Cleobury Clarion



DECEMBER 2013 A Very Happy Christmas to All Clarion Readers

CONGRATULATIONS

Cleobury's Parish Council is up to its full strength of nine members after co-option at their November 4th meeting. Only seven people were prepared to stand at the local election in May and the choice facing them was to co-opt or hold another election. There was very little public interest in an election, hence the co-option route.

Four people stood and the Council's choice was Bob Hayward, best known as a partner at The Crusty Cob in the High Street, and Andrew Davies, landlord at The Old Lion Inn in Lower Street. We wish them a productive spell in office, with good things achieved.

There is a wide spread of ages and talents at the head of the community, and cooperation with other bodies seems to happen readily. The council have taken over responsibility for the town's Christmas lights in the absence of any Chamber of Trade to carry on that task in the festive season and they deserve our thanks for that.

PEOPLE WHO CARE

A few days after you read this, the Clarion's regular contributors will be meeting at Hobson's Brewery, where they will be the first to try the brand new Visitor Centre. They will then have a tour of this very low carbon operation before tasting a little of the product and Hobson's hospitality. Another example of local businesses cooperating.

Many of our contributors will not be known to the readers who enjoy their words every month. But they are an essential part of the publication and will be given a small token of the editor's appreciation of their work as the newsletter approaches its tenth birthday.

Make no mistake, without these people the job of producing these pages every month would be very much harder. They give their time for no reward, they are simply people who know that in a community like ours you get out as much as you put in. I thank them all.

Jim Reynolds

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, SPECIAL TO ALL AGES



The town's support of the Remembrance Sunday Parade and Church Service is arguably the biggest spectator event of the year. It happens because the Royal British Legion and the Rector get together and cooperate in a very effective way.

One of the long term benefits of this exercise in common sense is the number of children who are part of the proceedings and will help ensure that we do not ever forget those we lost in war.

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The Cleobury Clarion. December 2013

In This Issue



Helly's Horses are established in Baginswood Yard.

See Page 7.



Group Captain Mark "Jock" Brown was amongst those who laid wreaths at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. **See Page 23**



A great family team, with a growing reputation for straight service and proper quality workmanship.

Skellerns Doors and Windows.

See Page 57

And On Other Pages....

- 5: Neighbourhood Watch Meeting
- 9: The Players Please
- 11: Neen Savage Christmas Concert
- 13: Bayton C of E Primary School
- 15: The Clarion Jobs Page
- 17: Star of the Small Ads Mole Control
- 19: Severn Edge Vets Pets Page
- 21: Distinguished Service Award for Liz
- 23: Happenings on High Street
- 25: Memories of Muller's
- 27: Philip Dunne MP
- 28: Monthly Social Calendar Part One...

- 29: ...And Part Two
- 33: Clarion Coppers
- 35: The November Farmers' Market
- 37: The Farming Page
- 39: Philip Dunne Job Fair Success
- 45: The Weekly Social Calendar
- 47: Hobson's in the News Again
- 49: December in the Wyre Forest
- 51: Paul Evans at Clee Hill Wildlife
- 53: The Latest Cleobury Chronicle
- 55: The Christmas Post and Matt Bash
- 59: Local Contact Information

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEETING



Inspector Bob Thomas explains a point as NHW coordinator Betsy Pratt looks and listens.

About 30 members of the public filled the smart refurbished Methodist Hall on November 6th for the Neighbourhood Watch meeting. A good turnout, drawn by the Inspector presence of Thomas, Central Commander of the South Shropshire and Bridgnorth Division of the West Mercia Police.

He explained that the force had to save £30 million and formed an alliance with Warwickshire Constabulary to share senior staff and services. It was better to spend money on people rather than buildings, so there were stations closed and the way the patrols work has been altered. Technology now gives them access to data out on patrol and the nearest officers can be directed to an incident to save time, with priority given to the most serious crime. That means you may have to wait to give details of a minor incident as the police concentrate on a major one; with manning levels reduced, that is a fact of policing life today.

The CSOs now work longer hours and have more powers to deal with problems caused by drink and drugs. The CCTV cameras in the town centre are and owned operated by Shropshire Council, whose operators exchange information with the police. With the closure of Cleobury's police station, there will be a base in the Market Hall, but no link to the police IT network for volunteers to use.

The question of another officer being recruited if the town could raise the money provoked a lot of discussion; maybe a Special Constable? Inspector Thomas agreed to look into the matter and will talk with the Parish Council, but made it clear that such an officer would still be expected to deal with an incident outside the town if the need arose. Expect to see an advert inviting enquiries before long.

Inspector Thomas came over as a man willing to listen, happy to explain what can and cannot be done and to consider new ideas - like our own Special Constable. He was warmly applauded at the end of his talk.

Mark Greaves outlined the work of the Saint Mary's Youth Project, which attracts up to 40 young people to its Club Nights at the Methodist Hall. The establishment of The Hub had impressed the Police Commissioner, who has promised to see if there are funds available to provide a big screen unit.

Betsy Pratt then explained that her work load means she has to step down as coordinator of NHW and invited volunteers to help this important work for the community. Would you be willing to give time? Betsy would be happy to tell you more on betsypratt5@hotmail.co.uk. The meeting ended with a round of applause for Betsy and all she's done to make NHW such a success.



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HELEN'S NEW EQUINE VENTURE



Helen Shineton (left) on Carol Webb's Digby and Debbie Treadwell on Wizard, all smiles after a few Shropshire country miles.

Helen Shineton has found her happy spot. She took on the Baginswood Yard in September and is in business as Helly's Horses, offering livery service and trail riding. The big barn has been given a coat of paint and houses stables where her own five horses and livery mounts are kept, with 25 acres available on the doorstep. It is a glorious location.

She's been mad keen on horses since schooldays spent roping and riding on the common. She's worked in a range of facilities, from racing yards, stud farms,

with a local vet and on to girl head become at the Wheatland Hunt Kennels stable. More recently she worked with Stephanie Eddis-Davies at the Baginswood stable and has taken over the trail riding and livery service as Stephanie concentrates on riding for the disabled. When Helen talks about three-day trails along the Jack Mytton Way, to Church Stretton or Much Wenlock, her eyes light up and she bubbles with enthusiasm. She was made for this job.

Helly's Horses are on 07854 093 718.



THE LACON LOTTERY

The lucky winner in October was popular local builder Mick Bate, who pockets £115.00 for his £10 stake. Nice one.

BODY SHOP SALE

There's a Body Shop Sale on December 6th at the Talbot Hotel, with a raffle to raise funds for local churches. Starts at 7.00, all welcome.

MOFFATS EXCELS

English Speaking Board examinations are taken by all Moffats pupils from the age of 7 to 13 years. Pupils read at sight, recite a poem and present a talk on a favourite subject.

The range of topics covered was particularly varied this year and included wind farms, drumming, the Thai royal family, loom weaving, laser cutting and hand-making felt mice.



Daisy Pitt, introducing her book for reading at sight.

Kate Killick, who leads the project for Moffats, said, "We had a busy few weeks leading our annual exams. up to Although the children didn't realise it, the new Chief Examiner of the ESB watched one day of presentations and was bowled over by what she A huge well done to saw. everyone"

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The Christmas menu is available from 1st December until the end of January 2014.

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All Served with Bread Roll & Butter

Mains

Roast Turkey, Stuffing, Pigs In Blankets & Parsnip Puree Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding & Parsnip Puree Salmon Fillet with Creamy Orange & Dill Sauce Cranberry & Nut Roast Pie with Vegetarian Gravy

All Served with Roast Potatoes, Brussels Sprouts, Carrots & Braised Red Cabbage

Desserts

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THE PLAYERS PLEASE AGAIN

Cleobury Players did another good job of pleasing the audience with their 'Come On Jeeves' welcoming in the month of November. Author Guy Bolton called upon P G Woodhouse and his famous butler for an action set in Towester Abbey, a name very close to the Towcester home of Lord Hesketh...But it was another rumbustuous evening's

Joe and Rosie Watson debuted with the company as Lord and Lady Carmoyle, after an appeal in The Clarion, and carried two long parts well, though His Lordship's voice projection was not always easy to catch. Two more talents to add to the local fund.

Carl Phillips was another good find, acting the gormless twit that was the Earl of Towester in a very convincing manner. Can he really be an Intelligence Analyst in real life?

The veterans gave good value, as ever. Nigel Hodgson was just what we all expected the suave Jeeves to be; you'd give him a job as a butler if you won the Lottery. Annabel Gemmill as the Earl's fiancee made you wonder why such a capable woman could fall for His Lordship; far too good for him.

