

The Cleobury Clarion



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ANOTHER MEMORABLE DAY

Remembrance Sunday seemed to be busier than ever this year, the High Street crowded with families. They were there to watch the parade as Cleobury Concert Brass led the British Legion and their many supporters down to the Parish Church for prayers, two minutes silence and the laying of wreaths.

British Legion spokesman Jim Hulme thought the crowd was bigger than ever, standing three deep along the pavements. Mild and dry weather no doubt helped, but this day of national mourning and simple paying of respect does seem to be getting more press coverage that will increase interest.

Jim was full of praise for the young people on the parade, who showed great discipline in keeping the lines neat and all observing that precious two minutes when the nation stands and remembers. The occasion was interrupted by the arrival of an ambulance with blue lights and siren in full working order,

but the parade calmly moved to one side to let it through.



David Taylor sounds the Last Post as the town falls silent.

The atmosphere affects everyone it seems, as two people found:

'On November 7th we were poppy selling in the pouring rain on the street. A kind gent put money in my collection box and later returned with a cup of tea. He also took one to my colleague on the other side of the road. We would like to thank him and all the other people in the past who have made us drinks. We do appreciate their kindness.'

British Legion Poppy Sellers

DECEMBER 2015

THE FUN RUN

Caroline Bills reports another great Fun Run, with £3625.75 raised so far and more to come! Big thanks to all the shops and businesses who supported the event, when the winners of the Fancy Dress were The Boobs in first place, Table Football second and The Romans third. Judges Mandy and Ade also gave The Babies and Game of Thrones a Highly Commended nod.

The most money raised was by Martin at the Talbot with a total of £301.10, confirming what a good job he does as landlord.

Any local children's charity who'd like to apply for a donation should write to Caroline at Fun Run Committee, Walfords Cottage, Green Lane, Neen Savage, DY14 8EN.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

To all our readers, advertisers and contributors, who have made 2015 such a busy year. Where did the time go?

I hope you'll all be with us in the New Year, for which I wish you a time of peace in this sadly troubled world. The Clarion will be out there every month. *Jim R.*

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The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page December 2015 - Volume Thirteen - Edition Nine

Editor and Advertising Sales: Jim Reynolds, 4 Childe Road, Cleobury Mortimer,
Shropshire DY14 8PA. Telephone: 01299 270642 Mobile: 07410 977 212

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

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Or Out in Cleobury Country at: Heath Farm Meats, **Bagginswood**; Clee Hill Post Office; Cleobury North Village Store; The Sun and Slipper at **Mamble**; **Hopton Bank** Service Station; **Ludlow Library**; **Mawley Oak** Garage; The Colliers Arms Farmers Market Shop, **Rock**; The Fighting Cocks, **Stottesdon**; The Duck Inn, **Chorley**; The Live and Let Live, **Neen Sollars**; The Eagle and Serpent, **Kinlet**; Parker Motors, **Ditton Priors**.

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 and Emails

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

CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE - 01299 272300 In Love Lane. Open 9.00 to 5.00, Mon to Fri.

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

CLEOBURY CARERS - Wendy Duley CM 270562

CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES - CM270018 Katja Ward 10.00 to 12.00 Wednesday.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY - 01299 272301. Open 9.00 to 7.00 Monday, 9.00 to 5.00 Tuesday to Friday and 10.00 to 1.00 Saturdays.

LOCAL POLICE - Constable Anne O'Leary; ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES: Dorothy McBride 07761 976610

CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS: Ingrid Purslow CM 270314

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.

MARKET HALL- Dorothy CM 272717, 07761 976610 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.

NEWLIFE CHURCH - Pastor E Stirrup 01562 630595. Sunday services at 10.30

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

PARISH COUNCIL -Clerk Matthew Sheehan, Market Hall 9.00 to 2.00, Monday to Friday. 01299 271154. www.cleobury.org.uk. Council meets in the Market Hall on the first Monday of the month.

POST OFFICE - 01299 270211. In the Spar Grocery Store, Church Street.

