

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS

The Cleobury Clarion

DECEMBER 2012

NAVIGATIONAL HAZARD FOR SANTA CLAUS?



Pilots of low flying Christmas sleighs are warned of a new navigational hazard overlooking Cleobury Mortimer.

It's the brand new wind turbine at Mawley Town Farm, installed in November by a very efficient crew who left Galway two days before and had the tower up and the turbine in place within 24 hours of arriving. **More details of the new arrival on Page 9.**

HOORAY! NEW TOILETS ARE ON THE WAY

Matt Sheehan, clerk to the Parish Council, attended a meeting at Shrewsbury on November 19th, when it was confirmed that work was about to start on the new toilets in the Childe Road West car park.

The building work started on the 26th of last month and is scheduled to last eight weeks. As the Christmas and New Year break is very close, work will stop from December 21st until January 2nd and the project should be completed by February 2nd.

In these times of austerity, we really are fortunate that Cllr Gwilym Butler worked so hard to get the finance agreed and 'ring fenced' for this project. With so many demands upon every council's finances, it took a lot of work and careful persuasion to keep our need recognised as a priority. But persistence has paid and soon the old name 'Bog Lane' off High Street will be forgotten.

GOODWILL TO ALL

Christmas is so widely regarded as a time for children, we too easily forget that it is also the season of goodwill. And doesn't the world need a little more of that rare commodity?

But in our corner of sleepy South Shropshire we have quite a lot of it. Inside you can read about the Rugby Club leaving free bags of logs on people's doorsteps, a party from a church body going on a visit to the mosque in Wolverhampton, the Golf Club opening its greens free to aspiring professionals on a degree course and dear old Father Christmas, in a variety of shapes and sizes, handing out presents to children at all sorts of events.

Let's not kid ourselves that everything in our garden is rosy; it's not. But in the pubs, the churches and the shops, people will smile and say "Happy Christmas" to both friends and strangers. So relax and enjoy yourselves, don't eat too much and have a good New Year. JR

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The Cleobury Clarion. December 2012

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
A wonderful display of community strength.



Matt Sheehan, whose nine years in the army included a tour of duty with the Royal Scots in Northern Ireland, laid the wreath on behalf of the organising British Legion. As well as his own NI Medal, Matt wore his father's National Service medal and his grandfather's from the 1914-18 First World War.

The town's gathering to remember those lost in action seems to grow bigger each year. This year the parade that assembled in the Talbot Car Park stretched down to Stable Tavern, with an impressive

number of children amongst them.

Led by the Bell Inn Band, the parade marched down the High Street to the Bookshop where it stopped to salute the 1939-45 World War veterans, there as special guests of the British Legion. It then moved on to the War Memorial, where Rector Ashley Buck led prayers and Jim Hulme of the Legion added the memorable verse from Lawrence Binyon's 'Ode of Remembrance.' It was a moving experience to stand and join the two minutes silence, with not a murmur to be heard from the hundreds of people around the War Memorial Gardens and lining the parade route from the Talbot Yard car park to the church.

The parade moved on into the church, where there was not a seat left. The Bishop of Ludlow had asked to attend the service and gave a brief and pertinent sermon that the many children listened to in attentive silence. Their respectful presence in the parade, the wreath laying and the service was an optimistic sign that those who gave so much will not be forgotten in the future. The collection during the service raised £700 for the Legion's Poppy Fund.

After the service, the veterans were treated to lunch in the

Kings Arms, courtesy of the Legion. Such a nice touch. Walking home, it seemed that everyone thought this year's parade was the biggest they'd seen and there was a warm glow about the day.

BEFORE THE PARADE

Deacon Justin Parker had a good experience. In his words:

On the Saturday before the Remembrance Sunday service, I was in church late in the afternoon and heard a loud noise

Thinking it could be a low flying aircraft I popped outside when what should I see but Alan Guest, busily and by himself, blowing, sweeping and clearing all the paths around the Church in readiness for the parade.

What a lovely thing to do. No one prompted him to do it; he just saw a job which needed to be done to make the area clean, smart and safe and did it.

That's how you make a town work.

Justin Parker

JOE'S GLOVES

Wow! The committee behind the May memorial football match and auction have just received a pair of England goalie Joe's Hart's gloves. And they're signed.

They'll be auctioned in aid of the Air Ambulance. Watch this space very carefully....



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

'MURDERED TO DEATH'

Another Players' success

Even before the cast appeared, the stage set impressed. It was the lounge of a country manor house and it looked as if the Lacon Childe School hall had been visited by a TV makeover team. There was a cocktail cabinet - when did you last see one of those?

Into this walked Judy Reid as Mildred, lady of the house, and Jacqui Lewis as her companion Dorothy. Before the guests arrived and the overlaying plots began to emerge, Ian Williams left the audience in no doubt that Bunting the butler sipped much more than Vimto. His stagger became more impressive as the evening passed.

The guests who gathered were Alan and Deana Kimber as Colonel Charles Craddock and his lady wife Margaret, who arrived by Bentley, while Ray Wilson as art dealer and fraud Pierre Marceau and Gloria Cartledge as Elizabeth Hartley-Trumpington arrived with airs and graces and much luggage. The last guest was Miss Maple, played by last minute stand-in Suzanne France in place of Marian Martin, who was not well.

There were undertones from past and present affairs and the first murder came when Mildred was shot. Enter Her Majesty's Police in the form of new Players member Carl Phillips as PC Tompkins and Steve Foster as Acting Inspector Pratt. His name tells you all about his competence, with Steve playing the part for all it was worth with his delivery of Spoonerisms by the bucketload.

There were laughs all the way as the true characters of the more posh elements emerged

until poor Dorothy, due to inherit Mildred's estate, was in turn shot and Inspector Pratt went into a spin and shot poor Constable Thompkins twice, but not fatally. At the end the drunken Bunting and Elizabeth H-T emerged as the villains and the cast took a long curtain call. A nice touch was Steve Foster particularly acknowledging the sterling job of the unrehearsed Suzanne France.

It was a good night's entertainment, the audience tolerant of Suzanne's need to carry the script and read it out loud and amused when other members of the cast fluffed lines and rather obviously ad libbed through their embarrassment. That apparent lack of rehearsal was the only flaw we could see. It needs attention for next time, please, because when the pupils of the school present a play they are not allowed a prompt.

CLOWS TOP

GARDENING CLUB

At the October meeting, Mike Jones gave a talk entitled 'Mistletoe'. The power point display showed some excellent pictures explaining the Facts, Myths and Legend associated with Mistletoe. There are hundreds of species and in our country it's the European variety. The evening was a great success with everyone thoroughly enjoying the talk.

If you love pottering around the garden, if you need some fresh ideas or advice for your garden, then why not join us at one of our monthly meetings. It's a great opportunity for you to share your ideas with other members. We have a great programme of speakers as well as evening visits to local gardens and an Annual Coach Trip.

Diary Dates:

Wednesday 28 November, AGM & Members Social Evening

Wednesday 23 January 2013, Jill Guest: 'Easy Garden Design'.

CLEOBURY W.I.

Another full house for our November meeting, which always gives out a great atmosphere. Business was conducted by President Jill Chesterman who was presented with a bouquet from members, thanking her for all her hard work last year and wishing her good luck for the coming year.

We discussed our 90th Birthday on December 11th at 7.30 in the Parish Hall. Replies to the invitations will help Ashley's Bakery, who are catering our buffet. The subject for the Birthday Meeting will be "Nowt So Queer as Folk".

Our November speaker was very amusing, giving a guided tour around Wytchbold in the 1940's where he was the son of a P.C. who had served in the force for 50 years.

Flower of the month was won by Betty Davies and Best Christmas Card was won by Jill Chesterman's hand painted one.

THE VOLUNTARY CAR

SCHEME

Contrary to what we said on the front page in the last issue, the telephone number for the Car Scheme has been changed. It is now 01299 666119.

The hope of retaining the old number - which always makes life easier for a service such as this - didn't fit in with BT's work schedules and to relocate the contact to Val Simpson's home without a delay meant a change. So if you have a note of the old number, please do change it, as the new one is a permanent fixture.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

MAWLEY MILK'S NEW TURBINE

It's a new landmark on the east side of the town, its huge blades using the wind to drive the turbine unit on top of a 30 metre tower. The Robinson family are not given to looking back to how things used to be, but move forward and adapt to new technology.

The new turbine has an output of 50 kilowatts and is expected to achieve an output of 150,000 kilowatt hours in a year. That will cover roughly 75 percent of the farm's annual need, complementing the solar panels on the barn roof that give about 25 percent. This is an obvious investment for a busy dairy farm, whose use goes to provide cold storage for the milk, warm water to wash down the dairy and the milking parlour and to run the milking system 24 hours a day.

There were two years of planning in this development, working with the Galway based manufacturer. This turbine is a new development for them, the biggest they've made and the Mawley installation is Number 11 off the production line. Its assembly was a careful process, with the turbine unit mounted on a rig to having the propeller blades mounted and the whole assembly craned up onto the tower. Wind speed was crucial to that operation, as the unit would not be lifted to that height if the wind was above the critical rate of 9.8 metres per second.

