

The Cleobury Clarion



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December 2014

The Town Did Our Fallen Proud

The Centenary of the outbreak of the 1914-18 Great War has had plenty of coverage from all angles. We should never overlook that what we are remembering is a conflict that rocked Europe to its roots and left hardly any hamlet in the United Kingdom without cause for grief.

The public support of the Royal British Legion's parade to the annual service is a sign of the feeling the occasion arouses. And the reading of the names of the fallen this year, when familiar surnames struck chords in most hearts, reminded us how many men we lost in that conflict. Too many of them in their teenage years, in uniform to fight for their country.



We do this most sad of occasions well, always careful to include children of all ages as a reminder to them of what so many lost. When Mrs Mayfield led two of her Primary School pupils out to lay a wreath it was one of the most poignant moments of a sad ceremony and the chorus of "We shall remember them" was truly a moving moment.

The Players, Too

The number of calls, asking for a Clarion appeal for young men to come forward to take on the task of performing in 'Journey's End' told you how seriously Cleobury Players were taking this play. They take the matter of entertainment to their hearts, even if that means shocking their audience. It's a sign of their standing that they can produce such a range, from rumbustious comedy to men near to collapse under the strain of trench warfare. Seldom have they put in so much work, from designing and building the set to coping as amateurs with over two hours on stage, learning lines after a day's work.

Report: Page 49.



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The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page

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THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE IS DECEMBER 14th

Clarion Contacts - Useful Local Telephone Numbers and Emails

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR - 07703 965 064 Theresa Parfitt; theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk

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

CITIZENS ADVICE - 08444 991100. Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00.

CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES (CoCo) - 01299 270018. Katja Ward is the contact; office hours 10.00 to 12.00 noon Wednesday only.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY - 01299 272301. Vicki Alexander is our librarian. Open 9.00 to 5.00 Monday to Friday and 10.00 to 1.00 Saturdays.

LOCAL POLICE - Constable 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. Help over the first weeks back home from Age UK.

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. Out of surgery hours, the Shrop Doc Service.

SHROP DOC - 08444 068888. Service available evenings and weekends.

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.

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The Cleobury Clarion. December 2014



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*Gypsy jazz guitar magic.
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*Computers without fear.
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**A Very Happy Christmas to all our readers,
advertisers and contributors.**

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The Town Remembers

It started as a damp and misty day, not one to draw a crowd unless it was a very important occasion. Sunday November 9th was just that occasion, when the community met to remember that 100 years ago this country went to war and too many men were to lose their lives.

The crowds along High Street seemed bigger than ever, there to watch Cleobury Concert Brass lead the parade to the War Memorial. The band emerged from the mist, heard long before they could be seen, in fine form.



The parade itself featured lots of children, from primary school age upwards, all in neat lines and on best behaviour. It's asking a lot of such youngsters to stand through a ceremony, but they did it impeccably.

After the solemnity of the two minutes silence and the vow that the men lost from this parish will not be forgotten, came the laying of wreaths. From the Parish Council through to the school and groups like Brownies and Scouts, every part of the town was represented.



At the dismissal of the parade, Rector Ashley Buck asked those attending the church service to give priority to the less agile, as seating is very limited during work on the chancel. People just stood back as wheelchairs moved smoothly in. A very civilised process.

The crowd dispersed slowly, people chatting and maybe remembering a family member lost in action. As someone said: "Not so much a

church occasion, more a community one." It was just that and something the whole town should take great pride in.

Family pride was on show. Parish Clerk Matt Sheehan wearing his grandfather's First World War medals as well as his dad's National Service medal and his own, which include service in Northern Ireland. Matt's uncle Matthew, who served in the RAF, travelled over from Germany for the occasion.

James Key, himself an ex service man, marched with his grandfather's medals, more proof of pride in inheritance. The more you talk to people on occasions like this, the more you begin to understand why the feeling of community is so strong.

CHARITY COFFEE MORNING

Cleobury Young Farmers Club will be holding a Coffee Morning in the Market Hall on Sunday, December 7th. Open from 10.00 to 1.00.

All money raised will go to Little Hearts, the MS Society, Severn Hospice, Brain Tumour charity and the Air Ambulance.

More information from Katie on 07870 498 008

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

A RATHER SPECIAL

THANK YOU

Angi Gregory's struggle with a bad hip replacement could fill a book. She has been consoled by the care of husband Dan and lots of good friends. She would like to say a big Thank You and explain why:

Could you possibly print a large Thank You to my ever patient husband, who lives on a knife edge with me, and to my generous friends. In two years Dan's life has changed from getting his motor bikes to work, to creating interesting meals for me to eat. He never knows when he will be using, yet again, the well trodden path to Iris and Steve next door, asking for another pair of hands to move me from the floor to a low stool to a wheel chair. I have to laugh whilst all this is going on, at the comments being passed between these two good friends. Dan is head cook and bottle washer and learning to fill the dish washer. I would be lost without him.

My friends call for chats and coffee, organise flowers for when I return from yet another operation, making my and Dan's life lively and jolly, encouraging me to go out with them to give Dan a break.

I have just come back from hospital with yet another hip,

hopefully successful this time. Friends have rallied round and Dan is once again chained to the kitchen. They said "In sickness and in health" when we married 49 years ago; well, Dan got the bad end of it all and I got all the good. Thank you Dan for all your work, love and understanding. To my friends - you know who you are - another Thank You to you all and here's to the future. It can only get better. Keep smiling . Thank you. *Angi Gregory*

AND ANOTHER

A message from Dot Davies:

My family and I would like to thank everyone who helped Ken in his illness, particularly the staff of the Medical Centre and the Pharmacy, plus the Ambulance Service. And finally, everyone who contributed to the collection in his name, which produced a total of £593.56p for the British Heart Foundation.

Dot Davies

CLOWS TOP

GARDENING CLUB

December can be a wonderful month in the garden. Days may be short but the weather is usually not too bad, with wonderfully clear, sunny days when it's a pleasure to be out if you're wrapped up well. We may be in the colder, darker months of winter but what

better time to start planning your summer garden?

At our October meeting David Morgan gave an interesting talk and slide show on a 'Life as a Gardener'. David is the NGS Worcestershire county organiser and opens his garden in Bromsgrove under the scheme along with two others in the area. A great success, everyone enjoying the talk.

Our last meeting of the year in November, was the AGM & member's social evening with a lovely spread of refreshments donated by members. It has been a busy year and 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 listen to Dr Joy Rooney talking about 'Hartlebury Common'.

Our first meeting in the New Year will be on Wednesday 28th January, when Danny Arnold will give a talk entitled 'Teme Valley Wildlife'. The Gardening Club meet on the fourth Wednesday in the month at Clows Top Victory Hall; Doors open at 7.30pm, for the speaker at 8.00. For further details telephone Marion Wilson 01299 270475, or email: clowstopdistrictgardeningclub@hotmail.co.uk

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

SUCCESS BREEDS SUCCESS



After 26 years in business, they deserve a smart new place. Ashley and Estelle Pugh.

They've been working from home for a long time. Building the Ashley's Bakery and Catering businesses happened as they built bits on their house to make room for equipment and staff. But they've been after better premises for a long time.

When Cornbrook closed, landlord Phil Price made a call to Ashley: "I told him yes immediately." In July they took on Unit 2 at the Old Station Business Park and got on with adding an 800 square feet extension. Brick Plant Hire put down the foundations, Terry Price put up the

building, Eddie Lloyd did all the electrical work, Mick White, Colin Broome and Tom Poyner did the fitting and finishing. And on one very busy November weekend the crew and all the staff moved the bakery and everything else.

"We finished baking at 8.30 and started the move," says Ashley. "The ovens were still warm when they got up here! I'd delayed for one week to be sure everything was right and it all flowed, with no snags."

"All the staff were brilliant, a great team," smiles Estelle. And at 4.30 on Monday morning baking started in the new place.

Something of a pressure job, but there was one complication, when the organiser of the Bread Trail at September's Ludlow Food Fair asked them to take the place of a baker who had to withdraw. These two don't often say No and got on preparing a special batch of their GI loaves and rolls. On Saturday they were asked to attend Sunday's prize giving and were delighted to take home the certificate for the People's Choice of Best Bread on the Trail.

They've been in business 26 years this month, starting with a tiny sandwich bar on the

High Street and grafting away at building the Ashley's brand. Today they employ 25 people, running the highly regarded Cleobury Cafe and baker's shops in Tenbury Wells and Bewdley.