SAINT MARY'S YOUTH PROJECT - Mark Greaves 07828 116810, mark.stmarys@live.co.uk

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL - 0345 678 9000

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

VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME - 01299 270209 bookings via the Medical Centre

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For more information contact:

Nicholas Hughes on 01562 822295 or Wendy Beaumont on 01299 822033

The Cleobury Clarion. December 2015



This is Doctor Jo Stanley, at about 10,000 feet and making her way down to Mother Earth. Just what she was doing up there we'll let her explain. See Page 7.



Tara's Tale - Work Experience at Kudos Blends. See Pages 19 and 49.



On the Market - Pat Hill. She says it's a hobby. See Page 51

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

JO JUMPS TO SUCCESS



Dr Jo Stanley, heading earthwards and looking very happy about it.

Jo Stanley raised money for the Kemp Hospice with a parachute jump above Hinton-in-the-Hedges airfield in Northamptonshire. This is her story:

"It was unbelievable. I really enjoyed it. It was a beautiful day and so far I have raised about £2200 and still getting some donations.

My instructor was a man who's nick name was Blakey and a Former Red Devil. He has jumped over 7000 times so I really felt in safe hands.

The feeling is more like flying than falling as we jumped from 13,000 feet. We had about 30 seconds of free fall. I think I cackled and laughed all the way down and would definitely do it again.

My friends colleagues and patients have been so generous and supportive; it has been heart warming.

I've got about 120 photos and could wax lyrical about sky diving for hours!"

Jo Stanley

CLEOBURY WI

We have had a wonderful virtual trip to Norway, Ann Walker has made frequent visits having relatives in the country so took us on a fascinating tour. We saw fjords and towns including Stavanger and Bergen, wildlife including reindeer, red squirrels and polar bears as well as the Northern Lights. The Norwegian cheese looked like fudge but tasted very different and the weight of the hand knitted sweaters was testament to the climate.

At the Winter Warmer fundraising lunch on November 5th we served 33 lunches and made around £170 to be split between the Cleobury First Responders and WI funds. The home made soups and puddings are a real treat; keep the date of January 28th free.

In December we will be celebrating the season, sharing a Christmas meal at the Kings Arms with members and

guests then have a great programme planned for Cleobury WI in 2016.

We meet in the Market Hall, at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month, so anyone who would like to join our small and friendly WI check out our Facebook page, get in touch with me on 01299 270983 or email judysant10@gmail.com

Judy Sant

STOTTESDON W.I.

Our AGM took place on an inhospitably dismal November night, so it was a pleasure to have a good turn out - 15 members convened for a lively evening at Melville chapel. The business over, Laura and Lyn Grey served their chocolate and banana gluten free cakes, that set a new 'high' for diet specialists, before a challenging quiz rounded off the evening.

A Christmas event: Making Felt Flowers, with festive refreshments included, is open to all on December 16th at Chorley Village Hall, starting at 7.30 pm There is a £5 charge to cover materials. All welcome.

Marian Wootton

01746 718151

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

DO YOU HAVE AN OPEN GARDEN?

The Friends of Saint Mary's had a very successful Open Gardens event in 2014 when we had 12 gardens in Cleobury Mortimer open for people to visit. The Friends, in conjunction with The Shropshire Historic Churches Trust, are considering repeating this event next summer and are asking if you would be prepared to be a host? The date proposed is the afternoon of Sunday 17th July 2016. To be a host you do not need to have a large manicured garden, all gardens are different and it is these differences which people notice and enjoy.

If you could be a host or would like more details then please contact either me on 01584 891351 or email aosbaldiston@aol.com

Thank you

Alec Osbaldiston

FROM THE BANDROOM

In October we enjoyed a talk from one of our band members about her expedition to Base Camp. We also raised £115 for Macmillan during the evening; thanks to all who attended.

Remembrance Sunday is quite busy for the band, with the parade in CM and then a British Legion Service at Clee Hill in the evening. In my many years of playing in the Cleobury parade, this was the first time that we have had to stop in the middle of a march and let an emergency vehicle through! (And the ASDA van hot on its tail)

By the time this article reaches you, the band will have competed at a competition in Leicester. We hope to report in January. Christmas is coming and the band will be in full swing; expect to see us at Bewdley Christmas Lights, Highley Severn Centre, SVR Arley Station and Doddington and Neen Sollars carol services.