Jacqui Lewis was convincing as Mrs Spottsworth, a wealthy American widow with a lot to say and an eye for white hunter Captain Biggar, or Steve Foster in Maximous Pompous mode. Deana Kimber looks like a teenager and isn't; she cleverly played the decrepit housemaid Ellen, though again she isn't. And Ray Wilson really had very little to say as Chief Cønstable Colonel Blagden, a man who wouldn't convince any official enquiry of his ability to do the job.

Tom Cartwright was the director, with a very competent backup crew too numerous to name. Not stars, but essential to another good evening out. They are a real asset.

THE NIFTY 50s

It's much more than just 50 year olds, in fact. The Nifty 50 dance and exercise group meets in the Parish Hall at 9.30 on Tuesday mornings, to do their thing to music. Nothing formal, no age limits, just a happy band moving as the feeling takes them.

Holly Joynson is in charge, who assures us that it's simply good fun with an enthusiastic following. And the cost is very affordable at £3.00 a session.

Holly will happily tell you more. Just give her a call on 07504 860774.

SHAUNAH'S CAMPAIGN

Shaunah Murrell is doing a lot more than her annual Advent Soup Lunches to raise funds for good causes this year. As well as a payment to help the homeless in Manchester, she's getting lots of people together to give support to the Breast Unit at Kidderminster Hospital. With lots of extra help from the staff at Lloyds Bank.

They had a raffle for a giant rabbit that raised £135 for the cause, while staff member Marilyn Wood and ex member Penny Handley gathered in £95 at a recent Stone Manor auction. On November 6th there was a Coffee and Cake morning in the bank and as well as the Advent Soup events there are good people organising Diminishing Tea Parties to further swell the coffers.

Good old Lloyds Bank themselves have agreed to match the funds all these efforts will raise, up to a maximum of £1,000. We won't know until the end of the year just how much the local work will produce, but at the Coffee and Cake morning there were a lot of notes in the collection box, which does suggest that the big hearted people of Cleobury will be digging deep to help the work that goes on in our local hospital.

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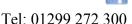
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Clarion Clippings -- The Local News

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

December can be a wonderful month in the garden. The days may be short but on the whole the weather is usually not bad, with clear, frosty, sunny days when it can be a pleasure to be out if you're wrapped up well.

At the October meeting Michael Darville, from Arley Arboretum, gave an interesting talk and slide show. The arboretum is not just trees, there are various gardens to keep everyone interested. The evening was a great success, everyone enjoying the talk with some fabulous pictures.

Our last meeting of the year was in November, it was the AGM and social evening with a lovely spread of refreshments. It has been a busy year, so a special thank you to the committee for their efforts and to the members because without you there would be no club. After the formalities it was time to eat and play a quiz.

Our first meeting for 2014 will be on January 22nd, when Rachael McDonough, will give a talk entitled 'Cut Flowers'.

CLEOBURY CARERS' SUPPORT GROUP

Coffee and Chat on Wednesday December 4th, 10.30 - 11.30 at The Kings Arms. The Christmas Lunch will be on December 11th at 12.30 at The Kings Arms. Pre booking essential.

There will be no formal meeting in December. *Wendy Duley*

NEEN SAVAGE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The annual Christmas concert at the Parish Hall will take on a new look this year as we have the Bridgnorth Ukukele Band performing a selection of seasonal songs. The concert will be on Friday, December 13th at 7.30. Tickets £3.50, £2.50 for a child or £10for a family of four.

There will be mulled wine and mince pies served in the interval. Bridgnorth Ukulele Band was formed in 2010, playing around Shropshire and the West Midland, from market halls to stately homes.

Their music spans over 100 years, from traditional folk music to rock and roll. Any fees received are donated to Cancer Research UK and to date they have raised nearly £6000.

This promises to be an informal, fun evening to kick start the Christmas festivities, so please come along and support the Band and the Parish Hall. For more information contact me on 01299 270173.

Clare Ratcliff

COCO COFFEE MORNINGS

Katja Jones has news:

The Friends of CoCo have launched regular Wednesday coffee mornings in support of Cleobury Compassionate Communities. If you are in town and need somewhere to escape from the cold, we will be offering home-made cake with tea or coffee for only £1.50.

All proceeds to fund the travel expenses of our volunteers, who visit their clients, often in quite rural locations, on a weekly basis. Please help me spread the word if you can and we look forward to serving you in our pinafores on Wednesday December 11th, 10.00-12.00am at Cleobury Market Hall.

Coffee mornings in the New Year will be every second and fourth Wednesday of the month.

SHAUNAH MURRELL

Shaunah will not be sending Christmas cards this year. We'll let her explain:

I would like to wish all my friends and neighbours a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a healthy New Year and assure them that the Appeal for the Disaster in the Philippines will benefit as a result. Thank you.

Shaunah

WORLDWIDE TRAVEL

Some of our up and coming overseas holidays and expeditions...

Adventure Nepal, 13 - 26 April 2014 (Easter Holidays)

This Nepal trip is great for someone wanting their first trip to the Himalayas and is also perfect as a family adventure holiday, providing an introduction for families, groups of friends or individuals new to adventure travel. Based in the west of Nepal encompassing the very best features of this Himalayan Kingdom. This is one of our most popular itineraries which will include a stunning 5 day trek in the Annapurna region, staying in Chitwan National Park, an elephant safari and experiencing some of the best white-water rafting in the world.

Sweden by Kayak and Seafood Safari (also suitable for none seafood lovers!), 25 - 30 May 2014 (Half Term)

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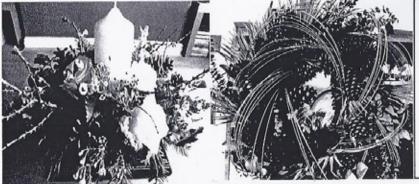
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Bayton Church of England Primary School



Here at Bayton Church of England Primary we try to offer a variety of after school activities for our children. Last half term's choices seemed to please almost everyone in some way and we're hoping for the same this term.

On Mondays we offer a Maths booster for our Year 6 children and Choir, which is open to children from Year 1 upwards.

Tuesdays we are hosting our new Bingo Club, which initially had a slow take up but is gaining in popularity, especially as the children are showing off their prizes! Last term, our Year 1 teacher, Miss Claxton ran a hugely popular dance club which I know the children are keen to see start up again in the new year.

Wednesdays are Tag Rugby night run by our Year 2 Teacher Mr Langdon, who is supported by a keen rugby supporting parent. Our Year 5 and 6 Tag Rugby teams recently had a fantastic tournament at Ludlow and we are hoping that at least one team was successful in its group so that they might go on to the next round. The winners actually get to go to Twickenham so it's worth playing for.

On Thursdays our Headteacher, Mrs Pounder runs the popular Netball club open to all Key Stage 2 children. Our netball team have already been playing in the Cleobury League and doing very well indeed with four out of five wins and hopefully another win in the final game of this Autumn season. This should secure them silver, which is excellent. The squad are so keen and deserve all the successes they have had. Last term children could also attend Kidderminster Harriers Football club which saw many of our keen footballers making great progress. We are hoping to run this club again in the new year, once our football pitch has had time to dry out.

For further details about our school, contact the office on 01299 832393. Alternatively, visit our website at www.baytonpri.worcs.sch.uk



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The Clarion Jobs Page

LOOKING FOR A JOB?

A good source is the Job Centre Plus service on www.gov.uk.jobsearch

You can use one of the computers in Cleobury Country Centre, Love Lane, to look up information to help your search.

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Andy Perkins, EZSolar, Cleobury Mortimer. (See the advertisement above. Editor.)

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Martin Shineton - down to earth in his work and his manner.

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30 or so years in the business means he knows his stuff, and he's registered with ADAS. There's been no formal training: "Did a one day course, back in the days when we used strychnine poisoning, and it was mainly about handling that stuff. It's banned now and we just use traps."

We talked in the Cleobury cemetery, where he'd been told there was a problem, with the mud of molehills to confirm their presence. First he probed the soil to establish where the burrow ran, then dug out a divot with what looked like a post spade and laid his metal trap into the run. "It's a Duffus trap and when the mole goes through there it springs the trap and it breaks his back." Quick, clean and no poison to endanger other species.

So where does his work come from? "Private gardens, cemeteries and farmers. Farmers mainly; if they get moles where they're growing sileage, when they take the crop the mud from the mole hills gets into the sileage and the cows won't touch it." He does general pest control too, some of which is seasonal, like wasp nests. "Been a lot of those this summer, I've done about 100."

He works within a 30 mile radius of his local base. "I can go further, but the cost of travel puts the price up." And he helps run the beaters for shoots at Hopton Court, where he was interviewed for BBC TV's 'Escape to the Country' recently. Look out for him.

How does he advertise for work? "Just the Clarion and The Vital Link at Neen Savage. The rest is by recommendation." With 30 years experience and all the local knowledge he's acquired, you can see why he keeps busy.

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The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

Hark! The poisoned pets come in...