This success doesn't come easily. Ashley is up at 3.30 six mornings a week to get the day's baking done, and Estelle at 4.30. Don't ask hem how many hours a week they work, they don't want to know. But it's this determination that has seen such growth in 26 years.

And with this smart new unit on the Old Station Business Park, there's room for growth when they want it. They'll be looking for more outlets for their breads, moving forward as finances allow; they didn't get any grants for this expansion, but financed it themselves. One of the big consolations is having a proper office and working away from home, so the phone doesn't ring late at night; it used to.

"The house feels empty now we've moved the bakery out. It echoes," admits Estelle. They're not sure what they'll do with the house, where there's been bakery for generations. For sure, they do deserve to take it a bit easier.

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Clarion Clippings -- The Local News

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

NEW FACE AT ORETON'S NEW INN



Kayleigh Butcher, the smiling presence behind the reopened New Inn at Oreton

There are pubs closing all over the country as they fail to make a living. But in Oreton there's a lady who doesn't believe in being down and depressed; Kayleigh Butcher has bought the old New Inn, refurbished the whole place to live there, and got the pub open again.

She's worked in pubs before, including three years as manager of the White Swan in Bewdley before quitting to work with her dad on Motorway Maintenance. Before all that she worked with race horses. Versatile.

She found New Inn when she was looking for a house and fell for the place. Four and a half months and a few big bills later it was ready and she opened the door as landlady of her own free house. Why did she come back into the pub trade, scene of so many closures? "I must be mad," she admits with a grin. "But I just love the pub trade, hearing the lads telling what they've been up to after they've finished work. And I'm a country girl, brought up on a farm."

At this early stage there's Kayleigh and barman Alex Bromley running the place. Soon after you read this they'll be offering food, with a trained chef friend in the kitchen. At first it will be simple stuff, basket meals and filled cobs, then moving up to full meals as business grows.

There's a darts team already in place and next season she's planning to have a team in a local pool league. In the future she sees live entertainment as a big draw and is planning to put on a Beer and Cider Festival next summer. And if you're riding out in that direction and need a break, there's a paddock across the road where riders can leave their mounts in safety.

Part of the friendly appeal about the place is the wood burner in the main bar. Warm your toes as you take your choice from Hobson's or Worthington's ales, Carling or Stella Artois lagers and draught ciders from Robinson's or Stowford Press.

Opening hours are 3.30 to 11.30 Monday to Thursday, 3.30 to 12.00 Friday, 12.00 to 12.00 Saturday and 12.00 to 11.30 Sunday. Telephone 01746 78558 if you want to be one of the first to book a meal this month.

CAN YOU TEACH SPANISH?

Dan Webb is looking for someone to teach him Spanish. So far he hasn't come up with the answer, so asked the Clarion for some help.

So if you can teach Spanish, or know someone who does and you can recommend, please give Dan a call on 07722 123 978.

FIRST AID AT WORK

Highley's Severn Centre is offering an approved one day course in this subject on December 15th. Cost is £60 a head, it runs from 10.00 through 'til 4.00 and Chris Reeves on 01746 860000 can give you full details.



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On The Market - Scrummy Stuff



Gill and Paul have come a long way in less than three years. No wonder they smile.

Paul and Gill Reeve have made their mark in the quality food business in a remarkably short time. Three years ago they wanted to move into the country and found a cottage in Dunley with a little over an acre of overgrown land. Not people to hesitate, they bought it and began the job of repairing fences and preparing soil; in the middle of winter.

They planted and prepared, with two young pigs their first animals. "We just wanted some decent bacon, and when people tried it they wanted to buy some," Paul recalls. When they were offered a boar and two pregnant sows, they snapped them up and began

building their own arcs for the animals, with plastic curtains to protect in winter and quality feed in the troughs. "They are what they eat," explains Paul, a simple summary that you get back in flavour what you put in.

They had a lot of advice from the Heart of England Fine Foods advisory body, who they both rated very highly. While the pigs were coming along, Gill's skill in the kitchen was developing a range of chutneys and jams. At the first opportunity they entered the Heart of England Diamond Awards and Gill's Spiced Damson Chutney won its class. She's very modest about it: "Everything you make with damsons is lovely." I've tried that chutney - it deserved the Diamond Award.

At the same gathering, Paul's pork was second in the meat category, the only pork to make it to the finals. It's that quality thing shining through.

They went to markets to sell their wares, and soon opted for the local events after one big company experience that did not impress. They were very early supporters of the Cleobury Farmers' event and when the first summer run was due to end, they offered to run

the markets through the winter. "You don't close your shop through the winter - people forget you," reasons Paul. The Cleobury management listened and opted to run on through the year; ours is now the most successful market for Scrummy Stuff. We have Gill and Paul to thank for that.

They have an ever growing range, their pork sausages a huge success. One man called at the cottage because a farmer in a pub had told him that the best sausages in the world came from Dunley. That does take some beating as a recommendation; the man still buys them.

People calling at the cottage told them they should have a shop, so they have. It's a modest place, work in progress, but open seven days a week, from 8.00 until 7.00 and will be finished by the New Year. It's all local stuff, some of it from just across the fence; "Not food miles, it's food feet here," he grins.

They don't stand still, with plans for gluten free sausages in the flavours they sell now. There is too much going on in this little firm to tell you all on this page. Go to the December market and try for yourself.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CLOWS TOP'S BIG HIT



When this man plays, everyone stops talking and listens.

We suggested in November's Clarion that £11.00 for a supper and the Remi Harris Gypsy Jazz Project sounded like good value. It was much more than that - when you've heard the man play you realise why people rave about his skills as a guitarist. It would have been good value at double that price.

Clows Top's Victory Hall was just about full, with parking a problem by 7.00 o'clock. The supper was a generous serving of Brian the Butcher's sausages with mashed potato and baked beans; seconds available if that wasn't enough. Followed by lemon tart and the bar was serving one of the Bewdley Brewery beers. Good start.

Remi Harris opened with gypsy style numbers, then moved on through a broad

repertoire with A C Wood on rhythm guitar and Mike Green on bass complementing Remi's style. Several times in the evening the two guitars swapped in mid tune, with Remi taking on the rhythm work and A C showing he is quite a star in his own right.

Then Remi introduced vocalist Deborah Rose and the show took another step up. From her first word she had the audience almost spellbound and when she sang 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' she made that old favourite her own. The applause was even louder than for the band

They played two sets and the audience didn't stop clapping and stamping until they came back for an encore with the old blues number 'Saint James Infirmary.' It was a brilliant night, the best value and most musical enjoyment I've had in a long time. If you get a chance to see the Remi Harris Gypsy Jazz Project, grab it with both hands; I promise you won't be disappointed.

In January he's off to Oslo for the Django Reinhardt Festival and in February to Florence. I can see why such a talent is in demand for guitar festivals and more. And he lives just two and a bit miles down the road from Clows Top.

FROM THE BANDROOM Amy Clarke takes up the baton on behalf of Cleobury Concert Brass:

With Christmas approaching the band has been busy practising for this year's schedule at Highley Severn Centre, the Doddington and Neen Sollars carol services and carols in Cleobury High Street.

The band's annual Christmas concert will be in Cleobury Parish Hall on December 14th. Tickets from Carrot Tops at £7.50 a head which includes mulled wine, mince pies and refreshments. Be sure to get yours soon to avoid disappointment. The concert is the highlight of our banding year, showcasing the talent within our home town.

We have we been practising for these engagements and hope to increase our accolade again through competing in the Leicester Open Contest on 14th November. By our concert in December we hope to be celebrating another great result! We look forward to seeing you at our various engagements and wish you a very Merry Christmas. You can find details on forthcoming engagements at www.cmc.org.uk

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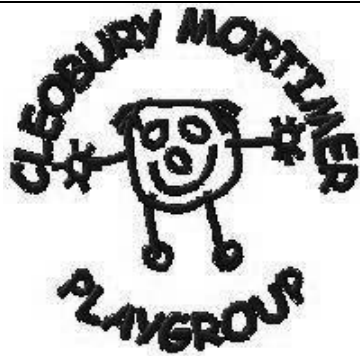


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The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

The New Kids on the block...

It was just a normal Thursday morning at our Cleobury Mortimer branch. Bruce (not his real name!) had undergone a routine castrate procedure, and everything had gone smoothly. He woke up from his anaesthetic well, and ate his lunch with haste before having a nice drink of water.

Something wasn't right though. We spotted that Bruce was bleeding rather a lot from one of his injection sites (where we had administered pain relief). Further investigation revealed that the poor lad was also oozing rather a lot from his surgical wound. We monitored the situation for a little while, keeping a close eye on the amount of blood produced, and it became clear that the trickle wasn't slowing down as quickly as we had hoped.