We will be bringing some festive cheer to the High Street on the morning of Saturday 19th, as part of the Christmas Farmers Market.

The must have ticket of the season will be for our annual Christmas Concert at the Parish Hall on December 13th. Tickets from Carrot Tops at £6.50 each to include mulled wine and mince pies in the interval. The

bar will be open for drinks all evening too. We look forward to seeing you at our concert and wish you all a very Jolly and Musical Christmas

Our website lists our forthcoming engagements and also has contact numbers for both senior and training bands.

www.cmcb.org.uk

Katie Griffiths

THANKS FROM JOAN

A big 'Thank you' to all my friends, neighbours and carers, for looking after me so well while I have been ill. I'm still undergoing treatment, so fingers crossed!

A happy Christmas and New Year and thank you again for your kind wishes for myself and Tony.

Joan Green

PET PICS ON SHOW

Severn Edge Vets recently ran a 'Winter Wonderland' photo competition and the Top 20 shots are on display in their office at Hollybush Road in Bridgnorth. Open from 8.30 through to 7.00 Monday to Friday and until 12.30 on Saturdays, the exhibition will run through to the end of the month. Well worth a visit.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

MUSIC AT CLOWS TOP

They do musical evenings well at the Victory Hall in Clows Top and it looks like the winter programme is starting up. It will feature local band Phaze 2, all six of them, on December 12th with their Christmas Music Night featuring tunes from the 60s and 70s.

Tickets are £10.00 a time and include nibbles that will be served at 7.15; the doors open at 7.00. Expect the music to start around 8.00. Book your place on the Hotline at 07788604542, text or message. Leave your name, contact number and the number of tickets you want. Get there, and just sit back and enjoy.

CLAIRE'S CHRISTMAS FLORAL WORKSHOPS

I am running Christmas Floral Workshops on the 10th Dec at Neen Sollars and Milson Victory Hall. I will be doing demonstrations on door wreath decorating and table arrangements. Then everyone can have a go at creating their own wreath and table arrangement. All materials and refreshments will be provided; just bring a pair of scissors. Afternoon session 12.30 till 3.30pm or evening session 7pm till 9.30/10pm. £40 per person.

Contact Claire Bradley 07980580770, 01299270415 or clairebradley1@icloud.com

Claire Bradley

A ROOF APPEAL

Marion from Newbridge Cat Rescue has a shelter problem:

We have been suffering lately with the very wet weather. The wind drifts the rain into three double and two single pens, despite efforts to stem the tide with polythene sheets. Consequently all the bases of the pens become very wet and it is a never ending battle mopping up the floors and washing and drying the cats' bedding.

The solution would be to cover the whole area over the pens with a car port style roof, which could also give us additional covered working area; we presently have a basic gazebo which won't last the winter. We estimate this would cost about £3000.

We would be very grateful if you could possibly help us by making a donation, however small, towards the building of the roof please. As the saying goes – every little helps!

Donations can be made via Paypal Go to our website

<http://ncrrhc.weebly.com/support-us.html>

Or directly to our Bank: Lloyds, Newbridge Cat Rescue and Rehoming Centre, Sort Code 30-67-88. Ac No. 14416760

By cheque or cash. Postal address: Newbridge Cat Rescue and Rehoming Centre, Cleobury Mortimer DY14 8HB


Thank you for supporting the Centre. Best wishes. *Marion*

KINLET FAMILY PLAYGROUP

December already? This term has gone so fast. During November the children were celebrating and thinking about Bonfire Night, Diwali, Remembrance and St. Andrew's Day, and we have started to look towards Christmas.

We took a trip with our families to the West Midlands Safari Park. Seeing all of the animals, as well as meeting scary dinosaurs and the most important part - meeting Father Christmas! During December we will be making Christmas cards, gifts and mementoes, as well as singing festive songs and doing Christmas cooking! What a busy time it is.