With Christmas fast approaching, we must have a chat about chocolate! Of course there is no doubt that dogs have a sweet tooth, and will thoroughly enjoy a sliver of chocolate if they can get hold of it. However Christmas (and Easter) pose a hugely increased risk for our barking buddies...

Underneath almost every Christmas tree, I'll bet about a quarter of the presents are chocolate. Dogs, of course, can smell this through the wrapping paper, and it takes an incredibly well behaved pooch to just ignore of that deliciousness. Chocolate POISONOUS to dogs. The darker the chocolate (more cocoa content) the worse it is. Dogs cannot cope at all well with the products of digestion of the chocolate (theobromine). This cause diarrhoea, can vomiting, depression, seizures and even heart attacks. So please keep them away from the presents.

Alongside other items, they should avoid fruit cake, grapes and raisins. These can cause vomiting and diarrhoea, but more seriously, they can lead to kidney failure as soon as 48hours after ingestion.

If you know of, or suspect ingestion of any toxin, or toy you must call us as soon as possible. We will make your pet be sick, and advise you on the best course of treatment from there.

Cats are generally sensible. Very rarely do they eat silly foods. Most commonly they will swallow some string, leading to intestinal blockage. Don't let them play with wrapping ribbon please!

Other dangers around the home are hidden in the beauty of the decorative flowers. Lilies, Holly and Mistletoe are all poisonous if eaten, and should be avoided if possible.

We have seen lots of new puppies and Kittens around recently, performed lots of primary vaccination courses, so in an effort to help out even more with the costs of having a new pet, Severn Edge Vets are now offering a huge 20% off Neutering throughout December and January. Male cats and dogs can be neutered any time from six months old (sometimes a little earlier for male cats). Female cats (queens) can be neutered from five months, and Female dogs (bitches) can be neutered either at six months, or three months after any season (the sooner, the better)!

Bubbles is fine! For all of you who have asked after the little terror, he has been absolutely fine. He loves outdoor life (a bit too much!) and has finally managed to reclaim his radiator shelf for those cold winter nights. Spiders are the new 'must-have' toy for all cats apparently. As the spiders venture indoors for warmth, Bubbles takes great pleasure in finding them along the skirting board, and ushering them back to the door. I am afraid that not many make it that far. Boredom sets in, and he gives up once they curl into a ball. Suddenly they start to look rather tasty apparently. Poor spiders.

Thanks for reading, *Jeremy Hall BVMS MRCVS*.



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FOR LIZ



Liz Vanegas de Quickenden with her award and High Sheriff of Staffordshire Susie Lillingston.

One of the Cleobury Mortimer based First Responders was presented with a Distinguished Service Award at the Excellence in the Community Awards night at Stoke on Trent on November 7th.

Presenting the award was Dr Anthony Marsh, CEO of the West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust, in the presence of Susie Lillingston, High Sheriff of Staffordshire.

Liz, renowned for her bubbly enthusiasm for helping others, could only say: "I am so honoured and proud." Nice one, Mrs V.

CLEOBURY CARERS OUTING

On November 6th 12 people, Carers and the cared for, left Cleobury to join up with a further group from Ludlow. The destination was Coed-y-Dinas (Charlies) Welshpool, a huge garden centre and shopper's paradise.

The weather was dull but spirits high. After travelling through some wonderful scenery, the group split up and arranged to meet at lunchtime. A great day, people buying a variety of tempting Christmas goodies, or just looking around.

Although it poured with rain, that did not matter as the vast area covered by Charlies was all undercover. More trips planned anyone for 2014; interested in joining the Cleobury Mortimer Carer's Group please contact Dice 01694 722024 or Wendy 01299 270562.

Dice Buchanan

Carers Support and Development Officer

REID WARBLERS' CAROL CONCERT

An invitation from the Reid Warblers and the Carers Group:

The Reid Warblers are holding their annual Carol Concert on

Friday December 20th at 7-30pm in St. Elizabeth's Church, in Lower Street. There will be a great opportunity to sing your favourite carols and songs, including O Tannenbaum (O Christmas Tree). Chestnuts

Roasting on an Open Fire, Good King Wenceslas, with all men being the King, and all ladies the Page. Silent Night, Joy to the World, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, and, of course, O Come All Ye Faithful, among others.

Refreshments, mince pies, tea and coffee will be available, provided by the Reid Warblers and the Carers Group, for whom this concert is raising money. This will be an excellent opportunity to come and enjoy the spirit of Christmas, hear a little about the Carers Group and have a good rousing sing.

Iudy Reid

EVER SO DECEMBER

Ever So British are offering online festive deals on Hampers for bargain hunters during the first twelve days of December. Offers include £12 off their Festive Feast, Dr Dough's Essential Baking Course & Baking Kit and Taste of the Past hampers...available at www.eversobritish.co.uk

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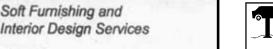
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Happenings on High Street

SMILING IN THE COLD FOR A GOOD CAUSE



Shivering in the November chill are left to right: Jodie Clarke-Cater, with Caitlyn and Kirsty Bullock and an edible Pudsey Bear to raffle.

Local youngsters working out in the cold to help others, it's all a part of the Cleobury character.

These three ladies got together to help raise funds for Children In Need. They baked a range of fine cakes that they sliced into portions, added some blueberry muffins from a commercial bakery and stood outside the Saturday Talbot two mornings, selling them. And they made the Pudsey cake that was an extra attraction as a raffle prize. Never mind the weather, they were ready with a smile to serve the goods and take the money, all to help others.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



Representatives of the Brownies and Guides lay their wreath under the watchful eye of bugler David Taylor.

Remembrance Sunday is a very occasion in Cleobury Mortimer, as it is in most communities in the country. One of the most notable aspects of gathering at the Memorial is the representatives of every association who join in the parade and stand silently as their own wreath is laid. It is really good to see them all acknowledging the sacrifice made by service and men women.

It seemed that most of the town lined the route of the parade as the Cleobury Brass band led the way down High Street to Church Street and the annual Ceremony of Remembrance. There the Rector read out the names of those lost in war, British Legion president Jim Hulme offered moving words Laurance Binyon's poem and David Taylor did his usual excellent job of sounding the Last Post before the crowd stood in observance of the two minutes silence. Even the traffic was silent, the Police Commissioner having responded to the British Legion's request for help and arranged for a constable and two CSOs to be in attendance to ensure the best of order. Heads were bowed, poppies were worn and the community showed its respect; once more a memorable day.

It is our sad duty to record one blot on this moving communal commemoration. Poppies were delivered to the usual businesses for sale before the day and volunteers stood in the street and sold them. Apart from the box that had been left in Mumford's ironmonger's shop, which the owner handed to one of the volunteers with a refusal to sell them. We do not know the reason for this, if reason there be, but it was an insult to those whose memory the poppies commemorate, to the British Legion and to the community of Cleobury Mortimer. Shame.



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

MEMORIES OF MULLER'S

The original plan had been to divide people into small groups and talk about their memories of Muller's, making notes on the way. However, when 72 people turned up to the evening at the Social Club on October 14th, the organizers had to change their plans – and so did the barman! Getting people to talk was no problem, but getting them to stop was slightly more difficult, especially when they all felt they had to raise their voices after years of working in a noisy What a good environment. natured and interesting crowd of people who enjoyed watching a movie shot in about 1970, "One in a Million" showing the processes production Muller's and had a good laugh at the birds flying out of the car engine compartment in the 1970 film of the President's Rally. Hundreds of photographs and items of memorabilia were pored over and everyone seemed to find something of All the photographs interest. are on the History Society website where you can make comments or add your stories. Please help to keep the Muller's memories alive by visiting www.cleoburymortimerhistory.c o.uk/mullers - you can use the computers in the Library or if

you want to send them in, call both players and officials. It's on me on CM 270047. Saturday the 7th this month and

Robert Hodge

CLEOBURY W.I.

The Annual General Meeting was held on October 24th. After the reports President Jill Chesterman resigned and Judy Sant was voted in for the coming year. Jill Chesterman was presented with a bouquet, wine and chocolates; she thanked the members for their generosity and wished them the very best for the future.

Our November meeting enjoyed a very interesting talk about wool, by Miss Thompson. She keeps sheep and wore a cardigan knitted from yarn from her own flock. She gave information on the history of sheep and the crafts and guilds associated with them and their wool. Flower of the Month and the competition for a hand made card were both won by Jill Chesterman.

This month's meeting is on the 10th, 7.30 in the Parish Hall, and features a talk on the truth behind those Old Wives' Tales. *Gillian Senior*

CRUVO? WHAT'S THAT?

It's Cleobury Rugby Union getting together to raise funds for their headquarters - the Sports and Social Club in Love Lane. Their Winter Festival in fact, with lots of work put in by both players and officials. It's on Saturday the 7th this month and kicks off with a men's volleyball match at 1.00, with a women's match to follow. And there will be rugby matches from 2.00 through to 4.00. That's the active sporty bit, just to warm you up and get the players' thirst going.