The treatment for slow, ongoing minor blood loss involved placing Bruce on a drip, and hospitalising him for a couple of nights at our Bridgnorth surgery, but why was he bleeding?

Bruce tested positive that evening for lungworm infestation. This is a parasite called '*Angiostrogylus vasorum*'. It is harboured in foxes, and transmits to our dogs via them eating infected slugs or snails (either accidentally or deliberately). Lungworm can cause clinical signs ranging from a mild cough, through to very serious blood clotting disorders. In Bruce, it had thinned his blood just enough to mean that he couldn't clot as quickly as we wanted him to after surgery.

Following a couple of nights in hospital, I am pleased to report that Bruce is doing very well, he avoided the need for a blood transfusion, or further surgery, and is enjoying life to the full again.

Bruce is the exception to the rule, and Lungworm infection is, thankfully, still very rare. However, we are seeing more cases year by year, and the problem will certainly not

go away. If you have any worries or questions about lungworm, please make contact with your local vet to discuss the risks, and what you might be able to do to avoid the little critter.

Don't forget that December sees the continuation of our annual Neutering Campaign. This gives you a lovely 20% off routine Neutering procedures. Over the three years I have been writing this column, I am sure that you are all well aware of the benefits and risks associated with neutering your pet. Quite simply, aside from vaccinations, it is the single most important preventative healthcare procedure you can do for your pet. There is a great q&a section on our new website – just visit www.severnedgevets.co.uk/pets/advice/neutering, or pick up the phone to speak to one of our vets!

Now the weather has closed in, I am pleased to report that my cat Bubbles has returned to the household (following a prolonged anti-baby protest outside the front door). He has gone soft again – coming in after Isabelle has gone to bed for a cuddle on the sofa, and a sit by the fire. Little Isabelle finds him hilarious, but Bubbles is still a little wary of her. A few nose touches have happened, but they often lead to an excited squeal, and a very fast retreat from scaredy-cat Bubbles.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year,

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Happenings on High Street

THE LEGION HONOURS TWO NOTABLES



Local Legion President Ron Breakwell (left) presents an engraved salver to retiring chairman Jim Hulme.

The Cleobury branch of the Royal British Legion honoured two notable members when they met at The Bell Inn in November. Retiring chairman Jim Hulme took over the position in 2008 and has been a steady hand at the wheel for six years. Jim is succeeded by David Taylor.

Branch secretary Lesley Ravenscroft has served more than four years and was warmly applauded by members for her work. After receiving her parting gift of a bud vase, she

revealed that her father Gordon had travelled to the Russian Embassy in London on October 23rd to be presented with his Ushakov Medal and a special bottle of vodka. For service on the Arctic convoys that braved both U-Boat attacks and Arctic weather to get supplies through to the Russian ports in World War II. Her dad was a merchant seaman and did not speak about those times until very recently; 85 percent of the British seamen were lost on those voyages. No wonder Lesley is so proud of her father, a true survivor.



Lesley Ravenscroft has stepped down from the secretary's post after more than four years loyal service to the Legion.

THE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Organised by St Mary's PCC and the Friends of St Mary's, the Christmas Fair returns to the Parish Church on December 6th. It will be opened by Father Christmas at 1.00 and he will be in his grotto for the afternoon to see children of all ages. If you wish to pre book tickets to see him, please ring 01299 272628.

The Fair will end at 4.00, when Father Christmas turns on the town Christmas lights. All your favourite activities will be there including the very popular teddy bear zip wire. Bring your teddy and give him a Christmas treat. There will also be hot pork rolls, unique Piers Plowman Punch, Chocolate and bottle tombolas, raffles, refreshments, crafts, children's activities and other stalls, plus entertainment by the Crooked Steeple Morris. All profits will go to help with the upkeep of St Mary's.

Steve Todd

WELCOME

Big change at 36 High Street, where Nock Deighton have now moved in, following a thorough refurbishment of the shop frontage by Chris Hector. The signboard is up, a crew moved in and painted the interior over a weekend and the new tenants are very much in business.



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

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One Monday morning, I discovered a leak in my oil tank. A worrying dilemma.

After ringing three people for advice and none able to assist, except for looking at the internet (which I don't have) a friend retrieved a name for me. A Worcester based firm, where the lady was extremely helpful. She asked me to give her ten minutes, rang back in five, and advised that her husband would be with me by lunchtime.

A charming man arrived, weighed up the situation, assured it was not leaking at a rapid rate but the tank would have to be replaced. Left a quote with me and on Friday his men arrived to carry out the work. The job was done in two hours and apart from the new tank there was no evidence of them having been here.

If you need a new tank or other requirements in this department, I recommend Midland Tank Services, The Old Farmhouse, Smite Lane, Hindlip, Worcester WR3 8SZ.

No, I am not on commission!
Aileen Hood.

And some good advice:

Following the Clarion Coppers article in the

November issue, I contacted the council and received the reply below. I thought it may be of interest:

'Thank you for getting in touch about the Oil Alarms. I work for Shropshire Council, not the company.

The Watchman Oil Tank Alarm is £100 and can be fitted to any oil tank. It sends a signal to you inside your house to show the oil level and sounds an alarm should any rapid oil loss occur. If you would like one, please let me know and I will arrange to get one to Cleobury for you.'

That was from Vicky Turner, our Community Enablement Officer, who's on 07990 085 265. The letter came from Dennis Jones, and our thanks to him for writing in.

THE HOLIDAY RUBBISH BIN SERVICE

Changes to the bin emptying over the holiday period. The Green Wheelie Bins that would normally be emptied on the 25th will be dealt with on the 24th - Christmas Eve, no less.

And the New Year's Day service of the Black Wheelie Bins and recycle boxes will be on the 2nd.

Big thanks to Shropshire Council, who supplied this information clearly and

promptly when we called to ask for their help. Impressive.

THE READING GROUP

True Grit by Charles Portis, a western, was our read for October. Most of us would not have picked this from the shelves but all present thought it a good read. We discussed the two film versions and decided they did not differ much from the original story.

This month we have a thriller, The Fear Index by Robert Harris; it is available from the library should you wish to join us for our December meeting, 7.30pm on Monday 15th. More information from me on CM 271754.

Deana Kimber

THANK YOU

Marian Parsons gets help from High Street businesses and wants to make it known how kind they are:

I would like to thank Bowkett's for providing food for my rescue cats, and also thank Tuffins who allow me to have a food collection bin. I have had 100 cats here in the last few weeks; thankfully we have rehomed a lot and are now down to 70.

Thank you to all those people who support the cat rescue, Happy Christmas!

Marion Parsons

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The Christmas Letter from Westminster - Philip Dunne MP

As December begins, Christmas will soon be here, a time many of us will spend with family and friends, enjoying a few days break at home. My work at the Ministry of Defence this year has centred on the safe return of troops and equipment from Afghanistan, and I am pleased that those servicemen and women who have been based in Helmand Province are now home for Christmas.

This year we have marked both the centenary of the First World War and the withdrawal of our troops from Afghanistan. These events, distanced by a century, point to the constancy of our commitment to honour those who serve our country. A poignant reminder of all that our brave servicemen and women sacrifice for us, often far away from family and friends.

This Christmas we now have hundreds of service personnel on new missions deployed to help with humanitarian efforts in Sierra Leone to combat spread of the Ebola virus; and in Cyprus and the Gulf helping in the international effort to contain the ISIS threat in Iraq.

So please spare a thought for those members of our Armed Forces and all those in the emergency and caring services who cannot be at home with their families this Christmas.

Personally, this Christmas I am grateful to have made sufficient progress to be able to cease relying on crutches, having torn my Achilles tendon in September. So I will be able to help out more than I had feared with the complex logistics of getting our family together for Christmas.

Also at this most religiously significant time of year, my thoughts turn to those engaged in providing ministry through our churches in South Shropshire. We are fortunate to have such beautiful places throughout the constituency. Most hold carol services which are well supported as well as services on Christmas Day which attract large congregations.

It is a testament to the many local volunteers and the charity of our communities that our churches remain generally so well maintained. As well as being important centres of worship, they also provide a fascinating part of the local history of our area, reflecting the period in which they were built and subsequently used for important moments in our cultural heritage.

I like to think our culture and history help bring Shropshire's communities closer together at this time of year than in other parts of the country. Christmas can be a lonely time for some, who might not have relatives or friends close by. I hope this Christmas we can continue our strong community spirit in a neighbourly way. Perhaps consider dropping in a card or visiting someone you know is on their own on Christmas Day. If you are going to a carol or Christmas Day service, why not offer a lift to a neighbour? Small acts of kindness can go a long way at this time of year.