Rachel Robinson tells us that overall the feedback is positive and that the company would welcome anyone who would like to see the turbine close up. Only by appointment of course.

THE RUGBY CLUB LOG DROP

They're doing it again. The Rugby Club will be out on Sunday the 16th, starting at 2.00, delivering bags of logs to anyone in Cleobury Mortimer Parish who gets the government fuel allowance.

It's a little better organised this year, as the delivery information they had last Christmas was three years out of date. Andy Goold has arranged for everyone entitled to the free logs to leave their details at one of the information points. These are at the Severn Hospice shop, Flowers by Fiona, Carrot Tops and the Cleobury Country Centre. Leave your details, please, by December 8th, to help Andy organise a smooth run that means they won't be knocking on doors asking if people are expecting a delivery.

Big thanks to Paul Harding Tree Services and Specialist Foundations, who are donating the logs, and the Rugby Club who are giving their time to make this thoughtful Christmas gesture happen.

CHANGES AT THE BOOKSHOP

—Mark & Myfanwy Baldwin regretfully announce that from January 1st they will no longer be opening the Book Shop on a regular basis, although M & M Baldwin will still be based at 24 High Street. In preparation for this down-sizing, December will see a Half-Price Sale on all secondhand goods at the shop - books, magazines, sheet music and postcards.

Opened in November 1986, the Bookshop is pretty well Cleobury's longest-standing business to be run in the same

premises by the same principals. However, the market has changed, partly a result of the influence of the Internet, and regular opening is no longer worthwhile. Mark & Myfanwy would like to thank all their customers past and present - their support is much appreciated.

The slump in the secondhand book business has been offset to some degree by the continuing demands for Mark's services as a public speaker on a range of World War 2 topics. In the past two years, he has delivered over 100 presentations in a variety of venues - from universities to primary schools, and from theatres to cruise ships. He also works part-time as a Tour Director for ACE Cultural Tours, and has a number of 4- and 5-day study tours planned for 2013, one of which will be to the Channel Islands to look at some of the many defensive structures built during the German Occupation of 1940-45. Jersey alone has over 400 bunkers, and as the standard wall thickness is two metres, you can understand why they're still there.

Mark Baldwin

DODDINGTON FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We had an excellent tutor at our November meeting, when Hazel Wood demonstrated and then led us through making our own Christmas cards.

The looks of concentration, especially on the faces of the men as they cut cards out, was something to be seen. I only wish I'd had a camera with me.

Thank you Hazel, for a very happy afternoon.

Alison Osborne, Chairman

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LEK/21146	Hair Stylist	Meets NMW	16 – 40 hours pw
LEK/21147	IT Assistant	Negotiable wage	full time
LEK/21148	Production Operative	Meets NMW	full time
LEK/21149	Bar person	Meets NMW	full time
LEK/21150	Relief Housekeeper	Negotiable wage	As and when
LEK/21151	MIG Welder	7.50 to 8.00 ph	full time
LEK/21152	Workshop Technician	15,000 to 18,000pa	40 hours pw
LEK/21155	FLT Driver/Production	6.19 ph	full time
LEK/21156	Office cleaner	Meets NMW	over days
LEK/21157	School Admin	10.17 – 11.15 ph	37 hours pw
LEK/21163	Class 1 driver	8.00 ph	Various
LEK/21164	Payroll and Book keeping	21,477 pa	full time
LEK/21165	Optical Asst	Meets NMW	30 hours pw
LEK/21166	Domestic Asst	Exceeds NMW	16.5 hours pw
LEK/21167	Community Worker	11,868 pa	25 hours pw
LEK/21168	Domestic Asst	Exceeds NMW	10 hours pw
LEK/21169	Domestic Asst	Exceeds NMW	18.5 hours pw
LEK/21170	Catering Asst	Exceeds NMW	11 hours pw
LEK/21171	Catering Asst	Exceeds NWM	11.5 hours pw
LEK/21172	Nurse	12.19 to 12.76 ph	3 shifts pw
LEK/21173	Trainee Chef	6.19 ph	39. hours pw

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KATE'S CHOIR IDEA

Kate Jones, the reiki dojo at Kim Stewart's Health and Beauty salon on High Street, has a singing idea she wants to share. We'll let her tell the story:

'When I was teaching Reiki in the Market Hall last year I started thinking that it would be an ideal space for a group of people to sing. This has led to my plan to set up a community choir in Cleobury early next year. I did the first introductory workshop early in November and will be doing another one (called Drop In for a Sing, Laugh, Breathe) from 11.00 am - 12.30 on December 5th. It will cost £5.00 a head.

This will be an opportunity for anyone who loves to sing or would like to have a go to come and explore their voices with others. The choir will be as much about community as about singing because singing together helps people to feel more connected.

At my first workshop there were singers of all abilities, from those with some experience of singing in choirs to those who wanted to sing but were very unsure of their abilities. We ended up making a wonderful sound with some beautiful harmonies. And the upstairs room at the Market

Hall has great resonance, so it was lovely to sing there.

I am planning to start the choir proper at 11.00 am on February 6th at the Market Hall and it will then run on alternate Wednesdays in term time.

I'd love to let everyone who might be interested know. With the recent work of Gareth Malone on TV, many people have seen how much being in a choir can benefit you, so if you want to experience it for yourselves in Cleobury you will be most welcome!

I will be teaching simple songs from around the world, the emphasis is on fun rather than preparing for performance. You can call me on 01584 890 284 if you need more details.

katejones@thereikidojo.co.uk

FROM THE BANDROOM

Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass are really getting into the Christmas spirit and rehearsing for our annual local Christmas Concert in the Parish Hall.

This traditionally festive occasion will be on 16th December at 7.30p.m. . Tickets are available from Cleobury News and band members at £7 each and will include refreshments. Early booking is advised as seating is limited

The band will be playing for the switching on of the

Christmas Lights in Bewdley on 1st December and will be on Radio Wyvern. In the evening of that day they will be giving a Concert in the Severn Centre in Highley in conjunction with the Severn Singers.

Stella Wilcox

AFRICAN NIGHT

We had a very good turnout for the African Night at the the Fighting Cocks and the raffle raised £60 towards Riding for the Disabled.

As well as a range of Zimbabwean crafts, people were able to see original paintings and charcoal drawings and handpainted pottery bowls proved very popular.

Selected Jacaranda items will be available from Shop at the Cocks and we'll also be at the 'Festive Shop' in the Fighting Cocks on December 6th.

Alison Parsons

SILLY BEER BITS

1. Excessive intake of alcohol kills brain cells; it naturally attacks the weak cells first. So regular consumption of beer eliminates weak cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine.

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2. Warning: Alcohol may make you think you're whispering when you are not.



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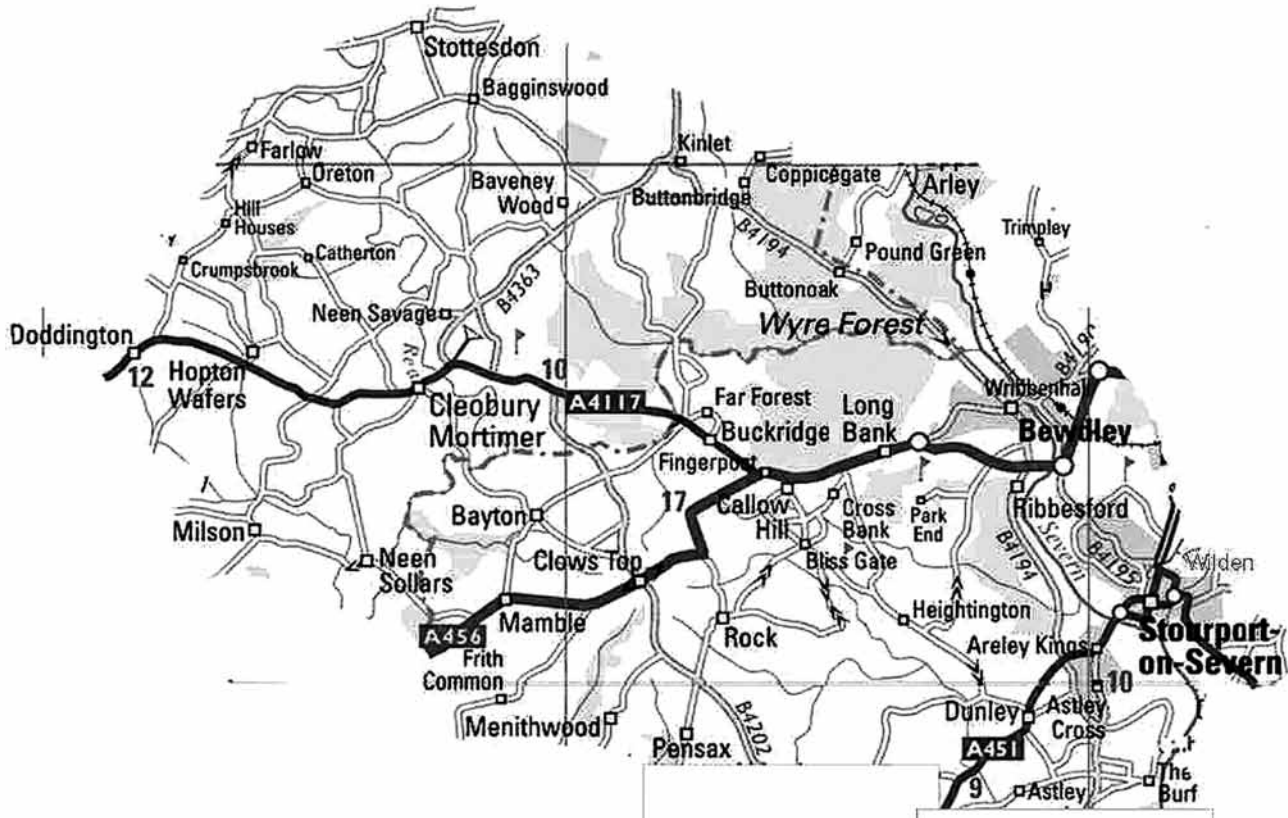
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

ELECTRIC QUADBIKE LAUNCHED

All you can hear are the tyres



Fred Chugg of Eco-Charger Quad Bikes (left) with Dave Johnson of Shropshire Quads.