The Club bar will be open all day and there will be six Winter Ales and six Cask Strength Whiskies to try. They'll have Christmas trees and wreaths for sale and raffles for both adults children. And in evening it will really warm up, with a disco and the Nick Parker Band from the late afternoon on, and a pig roast from 8.00. It'll cost you just £5.00 a ticket for the disco and band, the rest is free entry. Sounds like a good event, in support of a good cause.

ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday the 7th, from 1-30. Visit Father Christmas (you can book tickets in advance) bring teddy along for your amazing zip wire experience through the church, make decorations, get vour painted and enjoy other things people, not to young mention a chance for grown ups to do some Christmas shopping, browse around many stalls and enjoy some hot food.

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Letter from Westminster -Philip Dunne MP

Christmas will soon be upon us once again. As December begins, all but the most wellprepared of us have yet to organise - and may leave until the last moment – Christmas shopping.

I want to encourage a special Christmas shopping experience – making the most of the great independent shops in South Shropshire. Small shops offer an experience not found online, or in big chains. They stock individual products, often from local sources, which can be perfect as thoughtful and individual gifts. All kinds of presents can be found in local stores across South Shropshire.

It is also a great way to enjoy our high streets in their winter splendour, with Christmas decorations and markets worth braving the chill for. Those with friends or family visiting can offer a great day out, a chance to experience Shropshire's rural charm, as strong in winter as it is in summer.

Independent shops and businesses are vital to high maintaining vibrant streets. I am determined to help small businesses like thrive. That's why I am pleased concrete steps are being taken at national level to help, such as cutting the cost of running a business by doubling the small business rate relief scheme until April 2014 and reducing small companies' tax rates to 20 per

From next April every business and charity Shropshire will benefit from a reduction of £2,000 a year in employer National Insurance contributions, cutting this tax on jobs. Over 90 per cent of firms benefiting will be small businesses. Taking on new staff can be daunting for these, but this ΝI cut will help Shropshire's businesses meet the costs of expanding and encourage growth. The allowance will mean 450,000 small businesses, one third of all employers in the country,

will pay no jobs tax at all.

Growth in the economy, combined with Government support, should see businesses thriving and jobs being created in Shropshire. I am determined to help SME's drive forward our local economy and I know that many of Shropshire's businesses are starting expand once again. I want to see this reach out onto our high streets, so that our shops are thriving. With central Shropshire government and council both backing business, we can make this a reality.

Supporting local businesses to grow will help maintain Shropshire's network of independent shops. I want to see the unique nature of our towns and villages thrive, and I urge local shoppers to support local stores this Christmas.

I wish all my constituents across South Shropshire a very merry Christmas, and a happy New Year.

Philip Dunne MP



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The December Social Calendar

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Mon 2/	7.30pm	Ludlow Assembly Rooms present Woody Allen's acclaimed	Booking Office	01584 878141
Tue 3/	_	'Blue Jasmine'.		
Mon 2-		Talbot Square car park restrictions for maintenance. SEE PAGE		
Fri 6		53.		
Wed 4	10.30am	Coffee and Chat morning for Cleobury Carers' Group.		
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 5		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND GREEN RECYCLE BOXES		
		EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders meet at St Giles' Church, Heightington, for a	Alan	01299 400304
		pleasant two to three hours of scenic exercise.		
	10.30am	Forest Friends have an event for Under 5s at Wyre Forest		
		Discovery Centre. SEE PAGE 49		
	7.30pm	Festive Shop at The Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon		
Fri 6	7.30pm	Body Shop Sale at the Talbot Hotel, High Street.		
	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
	8.00pm	Alistair McGowan entertains at Ludlow Assembly Rooms	Booking Office	01584 878141
Sat 7	1.30pm	The Christmas Fair at the Parish Church of St Mary's. Father		
	_	Christmas and lots of things for adults and children		
	2.00pm	The Rugby Club's CRUVO Winter Festival is at the Sports and		
	_	Social Club in Love Lane and goes on 'til late. SEE PAGE 25.		
Tue 10	7.30am	St Mary's Breakfast Club, Kings Arms, Church Street.	Gill Chapman	CM 270575
	7.30pm	Cleobury W.I., Parish Hall. Old Wives' Tales - the truth.		
Wed 11	10.00am	CoCo Coffee Morning in the Market Hall, with Christmas		
		goodies on sale		
	12.30pm	CM Carers Group Christmas Lunch at the KA	Wendy Duley	CM 270562
	12.30pm	The Ladies' Luncheon Club meet at The Plough, Far Forest.	Alison	01584 890414
	_		Osborne	
	7.30pm	Neen Savage W.I. Members meeting at the Village Hall		
	8.00pm	The Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street		
	8.00pm	Gypsy Fire get the Ludlow Assembly Rooms rocking.		
Thu 12		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		

The Editor would like thank all Cleobury Clarion readers and advertisers for their support and wish them all a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.



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The December Social Calendar - continued

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
	12 noon	POSTING DEADLINE FOR THE SCOUTS XMAS POST		
	7.30pm	Christmas Concert, Neen Savage Village Hall. The Bridgnorth		
		Ukulele Band entertain. SEE PAGE 11.		
	8.00pm	Christmas Bingo Night at Cleeton St Mary Village Hall, in aid of		
		the hall's funds		
Sat 14	10.00am	Christmas Festival at Simply Fresh, Talbot Square. Free Goodie		
		Bag to the first 50 customers. Cleobury Concert Brass provide		
		music in the High Street.		
	7.00pm	Christmas Party at the Golf Club includes cocktails with		CM 271112
		President Tom Straughton before dinner and partying. £20 a		
		ticket.		
Sat 15	7.30pm	Cleobury Concert Brass Christmas Concert in the Parish Hall.		
		Book early, it's a great show!		
Mon 16	7.30pm	The Reading Group gather at The Library on Love Lane.	Deana Kimber	CM 271754
Tue 17	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 19		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND GREEN RECYCLE BINS		
		EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders meet at The Bell, Pensax. See 5th above		
	1.15pm	Tinsel Tales at Ludlow Assembly Rooms. Family fun show.	Booking Office	01584 878141
	7.30pm		_	
	7.45pm	Whist Drive at Sports and Social Club	Alan Evans	CM 27014
Fri 20	7.30pm	Reid Warblers' Carol Concert, Saint Elizabeth's Church. In		
		support of the Carers Group. SEE PAGE 21.		
Sat 21	9.30am	The Christmas Farmers' Market offers lots of stalls, plus mulled		
		wine, mince pies and music. And some great stuff to make		
		Christmas go down well.		
Thu 25		A VERY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL.		
		LET'S REMEMBER PEOPLE IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHO		
		ARE SUFFERING		
Sat 27		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
		AND LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY 2014		
Fri 3		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED		
		TODAY		



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42 Meadow Rise • Cleobury M'tr

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Clarion Coppers - with PCSO Nick Morris

First the list of reported crimes during the last month for our area:

On October 20th a purse was stolen out of a handbag which had been left on a table by the entrance to St Mary's Church. £10 cash and various cards were in the purse worth £35.

On October 31st there was a report of the theft of diesel from a parked van in Yeldside Gardens during the previous night.

It is thought that a resident in Orchard End is being targetted because his car has been vandalised on several occasions. On November 9th/10th one of the rear tyres was slashed, and on November 14th/15th the same vehicle was 'keyed'. This same vehicle was reported as having the rear window smashed on September 7th. All these crimes were committed whilst the car was parked on the drive in front of the house.

On November 9th the rear window of a car parked in Church Street was smashed. It's thought that it could have been caused by a firework being thrown.

£400 worth of damage was caused to a van parked in Langland Road on November 15th possibly at 11:30pm when a bang had been heard, (though not investigated). As always, if you can shed any light on these or any other offences, please contact Police on the non emergency number, 101, or email the Safer Neighbourhood Team:- ch.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk All calls are treated in confidence.

It shouldn't be necessary to mention this, but unfortunately I have had occasion to speak to youths and a couple of adults about cycling in the dark without lights. This is not only an offence punishable by a fine , but it is very, very dangerous. If you have children who may be out on their bikes in the dark, please check and ensure that they are equipped with both front and rear lights with charged batteries.

Some positive news now. There were arrests recently after a drugs search warrant was carried out in an area of Shropshire. A considerable amount of cocaine and cannabis was discovered in a house after information was received from members of the public. The fight

against illegal use of drugs is ongoing and anyone involved with drugs illegally can be assured that they will eventually be caught. A prolific house burglar was recently jailed for six years for offences committed in Shropshire, and another criminal was jailed for seven years for similar burglary offences. You see, there is some good news as well!

Inspector Thomas has asked for the following message to be forwarded for inclusion in 'Clarion Coppers'.