I wish all my constituents a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year
Philip Dunne MP

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

GENTLY NURTURING



No desks, no classroom structure, just gentle encouragement.

Suzanne Thomas has a quiet and persuasive way with children. It shows in the monthly Young Writers Group that she gathers together in the library, where children from six up to teenage can sit, lounge or just lie on a cushion and let their imaginations roam free.

Suzanne presents them with an idea and when the Clarion looked in on November 8th, the key word was 'remember'. "It can be 'Remember, remember the fifth of November', the Remembrance Sunday service or anything that they choose," she explained. The children ranged from studious to boisterous, but they all had pads and were writing down their thoughts.

The revelation came when those notes had been turned into a written piece, to be read

out loud. Here were primary school age children, with word formations you would expect from much older minds, some in poem form, others as stories. Not every child chose to read and I suspect that strange man with the camera rather put some off. No pressure from Suzanne, just a little persuasion and then acceptance; you can see why they trust her.

The Group obviously attracts those who want to put thoughts down on paper. What Suzanne gives is encouragement and gentle direction.

The Group meet in the library at 10.30 on the second Saturday of the month. There's no charge, there's time and space to think and some promising talent being nurtured. All contact via the library.

ROCK PATHFINDERS

Two walks planned for this month. On the 4th they meet at Saint Peter's Church in Martley at 10.30. WR6 6QA for sat nav people, Ordnance Survey reference 756598 for serious map readers. Alan on 01299 400304 can tell you more.

And on the 18th The Bell Inn at Pensax is the rendezvous, again at 10.30. References this time are WR6 6AE and OS 736687. See their full programme on www.rockvillagehall.co.uk

COCO COFFEE MORNINGS

CoCo are organising just one coffee morning this month, on the 10th. In the Market Hall again, open from 10.00 until 12.00, and there will be Christmas Sale tables for you to browse through. Good value as you help raise funds for a vital local cause - tea or coffee plus homemade cake for £1.50.

THE NEEN SAVAGE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Neen Savage has a Christmas Quiz and Party in the Village Hall on Friday, December 12th. It kicks off at 7.30 and pre booked tickets are £7.50, or it's £8.00 on the door and £5.00 for Under 16s.

The bar will be open from 7.15 and the ticket includes a light supper and mince pies. Quiz teams can be made up on the night; maximum of six people, if you please, as they don't want any Russian oligarch tactics intruding. Talk to Clare on CM 270173 for more details and tickets.

SHAUNAH MURRELL

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



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The December Clarion Social Calendar

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Mon 1	7.00pm	The Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council meets in the Market Hall. The public may bring concerns to the council's notice in the 15 minutes Democratic Time before the formal meeting begins	Clerk Matt Sheehan	CM 271154
Tue 2	12.30pm	Cleobury Carers Support Group meets for Christmas Lunch at the Golf Club.	Wendy Duley	CM 270562
Wed 3	6.00pm	Food served for Comedy Night bookers at The Lamp in the High Street. And at 8.00pm a troupe of comedians take over. Should be a riotous night.		
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 4		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
		Oh dear, old age creeps on. The Editor is 65 today and feels every year of it.		
	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders meet at St Peters Church, Martley WR6 6QA for one of their regular walks. Ordnance Survey reference 756598.	Alan	01299 400304
	7.30pm	Festive Shop at The Cocks in Stottesdon, all proceeds to Severn Hospice.		
Fri 5	1.00pm	Advent Soup Lunch in the Market Hall. Profits to charities. Donations welcome.		
		Here's an unusual one. Rob Heron and the Tea Pad Orchestra entertain at Chelmarsh Parish Hall. Sounds like good fun. WV16 6BA on your satnav.	Tickets	01746 862850
	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 6	1.00pm	The Christmas Fair in the Parish Church will be opened by Father Christmas, and at 4.0pm the old chap will turn on the town Christmas Lights. Great event for the children.		
Sat 6/ Sun 7		Preparing for a Medieval Christmas is the attraction at the Brockhampton Estate in Herefordshire.		01885 482077
Sun 7	10.00am	Young Farmers Club Coffee Morning at the Market Hall, proceeds to charity. SEE PAGE 7.		
	10.00am	Bewdley's Local Produce Market offers a variety of good stuff including Christmas fare.		
Wed 10	10.00am	CoCo Coffee Morning in the Market Hall. SEE PAGE 35		
	12.30pm	Cleobury Ladies Luncheon Club gather at The Plough in Far Forest.	Alison Osborne	01584 890414
	7.30pm	Stottesdon W.I. meets at Chorley Village Hall for a Home Grown Craft Evening. Prebook your place.	Stef	01745 718018

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The December Social Calendar - continued

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
	8.00pm	The Royal British Legion meet in The Bell Inn, Lower Street		
Thu 11		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
		Meals are being served again at the Stable Tavern in Talbot Yard. New kitchen, new chef, new manager, all getting better.		
Fri 12	1.00pm	Advent Soup Lunch in the Market Hall.		
	7.30pm	Christmas Quiz and Party at Neen Savage Village Hall. SEE PAGE 29.	Claare Ratcliff	CM 270173
	8.00pm	Christmas Bingo in Cleeton St Mary Village Hall		
Sat 13	7.00pm	Christmas Party Night at Clows Top Victory Hall. Tickets £10.		01299 832456
Sun 14	5.00pm	Community Candlelit Carol Service in the Parish Church, followed by mulled wine and mince pies.		
	7.30pm	Cleobury Concert Brass have their annual performance in the Parish Hall. SEE PAGE 19		
Mon 15	10.00am	First Aid at Work Course, Severn Centre, Highley. SEE PAGE 13	Chris Reeves	01746 860000
	7.30pm	The Reading Group meet in the library to exchange views and maybe sip a little wine in keeping with the season. SEE PAGE 25.		
Tue16		Cleobury Carers Support Group have a Singalong with sherry and mince pies at the St Mary's Sheltered Housing meeting room, Love Lane.	Wendy Duley	CM 270562
Wed 17	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 18		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30pm	Rock Pathfinders gather at The Bell Inn, Pensax, WR6 6AE, OS Ref. 736687, for a local walk, then lunch back at this excellent pub.	Alan	01299 400304
	7.45pm	Whist Drive at the Sports and Social Club, Love Lane.	Alan Evans	CM 270114
Fri 19	1.00pm	Advent Soup Lunch in the Market Hall.		
	8.00pm	Christmas Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 20	9.30am	Cleobury Country Farmers' Market, in and around the Parish Church. Look out for some special Christmas treats		
Wed 24		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY. SEE PAGE 25.		
Thu 25		IT'S CHRISTMAS. DO HAVE A VERY HAPPY, PEACEFUL DAY		
Wed 31		New Year's Eve. Farewell to the old year		
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO JANUARY		
Thu 1		NEW YEAR'S DAY. May 2015 bring you good health, happiness and peace.		
Fri 2		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		



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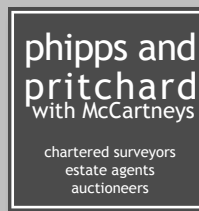
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The Hawthorns - Newnham Bridge

Detached four bedroom barn with spacious accommodation to include downstairs WC/cloakroom, study, sitting room, kitchen with separate larder/pantry, dining room, laundry room, 4 bedrooms (master with dressing room and ensuite) and family bathroom.

Separate detached barn. Energy Rating E



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£425,000

New Buildings - Clee Hill

This mid-terraced property is located in Clee Hill. Comprising 3 bedrooms, kitchen/diner, lounge, bathroom and rear garden. Benefitting from double glazing throughout, oil fired central heating and spectacular views over the surrounding countryside. Energy Rating D



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Prospect House - Clee Hill

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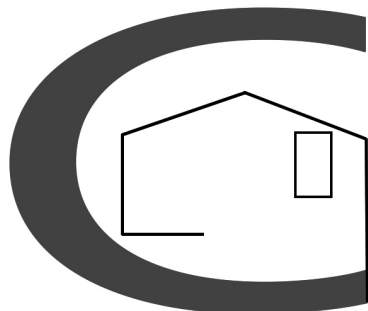
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

VANESSA'S STORY



Vanessa and Ian out in the Tower of London Poppy Field. Here's the story in Vanessa's words:

Ian and I applied to be poppy planting volunteers back in August, after hearing about it on a radio show. Initially we were disappointed to receive an email saying they were getting thousands of applications every day and only required 200 people per shift. Therefore we felt extremely privileged and surprised to have an email in October saying we had been selected as volunteers on the morning of November 1st.