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas.



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

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The shop will close for the winter on December 9th. We would be very grateful if customers would collect any remaining items by this date as we are unable to store anything over the winter.

Thank you to our volunteers for their hard work over the year and to our customers for their support. We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you again when we re-open for our 2016 season on Wednesday March 7th at 9.00am.

Pauline Briggs

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

December can be a wonderful month in the garden. The days may be short but the weather is usually not too bad, with wonderfully clear, frosty, sunny days when it can be a pleasure to be out if you're wrapped up well. We may be in the colder months of winter but what better time to start planning your summer garden.

At the October meeting Derek Walker came along with a selection of potted plants for the Christmas period. He talked briefly on keeping house plants

healthy over the shorter days, and jobs that can still be done over the winter. He showed various ways to plant up containers and baskets for the winter period with plenty of colour. At the end of the evening everything was bought by keen members. The evening was a great success.

Our last meeting of the year in November was the AGM and members' social evening, with a lovely spread donated by members. It has been a busy year and so a special thank you to committee members for their efforts and to the members because without them there would be no club.

Our first meeting in the New Year will be on January 27th, when Jo Roche will give a talk entitled 'Abberley Hall & Clock Tower'.

Pauline Bowen

CLEOBURY CARERS' SUPPORT GROUP

The Group has a very busy month ahead, starting with a Coffee and Chat session at the KA on December 2nd, starting at 10.30. Then they're off to Pat Marsh's house in Lower Street for Coffee and Cake from 11.30 through to 2.30.

At 2.00 on December 8th they will be sharing sherry, mince pies and carols at St Mary's Community Centre, where they'll be amongst friends with the residents there. And finally there's the Christmas Lunch on December 15th at the Golf Club starting at 12.30 - pre booking is essential for that, of course. Busy people. More details from Wendy Duley on CM 270562.

HALF PRICE SALE

Pat Williams and Alison Andrews are organising a Half Price Sale and Fashion Show, all of big brand names like Boden, White Stuff, Monsoon and Fat Face, plus others. It's at the Sports and Social Club on Love Lane, on December 3rd, starting at 7.00. Admission £6.00, children under 16 get in free. All proceeds to The Haven Breast Cancer Centre for Additional Support. Tickets from Pat on 07900 244314 or Alison on 07866 3541611.

And the ladies would like to thank everyone who supported their October coffee morning, when they raised £240 for Macmillan Cancer Care. These two work tirelessly for cancer charities and deserve all the support we can give.

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Full Time Building Work Hylton, CM	Young, working, enthusiastic strong individual required to come work on a full time basis for a foundation building company. Must be over 16. Driving licence is NOT essential.	For more information call Hylton on 01299 270298 or 07977 094116



Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

On-Call Firefighters Cleobury Mortimer (Retained Duty System)

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service is currently looking to recruit on-call firefighters at Cleobury Mortimer Fire Station. On-call firefighters agree to be available for a certain number of hours per week; they carry a pager and must be able to get to the fire station within five minutes. For this they are paid between £1,587 - £2,116 per annum (dependent on contract) as a Retaining Fee plus payments for attending incidents and drill evenings at Cleobury Mortimer fire station.

TO APPLY YOU MUST LIVE OR WORK WITHIN 5 MINUTES OF CLEOBURY MORTIMER FIRE STATION

To be a Firefighter requires special skills and qualities, not only do you need to be able to work under pressure as part of a team at operational incidents you need effective communication skills to deal with the public at fire safety events and in their homes. You will work within your local community to support our aim of preventing fire related incidents and road traffic collisions. The Service is looking for people aged 18 or more on their start date who can demonstrate a high level of physical fitness

For an information pack please contact us on 01743 260220, or email HRAssistants@shropshirefire.gov.uk, **stating your name, address and quoting Cleobury Mortimer**

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service is committed to equality and diversity at work. We positively welcome applications from disabled people and minority groups who are under-represented in our Service.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE LEGION WERE ENTERTAINED

In October British Legion members and friends met in the Parish Hall for a splendid evening's entertainment. The Bridgnorth Ukulele Band have been to Cleobury before, but this must count as their best yet. When did you last hear 'Knock Three Times on the Ceiling if You Want Me'?