" During an evening with members and coordinators of the local Neighbourhood Watch, the community felt they would like an additional visible presence in the town and outlying villages to support the current team in problem solving and dealing with issues. West Mercia Police are therefore seeking to recruit additional Special Constables for the Cleobury and Highley Safer Neighbourhood Team. Special Constables are volunteers who carry out a variety of roles alongside regular Officers and Police Community Support Officers in Safer Neighbourhood Teams to help police their communities. They have the same powers as regular Police Officers (eg being able to arrest people), wear a similar uniform and face the same challenges. But the role is a part time one - a minimum of four hours each week, normally at weekends or evenings, is a requirement. If you are interested in this challenging work, before you apply, please contact local Police Inspector robert.j.thomas@westmercia.pnn.police.uk or Police Sergeant:richard.bailey@westmercia.pnn.police.uk initially by email to talk through some of the work you would face as a Special Constable. We would also be able to provide you with information around the application process".

Finally, from your Safer Neighbourhood Team - Inspector Robert Thomas, Sergeant Richard Bailey, PC Ann Oleary, PCSOs Shelley Hyde, Ben Harris and myself, Nick Morris, we wish all our readers a Happy, Safe and Crime-Free Christmas and 2014.

The Clarion is on the web from the 4th of every month, every one of our 60 crowded pages.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE NOVEMBER MARKET

As there was no market originally scheduled for November, some traders had not booked and maybe went elsewhere. Whatever the reason, the number of stalls was down compared with the October event, but most traders reported good business.

Farlow Nurseries were there for the first time, happy to fill a corner of the War Memorial garden and show off a selection of Christmas trees and other plants from their highly rated family business. They don't have enough staff to attend markets regularly, but on this showing they'll be back.

Inside the church Clare Todd was happily showing off the new Farmers Market shopping bag, ideal to carry home some local produce and at £3.50 reasonably priced. Get yours at the market or from Cleobury Country Centre in Love Lane and help to spread the message.

Charlotte Wallace was showing neat knitted pieces, sold in support of Birch Hill Dog Rescue. She was hoping to get a space at the December market, but the craft spaces were all sold.



If it makes her this happy, it must be good. Clare Todd with the new Farmers Market shopping bag.

Phil Reeve of Scrummy Stuff is a very keen supporter of the market and campaigned for the November opening. "If they hadn't agreed to do it, I'd have run it myself," he explained. "You have to keep it in people's minds if you want them to come and support you." He'd had several people place orders on the phone and collect on the

day, to prove his point. Do try their bacon, it really is very good indeed.

Scrumdiddlyumptious of Bewdley had a range of mouthwatering cakes on show. I tried a fruit one: "Best shop fruit cake I can remember," said my much better half. And Helen Booton gave me a lovely looking little package of mini Christmas puds for my lady....mmmm, lovely taste too.

At the Good Game stall I was tempted by Wild Boar and Apple sausages. They proved to be a very smooth textured treat, and surprised in not having such a strong flavour as conventional pork bangers. Very pleasantly subtle.

The December Market is scheduled for the 21st and promises to be rather special. It will run from 9.30 to 12.30 and there will be mulled wine, mince pies and music to add to the atmosphere. Plus a lucky name draw for a Christmas hamper - give your name and email address as you go in and you're entered - free. It's celebrating the success Cleobury Country have made.

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The Farming Page - Catherine Evans on Paperwork

November started with Inspections – first a man turned up to count the sheep! He was an officer from the Rural Payments Agency and had to check all the paperwork associated with the sheep on the farm. Considering we have over 1000 ewes this is no mean feat, as he had to ensure all paperwork was in order then check to see if the right sheep, with an ear tag in each ear was in the right field in the right quantity! Next came the man from FABAL -Farm Assurance British and Lamb Scheme, a Quality Assurance Group which, whilst voluntary, is seen as mandatory by most of the major supermarkets. When a farm is a member of the scheme the Inspector checks all protocols relating to the running of the farm - machinery maintenance; storage and use of medicines, chemicals, fertilisers; animal welfare and safe storage of crops. Obviously to prove all this records must be maintained, alongside the regular work involved in running a farm - tending animals and planting crops!

Next on the horizon is the dreaded TB testing – this will take place in the next week

when the vet spends two days on the farm injecting antibodies into the skin of every head of cattle; he returns three days later and every animal again has to be handled to check for lumps – a lump means a reactor and the possibility the animal may be infected with bovine TB. This is a death sentence, the animal has to be isolated and is sent for slaughter, sometimes to be found to be clear of the disease when a culture test is carried out. The rest of the herd then has to be tested every 60 days until two clear tests are carried out. So four days work, every 60 days, for which the farmer is not paid, the possibility of losing stock, for which a set rate is paid, not market value, particularly if a pedigree animal, and you wonder why badgers are not looked on favourably by many....

On the B&B front I will be receiving a visit from the Hotel Inspector in January to check I still comply with all the requirements to remain a Four Star establishment. Who would be a farmer or a B&B landlady!

John and Catherine Evans



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December - Page 38

Clarion Clippings - The Local News

PHILIP DUNNE'S JOB FAIR PAYS OFF FOR MARTIN



Good result. Martin Roper collects his contract of employment from Philip Dunne as Matt Breakwell of Cornbrook (left) and Johnny Themans of of Good2Great look on.

Philip Dunne organised a jobs fair at Bridgnorth in October, where local man Martin Roper was looking around and got talking to Johnny Themans of Good2Great. Martin wanted work and Johnny knew that Cornbrook Construction were looking for an estimator. An introduction led to an interview and three days later Martin started work.

Matt Breakwell was well pleased: "We're very grateful to Philip for the fair that sent Martin our way," he said. "As the economy recovers, being able to recruit the right kind of people at the right time is vital to our success."

Cornbrook is one of the county's biggest independent building firms, expanding as they win contracts on the basis of their reputation. And Philip Dunne is planning for job fairs in the New Year

KINLET FAMILY PLAYGROUP

Christmas is fast approaching and in the run up, the children have lots of fun, festive activities keeping them very busy. And we'll be cooking, learning songs and writing to Santa.

We've also got an exciting Christmas party planned for Monday 16th - all of our children are invited and we're looking forward to seeing the Picklelily Circus again.

We will close for the holidays on Thursday the 19th and return on January 8th. If you're looking for a nursery for your child, get in touch on 07794 166514 to arrange a visit, or have a look at our website, kinletfamilyplaygroup.co.uk

THANK YOU FROM MADGE

Many thanks to all of you for signing the petition for 'Fairer Funding for the Rural Areas'.

119 Rural MP's including Philip Dunne responded to the call for this Petition and 26 presented it to the House of Commons on October 10th. You will find the full report in Hansard.

We do need to keep the pressure up and I urge you to lobby Philip Dunne to fight for a fairer share of the funding for our area. There are further meetings with senior servants and Eric Pickles to press home our very valid request. I attended our lobby group on Nov. 18th where the response to the Petition was one of the highest the House of Commons for this type of petition.

We shall hear from The Chancellor about mid December how much grant Shropshire will be given this year. Please write to Mr Dunne. Thank you. *Madge Shineton*

CLEOBURY PATIENTS VOICE

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday January 20th at 6.30 in the Market Hall when the Officers for the year will be elected. It is open to all patients of Cleobury Mortimer Medical Practice.

With all the changes in the NHS it is more important than ever that we are involved in the decision making. Please come and make your voice heard. *Lyn Young*

THE READING GROUP

'Wide Sargasso Sea' by Jean Rhys' was our November read and this "prequel" to 'Jane Eyre' provoked a wide range of interest and enjoyment, though comments were made that it was baffling or muddled. The long introduction, the footnotes, plus notes at the end, irritated several people. However it left an impression on us as it was a fascinating look at the tensions between races, Creoles and Europeans, with voodoo and violence never far away. Not a classic but worth a read.

Our book for December is 'Nurse on Call' by Edith Cotterill, available from Cleobury library. We meet there to mull it over on Monday 16th December at 7.30pm; new members are always welcome.

Deana Kimber CM 271754

SILLY MANAGEMENT MEMOES

- 'What I need is an exact list of specific unknown problems we might encounter.'
- 2. This is so important we can't let things that are more important interfere with it.'

December - Page 39



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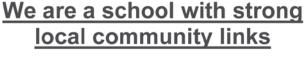








Cleobury Mortimer Primary School





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- Pupils achieve well because they are well taught and have positive attitudes to learning
- Pupils enjoy lessons, behave well and say learning is fun
- Good care, guidance and support provided for individuals



- Exciting topics
- High proportion of pupils take part in extra curricular activities



CONTACT DETAILS

Cleobury Mortimer Primary School

Love Lane, Čleobury Mortimer, Nr Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8PE

Tel: 01299 270313

Email: admin.cleoburymortimer@shropshirelg.net Website: cleoburymortimerprimaryschool.ethink.org.uk

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Clarion Success Story - Cleobury Country Limited

Cleobury Country started life in 2006, when local people were awarded £500,000 from Advantage West Midlands tand laid plans to improve business and ommunity cfacilities in the area. They knew what they were doing, with chairman Chris Dimond using his business skill and experience to guide the project forward.