Electric vehicles are seen more and more as the way forward for universal transport. They've come a long way from the over hyped rushes to production of ten years ago and let's not mention the Sinclair C5 that needed pedal assistance to get up the towering climb of Love Lane.

Today you can buy 120mph cars, vans and scooters that simply use a battery as power, or there are the hybrids that use a combination of petrol and electricity. And now, you can add a genuine British designed and built electric quad bike in sizes from kiddies to farm vehicles capable of pulling half a tonne.

Dave Johnson of Shropshire Quads at Neen Savage is the man behind their presence here and he launched them with an open day when farming folk in the area could try them over the local terrain, including the hills.

The quads are built in Ilfracombe, using a motor

developed for military use and incorporating a regenerative charger that puts power back into the battery when riding downhill with the throttle lever closed. That also aids braking, a useful safety feature on slippery surfaces.

The battery charger has a built-in control that will accept a quick booster charge if needed, but also controls input if the charger is accidentally left on. There are no gears in the conventional sense, just forward and reverse and a high or low option for on- or off-road use.

The cost of a typical charging for a smaller unit like the 60 volt Charger Sport is just 60p, but if a farmer has a windmill putting power back into the National Grid, the cost can be zero. And because they have no emissions, road tax is zero as well. You can drive them on a car or motorcycle licence and a 17-year-old can drive one on a provisional licence with 'L'plates on display.

The launch day was busy, with farmers from a wide area looking in and listening carefully to details of the operating costs, then looking very thoughtful. It seems to have been a convincing day, because sales have already started to move.

The quietness of their operation is very impressive, with the tyres the only audible warning of approach. The price range starts at £5,000 for a two-wheel drive mini and climbs up to £8950 for a big four wheel drive model, both those prices subject to VAT.

Dave is convinced this is the future way for quad bikes, with running costs so modest and emissions nil. Try the future for yourself - he has a demonstrator.

CLOWS TOP KIDS - A HIT

Clows Top Toddler Group raised £800 for Acorns Children's Hospice and the Group by hosting a family fun day. Hundreds of people attended to join in the fun and games.

The toddler group, run by local mums, presented a cheque for £400 to Acorns Children's Hospice, a charity that improves the lives of terminally ill children and their families in Worcestershire. The toddler group is held every Tuesday morning at Clows Top Victory Hall and would welcome new families.

Vicky May

A FRESH APPROACH TO THOSE NEW YEAR VOWS

Bored of the same new year's resolutions that never get past January? This year, make a resolution that will last by joining Marie Curie Cancer Care's Great Daffodil Appeal 2013 and make a difference in your local community.

This February and March the charity will be holding their annual daffodil collections, encouraging local people to make a donation for a daffodil pin as a sign of their support. The funds raised are crucial to ensure our Marie Curie Nurses are able to continue their work in local communities caring for terminally ill patients and their families in their own homes.

We need your help to make the 2013 Great Daffodil Appeal bigger and better. If you can spare an hour or two at a collection local to you or if you want to find out where your local collection is, please get in touch with the Worcestershire fundraising office on 0117 942 7 1 3 2 or email richard.scott@mariecurie.org.uk

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News



TED'S IN THE ENERGIZE AWARDS

Cleobury's Ted Dolphin was acclaimed Young Volunteer of the Year as part of the annual Energize awards at Shrewsbury F C's Greenhouse Meadow early in November. The award was handed over by swimming champion Mark Foster, shown here with a very happy looking Ted.

The Lacon Childe School old boy richly deserved the prize, devoting 200 hours in the last year to leading sports activities and school holiday clubs as well as supporting more experienced coaches in their work. A dedicated sportsman himself, Ted has coaching awards in football, cricket, golf and badminton.

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Bayton - A Happy and Peaceful Place for Children

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Children at Bayton Church of themselves fully into this Day. The children had a non-asked to come in wearing spots. children make such an effort, painted with spots and one or painted as Pudsey! Some of our children took part in a competition to design and create Pudsey's Dream Car and we had some truly creative models brought into school. Our Head Teacher, Mrs Pounder had the difficult job of selecting two winning cars.



England Primary threw year's children in Need Charity uniform day where they were. It was lovely to see so many some children had their faces two even had their faces

For further information about our school or to enquire about places starting in Reception in September 2013, please visit our website on www.baytonpri.worcs.sch.uk or contact us on (01299) 832393

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As I write this article, Christmas is just a month away, but already families are planning for that one day. Christmas gifts to purchase or make, cards to write, family visits to arrange, and of course, the dinner ingredients to purchase and prepare.

In Nursery we have a similar plan. We are busy making gifts and cards with the children so they can give their family something which is made by them to hold their love within their creation of the gift or card. This I hope is special for the parents or grandparents or who ever else they decide would like it for Christmas. I still have tree decorations made by my daughter hanging on our tree on Christmas Day (she is 19 years old now) but to me her work (although she will admit now is not outstanding) still holds a special place in my heart. I hope all the nursery children's parents will value the items their children bring home to them this and every Christmas and treasure the sentimental meaning they have for years to come.

Christmas lunch is an ongoing affair as we try to give all children a chance to have the

Festive meal with us, this may mean cooking roast turkey 3 days in the week so children who do not attend one day will not miss out, the children who attend 5 days a week may be offered an alternative or join in a second or third Christmas lunch if they wish. Ice cream and jelly is a more desirable, if less traditional pudding that we offer them. I just hope the children are not fed up with the traditional lunch when their family festive meal takes place.

Amongst the 'modern' traditions we do hope the nursery children gain some knowledge from the Nativity Story which is told and acted out during our Christmas season. It is sad that the true meaning of Christmas is somehow lost in the commercial run up to the Christian Festival with many now.

It is my wish that all folk alike celebrate the value of health and happiness this festive period regardless of creed, culture and beliefs as without this none of us function with good will for others in our hearts.

Happy Christmas from all at Little Learners Nursery.

Judith Bunn

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Happenings on High Street

SAME PLACE, NEW NAME

Talbot Store, that popular grocery shop in Talbot Square, will cease to exist on December 8th. From then on its title will be 'Simply Fresh' and William Henry promises more fresh and local produce on offer.

The store has had a major refit, with chiller units replacing much of the shelving. A good touch has been the use of local craftsmen wherever possible, and the plan that kept the place open in the day and most of the work done at night.

FATHER CHRISTMAS AROUND TOWN

The old chap's busy again this year, opening the Christmas Fair and watching over the lights being switched on. And apart from visiting nurseries, he'll be touring the town on Friday and Saturday the 21st and 22nd.

On Friday he'll start at Yeldside at 6.00 and tour the eastern side of town, handing out sweets to the younger children. Then on Saturday, again at 6.00, he'll start his western tour at Larks Rise to

do the same thing. The whole event is organised and sponsored by the Chamber of Trade, as a Thank You to the parents who've supported our shops and traders through the year.

A JUICY TREAT

Rachel at Carrot Tops has a new line on the shelves. It's bottles of apple and pear juice, both with a Carrot Tops label and a refreshing tippie inside.

This first batch is an experiment and we can tell you that the apple is a very pleasant drink. So the trial is successful and the next delivery will have her own designed labels with Cleobury Mortimer very prominent. Nice one.

FLOWERING FIONA

Fiona's High Street shop is always busy, but she added to the service on Remembrance Sunday by opening for the morning in case anyone wanted a small tribute at the last minute.

And for those who want a tree for Christmas but don't have lots of space, she has mini trees in stock, prices starting at just £3.00.

THE CHIROPRACTOR IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Sue Brown's new chiropractic surgery opened for business on November. Too late for the Clarion to include a picture in this issue, but we thought you should know the service is available.

For any doubters who's never tried this gentle manipulation of the spinal column to relieve pain, it really is a revelation when you find out how well it works. The editor had treatment many years ago that made a huge difference to his asthma, and has used it since for simple pain relief.

THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The many should be grateful to the few who made sure the Christmas lights were up and ready to be switched on by Father Christmas today.

And a special cheer for Alan Guest, who dressed out the complex array along the south side of the main street on his own. We know he has the right equipment to do the job, but the man also gave his time.




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The Scouts, Guides and Rainbows

November has been a busy month for all those involved in Scouting and Guiding in Cleobury Mortimer. The Remembrance Day Parade and service is a major events for us during the year. The sight of all those parading with their flags and uniforms as well as the number of people lining the main street are a great indication of what a strong community we live in. We admit to some slightly scruffy marching, but the Guide and Scout groups looked very smart in their uniform!

Guide and Scout groups have also been busy supporting Operation Christmas Child to get shoe boxes filled and ready to be sent to children around the world who would otherwise not receive a gift at Christmas. The roof space in the hut has been filling with donations throughout the year so it was lovely to see them all turned week-by-week into vibrantly wrapped gift boxes and put into vans on Friday for delivery to the warehouse in Kidderminster. Hearing young children spontaneously burst into Christmas songs as they fill and then move the boxes is a heart-warming experience. We sent a fantastic 1,222 presents.

Happy 25th Birthday Rainbows. Cleobury Rainbows celebrated the 25th Anniversary of Rainbows in the UK on Friday with their own party night. We wish them many happy years ahead.

Getting involved:

	Early slot (5.15pm or 5.30)	Late slot (7.00 or 7.15)
Monday	Cubs (age 8 - 10)	Rangers (age 14 - 25)
Tuesday	Beavers (age 6 - 8)	2nd Guides (age 10 - 14)
Wednesday	2nd Brownies (age 7 - 10)	3rd Guides (age 10 - 14)
Thursday	3rd Brownies (age 7 - 10)	
Friday	Rainbows (age 5 - 7)	Scouts (age 10 to 14)

We undertake such a broad range of activities that we are always looking for members of the community with different skills or extra hands to help out at events, so if you are interested in becoming a leader, group assistant, assist at events or you have a child that would like to join us please Google 'girlguiding UK join us' or 'scouting UK join us' or get in touch with one of the local leaders directly – contacts are on the Weekly Calendar.

A Very Merry Christmas to all from Guiding and Scouting in Cleobury Mortimer



Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club Christmas Menu



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Letter from Westminster Philip Dunne MP

It is a pleasure for me to have this opportunity to wish readers a very Happy Christmas. With Christmas Day falling on a Tuesday, I expect some people may take a day off on Christmas Eve this year, and so enjoy an extended five day Christmas break from the evening of Friday 21st. It is at this time of the year that most of us can hopefully enjoy a good break. This is particularly welcome for those fortunate to have family near at hand.

But spare a thought for those in our midst who lack anyone else with whom to share this special time. My family have tried over the years to invite any immediate neighbour who we know to be alone to join us for lunch on Christmas Day. I encourage anyone who is able to be a good neighbour over Christmas to drop in to see someone who is on their own.

I also feel for those who either choose or have to work on Christmas Day. From the clergy to carers, the police and other emergency services, there are always some people working when the rest of us are at rest. This also of course applies to the brave men and women in our Armed Forces, on duty at home and abroad, especially those in Afghanistan, together with the civilian contractors supporting them.

I recently saw the special Christmas parcels being sent to service personnel in theatre by a

charity which does so each year as a token of respect and gratitude from the British public. I heard how much this is appreciated by those who cannot be with their families at home this Christmas.

I am also due to visit the British Forces Postal Service this month to thank them for the work they do keeping our forces abroad in touch with friends and family at home. We can often forget how much it means to receive news from home, especially to those immersed in the challenges of duty abroad, in particular the testing conditions of life in Afghanistan.

We are becoming so used to the ease of modern communications that the art of letter writing is fast declining. As I suspect will the tradition of posting Christmas cards to keep up with friends and family at this time of year. While the tide of technological change is irresistible, the human instinct to keep in contact and show kindness to others is strong and needs to be encouraged.

So whether you have become an avid networker through social media or are a traditional Christmas card sender, I would also like to leave you with one thought as Christmas and New Year approach this month: please consider sending a message, whether a card in the post, a paperless greeting via email, or a message on a social network, to someone you know who may be alone at home, or far from home this Christmas. Your simple act of thoughtfulness will bring some joy to others and encourage the spread of human kindness in the world.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas.

Philip Dunne MP



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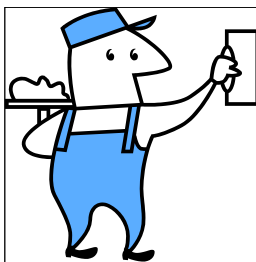
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The December Social Calendar

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Sat 1	12.00pm 1.00pm 4.30pm 8.00pm	The Christmas Fair is in the Parish Church. Santa Claus arrives at the Fair. Santa switches on the Christmas lights. Party Night at Rock Village Hall, raising funds for Trust Lewis.	Rachel Ponsford	01299 841032
	3.30pm	Singing by Candlelight at Cleobury North Village Hall. SEE PAGE 17		
Sat 1/ Sun 2	11.00am	Christmas Fair and Santa's Grotto at Berrington Hall, nr Leominster		
Sun 2	11.00am	Bewdley Local Produce Market is in Load Street. Food and crafts		
Tue 4	2.00pm	Carers Christmas lunch at the KA	Wendy Duley	CM 270562
Wed 5	11.00am	Community Choir meeting in the Market Hall. SEE PAGE 13. katejones@the reikidojo.co.uk		
	12.30pm	Ladies Luncheon Club meet at The Crown in Hopton Wafers	Alison Osborne	01584 890414
	8.00pm	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall		
Thu 6		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 7	12.30pm	Advent Soup Lunch, Market Hall.	Shaunah Murrell	CM 270386
	7.30pm	The CM Young Farmers Christmas Meal is at the Down Pub. £17 a head, members must book with Sarah Turner		
	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall		
Sat 8		As if by magic, The Talbot Store is transformed into Simply Fresh.		
	7.30pm	The Neen Savage Annual Brass Band Concert is in the village hall. Mulled wine and mince pies, too	Clare Ratcliff	CM 270173
Mon 10	7.00pm	The Horticultural Society have their Christmas Social at Saint Elizabeth's Hall		
Tue 11	7.30am	St Mary's Breakfast Club gathers in the Kings Arms to hear Marion Parsons talk about the Cats' Protection League.		
	7.30pm	The W.I. will be in the Parish Hall to learn that "There's Nowt So Queer as Folk."		
	7.30pm	Young Farmers Treasure Hunt starts from the Sports & Social Club, Love Lane.		
Wed 12	7.30pm	The British Legion gather in The Bell Inn, Lower Street.		

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www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk



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The December Social Calendar - continued

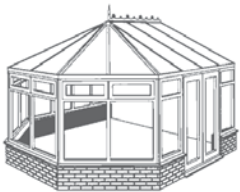
Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Thu 13		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	12.00pm	Knowle Sports Sales closes for the New Year break. Reopens January 31 st		
Fri 14	12.30pm	Advent Soup Lunch, Market Hall.	Shaunah Murrell	CM 270386
	7.30pm	Christmas Bingo in aid of the village hall funds, in Cleeton St Mary.		
Sat 15	7.30pm	Flicks in the Sticks presents "It's Complicated", starring Meryl Street and Steve Martin. £4.00/£3.00. In the Parish Hall, Church Street		
Sun 16	7.30pm	Cleobury Concert Brass offer their famous Christmas Concert in the Parish Hall. Book early - this is always a sell-out night. Tickets: Cleobury News		
Mon 17	7.00pm	Winter Concert at Lacon Childe School. All welcome		01299 270312
Wed 19		The final Whist Drive of the year at Doddington's Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 20		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.45pm	Whist Drive at the Sports and Social Club, Love Lane	Alan	CM 270114
Fri 21	12.30pm	Final Advent Soup Lunch in this year 's series.	Shaunah Murrell	CM 270386
	6.00pm	Father Christmas is at Yeldside to start his tour of the eastern side of town, handing out gifts to the younger children		
Sat 22	6.00pm	Father Christmas is at Larks Rise to continue his goodwill tour, this time of the western side of town with sweets for the young children.		
Tue 25		CHRISTMAS DAY. WE HOPE YOU HAVE A VERY HAPPY ONE.		
Fri 28		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO JANUARY.....		
Tue 1		. A VERY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO ALL.		
Fri 4		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED		
	9.30am	Young Farmers Club Golf Pros and Tennis Hoes Dance at Therapy Lounge, Tenbury Wells. Over 18s only - ID needed.	Sarah Turner	07896 233432

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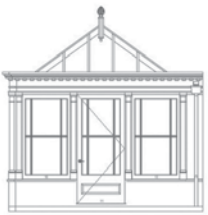


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Woodlands • Broadheath

Three bedroom spacious detached dormer bungalow having additional accommodation consisting of a one bedroom separate bungalow. Set in pretty gardens with rural far reaching views.