We travelled to London the day before, as we had been asked to be at the Tower of London at 8.50am. Luckily, we were in a hotel near to Tower Bridge, as the tube had been closed due to the volume of tourists going to view.

Our team leader showed us a video of how the ceramic poppies are made in a factory in Derby. This was followed by another video explaining how to assemble and plant them. We were given a volunteers t-shirt, badge and gloves and led out into the moat. The view and the atmosphere were incredible and although we had seen many photographs of the poppies, to be so close to them was such an emotional experience.

We were led to an area of the moat that required poppies to be planted around the very edge and up to a white line painted on the grass. We began making up the stems of the poppies, which comprised metal rods, plastic washers and spacers and then we carried them to the planting area where we hammered them into the ground and carefully attached a ceramic poppy.

We rotated between stem making and planting all morning until our four hour shift came to an end; our team managed to plant 5000 poppies between us. We were then allowed to walk around the moat and take photos.

The memory of that morning will stay with us forever and we feel so honoured to have

been a part of helping to create something so magnificent.

Vanessa Woodhouse

ADVENTURERS' PARTY INVITATION


Live the Adventure are holding a 'Bhutan and Tour of the Dragon Race' follow up evening. Sharing stories with the audience of our adventures in Bhutan and James Griffiths' experience of participating in the Tour of the Dragon mountain bike race. The evening will include film footage, photos, presentations by Anthony and James plus questions and answers.

There will also be light refreshments. If you would like to join us at Live the Adventure in Stottesdon on the evening of Friday 16 January 2015 from 7.00pm, please drop Holly an email on travel@livetheadventure.co or call on 01746 718 436. Alternatively, you can register for the event via our website – www.livetheadventure.co following the link on the top right of the web page.

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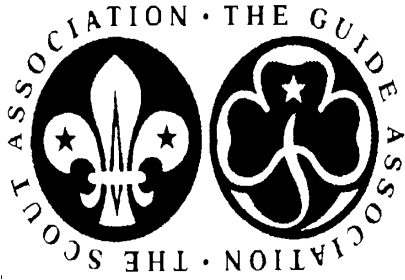
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The Scouts and Guides Christmas Post



CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS & GUIDES CHRISTMAS POST 2014

Have your local Christmas Cards delivered by the Cleobury Mortimer, Bewdley and Stourport Scouts and Guides this year. This is a fantastic community based service, which raises valuable funds to help young people to enjoy Scouting and Guiding activities, whilst saving you money at the same time.

Our stamps are priced at only 20p each.

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The Crusty Cob	Cleobury Pharmacy	Doddington Lodge	Hopton Bank Garage
Heath Farm Meats, Bagginswood	The Live & Let Live, Neen Sollars	Cleobury Country Centre	The Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon

Cards can be posted in any of our letterboxes (hosted by the above businesses) between Monday 17th November – Monday 15th December by Noon.

Our grateful thanks to the businesses that continue to support us each year.

This is a great community service that saves you money and helps to finance the movement that does a lot of work to encourage children to higher standards. Please support them in this valuable work by using the post, the annual bargain service that helps everyone, thanks to the children and their parents.



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Clarion Coppers with CPSO Nick Morris



The Cleobury area has suffered eight reported incidents since last month's issue.

On October 30th in the afternoon, a white Iphone 4S was stolen from a bag left unattended in the changing room of the Sports and Social Club in Love Lane. Between 1:00am on October 27th and 8:00pm on October 31st a 6ft square sheet of lead flashing worth £500 was stolen from a house near the bridge over the River Teme in Burford. Sometime during October 30th/31st a car parked at Ditton Mill Caravan Park had the power steering pipe cut. On November 2nd between 12:30am and 1:45am a burglary took place at a cottage just off Church Street whilst one of the occupants was at home asleep. Three males were involved, one of whom carried a black crossbow, though it was not used in a threatening manner. They stole computers and associated items, and a samurai sword. It is thought that the offenders may have a grudge against one of those targeted. If anyone has knowledge of an owner of a crossbow, please let us know. A break-in took place early on November 4th at a farm in Farlow. Two chainsaws worth £700 were stolen after a brick outbuilding was entered. High value jewellery and a collection of Welsh gold nuggets was stolen from a house in Chelmarsh over a period of six months. One of the items stolen was a gold and moonstone ring which had belonged to Florence Nightingale. On November 16th at 8:40am a nine year old boy who was with his mother on a lane between Hollywaste and Hopton Wafers was attacked and bitten by a black labrador dog which had run out of a farmyard straight towards him.

This dog was not on a lead and had free access to the road outside the farm. This was dealt with by community resolution. A gate to a business park near Bayton was forced open, a container broken into and thieves stole wheels and tyres for radio controlled cars worth £1500, and from an open building stole a motorised wood chipper worth £9000. This occurred between November 11th and November 18th. Any information related to the above crimes that readers can pass on to Police will be treated, as always, with the strictest confidentiality.

Concerns have been raised about moped riders. They have been spoken to and advised about riding with regard for other road users and residents. One has been issued with a warning notice for riding his moped with an exhaust system causing excessive noise. It may be of interest to you that DVLA have been active recently, seizing untaxed vehicles in the area. If vehicles are on a public road they need to be taxed. If they are notified off road they need to be off a public road. Failure to obey this law may result in a vehicle being seized.

With the festive season approaching, please remain vigilant for suspicious activity and note vehicle registration numbers, makes and models of vehicles, with descriptions of people if you feel that something is not right. Report your suspicions by phoning 101 and it may lead to the apprehension of offenders. Cleobury and Highley Safer Neighbourhood Team, Sgt Rich Bailey, PC Ann O'leary, PCSO Shelley Hyde, PCSO Ben Harris and I, wish you a Happy Christmas and prosperous 2015.



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

FRANCES FRENCH

Fran, as she was known to close friends, was born in Edinburgh in 1950. She was educated at Merchant Tailors in Liverpool and then at Durham where she got a teaching degree. It became her passion to enter teaching and to change things for those she taught. She spent the majority of her life in the profession, latterly as Head Teacher at Upper Arley First School, which she turned around from failing with just 30 pupils to success with almost 100. She had other skills, having worked as a secretary and as an administrator at Newcastle University.

She was always eager to learn and could play the piano, viola and guitar. When she tired of chauffeuring Matthew to Bell Inn Band events, she learned to play the euphonium and joined the band. She was very involved in the community, working with 'Save the Children' and on the Board of Governors at the Primary School.

She leaves behind a legacy of a positive approach and the memory of her wonderful laugh. That will be greatly missed by all her family.

Paul French

KINLET FAMILY

PLAYGROUP

The beginning of December - where has this year gone? The Autumn Term has been a whirl of activity and celebrations from a variety of cultures: we have looked at Diwali, Bonfire Night, Halloween, Remembrance Day and now move quickly into Christmas. The children are very excited and we are making cards and presents, enjoying the Nativity and many other seasonal stories.

We will be holding our Christmas party and are very pleased to welcome back Picklelily Circus, who has provided us with some magical memories over the past couple of years. We finish for the holidays on Thursday the 18th, with our last Little Tiddlers session of 2014.

Everyone at Kinlet Family Playgroup would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

THE CLEE SINGERS

Barbara Hall would like to tell you about her choir:

Our local community choir, The Clee Singers, recently raised over £1500 for The Birmingham Childrens' Hospital Cancer Appeal. We do

many concerts for charity but this was our biggest and most rewarding to date.

Our programmes consist of popular songs, others from the shows and fun numbers suited to the audiences we are entertaining. We are always looking to increase our numbers and all voice ranges are welcome, particularly male. You do not need to have previous experience, although this is always useful. An interest in having fun and singing is the main criteria.

We meet every Thursday from 2.30 to 4.30pm at Doddington Village Hall. If you are interested, just come along or contact George Cummings - 01584 891635.