There were doubters in early days, but time proved them wrong. Cleobury Country was the driving force behind the Centre **Enhancement** Town Scheme that gave the main street a huge lift and in 2010 came Cleobury Country Centre in Love Lane, a centre offering facilities and services that have grown. In its first year there were just four training courses; in 2013 there were 26 a month. And remember that this growth has come in a time of spending cutbacks and reduced budgets everywhere.

The day to day management of the place is in the hands of a small team led by Clare Todd, with Sue Davis and Sam Adams in support. They provide advice and help five days a week and help oversee the operation of the library when there are no staff on duty in that section.

Clare answers to the directors of CC Limited, whose chairman is Tony Chamberlain, elected in March this year. Tony is a director of a software company, which keeps him out on the road most of the week. Clearly a busy man, why did he take on the job? "I knew the personnel, knew they needed a chairman and was persuaded to stand," he admits with a wry grin. You can translate the word 'persuaded' as you like, of course.



Tony (above) sees Cleobury Country as an instrument for getting businesses working quotes together, and monthly networking evenings as a good example. They have been going for two years and in that time over 220 local businesses have taken part, and catchment has spread out to Highley, Bridgnorth, Bewdley, Tenbury Wells and Ludlow.

Lots of schools have used the Centre's training facility, because of easy access competitive prices. As its name has grown, the County Council has started to recommend it as a good place to use and training providers have started to offer courses on customers' own sites. Clare Todd is closely involved in that side and quite sure what attacts business: "We're trusted, locally known, we have a good reputation and we're friendly," she explains.

Tony recognises the strengths of the place: "We have offices that were all let from Day One, the training room is hired out, we've traded through a very tight time and carefully contained the loss. We're looking to take on an apprentice, above school age, who'll work on the front desk and do other jobs. An 18 months course and a County Training NVQ is part of it."

The latest scheme is Local Jobs 4 Local People, with advertising cooperation from the Clarion, to get local information about vacancies in the area. Even better, whoever is on the front desk will try to match up a person to a suitable vacancy on their books. They know it works - they've done it.

The monthly Farmers' Markets are another CC success, now scheduled for twelve months of the year, with support from the Parish Church. The Centre team work Saturdays there for nothing: "We do it because we love it," explains Clare. "It's all part of being a team."

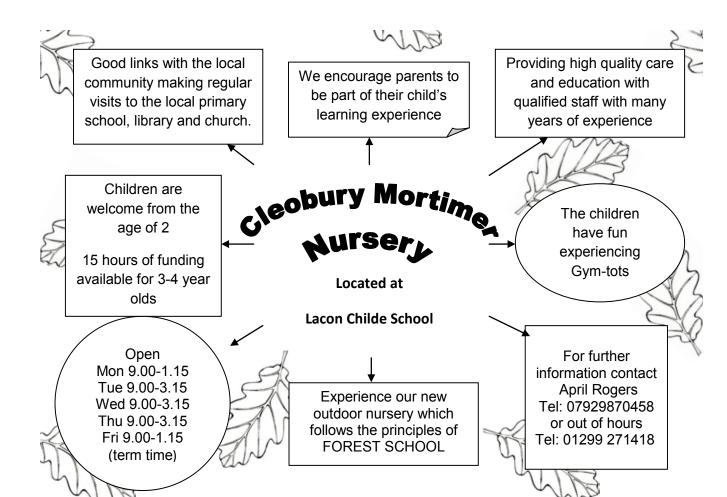
Cleobury Country has come a long way in just seven years. "There are lots of opportunities, and we need a proper business plan to move forward," says Tony. "We can sign you up to a Business Accelerator, where you get advice and guidance that give you three times the value of what you pay in."

"We're looking into the matter of a Credit Union, possibly with the church and the Post Office, but there's nothing definite at this early stage." Watch this space, as they say.

"We do have knowledge of funds available to help finance apprenticeships and develop business startups. And it should be made clear that any money we make goes back into the community."

So what does he see as the purpose of this not for profit business operation? "To try to improve opportunities for everyone in the community."

It's quite a place, with a visionary leader, that just needs a decent sign to make it easier to find. They're looking into that.





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The Clarion Weekly Social Calendar

Day	Time	Event	Contact	Phone
Sun	08.30	Holy Communion, Parish Church	0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	CM 270624
- Cuii	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	Rev II Roberts	07794 166514
IVIOII	08.00	Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon School Mon to Fri	Zoe Day	01746 718769
	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	CM 272638
	15.45	Gym Club with Ann Davis, Lacon Childe Mon & Wed	Don Carter	CM 270312
	17.30	Cubs Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Kate Pearce	07772 102986
	18.30	Karate Club, Lacon Childe School	John Nelson	CM 879210
	19.00	Tai Chi Class, Lacon Childe School	Rose Jacks	01584 875544
		Rangers Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street		
	19.30		Helen Smith Alan Evans	CM 270912 CM 270114
	19.45	Bingo, CM Sports & Social Club Woman's Class Danaing Classes	Linda Small	01746 718624
Tue	10.00	Women's Clog Dancing Classes Ninners Method for Total Method for Hell Church Street		CM 272959
Tue	14.00	Nippers, Moths & Tots, Methodist Hall, Church Street Friendship Club, Parish Hall, Church Street	Emma Janet Rolston	CM 272939 CM 270353
		1		
	15.45 17.00	Ballet Class, Lacon Childe School	Liz Broadway	CM 251246 CM 271317
	17.30	Sports Roundabout, Sports Hall, Love Lane	Daalay V aalay	CM 271416
	18.45	Beavers Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street Bridge Club Hopton Wafters Village Hall	Becky Keeley Wendy Duley	CM 270562
	19.00	Bell Ringers' practice night, St Mary's Church	Liz Walker	CM 270302 CM 271808
	19.00	Chas Beale Dance Club, Lacon Childe School	Betty Ladek	CM 271303 CM 270332
Wed	10.30	Over 50s Relaxing Exercises, Doddington Village Hall	Freda Childe	01584 891180
vvcu	16.45	Gym Club for 6 & over, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
	17.15	Brownies Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Rebecca Barnes	CM 272945
	19.00	Guides Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Dorothy McBride	CM 272717
	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
	19.45	Choir Practice, Parish Church	Philip Engleheart	CM 270627
Thu	09.30	Little Tiddlers, Kinlet Family Playgroup, Kinlet School	Zoe Pearson	07794 166514
1114	14.00	Scrabble Club, St Mary's Place, Non residents £1.00	Jo Booton	07969 104808
	16.45	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	Redeced Dames	CIVI 2/2/73
	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	Dave IIIIves	C1V1 2 / 131 /
	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 718769
<u> </u>	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	Cili is / tilui Cws	01584 881359
Sat	10.30	Junior Coaching, CM Golf Club, Wyre Common	Robert Watkins	CM 271112
υαι	10.50	Junior Coaching, Civi Gon Ciao, wy 15 Collinion	Robert Watkins	C1V1 4 / 11114



CLEOBURY MORTIMER SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB NEW WINTER & SPRING ENTERTAINMENT

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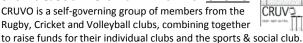
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Clarion Clippings - The Hobson's Page

HOBSON'S MAKE THE HEADLINES AGAIN

Hobson's Brewery is 20 years old this year and they've been up to their usual tricks, plus a new one, as they get into the news again.

First news is that they've been voted Best Regional Cask Brand by the pub trade itself. This was in the Publican's Choice Awards competition sponsored by the Morning Advertiser, the trade paper for the brewing and pub business. There's a copy of it in the KA and the Pubs For Sale pages make pretty depressing reading as you realise how many people are trying to get out of the business. And it's against that background that our local brewery goes from strength to strength.

Like its next award, as the Taste of Shropshire Winner in the Shropshire Star Tourism and Leisure Awards. This is open to all producers of local food or drink products, and Hobson's were shortlisted with Fordhall Organic Farm at Market Drayton and the Ludlow Food Centre. The title went to Cleobury's representative, with the judges praising their emphasis on local sourcing and contribution to long-term local sustainability.

We must also give a plug to the Land of Lost Content Museum in Craven Arms, runners-up to Hawkstone Folly in the Small Visitor Attraction category. Do go to this lovely, quirky little place if you haven't been already. There are floors full of reminders of the youth of many ages.

Back to Hobson's, who faced a problem when they booked a place in the Ludlow Mediaeval Christmas Fayre and were told that both staff and stand had to be in appropriate costume. Bit of a headache there, as they don't have a lot of clothes that old in the brewery cupboard.