Worthmoor • Mamble

Spacious three-bedroom bungalow set in a lovely village location. Generous grounds with a greenhouse, driveway, parking and double garage. Worthmoor has a master bedroom with ensuite, separate utility, open fireplace in the living room, central heating and is fully double glazed throughout.



Bank House • Rock

Bank House has approximately one acre of gardens, 0.75 acre approx of productive orchard and a further 2 acre meadow approx. Spacious accommodation including five bedrooms, three receptions and four bathrooms. Swimming pool with shower / changing room, summer house and double garage.



Housman Way • Cleobury M'tr

BRAND NEW two bedroom coach house situated on the newly built Cleobury Park development. Fitted kitchen with built in oven and hob and integrated fridge freezer. Lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. Integral ground floor garage with off-road parking. Sorry no children, smokers, pets or DSS.



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TO
LET

To Let £450pcm

Overdale • Clows Top

Quaint semi detached cottage located in a small rural village. Well presented throughout, this three bedroom home has a number of attractive features including an inglenook fireplace in the lounge and an open fire in the dining room. Kitchen with Rayburn and utility room. Garden and parking.



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The Old Tavern House • Neen Sollars

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

FOCUS ON YOUTH

Saint Mary's Youth Project relies on grants and donations to maintain our work. This month we have been awarded a grant of £1,548 from the Sported Charity. Sported is a national charity that provides support to community sports organisations, enabling them to reach and improve the lives of young people. The ultimate benefit of these grants is to assist in developing life skills and be part of a safer and stronger community.

SMYP will use this money to provide more opportunities for our young people to participate in rock climbing trips, both learning on climbing walls and going out into the countryside and climbing rocks for real. It will also finance additional help to provide extra hours of work for our youth workers, subsidies for our youth members and venue and transport costs. Rock climbing is a very popular activity within SMYP and this grant is gratefully received.

Maybe some parents will not allow their children to join SMYP because they believe it may have ulterior Christian motives, a perception they may get from the name-St Marys Youth Project. Not so! Our two clubs that run each week are open to all, whatever religion or none. The same applies to all the other outside activities we undertake. Our leader, Mark, has a Christian belief, as do many of the volunteers, but members are not coerced to listen to religious rhetoric. Children could be missing out from joining in on the fun and excitement of these

opportunities with their friends if parents are misled into believing that SYMP has ulterior motives. Visit our new web site to see what we provide and do for the young people of our community. www.Smyp.org.uk

Sarah Wilde

THE READING GROUP

"A Week in December." A wide spectrum of opinions, from dislike to enjoyment on this novel by Sebastian Faulks and most felt it didn't live up to expectations. It seems to have caused readers plenty of irritation, especially regarding the characters. A clever idea and one that covered many problems of society today, drug abuse, mental health, financial dealings, fanaticism etc. A satirical tale but not pleasing to all.

On December 17th we meet at Cleobury Library at 7.30 to discuss "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Oscar Wilde. Give me a call if you wish to join us.

Deana Kimber 01299 271754

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Our November walk concluded our social walks for the year. The weather has been very kind to us this year, with only one soggy walk but then the scenery, good company and après-walk food and drink tends to make one forget any negative points.

During the year some of our members have been keeping paths clear, doing repairs and inserting new furniture. Our thanks also to Susan for her efforts and enthusiasm, working to produce a lovely set of walks starting at the Golf Club. They take in the beautiful

Wyre Forest and scenic footpaths around. There is a board at the Golf Club showing the routes and leaflets can also be purchased.

Parish walks have varied in numbers and it would be great to see more people. The walks are suitable for children as well as adults and families would be welcome. If anyone would like to try one, we meet on the first Sunday of the month outside the church ready to walk at 10.00am. The walks are approximately two hours long around Cleobury Mortimer. We will also be meeting Boxing Day and New Years Day as well.

The CMFA is looking for new members and if you would like to know more, please contact us via our website or join us at our next meeting December 7th 7.30 at the Bell Inn.

KINLET FAMILY PLAYGROUP KINLET FAMILY PLAYGROUP

A very Merry Christmas from all at the playgroup. This month we will be focused on fun festive activities, including lots of cooking and craft, and of course we will be learning our Christmas songs and making sure Father Christmas knows what we'd like to find in our stockings.

We are also excited to be holding a Christmas Party for our Playgroup and 'Tiddler' children, with entertainment from Picklelily Circus from Bridgnorth, who guarantee a fun-packed afternoon for all.

Once again, Merry Christmas to all, and Happy New Year.

Zoe Pearson

Clarion Clippings - The Local News

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From Cleobury News and band members

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The Farming Page

With Clive Davies stepping down from writing this column, we have asked a number of local farmers to give their points of view. This month, we are happy to welcome John and Catherine Evans of Broome Park.

Broome Park Farm is one part of RC Evans Ltd, a family farming business that has been based on the outskirts of Cleobury for over 100 years. The Evans family came to Curdale Farm as tenants in 1897 and have farmed there continuously ever since, buying the farm from the Marquis of Bath's Longleat Estate in 1919. Over the years the business has expanded and now farms land in Bayton, Hopton, Catherton and Neen Savage as well as Cleobury. The farming business supports 4 families and we also run a Bed and Breakfast business with 2 letting rooms at Broome Park. The farm is mixed stock (beef and sheep) and arable growing oats, wheat, barley and beans. At Broome Park we have 2 piglets, 10 hens and 1 cockerel, also a mad dog called Mack, a Collie/Labrador cross who is completely hopeless as a working dog and has managed to get himself a cushy indoor life with a basket next to the woodburner.

This Autumn has been a challenging season owing to continuous wet weather. Yields from this year's harvest were poor and shortages are already being reported in the News. It has also been a struggle to plant next year's crops before the Winter. In a normal season we would hope to plant approximately 150 acres of winter barley, 100 acres of oats and 300 acres of wheat but this year so far only 250 acres have been planted and the ground is still very wet and sticky for planting. All farmers are having to

revise their planting plans for the coming year and take steps to swop winter varieties for spring varieties.

Once planting is done most of the winter months are spent tending to the livestock. All the cattle are brought inside and need feeding twice a day. Sheep are left out in the fields until they are brought inside to lamb but also need feeding every day and also checking for health – sheep will die at a moments notice! Expectant ewes are scanned 2 months before they are due and sorted out depending on how many lambs they are carrying. This means those with twins or triplets can be fed extra rations. Lambing will start in January and continue through to April. Ewes and lambs are returned to the fields after 3 – 4 days depending on the weather – cold and dry is better than damp and wet! The biggest worry for livestock farmers at the moment is the Schmallenberg virus which causes deformities and still births, it is caused by midges carrying the virus across the Channel from Europe in the autumn. At Broome Park we also have young calves on the bucket – this means they are fed a form of formula milk for cows. We buy the young calves from dairy farmers via local markets at 2 – 3 weeks old and they will be bucket fed for about 6 weeks, then move on to a cereal based diet, supplemented with hay or silage

John and Catherine



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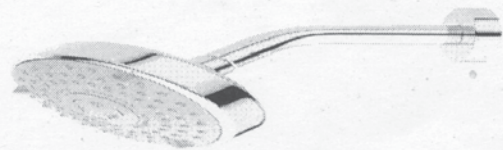
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

KINLET FAMILY PLAYGROUP

A very Merry Christmas from all at the playgroup. This month we will be focused on fun festive activities, including lots of cooking and craft, and of course we will be learning our Christmas songs and making sure Father Christmas knows what we'd like to find in our stockings.

We are also excited to be holding a Christmas Party for our Playgroup and 'Tiddler' children, with entertainment from Picklelily Circus from Bridgnorth, who guarantee a fun-packed afternoon for all.

Once again, Merry Christmas to all, and Happy New Year.

Zoe Pearson

NO CHRISTMAS CARDS

Shaunah Murrell will not be sending Christmas cards this year, as she explains:

Shaunah Murrell wishes all her friends and neighbours a very happy and peaceful Christmas and healthy New Year. The homeless will benefit.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S

A successful Bridge event, under the directorship of Dennis O'Sullivan, was held at the end of October in Lacon House, the home of Jan and Sally Serrell-Cooke. This raised £800, a tremendous result and we are grateful to Gwen Sidaway for organizing it and to all involved.

Our final event this year will be the Christmas Market, on December 1st, organised jointly with The Parochial Church Council.

Shropshire Historic Churches Trust has produced their calendar for 2013 featuring 56 churches, including Neen Savage, and an engagement calendar. An inspection copy is displayed on our notice board in church. They are £5 each, from committee members.

Proposals for next year include snowdrop walks, a children's event, Mawley Hall and gardens open day, the ever popular wine walk, a concert and a fashion show evening.

Do you know that members of The Friends of St. Mary's are given advance notice of tickets on sale? To avoid disappointment why not become a member? Full details from our Membership Secretary, Diane Waddington Tel 01299 272820.

Alec Osbaldiston.

THE LOST AND FOUND

We know who found them, but not who lost them. They are a pair of lady's leather gloves, picked up in the car park of Lacon Childe School on the Saturday evening of the Cleobury Player's production of 'Murdered to Death'.