Barbara Hall

CHRISTMAS JUMPERS AT CLEOBURY CAFE

Louise Nicholls explains:

We'll be wearing our Christmas jumpers for Save the Children on 12th December in Cleobury Cafe. Do come in and support this great cause. All the tips that we receive on that Friday will go to the charity. So come and fill up your tummy and fill up our charity pot. The link to the charity is: <http://jumpers.savethechildren.org.uk>

/Louise

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We are a school with strong local community links

OFSTED SAYS:

- Highly committed leaders and managers
- 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
- Strong team of staff and governors
- Exciting topics
- High proportion of pupils take part in extra curricular activities

CONTACT DETAILS

Cleobury Mortimer Primary School

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

Tel: 01299 270313

Email: admin.cleoburymortimer@shropshirelg.net

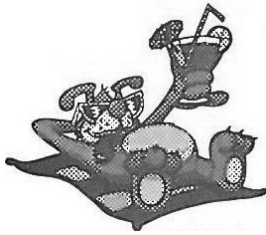
Website: cleoburymortimerprimaryschool.ethink.org.uk

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 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	
	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		Chas Beale Dance Club, Lacon Childe School	Betty Ladek	CM 270332	
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	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	Debbie Fowler	01562 743304	
	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
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	
19.30		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	
14.00		CM Bridge Club, Parish Hall, Church Street	Pat Smith	CM 270592	
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
	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	10.30	Junior Coaching, CM Golf Club, Wyre Common	Phil Moore	CM 271112	

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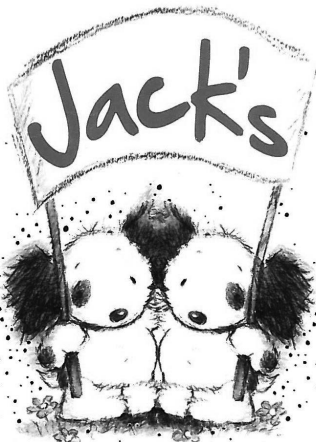
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Linda Iles

December In The Wyre Forest



*"The rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
sweet singing in the choir"*

What are deer and the dawn sun doing in a Christmas carol? Why not, when they are among the most wonderful sights to be seen in the winter landscape?

"The Holly and the Ivy" centres on the holly tree, using the features of the tree as symbols of Christ's life and work (the red berry representing his blood, spilt "to do poor sinners good" etc.) It is a time-honoured teaching method, using an object that would have been familiar to everyone to help make a point. You'll probably be familiar with the Sans Day Carol too, where the berry changes colour "and the first tree in the greenwood it was the holly".

The holly is in an exclusive group of British plants. Of all the trees that are in the wood only holly, yew, juniper, and Scots pine are native evergreens. Take a walk through the Wyre Forest when the leaves have fallen from the deciduous trees and the dark evergreens really stand out. Yews were planted along boundaries (ditches, banks and tracks) as markers and very effective landmarks they are too. The holly is bitter and prickly: two features which deter creatures from nibbling it. Look higher in a holly tree and you will see that the leaves become less spiky and take on a smooth outline. If giraffes were native to our land I assume the holly would be prickly all the way up! A holly tree will either bear male or female flowers, i.e. the tree will be wholly male or wholly female. (So much for the old symbolism, mentioned in the Oxford Book of Carols, where holly is masculine and ivy is feminine). If you are looking for some nice decorative berries you had better find a female tree, and you will be in competition with blackbirds, thrushes and wood pigeons.

The ivy shouldn't be compared with the holly as it isn't a tree. Like the holly, however, it changes form as it climbs. When it has reached the top of its support, be it wall or tree, it branches and produces smooth, ovate leaves instead of the five-lobed, angular ones lower down, and also clusters of greenish flowers irresistible to hoverflies and bees because of their abundant nectar. Wreaths of ivy have been used as decorations since pagan times: a symbol of fidelity but also supposedly counteracting the effect of having too much wine (you'll remember Bacchus and his followers sporting ivy wreaths and probably little else). The fertilised flowers will turn into berries ripening from green to purple. These too attract hordes of pigeons, so don't park your car under berried ivy unless you'd like it purple-spotted! I've had some success dyeing wool with these berries, producing a pretty sage green.

So take a little of the forest's foliage for your decorations, remembering not to be greedy, and have a happy Christmas!

Linda Iles

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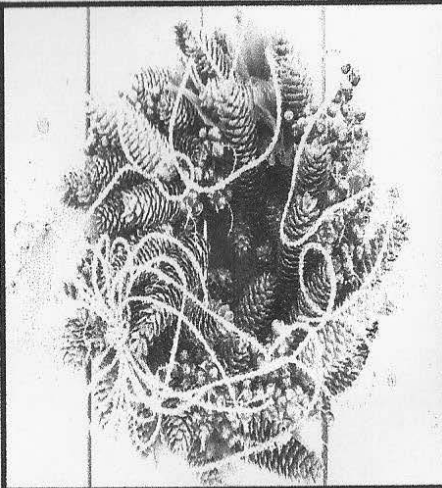
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

A RECYCLED APPROACH TO MUSIC



Big grins all round - and they have every right to be proud. Some of the craftspeople with teacher Denise Shippam.

A group of the children at Kinlet's Primary School have taken a firm approach to the matter of recycling old bits and pieces. They've fashioned a range of outdoor musical instruments that can be used to make a noise out in the play area. There's nothing precious about this assortment of old metal and plastic tubes, pans and who knows what that was due to be thrown away. Now they are mounted on substantial boards and can be blown, plucked or bashed to the children's satisfaction.

Denise Shippam was the teacher overseeing the project. It was done in a very thorough fashion, with an analysis of the material, what it might be used for, and a note of the best way of producing a satisfactory noise. Part of the display is a hook to hang the striker on.

Metal tubes of different colours have been cut to various lengths to give a range of notes, then strung up in the frame to wait for the players to

bring it alive with the striker. An old pastry mould looked very tempting and you do wonder how long it will be before it's slightly reshaped in the children's enthusiasm to make their particular form of music.

If you regularly drive past this lively place on the Bridgnorth road and think your car is making a strange noise, don't panic. Just pull up, switch off the engine and wind the window down. That knocking may be coming from the school.

THE CLEOBURY CRIME REDUCTION GROUP



This is the Group's logo, designed by a Year 6 pupil at Cleobury's Primary School.

The group had their first open meeting in November, when Parish Clerk Matt Sheehan took the chair. He explained that the reason for the formation was to help people take measures to prevent crime, a logical approach in the face of police cutbacks.

One question raised was if the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme is still operative; that's to be looked into. Funding is available to erect signs saying Cleobury is a Smartwater town, which is a deterrent to any burglars or thieves looking for opportunities. At the

Group's next meeting, a representative of Smartwater will be present to explain its use and effectiveness. PC Ann O'Leary confirmed the police's high opinion of the method. The plan is to make supplies available at a special price, and possibly to give special help to the elderly.

PC O'Leary reviewed the latest crime figures, which showed nine reported crimes in Cleobury Mortimer in September.

Anti social behaviour and drug problems were a major point of issue and PC O'Leary explained her reluctance to charge rather than nurture and persuade, as it gives a young person a criminal record which can blight their formative years. There is cooperation with the housing authority, as the threat of having housing withdrawn is generally more effective than Police action.

A lot of time was spent talking about selfish parking, some of it too repetitive and time wasting after an explanation about the limits of authority had already been outlined. Dog fouling remains a problem and there was a suggestion that dog walkers who do clear up might be persuaded to report those who do not. No action at this time, but it will be considered.

Date and venue of the next meeting is to be advised. We will carry details in the Clarion.

SILLY BITS

'There's an Express Service chair at the barber's shop for the older customers with 12 Hairs or Less.'

'I've reached the age where my train of thought often leaves the station without me.'

'Enjoy life. It has an expiry date.'

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Annual General Meeting – All Members Welcome
★★★★

Saturday 15th November - **BENNY JAY**
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★★★★

Sunday 7th December - Starting at 4pm

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Friday 12th December - doors open 7.30pm

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Business Networking this month:

Wednesday 17th December.

For more information on training courses at
The Cleobury Centre please contact us on the tel or email above.

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Cleobury Players' "Journey's End"

Was this the Cleobury Players' best production ever? It would be a brave person who made that claim, but certainly few would argue that their staging of R C Sheriff's "Journey's End" was a landmark achievement.

Reaching agreement with the Parochial Church Council to use the Parish Church as the setting was a brave move, but fitting. The essence of Sheriff's work was to present to the public some of the stresses men on the front line experienced in that dreadful epic conflict. And the mourning of their loss is a public cooperation between the Church and the Royal British Legion. The fact that major work on the church interior was under way was a minor matter that slightly reduced the number of seats; the important matter was the play and the story it had to tell.

The stage set was quite a masterpiece, stretching across the width of the available space in a rickety timber style, suggestive of a trench built to military standards and fading with age as the conflict ebbed and flowed. Mike West was the man in charge of that part, he and his crew working to a brief from director Tom Cartwright.



Carl Phillips took on the demanding role of Captain Stanhope, a portrait of a man hardly coping with pressure.