So they turned to the Severn Hospice Crafters, a group of keen supporters who make loads of stuff for their High Street shop to sell and have the skills to turn almost anything into almost anything else. And they came up with the right look for the staff who were at Ludlow

selling some good old English

Left to right in our picture are Catherine Evans - not quite in period costume - Wayne "The Hooded Monk" Smith, Gayna Woodland from the Hospice, and Carrie Orgee and Kate Pearce as Master Hobson's Handmaidens. So far we haven't heard of any of them being arrested for masquerading as a period piece.

The Severn Crafters do a great job and have raised £3,000 for the Hospice this year. They were the nutty crowd behind the clothing of the main street in knitted garments. Kate Pearce was happy to accommodate them at the brewery: "Great fun, their enthusiasm and creativity has been brilliant." And Gayna Woodland added: "We were delighted to be asked."

And of course Hobson's are one of the local companies backing the Scouts and Guides Christmas Post that makes sending festive greetings affordable as it raises funds for the maintenance of their Pump House headquarters in the centre of town.

And may we remind you that if you're looking for a barrel to add to the Christmas cheer, the brewery's online shop is at www.hobsons-brewery.co.uk *Jim Reynolds*



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E ROAD TO SUCCESS



Linda Iles' December In The Forest



December and the hoar frosts bring a new look to the forest.

As I write we've just had our first frosts of the winter. When I first moved to this area I was impressed by the spectacular hoar frosts which can coat the trees to their tops, sometimes for days at a time. The name hoar comes from an Old English word which alludes to the signs of old age, in this case white hair! The long ice crystals of hoar frost form on cold, clear nights with enough humidity to bring plenty of moisture and no more than a light wind so that the crystals don't break. The process can offer a degree of protection to

frost-coated plants because the water molecules give up their latent heat when they turn from a liquid to solid state.

As the month progresses it is worth noting the hollies with the best berries (plenty of choice this year) and the trees mistletoe. This strange plant is partially parasitic but won't harm the host tree if it is only present in small amounts. It has long been associated with magic and fertility but has taken its Christmas among place traditions as a "kissing bough" hung above the door. The borders remain a stronghold for the plant, which requires mild, damp weather and a good population of suitable trees such as apple, lime and poplar. It can useful provide some income for orchard owners so some introduce it on purpose by squashing the berries on to fruit trees, mimicking the action of a mistle thrush cleaning its beak. Tenbury Wells is the centre of the trade in mistletoe and has wholesale auctions on 3rd and 10th December.

December 1st sees an active approach to the coming Christmas season hosted by the Forestry Commission at Callow Hill. There is a 5km **Santa** Scramble obstacle course through the forest and a 1.5km Elf Trail for younger children to reach Santa's Grotto, all in aid of the Stroke Association. Call 01527 903501, email westmidsfundraising@stroke.org .uk to get more information or register.

The **Forest Friends** have their own celebration on Thursday 5^{th} December between 10.00 and 11.30am. The Under 5s and their carers will be visiting the beautifully decorated Discovery Centre and listening to a winter story by the camp fire before receiving a baby fir tree. The cost is £3.50 for the first child and £1.50 for each participating sibling.

Health Walks continue every Tuesday and Sunday, meeting at the Visitor Centre at 10.30 for a 11am start. The walks are free, led by trained leaders, and are especially for those who wish to improve their fitness – perhaps after illness. Come and enjoy good company in the fresh air and find your fitness improving.

Whatever you're doing this month, remember that the forest is on your doorstep and offers a place to be inspired and envigorated.

Linda Iles

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

RED HARE TEAM IN ACTION



The Red Hare Team. L to R Lily Whittingham, Chelsea Hester and guvnor Jo Apperly, with Lauren Dempsey seated.

The girls at Red Hare Salon on the High Street had a special fund raising day for Children In Need, with lots of smiles and laughs along the way. They put all their tips that day into the pot, did special Pudsey manicures, sold cakes and welcomed any contribution to the cause. The result was over £92 into the national fund. Nice one, ladies.

COCO COFFEE

Many thanks to all those who attended the inaugural CoCo Coffee morning on November 20th, despite the pouring rain. A total of £33 was raised after costs towards the travel expenses of the CoCo volunteers.

The next coffee morning will be on December 11th, from 10.00 - 12.00 noon. As well as tea or coffee and a homemade cake for the sum of £1.50 there will also be a Christmas themed sales table with a selection of homemade gifts and goodies and cards from Severn Hospice. Please come, a warm welcome awaits you!

Catherine Evans

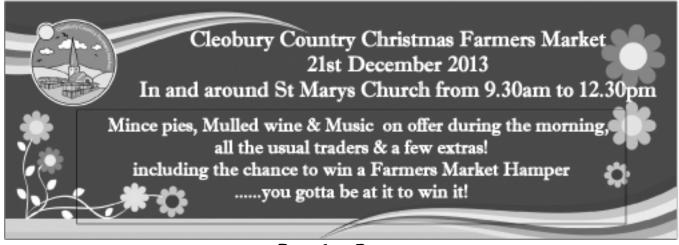
PAUL EVANS AT CLEE HILL WILDLIFE GROUP



Class act. Paul Evans, writer and speaker.

Clee Hill Community Wildlife Group held its first AGM in November, with a good attendance in the Village Hall. 50 or so active members have done a lot of research and census work which was reported in detail and further surveys are planned for This fascinating area warrants a devoted group like this and the group deserved a star to celebrate their first year. It came in the form of writer and broadcaster Paul Evans, whose near poetic work appears The Guardian regularly in newspaper.

Paul spoke in praise of the work and local knowledge such groups provide and read some of his own writings before moving on to an open discussion. He was concerned to hear that the lapwing population in this area had been reduced by 80 percent in the last 20 years and listened carefully to local feedback. One farmer explained how lapwing nests were identified when harvesting 50 years ago, and farmers moved around the nest sites as the birds were looked upon as an asset. Today that work is largely done by time conscious contractors in large machinery with less vision of the immediate area; the result is inevitably nests lost and birds not returning. The impression this onlooker took was the group and their guest learned from each other.





It's a good time to check your heating oil tank before winter sets in....

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For further information and advice please contact the Midlands Geoscience team at the Environment Agency on: GWCLwest@environment-agency.gov.uk

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

YOUR OIL STORAGE TANK

Steve Brown of the Environment Agency explains a problem that could affect your storage tank and your pocket:

I am writing concerning a new campaign we are running at the Environment Agency on heating oil tank pollution incidents. We have been experiencing a number of spills recently, especially from smaller domestic tanks.

I would be grateful if the Cleobury Clarion could raise the awareness to all your parishioners and residents about this matter before the winter sets in, as failures of heating oil tanks and associated pipe work happen most often during the cold snap.

The consequences to groundwater, and rivers for that matter, can be devastating. Groundwater is at risk from these failures and the poster on Page 52 explains our campaign for the winter 2013 period which we hope you can share.

THE CLEOBURY CHRONICLES VOLUME 10

The Chronicles are a product of the History Society, putting into print just some of the history their studies reveal. Robert Hodge is responsible for this latest addition to some truly informative records and certainly maintains the habit of opening eyes. Did you know that the inspector dealing with the founding of Hopton Wafers School was the father of the founders of the Save The Children Fund?

There are 100 pages and far too much information for this

page to attempt a description. So just consider some of the chapter headings to give you a hint of what's on offer: Cleobury Mortimer in 1744, John Harcourt Browne's paper making, Captain Jack Purslow, The Founding of Hopton Wafers School, A Tale of Two Castles, Mediaeval Floor Cleobury Church, in Memorial Slab in Neen Savage Church and finally The Royal Fountain Inn.

At £6.00 it will reward anyone with an interest in local history, and it's A5 size (half a Clarion page) so should fit any Christmas stocking. Available from Baldwin's Book Shop, Cleobury News or The Library in Love Lane. Recommended.

SHOE BOX THANKS A brief and happy note from Jenny Vanderhook:

1138! What a wonderful number that is. It's how many shoe boxes you filled for the children of Kyrgyzstan this year. My grateful thanks to each and every one of you who helped reach this amazing total.

Jenny

TALBOT CAR PARK CLOSURE

There will be cleaning and maintenance work on the Talbot car park in Cleobury's Childe Road from December 2nd to the 6th. From Monday 2nd to Wednesday 4th sections will be closed off so that cleaning work can be carried out around the barriers. Then on Thursday 5th the whole car park will be closed from 6.00 to 9.00am so that it can swept through and tidied up.

Businesses in the area will have been notified, but deliveries on the Thursday morning may be slightly affected if the work runs over time. Of course, there's always the Childe Road West park, but that means a walk......

FREE GOODY BAGS!