Despite their enthusiasm, the band had to pause halfway through while the fish and chip suppers were dished out, the raffle drawn, and glasses re-charged. At the end of the second half, the band seemed reluctant to hang up their ukes, but the evening had eventually to come to an end. The entertainment was organised to raise money for the Poppy Appeal, which will benefit by over £500. Our thanks to all concerned.

The Branch's next event is a coach trip to the Coventry Transport Museum on December 4th. To book a place, or to find out more, please contact me on CM 270110.

Mark Baldwin

ARMED FORCES COVENANT

The Shropshire Armed Forces Covenant Partnership have launched the county's biggest survey of our Armed Forces community. The aim is to use the views of those with an Armed Forces connection to create priorities for the Partnership that will inform the 2016-17 strategy.

If you are a former serving member of the Armed Forces, as a regular or a reservist, currently serving as a regular or reservist, a spouse or dependant of someone in the Armed Forces, then we want to hear from you. If you are interested and wish to complete the survey, please go to <http://new.shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/>

The Shropshire Covenant has already allocated thousands of pounds of centrally funded grants to support Shropshire's Armed Forces community and narrow the divide with civilian communities, such as the Multi-use games area in Tern Hill and supporting the successful Armed Forces Match Days at Shrewsbury Town Football Club.

Shropshire's Armed Forces Community Covenant is committed to:

1. Encouraging local communities to support the Armed Forces community in their areas, develop public understanding and awareness of issues affecting the Armed Forces community
2. Recognising and remembering the sacrifices faced by the Armed Forces community
3. Encouraging activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces community into local life
4. Encouraging the Armed Forces community to help and support the wider community, whether through participation in events and joint projects, or other forms of engagement.

For further information about Shropshire's Armed Forces Covenant partnership including details about the survey, please visit www.shropshire.gov.uk/safcc
Thank you *David Fairclough*

SILLY BITS

'Gone are the days when girls cooked like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers.'

'You can tell a woman's mood by her hands. If they're holding a gun, she's probably angry.'

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

LOCAL PARISH RECORDS

John Barnes clearly enjoys a challenge. He has taken the census records for 20 parishes in the Cleobury Mortimer area, dating from 1841 to 1911, and put them in a concise form that's easy to read. Some of the notes are unforgiving in their description, one young lady just dismissed with the word 'imbecile'. This is John's story:

I have completed my transcription of the census records for all the years 1841 to 1911 for the parishes surrounding Cleobury Mortimer and I am hoping to have them printed into a series of booklets, one for each parish covering the whole period. I hope to persuade the parish council to fund a complete set for the library so they are available to everybody.

These show for each person: Address (much abbreviated in many instances), name, age, marital status, relationship to the head of the household, occupation, place of birth.

This is not a money-making project! The books cost me about £5 each to print and I am making them available at £6 to allow for the cost of running back and forth to the printer and getting them distributed.

In addition, I have the whole set in both pdf and Word format and these are available free to anyone who would like them. However I feel that it is much simpler to look through a printed copy than read it on screen.

If you wish to search for a particular person in the area there is also available a complete searchable list of all 76,000 entries in all the parishes as an Excel file. Here the entries are shown in alphabetical order of surname together with the relevant parish and year and a number in the list so each entry can be identified in the booklet in which it appears. This list will soon be available to search on the CM History Society website <http://www.cleoburymortimerhistory.co.uk/>

I would be grateful if you could publicise it in the Clarion.

Many thanks
John Barnes
barnslands.farm@btinternet.com

TARA'S BIG EFFORT

You can read about Tara Beech's work experience at Kudos Blends on Page 49, but next year she has a big experience to prepare for. She's in one of

three Shropshire teams taking part in the guiding movement's Centenary Trip to America and has to meet 100 challenges that include charity fundraising.