If they are yours, please contact Deana Kimber at CM 271754.

SILLY BITS

A secret is something you only tell to one person at a time.

Trad. via Dr Mark Baldwin

He sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them. *Anon*

What is the similarity between an air traffic controller and a pilot? If the pilot gets it wrong, the pilot dies. If the ATC gets it wrong, the pilot dies. *Anon*



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Clarion Coppers

Welcome back Nick Morris, our man in the Police Station and in the know:

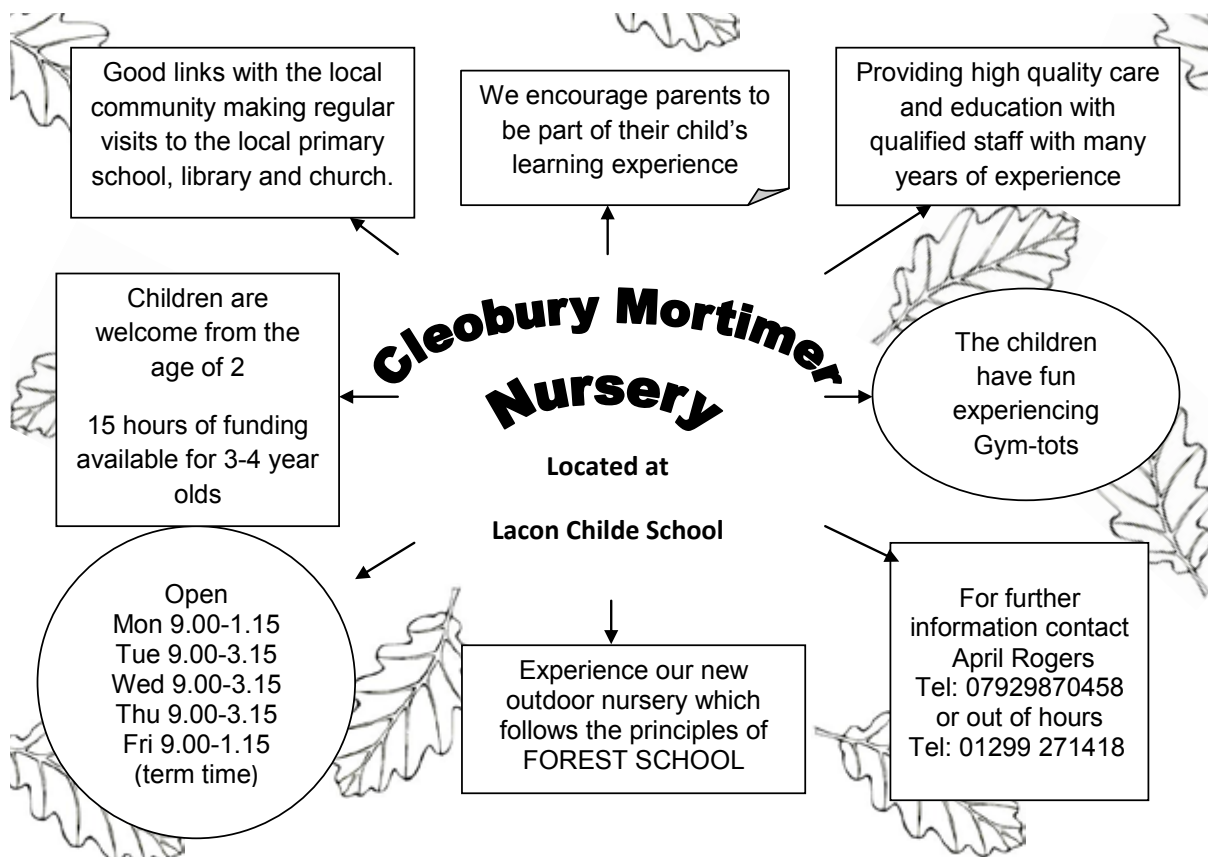
In general the crime figures for our area remain very low, with only an occasional shed break-in over the past couple of months and one house burglary at Hollywaste on October 19th. The latest incidents appear to be linked and occurred at Hopton Wafers. The outbuildings, stables and barns were broken into at two properties between 6:00pm on November 21st and 8:00am the next day. Tools such as a chainsaw, a strimmer and a hammer drill, and a horse rug were stolen from one of the properties, and a nail gun, a screwdriver drill, a hammer drill and fishing equipment were stolen from the other. The number of criminal damage incidents have also decreased, the latest one reported being what appeared to have been a bottle thrown at a window of the Methodist Church and smashing it. This happened during the night of November 16th/17th.

A few weeks ago there were several times when a horse owner in Neen Sollars discovered that a horse had had a plait weaved in its mane and pieces of twine nailed to the gatepost of the field in which it was kept. This obviously worried the owner as it was thought that the horse was marked to be stolen. However, it's now thought that this is not the case and that there is some other unknown reason why this was done. If anyone could pass on to us any information about who may be involved with this, it

would be greatly appreciated as they need to be given stern words of advice.

Quite often we receive complaints about vehicles parked on pavements where pedestrians, disabled people or people with prams have to go into the road in order to get by. This is unacceptable, especially on a busy road. Usually a quick word with the driver or a note left on the windscreen does the trick, so let us know if you are having a problem with cars blocking your way. But bear in mind that some roads are very narrow and when car owners have experienced wing mirror damage or worse, without anyone owning up to causing it, it is *extremely annoying*. Since PC Tony Sewell moved on to pastures new, a few residents have voiced their concerns about the lack of police presence which he provided. PC Ann O'leary, who is covering our area in addition to Highley, will be working hard to provide what is expected. You may not see as much of her as you did Tony, but she is a 'no nonsense' police officer and deals with miscreants robustly. If you need to report anything which requires logging the number is 101. To pass on information or anything else telephone 01743 264 735 and leave a message, or email: cleobury.lpt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk. When I am on duty the mobile phone number is 07947 806 052.

CSO Nick Morris



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The Clarion Weekly Social Calendar

Day	Time	Event	Contact	Phone
Sun	08.30	Holy Communion, Parish Church		CM 270624
	09.45	Parish Communion, Parish Church		CM 270624
	09.00	Mass, St Elizabeth's, Lower Street	Canon Walsh	01584 872906
	10.30	Cleobury Country Archers, Lacon Childe Sports Field	Lesley Burnside	CM 271374
	10.30	New Life Church – for venue call	Derek Morris	CM 270787
	11.00	Morning Service, Methodist Church	Rev H Roberts	01584 819649
Mon	08.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, Kinlet School Mon to Fri		07794 166514
	08.00	Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon School Mon to Fri	Zoe Day	01746 71879
	09.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe School Mon to Fri	April Rogers	CM 271418
	09.00	CM Playgroup, Primary School, Mon to Fri	Jane Preece	07816 193933
	09.30	Morning Workout, Sports Hall	Deena	CM 271317
	10.00	Age UK, Monday Club, St Mary's Place	Sarah Wilde	
	15.45	Gym Club with Ann Davis, Lacon Childe Mon & Wed	Don Carter	CM 270312
	18.30	Karate Club, Lacon Childe School	John Nelson	CM 879210
	19.00	Tai Chi Class, Lacon Childe School	Rose Jacks	01584 875544
	19.30	Rangers Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Helen Smith	CM 270912
	19.45	Bingo, CM Sports & Social Club	Alan Evans	CM 270114
	20.00	Women's Clog Dancing Classes	Linda Small	01746 718624
Tue	10.00	Nippers, Moths & Tots, Methodist Hall, Church Street	Emma	CM 272959
	14.00	Friendship Club, Parish Hall, Church Street	Janet Rolston	CM 270353
	15.45	Ballet Class, Lacon Childe School	Liz Broadway	CM 251246
	17.00	Sports Roundabout, Sports Hall, Love Lane		CM 271317
	17.30	Beavers Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Becky Keeley	CM 271416
	18.45	Bridge Club Hopton Wafers Village Hall	Wendy Duley	CM 270562
	19.00	Bell Ringers' practice night, St Mary's Church	Liz Walker	CM 271808
	19.30	Modern Dance Sequence Club, Lacon Childe School	E Wrigglesworth	01562 822291
Wed	10.30	Over 50s Relaxing Exercises, Doddington Village Hall	Freda Childe	01584 891180
	16.45	Gym Club for 6 & over, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
	17.15	Brownies Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Emma Reynolds	CM 272746
	19.00	Guides Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street		
	19.00	Yoga Class with Anna, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
	19.00	Zumba Class with Emma Forni, Lacon Childe School	Emma Forni	01746 862842
	19.30	CM Concert Brass Band practice, Parish Hall	Stella Wilcox	CM 270560
	19.30	New Life Church prayer meeting. For venue call	Derek Morris	CM 270787
	19.30	Choir Practice, Parish Church	Philip Engleheart	CM 270627
Thu	09.30	Little Tiddlers, Kinlet Family Playgroup, Kinlet School	Zoe Pearson	07794 166514
	11.00	Sale of second hand goods, Knowle Sports Club, Clee Hill	Audrey Taylor	01584 890644
	14.00	Scrabble Club, St Mary's Place, Non residents £1.00	Jo Booton	07969 104808
	15.30	Cleobury Comets Netball, CM Sports Centre term time	Mandy Smith	CM 271809
	17.30	Brownies Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Rebecca Barnes	CM 272945
	19.00	Bell Inn Band improvers rehearsal, Bell Inn, Lower Street		
	19.15	Cubs Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Kate Pearce	07772 102986
	19.30	Tums and Bums, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
	19.30	Adult 7-a-side Football League, CM Sports Centre	Dave Hinves	CM 271317
	20.00	Bell Inn Band rehearsal, Bell Inn, Lower Street		
	20.00	11-16s Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317
	21.00	Over 16s Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317
Fri	10.00	Tiny Stots, Chorley Playgroup, Stottesdon School	Zoe Day	01746 717769
	10.00	Tiny Tots, Parish Hall	Bettina Poole	CM 271868
	17.30	Rainbows Meeting, girls 5-7 years, Old Pump House	Jean Basham	07792 813774
	19.00	Scout Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Chris Andrews	CM 270937
	20.00	Badminton, CM Sports Centre		01584 881359
Sat	08.30	Sale of second hand goods, Knowle Sports Club, Clee Hill	Audrey Taylor	01584 890644
	10.30	Junior Coaching, CM Golf Club, Wyre Common	Robert Watkins	CM 271112

