Nurses will each receive 40 percent of the fund. I estimate this will be around £2,500 apiece.

This means there will no longer be little envelopes dropping

through Senior Citizens' letter boxes at Christmas.

Roger Gittins, Secretary and Treasurer

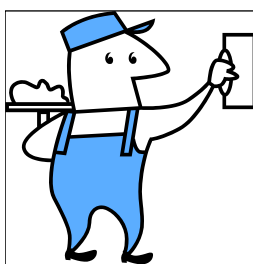
FATHER CHRISTMAS ON TOUR AGAIN

Working for our Chamber of Trade, Father Christmas will be touring the town on the evenings of Friday the 16th and Saturday the 17th, in the run up to the Big Presents Day. He'll be starting at 6.30 each day, his sleigh towed by a Vauxhall Rudolph, with bags of simple goodies to hand out to the younger children. From babes in arms to primary school age is the guide line, but in the dark and with his specs misted up, he might not get that exactly right.

It's just a goodwill gesture on behalf of the local shops and businesses, who recognise that they stay in business through the support of local people. If you have youngsters, enjoy the moment with them.

BIKE SHOW DONATION

It's become an established habit that the Lacon Childe School Parent Teacher Association makes a donation to a local charity from their Bike Show profits. This year they'll be handing a cheque for £500 to the Midland Air Ambulance, in memory of Steve Shotton.



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IN BUSINESS

Gilbert Carter Carpenter and Joiner



Gilbert shows off two planes, one modern, the other antique and for trained craftsmen only.

Gilbert Carter's roots are firmly local. Educated in Cleobury Mortimer, he left school to work in the plastics factory at Shakenhurst, where there was a lot of woodworking machinery. Maybe that's what inspired him to quit and sign up for a Manpower Services joinery college course at Southampton.

"The interview was at ten in the morning, so I travelled down by train overnight, not knowing where I'd stay. I actually slept in a graveyard, in my sleeping bag! I reckoned nobody would be daft enough to interfere with you in there," he laughs.

Fresh out of Southampton at the age of 21 he got an improver apprenticeship with a Kidderminster joinery company, where he met and listened to craftsmen as he broadened his knowledge and experience.

In 1986 he took the big step of becoming self employed, ready to travel anywhere to work and learning all the time. The thirst for knowledge didn't die, and years later he went back to

college for two years of evening classes, emerging with distinctions and credits in joinery.

Along the way he qualified as a college lecturer, as a strained back persuaded him to look at less physically demanding work. "I started teaching in Hereford and hated it!" he recalls. So he turned his talents to specialist joinery, making to measure in whatever wood the job required. He never stood still, investing in machinery that made work quicker and better finished. That priority of work quality showed when he moved to the site where he still operates, just outside Cleobury. He looked over the garage that would become his workshop before he glanced at the house.

In the workshop today are a dimensional saw and spindle moulder plus a variety of other machinery and hand tools. On one shelf is a range of ancient planes up to 150 years old he inherited from a craftsman and he holds one with pride: "In the hands of an idiot, this is just a block of wood," he explains. "With somebody who knows what he's doing, it can produce beautiful work."

He works with any wood, and does have a favourite: "I do like non tropical hardwoods, because I don't like the idea of cutting the rainforests down. But it isn't always possible to use that."

"Oak is very popular today," he says. "I get my supplies from a Black Country merchant." He makes everything to order and when The Clarion called he was halfway through a houseful of windows, every one a different size. That's his strength, the

ability to adjust to the customer's precise requirement.

"If you want a standard size for an estate of houses, you go to someone like Magnet," Gilbert explains. "I'm not trying to compete with them. I'm a traditional joiner, and that means quality."

Almost all of his work is local, with hardly any more than ten miles from home. He has long experience of working on restoration projects and knows what can be done to comply with building regulations, yet still offer modern standards of insulation and draught proofing. Like the set of sash windows, made to measure as like-for-like replacements for the originals, but with a clever twist. From outside they look just like the old windows, but these are double glazed and offer high thermal efficiency as well as proper draught proofing. They're destined for a local Grade Two listed building.

His knowledge means he can readily identify the name and style of moulding on ancient frame. And he has the tools to make perfect replicas.

He does lots of built-in wardrobes and can construct staircases for any dwelling from a traditional cottage to a manor house, a man with pride in the work he does. "It takes a chap 25 to 30 years to be the master of a trade. Call me up and ask me to build a brick wall and I won't. I'm a carpenter and I'll do a proper job at that. I used to work with craftsmen who believed that just because you couldn't see part of a job it was no excuse for it not to be properly finished." From a gate to a staircase, he can do it well.

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

You can also contact the new Shropshire Council free of charge.

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

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

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

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