The cast ranged from well known local faces like Steve Foster and Nick Houghton to new members Niall Hegley, Corey Pugh and Danny Kemp. Central to the unfolding story was the pressure on Captain Stanhope and his visible shrinking to the edge of a breakdown. Ryan Thomason-Jones was the youthful second lieutenant who was Stanhope's junior at school, anxious to impress his old hero, while Niall Hegley was Hibbert, the officer pleading illness to avoid going into a battle where so many men had already been lost.

Steve Foster was a shouting old style Sergeant Major, ready to take on German forces or reluctant English soldiery, while Nick Houghton as the Colonel was blandly jolly all the way through until the logic of commands was questioned. Then he responded with a steely stare that reflected military training that no man may refuse an order. Even one sending him to almost certain death.

There were plenty of sound effects, artillery thumping away in the background until the final scene, when the bombardment moved towards centre stage, very loudly. No one in the audience expected the final, very visible, explosion that brought the roof of the trench down with a bang and a shock through the onlookers.

The lights faded, a banner was paraded to the centre aisle of the church and unfolded. Then the 81 names of men - they were all men or boys - who did not return to their families here in the Cleobury Mortimer area, were read out. It was a further shock to realise that of the 11 men from Kinlet who lost their lives, four were from the same family. There was not a dry eye in the place.

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Bayton C of E Primary School, where our mission is

BE THE BEST THAT YOU CAN BE!

The lead up to Christmas is always an extremely busy time at Bayton C of E Primary School but this year it is even more so. Rehearsals have started in earnest for our Christmas performances - this year we are breaking with the tradition of a whole school nativity or play. We will be putting on two performances for our families during the penultimate week of the term.

- As part of our KS2 World War 1 topic in school, our older children will be putting on a play written and directed by our very own Mrs Southall about Christmas in the trenches, entitled Christmas Truce 1914.
- Our younger children will be performing a nativity based play called Born in a Barn with fabulous songs such as "Shh, don't wake the baby". Our younger children don't often have the opportunity to have speaking roles in our performances, and our Year 2 children are keen to learn their lines and deliver them expressively. We seem to have some fabulous young acting talent.



We also have planned a whole school trip to the Swan Theatre in Worcester to see the pantomime *Beauty and the Beast*, a treat that our children and staff are eagerly looking forward to. In addition, our school PTA will be putting on a Christmas Fayre one afternoon after school, which is always popular with our children and families alike.

All this, as well as Christmas lunches, making Christmas cards and Christmas decorations, and finished off with the bi-annual Talent Show on the final afternoon. I suspect our children, their families and our staff will all be more than ready for the Christmas holidays.

It has been brought to our attention that families living in Shropshire wishing to apply for a place at our school for next September have been unable to find our details - School Admissions has corrected this. 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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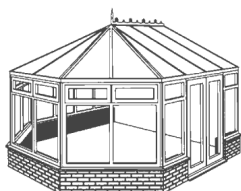
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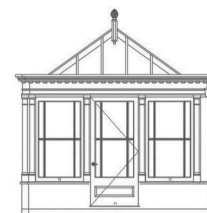
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IN BUSINESS: Amanda Horton's Mobile Computer Services



Not at all intimidating, Amanda asks what you want to do with your computer and shows you the simplest way.

Amanda Horton is something of a rare gem. 20 years ago she was awarded a Higher National Certificate in Computer Sciences and today she still talks in a language ordinary folks can understand. No airs and graces, no showing off how quickly she can get things done; she's in business to help people.

One of her first successes was husband Glyn, who didn't want to know about these electronic devices until he saw how easily Amanda could get information and put it into a very presentable form. Amanda showed him how and today he's a competent operator; he's also bright

enough to identify that her skill and easy way with people was a business opportunity. Amanda Horton Mobile Computer Services was born.

Her feet are firmly on the ground: "People too often just don't know where to start. The grandchildren whizz through, but older time people need time to learn." So she goes out to a new customer's home and her first question is "What do you want to do?" She then shows them how to it, using their own machine.

Anyone who's been on a twelve weeks course where you all have the company's computers and have to use the programmes they've bought, while the lecturer manages to get to you maybe once in an hour's session, will recognise how valuable her approach is. "I don't tell people what they don't want to know," as she puts it.

She can help with simple little things like retrieving a forgotten password, or adding a contact to an email account. Or more advanced skills, like showing you how to Skype family and friends, or researching your family tree.

Amanda has had no formal teacher training, she's more a support and guidance service with experience in other areas

that can be invaluable. As a trained carer she brings an ability to work with problems of old age or illness, and adapt to accommodate them.

Customer Alison Garbett was happy to talk about her experience: "I wanted a website that I could control myself and she helped me set it up. She leaves you to it and only does more if you get stuck. And she helped me understand and operate my Facebook page."

"My ma-in-law's having trouble with her peaPod, as she calls it, and just needs someone to help her go through it. I'm trying to get her together with Amanda."

Amanda is still guiding her family: "My mum's 85 and she's using Skype and Facebook," she smiles. "People don't want to feel stupid. You have to remember that the children are using them every day."

20 years after she qualified, is she still happy sorting out little probs and not guiding spacecraft? "Oh yes. I like to come away from a call feeling I've left someone with the confidence to be more adventurous, relieved of fear and frustration associated with new technology."

Amanda Horton Mobile Computer Services

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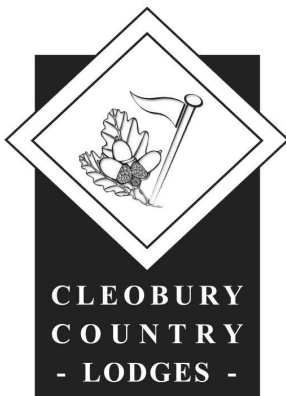
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A Quiet Revolution



Graham Pain in one of the fully fitted and furnished Country Lodges.

The Pain family have been farmers for years and it was natural that brothers Graham and Robert would follow in their father Peter's footsteps. Their inheritance was two farms, one overlooking the town on Wyre Common, the other on Tenbury Road, where the industrial expansion is part of what was Newhouse Farm.

They are quiet thinkers, who in the late 1980s could see that it would become a struggle to make a living on the land and looked for an alternative. Their decision to sell Newhouse Farm and develop the Wyre Common site as a golf club did not get universal approval, but the logic was there for all to see - an alternative use of the land that could provide a sound business for the next generation.

We don't need to go into great detail about the success Cleobury Golf Club has become. Its growth to the current 27 holes and a car park seldom less than full tells its

own story about picking the right alternative.

With the club busy, they are entering the next stage of development, another brave step as they follow what a small number of major clubs have done. Some of the land not given over directly to the game is being developed for luxury golf lodges where addicts can spend weeks playing the course, use it as a holiday home, or even rent it out as part of an investment plan. Let's make it clear that this is not a housing development, you cannot live permanently in the lodges. But you can make life much more comfortable.

The lodges are built by Lincolnshire specialists Shire Eco Lodges and there are two designs, both of them offering a 20feet x 40 feet bungalow with two bedrooms, two ensuite bath and shower rooms, plenty of lounge and dining space and a fully fitted kitchen next to a lobby where you can store golfing, walking, riding or cycling gear, according to taste.

What makes these buildings so very impressive is the overall package that gives you a furnished unit. Carpeted in the living and sleeping areas, with curtains and built in cabinets. A three piece suite is all part of the deal, with your choice of colours and fabrics. Lighting is energy saving LED throughout, heating is by gas, stored in the lodge's own tank.

There is a wide patio, where you can sit and take in the view or take supper on a warm summer evening. If you're not in the mood to

cook, the clubhouse and its restaurant is a brief walk away.

They all come with a 50 year tenure and as the lodges have a projected life of 60 years, you can use it as a family retreat for the length of that term. If you want something a little different, maybe bigger to accommodate your family, you can specify your needs and the makers will draw up a plan for your approval. They are all built up to building regulation standards - not every lodge on the market has that advantage - which ensures a high standard of insulation and good finish. In effect, you buy this holiday home and all you need to bring is bedding, cutlery and whatever food you prefer.

It's another move forward in the Pain family's carefully considered plan for the future. It's also a very fine way to give buyers access to all the attractions of a renowned golf complex in a secure environment - the gates are locked at night to give extra protection.



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

OH DEAR, IT'S THE BUSES AGAIN

Steve Todd deserves a medal for his dogged persistence:

The saga continues...

So far this month, (and it's only the 21st as I write), drivers initially refused to accept passes on the 9.25 to Ludlow. The explanation from Diamond being that the £1 fare was chargeable as journeys from Cleobury to Ludlow are entirely within Shropshire (although I am baffled why this should be the case as eligibility is surely based on the time of the service). At the same time, they stated that passes were, after all, acceptable on the 9.10 to Kidderminster as it crosses the County boundary into Worcestershire (again, why?). However, this didn't last long as, shortly afterwards, we were told that passes are not acceptable on either the 9.10 or the 9.25. Apologies if the above seems confusing – it certainly is to me and I am trying to find out what the definitive position is. Just don't hold your breath.