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

ALAN SMITH AERIALS

Do not confuse with any other Smith...

Alan Smith, long established as the local aerial man, was not happy to see a Mark Smith Aerials of Worcestershire exposed in a recent BBC TV Watchdog 'Rogue Traders'.

He asks us to make it clear that there is no connection at all between his Cleobury Mortimer service and any other with the name Smith. He actually has a letter from the BBC, acknowledging there is no connection at all.

Editor's comment: I have used Alan Smith's excellent service for some years and always been very satisfied. I can happily recommend him. JR

SALLY IS APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR



Sally Gittens is presented with her Apprentice of the Year certificate by Kidderminster College principal Andy Dobson.

Sally Gittens of Heath Farm, Bagginswood, was acclaimed Apprentice of the Year at the Kidderminster College prize giving on November 19th.

Sally is an ex Lacon Childe School pupil who left to join the Accounts Department at Lawrence Recycling. Now in

her third year, she's reaping the rewards for hard work and a talent for the job.

FAITH IN THE MOSQUE?

Faith In The Pub is a church based discussion group for chaps. Because there's a view that ladies will readily chat about problems with friends, while the so-called stronger sex keep their emotions bottled up and never admit to religious belief or simple problems.

They normally meet in the King's Arms on the first Monday of the month, to listen to a variety of speakers, mainly men with a strong conviction. But this month is very different.

On the 3rd, they are due to travel into Wolverhampton to visit the mosque, a very unusual move but a good sign if Christian and Muslim believers are willing to meet and exchange views. If only that could be achieved all over this troubled world.

We'll let you know more in January.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Harry Martin and Sophie Hau, recently appointed Head Boy and Girl respectively at Lacon Childe School. Over 15 pupils applied for the positions and went through a rigorous interview with head teacher Allan Gilhooley and Head of Year Kara Guise before the selection was made.

THE WRITING GROUP

There was a good response to this idea from Vicki Alexander, our new librarian, aiming to encourage creative thinking and expression. Each person read their submission, with both poetry and prose on offer and some lovingly crafted

words to be heard. You do find some surprising talents at this sort of gathering, rather like discovering that your next door neighbour has a peerless singing voice.

With only one hour available, there was an obvious need for brevity that most people recognised and Vicki gently guided the proceedings to give everyone a chance to read.

It was suggested that a one-word theme be set for each of the planned monthly meetings, so that writers can use their imagination in response. And if they are all brief, they will have time to be read carefully and appreciated fully. The next meeting is in the library, at 6.30 on Monday the 10th.

HITTING THE GOLF HEADLINES

Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club is in the golf news pages right now. They have a good relationship with the Birmingham University and Professional Golfers' Association's Applied Golf Management Studies degree. In fact they've had students from the course working at the club over the last two summers.

In a very generous gesture of support for the AGMS course, the Club have decided that they will make their greens available to these young aspiring professionals free of charge. "We'd like to support all the students in their drive to be professionals and further their careers after university," explained general manager Graham Pain. The PGA's man described Cleobury as a "forward thinking club." Good move all round.

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Shropshire Council Local Business Support Clinic—Tuesday 13 November held at the CC Centre. To book online www.shropshire.gov.uk/business

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December in the Wyre Forest - Linda Iles writes

It seems that winter is the time to get busy in the Wyre Forest. While the trees and wild creatures are in "shut down" mode there is no excuse for us to follow suit.

Butterfly Conservation have dates for winter conservation tasks aimed at improving habitat for some of the rarer butterflies like the Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Wood White. This work, in collaboration with the Forestry Commission and Natural England, will focus on improving links and re-spacing coppice as part of the SITA Trust-funded 'Reconnecting the Wyre' project. The remaining dates are December 16th, February 17th and March 17th. Meet at Earnwood Copse car park on the B4194 Bewdley-Kinlet road (GR. SO744784) at 10.00 am and we will then drive into the forest. There is also a midweek task on January 16th, meeting at Dry Mill Lane car park, Bewdley at 10.00 am (SO773764) with a follow up on February 24th with the same meeting arrangements.

So if you want to make a practical contribution to the butterflies of the Wyre Forest please contact Mike Williams 07802274552 mike@stagborough.fsnet.co.uk

There are opportunities to volunteer with the Wyre Community Land Trust, based at Unclyls Farm in the heart of the Forest. Contact Sally Pendergast on 01299 488083 or sally@wyreclt.org.uk if you would like to join the Wednesday or Thursday countryside work parties or look at www.facebook.com/wyreclt.

Unclyls Farm is also the setting for three new Wood Working Courses which start in January. The new workshop at the farm will offer facilities to learn hand and machining skills led by cabinet maker Wade Muggleton, who has a wealth of experience teaching and working with wood. The

six week courses are funded through the LEADER Programme to give people living in rural Worcestershire the opportunity to learn and develop skills for new or existing businesses. A 12 week advanced course is planned to develop skills and help with business development.

Local oak will be supplied from the 100 acres of the Wyre owned by The Guild of St George, established by John Ruskin in the 1870s. Ruskin wanted to challenge the social effects of the industrial revolution, encourage craftsmanship and care for the environment. If you are interested please contact John Iles on 01299 488083 or john@wyreclt.org.uk.

"Christmas at Wyre" is the Forestry Commission's celebration of the season through the weekends of December at the Community Discovery Centre. As well as offering some very fine specimens of Norway spruce and Noble fir as Christmas trees, there will be a variety of events:

8th December: Make Christmas Stars and Wreaths out of natural materials. Two hour workshops at 10.00am or 1.00pm for adults and children over eight. £10 includes parking & refreshments. Booking essential. There is also a Local Producers' Market.

15th and 16th December: A Christmas Challenge will run all weekend. Follow the clues around the forest for a chance to win a valuable prize.

22nd December: Father Christmas will be in his forest cabin.

Please call the Recreation Team on 01905 533832/9 for information or to book. Don't forget that the forest is always here and always offers a chance to enjoy the peace and beauty of nature. Have a Happy Christmas. *Linda*

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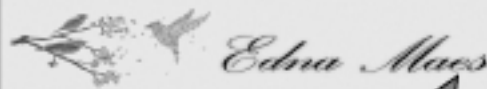


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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CARING PEOPLE



Liz (standing) and Susan. Working together because they want to do what they are best at - supporting people to stay a home.

Liz Melley and Susan Grazier have both worked in the caring industry for years. And in their new business that's what they will concentrate on.

Liz came into this work via an agency, but left and joined Worcester County Council to get their better training. She stayed there for 13 years.

Susan started with the Manor House Nursing Home in Clebury's High Street, 16 years ago, when it was a renowned and highly regarded nursing home. She was the first member of staff to get an NVQ in caring and has happy memories of a place it now grieves her to see in such a low state. She was working for the Shropshire authority then and moved on to Worcester to broaden her experience. "There isn't anything we can't do," she explains. "I was part of the team that set up dementia care in the Wyre Forest."

They are driven by their common wish to care for people, and set high standards

for themselves and anyone they bring in to help. That's the advantage of their joint experience, knowing all the registered carers in the area.

"We're on the registered Worcestershire, and Shropshire and Age UK (or Age Concern, as it was known) websites as approved carers," says Liz. Both of them are Enhanced CRB checked, both with a host of references, both with a large portfolio of specialised training. And stay at home - home support is available 24/7.

Their aim is to cover the area bordered by Bridgnorth down to Ludlow, Tenbury Wells, Bromyard and Bewdley, but are willing to travel further if longer term support is needed. Night sitting is part of the mix they offer: "If a vulnerable person is discharged from hospital and doesn't have family to look after them, they can feel lost and neglect themselves. Next thing you know, they're back in hospital as an emergency," Susan explains. It's a situation that experienced care can easily avoid.