That's what is on offer at the Simply Fresh store in Talbot Square on Saturday the 14th this month. They have a Christmas Event running from 10.00 until 2.00 and the first 50 customers take home a free goodie bag.

There are free tastings, some great offers on food (including four pints of Mawley Milk for just £1.15) plus free recipe cards to put to the test over the Christmas break. And do think about a curry lunch from the outside stall - they sell amazing quantities of those.

FROM THE BANDROOM

Christmas is coming and the band have a busy schedule, at Highley Severn Centre, Arley SVR Station and at the Whitton, Doddington and Neen Sollars carol services.

On Saturday 14th we will bring festive cheer to the High Street and also visit Mortimer Gardens and St Mary's Place to play some carols to Cleobury's more confined residents.

The must-have tickets are for our Christmas Concert at the Parish Hall on the 15th. £7.50 a head from Cleobury News and including mulled wine, mince pies and refreshments.

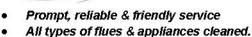
We look forward to seeing you at our concert and wish you all a very Jolly and Musical Christmas.

The band's website lists our forthcoming engagements and also has contact numbers for both senior and junior bands:www.cmcb.org.uk

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The Scouts and Guides Post and Matt Basham

To send your cards in the traditional way, the Scouts and Guides Christmas Post covers much of the local area including Bewdley and Stourport. And their stamps cost just 20p. You buy them from shops showing posters for the service and post cards in the box at the same place. Deadline for posting is 12.00 noon on December 13th. These same places should have the leaflet explaining the area covered, which gives you full details. Here's the official list of the areas the Scouts and Guides cover:

Areley Kings, Astley, Astley Bayton, Bewdley, Cross, Blackstone, Bliss Gate, Buckeridge, Button Oak, Button Bridge, Callow Hill, Cleobury Mortimer, Clows Top, Doddington, Dowles, Dunley, Far Forest, Farlow, Gorst Hill, Heightington, Hopton Wafers, Kinlet, Long Bank, Mamble, Menith Wood, Milson, Neen Savage, Neen Sollars, Oreton, Pensax. Pound Green. Ribbesford, Rock, Stottesdon, Stourport-on-Severn, The Burf, Wribbenhall Trimpley, Yarhampton.

Please address the envelopes clearly and add the postcode if you have it. Remember this service is provided by children, with help from parents, and they may not know the area as well as the regular Postman.

The proceeds from these volunteers' work help maintain the Pumphouse that is their headquarters. A great cause - let's support it.

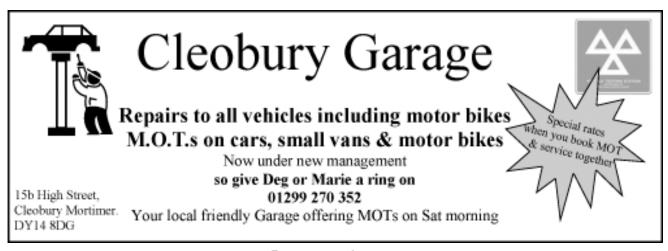
BASHAM'S BACK

Matt Basham used to do a regular music column for us. So who better to review a local band's debut album?

In recent years, the West Midlands has become known as the 'Home of Metal', and not just because of Birmingham's history stemming from the industrial revolution and its notoriety for being a city built on metalwork. Fittingly, Birmingham and the West Mids was also the birthplace of a new type of loud and intense guitar music that began to emerge in the mid to late sixties, and would go on to be known all around the world as heavy metal. It seemed to make perfect sense that this energetic and noisy music was coming from an area famous for its countless factories full of equally loud machinery. Over the years, bands such as Black Sabbath, Led Zeppelin, Judas Priest and Napalm Death have proudly represented the West Midlands on the global heavy metal map, and now a Cleobury-based band is looking to do the same. Gringo are local lads Marc Temple, Bootsy Baldwin, Graham Byans and Dave Reynolds, and their debut album The Cold Burn is being released through Birmingham metal label Catacomb Records. They claim a

wide range of influences. "ranging from Iommi to Einstein, hangovers to horsepower and space cadets to space exploration", some of which show themselves more obviously than others. The lommi influence is the most obvious and abundant -Tony lommi is of course the legendary guitarist in Black Sabbath, and Gringo are clearly well versed in his back catalogue of sludgy metal riffs. Sabbath aren't the only band that Gringo are fans of - there is a lot of mid-tempo, bass-heavy stoner rock here too, that fans of Monster Magnet and Kyuss (which featured members of Queens of the Stone Age) will enjoy. There is even some grungier sounding moments to please Soundgarden fans - truly something for everyone! Gringo wear their space cadet-credentials firmly on their sleeves - there are heavy elements of Hawkwindesque psychedelia and space rock throughout the album. I'm guessing that the band are also pretty big fans of all things sci-fi, as their experimental side comes to the forefront with a series of short ambient, mainly electronic instrumentals that offer a nice interlude between the epic onslaughts of guitar, bass and drums, but also sound like they're from a soundtrack to some 1970s Doctor Who rip-off. Overall, this is an impressive and polished debut album, that is highly recommended to fans of heavy metal and its many sub-genres. The Cold Burn is a solid first step in Gringo's journey to leave a mark on that illustrious West Midlands metal scene.

Matt Bash



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IN BUSINESS: Skellerns Doors and Windows



Mike and Rebecca are proof that hard work and honesty get results.

Mike and Rebecca Skellern have been in business ten years and have a growing record of happy customers who keep coming back for more. Not that you regularly replace windows with a ten year FENSA warranty. Mike was the original driving force, who spent five years learning his trade and getting qualified with bigger companies before taking the big step of starting up on his own. By then he knew where to go for the best quality units and just what materials he wanted. All it took was a loan from the bank and the determination to make the move; they don't lack determination, these two.

They are the team who come and fit your windows or a conservatory. They don't employ anyone else, because Mike sets very high standards and admits he'd worry about them being maintained if he wasn't there to make sure the work was right. When we talked there was a team of fitters over the road on another kind of job. Lots of tea drinking and not much action. "That's what I don't want. You can't trust people to get on with the job if you're not there to watch over them," he observed. So there are no big plans for growth, with lots of vans and crews covering the country; the policy is simply making a living with a proper job and the personal touch.

Rebecca has her own business as a gardener, but when last year's non-summer meant not much work, she opted to work as Mike's fetcher and labourer. That's after she's taken the children to school, and she quits early to pick them up. "Then I go home and do the paperwork and the ordering," she explains. And she's still doing gardens; just don't ask what she does in her spare time.

They have a simple approach to matters like quality. Mike has seen a quote from a national company listing three grades of glass insulation; he will only use A Grade, for the best heat saving. All their windows come from

one source, whose work he knows is good.

And their pricing is keen, as one happy customer can confirm. She described one big company's representative coming to measure and quote: the price started at £36,000 and quickly came down to £10,000 if the order was signed there and then. The rep clearly didn't want to leave and kept talking, even with the television news turned up and up. Eventually he took the very large hint and gave up. "Next day, we called Mike in and he got the job at £6,000," the lady told us. And Skellerns have since done work for other members of the family.

That's their secret: no silly inflated prices with a huge discount built in, just an honest approach, a quality product and competitive prices. It's no surprise that most of their work comes from recommendations. "The only advert we have is in the Clarion," Mike told us. "We did stop advertising for a while, but people didn't know where to find the phone number and how to contact us." The answer's simple - they're on these pages.

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The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page December 2013 - Volume Nine - Edition Nine

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

THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE IS DECEMBER 14th

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. CITIZENS ADVICE - 08444 991100.

CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE CARERS (CoCo) - 01299 270018. Katja Ward is the contact; office hours 10.00 to 12.00 noon, Monday to Friday.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER POLICE. WPC Anne O'Leary; ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS AND GUIDES: Iain Smith CM 271809

CRIMESTOPPERS - 0800 555 111. Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.

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.

JOB VACANCIES - 01299 272300.. See the local list in Cleobury Country Centre.

MARKET HALL- Dorothy CM272717, 07761 976650 mobile, or dorothymcbride@cleobury.org.uk MEDICAL CENTRE - 01299 270209. At weekends and out of surgery hours, the Shrop Doc Service. SHROP DOC - 08444 068888

THE PHARMACY - 01299 270219. Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions.

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. Website: www.cleobury.org.uk

POST OFFICE - 01299 270201. Many services in Cleobury: car tax, foreign currency, cash point SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT - Mark Greaves 07828 116810, mark.stmarys@live.co.uk SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL - 0345 678 9000

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

VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME - 01299 666119. Mrs Val Simpson is the coordinator.

WASTE DISPOSAL - 0345 678 9007. The contractor is Veolia

WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCIES - 0800 783 444. 24 Hour helpline if you have a serious problem.

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13 Lacon Close • Cleobury M'tr

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1 Pinkham • Cleobury M'tr

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