There have also been further problems with drivers not knowing the route, this time in Ludlow. Again, a helpful passenger gave them directions. Perhaps we should charge Diamond for our navigational services, but even this doesn't always help. One service was running late so the driver sailed right past the Kiddy Hospital stop even though there was someone waiting. Talking of the Hospital stop, you should be aware that now the service is routed via Habberley, the outbound stop has moved about 50 yards to the other side of the wooded

island. A tarmac patch has thoughtfully been created at that point but it is not actually marked as a stop. The bus now takes the right fork as it approaches the lights, so you have to cross the busy main road to get to the new stop and hope that the driver isn't lost or has otherwise decided to miss out Habberley in which case he may go straight over the lights and you will need your running shoes...

In another case, a group of eager passengers were waiting at Kidderminster Town Hall, as was their driver, all wondering where their bus had got to. Another driver then appeared and pointed out that although the driver was at the Town Hall, his vehicle was at the Bus Station. Cue driver sprinting off in that direction and another late running service.

Yesterday morning, we thought we would try the 9.25 to Ludlow to see the problems for ourselves. We shouldn't have bothered as we gave up at 9.50 when there was still no sign of the bus. Not a great problem for us but no fun for the half dozen or so youngsters who were going to be late for College. Apparently, the bus finally appeared at about 10.00 having broken down en route.... Still, it's never dull.

Steve Todd

THE INVASION OF CATHERTON COMMON

Not a matter to worry you over Christmas, this happened a little over 70 years ago, when a battalion of American troops were based on Catherton Common. They were there for a month or so, as part of the Allied forces build up to the

invasion of Europe and the beginning of the end for Hitler's global ambitions. 900 men, living under canvas, with all their equipment to store.

This was the subject of James Osborne's talk to the Doddington Friendship Club in November. It was a history tale, laced with social commentary on the boost to local pubs, the theft of bicycles to get back to camp and the occasional touch of romance. Well, 900 fit young men ready for battle would hardly go unnoticed, would they?



James's audience were very well behaved. As you'd expect with a machine gun facing them.....

The men were trained in aircraft recognition, as they were to operate as an anti-aircraft unit. But legend has it that the local kids were better at it than the trained troops. They arrived in May and left overnight in June for Southampton, from where they sailed to land at Utah Beach as the invasion started. Once in France, they brought down 11 aircraft in one notable day and also bagged one of the secret Messerschmitt 260E jet powered prototypes. But that was a serious invasion and the gunners meant business then.

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The Wyre Forest Wood Fair - Part 2

The Wyre Forest Wood Fair was such a significant event that all the information could not be condensed onto the single page available in the November Clarion. So for the first time ever, there was a two part report.

It started with introductions, watching ancient wood crafts being applied today and hearing about work in the Wyre and planned for the future. Then came the chance to join a guided tour that would take us out into the forest itself.

On the meadow above Uncllys Farm you can stand and survey just one small corner of this 6,000 acre stretch of varied woodland. There can be few places that offer such an artist's pallet of green shades as this. Around us were cattle from Uncllys, known by name. We walked on into the woodland, stopping to watch Felix splicing branches into laths to make fencing, with only hand tools and the principle of levers to split the wood.



Felix also showed off his traditional chairs, using cross stretchers on the back that were entirely natural in their shape. It takes days of skilled work to

produce a table and four chairs that is totally one-off with the natural form and colour of the wood. No nails, no glue, and an inbuilt flexibility that will tolerate the kind of uneven earth floors that were once the norm in areas like this. Do not look in any woodcraft manual for an explanation of this, it is a skill passed down by word of mouth.

Further down the path stood a handsome shire horse with his handler. Relatively new to this job and still in training at six years, this sturdy worker can pull up to a ton out through the brushwood to the trails where timber can be loaded onto trailers for the journey to saw mills by road. The great advantage of such horses in a traditional woodland is the very little damage done to the environment as they move along with their load. And not a pint of fuel burned in a working day.

Did you know that 1200 species of butterflies and moths can be found in the Wyre Forest? That's close to half the known species in the United Kingdom.

Further along the trail we diverted to a farm yard, where a portable saw mill was awaiting the timber brought up out of the forest. This unit can be moved around, in effect the Mountain coming to Mohammed so long as he has a smooth surface to park it on and an electricity supply. There was a trunk, roughly five metres long, on the saw bed ready to be trimmed as part of the demonstration. It took the blade less than two minutes to cut along its length, the sawdust vacuumed up and

away to be deposited along the side of the mill. That dust has use as a fertiliser, while the wood sliced away with bark to leave the centre to be cut to whatever is needed is itself used for fuel. Nothing wasted.



This mill is called the Wood Mizer, an apt title for a tool that leaves little or nothing after its work is done. The basic sawn trunk left after this process is cut into planks or whatever is needed, then stored in an open fronted barn until it's sold.

This was only a two hour glimpse of work done in the forest, men quietly getting on with the job away from visitors, part of the forest that we know little about. The place itself supports a wide range of wildlife, as Linda Iles's monthly column highlights. And it supports a range of industry beyond this report's scope as well as offering all of us a wonderful place to walk, look and wonder.

Its future? Fertile minds are working on ideas to make better use of the place, but we who enjoy its peaceful presence should always be aware that we need to protect it. JR



The Full Cast of the Players' Latest Success

There wasn't room for Rosemary Thompson's photo of the whole cast of the Cleobury Players' production of "Journey's End", but we couldn't ignore this happy shot of a notable event. And thanks to Don Thompson for his photo of Carl Phillips in his role as Captain Stanhope on Page 49.

And some more Clarion Clippings

THE STABLE TAVERN

Big changes in Talbot Square at The Stable, with the kitchen reopened and given the thumbs up by the authorities. We hear that a chef has been hired, and a full menu will be served from December 11th with the emphasis on traditional English dishes dominating the Christmas Fayre offering.

GOOD PEOPLE

With so many local newsletters circulating, you might think that the editors would be at one another's throats in a battle for supremacy. Not so. The people concerned are not in this for an ego trip or to make a fortune.

A good example was the recent illness and sad death of Maurice Hill, editor of the Highley Forum. Hearing of the problem Francis Engleheart, editor of the Kinlet News, took over the reins and produced their November issue. The Forum is now in the capable hands of Liz Chatterton, whose

first issue won warm praise from printer Linda Fowler. "A fantastic job for a first copy," was her view.

And praise is due to Chris and Lucy Dell, the joint power behind Teme Valley Times. When they heard that my lovely Valerie had died, they promptly offered to help with any photos I might need in their neck of the woods. My thanks to them for that kindness.

JUST A REMINDER

Joss Carter's own dance event "Salvation" debuts in Cleobury Parish Church on December 6th. Half the £6.00 cost of admission will be donated to the church, a thank you for allowing use of that very atmospheric ancient building.

It starts at 8.00 and will feature the internationally renowned dance talents of Joss, a Cleobury man who has toured much of the world with his skill and artistry. Tickets from him on 07779 043 709, or

from the Kings Arms, Royal Fountain or Old Lion. The event is supported by the Arts Council of England, bless 'em.

LEARNING YOUNG

57 children from Years One and Two at Cleobury Primary School had a special outing in November. The school booked two buses and at 9.00 o'clock they were off to the Royal Air Force Museum at RAF Cosford. They were back at 3.15 after a busy day learning about planes as part of their transport studies. A much more interesting way of capturing their imagination than books or DVDs.

THE BIKE SHOW 2015

Sadly, the Borders Classic Bike Show did not happen this year, but it will be back in 2015. The dates are September 12/13th and you can expect the town to be busy and a trifle noisy that weekend. No full details at this time, but there's work going on for its full revival. Watch this space.



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6 bedrooms, parking space, garden with patio. Energy Rating E. £249,950

Brooklands **Hopton Wafers**



3 bedroom bungalow, large gardens, double garage, no upward chain. Energy Rating D. £375,000

But n Ben **Oreton**



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2 Corner Cottages **Oreton**



3 bedroom cottage, double glazing throughout, parking, landscaped gardens. Energy Rating D. £187,995

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and a Happy New Year
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**Kate Galliard (Senior Negotiator) will be
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and Friday and
Lee Anderson MNAEA
will be undertaking
valuations throughout
the week.**



FOR ALL ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT

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