They chose the business title carefully: Stay At Home - Home Support. It reflects their belief that people are most comfortable in their own home and should be supported there. As Liz put it: "We want to continue working to support people to be in their own homes."

Their driving force is the shared ideal of supporting people. They're not looking to make a fortune, just make a living and get job satisfaction doing what they know best. If you need professional help, here it is, on the doorstep.

THE CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES



"What's the holdup down there?" Two of the keen team who loaded the boxes onto the van to be moved on to the transport depot for shipment east.

The Christmas Box Appeal that Jenny Van der Hook runs with such enthusiasm has hit a new high. This year there will be 1222 boxes sent to Eastern Europe, for distribution as the only gift impoverished children will have.

There was a great response when scouts and guides were asked to help transfer the boxes into the Mawley Milk van that would take them to the transport company's depot. From there they went onto a long distance truck for the final journey.

The work party, including Mums and Dads, totalled close to 30 people and the job was soon done. The youngsters worked hard to move the colourful mountain on, knowing they were helping others who cannot imagine the standard of living we enjoy. Another strong example of the community spirit at work.

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The Clarion supports the Shop and Save Scheme



Cleobury Country Shop and Save Card

The second Cleobury Country Shop and Save Card is launched today, on 1st December, which is a great way for you to make savings on essential items, as well as a few little luxuries! And it is all available locally.

All householders in Cleobury Mortimer will have a card posted through their letterbox, courtesy of Cleobury News who will ensure that cards are delivered via their newspaper round. The Cleobury Clarion and The Vital Link have also given their support to the scheme and have distributed cards with their December publications for distribution to the outlying areas around Cleobury Mortimer. Alternatively you can obtain a card from any of the participating shops / businesses, who will be displaying a Shop and Save Sticker in their window and from the Cleobury Country Centre on Love Lane.

We have listened to your feedback from the first card and made it much easier for all shoppers to enter the £250.00 cash prize draw. You now have to claim just 5 discount offers shown on the card, between 1st November and 28th February, to qualify for the **quarterly prize draw of £250.00**. So enter your completed card at Cleobury News, before 28th February 2013, for your chance to win! What type of offers are you able to enjoy on the December card? Well, we have been keen to promote the new businesses in the area, as well as supporting our long established good value independent shops.

Here is a taste of some of the discounts:-

- **Sue Brown Chiropractor** -free consultation (worth £20) & 10% off 1st treatment
- **Talbot Store** -10% off speciality cheeses (recently refurbished, so have a look!)
- **Allan Jukes Butchery Services** -1lb Premium Sausage with every on-line order over £20.00
- **Wade Davies Flooring** - 10% off fitting cost for a new carpet or vinyl flooring
- **Spire Hairdressers** -Free Moroccan Oil conditioning treatment with all wash cut & blow dry
- **The Kings Arms** -3 Course evening meal £12.50 per person 6pm - 8.30pm Mon – Fri

All that we ask is that you join our campaign to 'shop local first' and redeem as many discounts as you can before 28th February. Don't forget you can enter the £250.00 cash prize, if you have collected 5 redeemed stamps on your Shop and Save Card.

Knowing that many readers have busy lives that can't be ruled by the simple matter of picking up your Clarion, we've put it out on the internet. Just type in www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk 4th of the month.

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IN BUSINESS: Cleobury Mortimer Playgroup



Proud of their new doorway onto the garden classroom, manager Jane Preece (right) and deputy Rachel Evans with three likely lads. From the left: Harry Hall, Jay Williams and Spencer Turner.

It's the veteran amongst local playgroups. Cleobury Playgroup can go back more than 45 years to the days when Cath Bills wanted a place where her infant son Dan could mix with other children in safety.

There wasn't one, so Cath rolled up her sleeves and opened her Playgroup Nursery in the Parish Hall. Mums and youngsters rolled up in numbers and Cath knew she'd made the right move. What she did purely as a concerned mum, with no formal training, was start a new venture that's grown and grown.

The Group moved on to the Market Hall with its better facilities at the time. Lovely room, excellent storage, good access on Church Street, but the room was shared with other events and the big

range of equipment had to be stowed away at night whenever there was another event happening.

In April this year they moved again. They were offered a room at the Primary School, a natural setting for the children to get used to the big step up in their education when they started at what we would call proper school. To a four or five year old that's a big step, but if it's a move next door to a place they know, far less daunting. The school's motto, "All Friends Together", certainly fits neatly with this arrangement.

They're settled in their own room, with their own door to give access to the wild life area in the school grounds. Now the children can move easily out to the fresh air, where they mix happily with children from the school.

Jane Preece is the manager of the operation, with Rachel Evans her deputy. Working with them are Sue Powell and Jane's daughter Lauren as assistants. All of them properly trained and qualified, all of them CRB checked as a matter of course.

The Playgroup is licensed for 26 children, with three staff to watch over them. Jane's policy is to keep class sizes down to 20 and have four staff present, a more thorough and less stressful way of keeping quiet control of the children.

There's a lot of toys and equipment around, all of it in good condition. It represents a big investment and there will be more of that when it's needed. "We're always looking at new ways to help make the place better," says Jane.

In addition to its big range of equipment and toys, the nursery has access to other school facilities, such as the library and the main hall. If a parent wants a child to have a primary school dinner, that can be arranged. "There's such a calm atmosphere here, it's a lovely place," says Jane.

The ladies running this place are all very able, the sort of people who could have made careers in better paid areas, so why do they choose to work here? "It does fit in with school hours," Rachel points out. "But you've got to love it, or you wouldn't do it."

Jane has to answer to the committee who are responsible for this registered charity, most of them parents, and they in turn answer to the County Council. And standards are not allowed to slip, with Ofsted inspections just like bigger schools have. At the latest one, the playgroup were awarded a 'Good' rating, which today means it has high standards all through the organisation. And you only have to see all the children smiling to realise that's true.



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The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page

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Or Out in Cleobury Country at: Heath Farm Meats, **Bagginswood**, Clee Hill Post Office, Cleobury North Village Store, Clows Top Post Office, The Sun and Slipper at **Mamble**, Hopton Bank Service Station, Mawley Oak Garage, The Fighting Cocks at **Stottesdon**, The Duck Inn at **Chorley**, The Live and Let Live at **Neen Sollars**, The Eagle and Serpent at **Kinlet**, Parker Motors at **Ditton Priors** and McCartneys Estate Agents in **Tenbury Wells**.

Missed your Clarion? Cleobury Mortimer Library keeps the current month's copy on file.

THE DEADLINE FOR EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE JANUARY ISSUE IS DECEMBER 15th

The Cleobury Clarion is a member of the Cleobury Mortimer Chamber of Trade

Clarion Contacts - Useful Local Telephone Numbers

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR - 077 039 65064 Mrs Theresa Parfitt.

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

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

CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS AND GUIDES - 01299 270215. Robin Borns is the contact.

CRIMESTOPPERS - 0800 555 111. Free Police contact. You can talk in confidence, to report any crime. You do not have to give your name.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE - Women's Aid, 24 Hour support: 0800 783 1359

HOME FROM HOSPITAL - 01584 878046. For help over the first few weeks back home.

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MARKET HALL- Dorothy on CM270324, 07761 976650 mobile or mcbriideneenpc@aol.com

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NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND - 01746 718210. Rosemary Abbiss is the contact.

PARISH COUNCIL -Clerk Matthew Sheehan is in the Market Hall from 9.00 'til 2.00, Monday to Friday. 01299 271154. The Council meets in the Market Hall on the first Monday of the month; meetings are open to the public, who may address the Council in the Democratic Session before the business starts. Website: www.cleobury.org.uk

POST OFFICE - 01299 270201. Many services in Cleobury: car tax, foreign currency cash point

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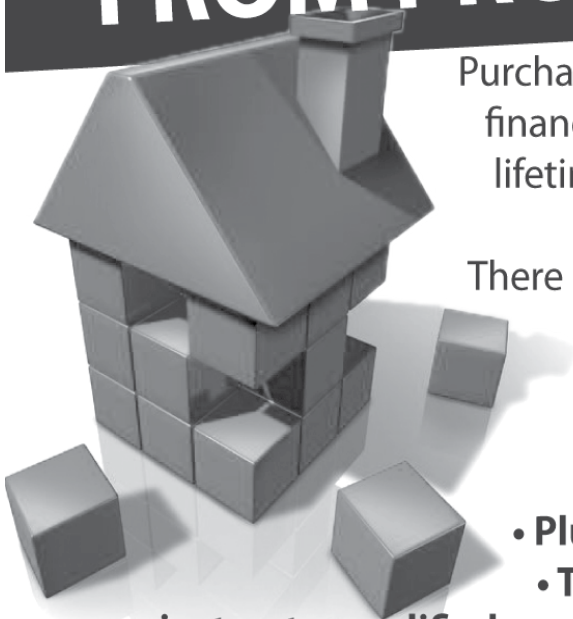
SOUTH SHROPSHIRE YOUTH FORUM - E-mail richard@ssyf.net.

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