On Remembrance Sunday she was selling cake and on the Friday night of Children in Need, she and mum Sonia joined in the British attempt on the World Tapathon Record. You can support that fund raising effort by calling up justgiving.com and typing in Zennor McGuire, which will take you to the 2015 Tapathon page, where you can support Tara and all the other young people making a special effort to help others.

As if all that is not enough, she's swimming a mile every week until she covers the equivalent of a Channel crossing, raising funds to finance the American trip. You can donate to that too, via soniabeech69@outlook.com. A very fine young woman.

SILLY BIT

"I'm sorry I hurt your feelings when I called you stupid. I really thought you already knew."

"I've got to stop saying 'How stupid can you get?' Too many people are taking it as a challenge."

"Not to get technical, but according to chemistry, alcohol is a solution."



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Our Christmas Day Lunch, Indian or English, from 12.30pm-6.00pm at £25.95 per head, Children £14.95.

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The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

6 Top Tips for New Pet Owners



By Dr Frithjof Praetsch BSc MRCVS

Did you know that on average a medium-sized dog may cost over £20,000 to care for over the course of its life? Food, vaccinations, insurance and vet bills can soon add up. Fortunately, there are several ways you can minimize and spread that cost.

Tip 1: Get insurance as soon as possible

Purchase a policy early in your pet's life - pre-existing conditions are usually not covered. Consider lifetime insurance, especially if you are concerned about chronic or recurring illness.

Tip 2: Get them vaccinated

All dogs, cats and rabbits need to be vaccinated to protect them against common ailments. Dogs and cats also need worm treatment, as worms can cause a blockage of the gastro-intestinal tract, especially in puppies, and represent a health risk to humans, especially young children. Cats in particular require flea treatment, not only because they themselves suffer if they've got fleas, but also because this can lead to some very unpleasant problems for their owners. Think flea bites and having to spray your entire house.

Tip 3: Make sure they're microchipped

Microchipping makes it extremely easy to identify a pet if they are lost and from the 6th of April 2016, all dogs in the UK must be microchipped and registered to an approved database by the time they are 8 weeks old. Ask your vet if they offer puppy or kitten packages as they can often include the basics at a significant discount.

Tip 4: Get them neutered

Having your pet neutered is another important way to prevent serious health problems,

especially in female dogs. Of particular significance is a potentially life-threatening bacterial infection of the uterus called Pyometra, which vets have to deal with very frequently. Older entire male dogs often struggle to pass faeces because of prostate problems which could have been prevented by castration. Often neutered dogs are much more easily trained. In cats, the main reason for neutering is the prevention of increasing numbers of unwanted kittens.

Tip 5: Give them a good diet

It is vital that pets are not fed scraps of human food, because this will almost invariably lead to obesity and dental problems. Every day, vets also treat patients because of diarrhoea and vomiting due to dietary indiscretion. One fatty meal, for example roast pork, could be enough to give your dog a very serious bout of pancreatitis, requiring it to be hospitalised.

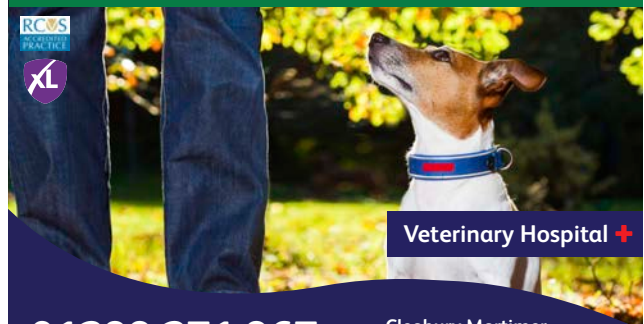
Tip 6: Don't reward inappropriate behaviour

Finally, try not to reward inappropriate behaviour. It will make your life a lot easier in the future. As a classic example of how inappropriate behaviour can be reinforced, think of the owner who, after his or her dog has just tried to bite the vet, pets the dog and, in a well-intentioned attempt to calm it down, praises it "Good dog!" It happens all the time.

Remember - each pet is different and there is an element of learning whether it is your first or tenth. Always contact your vet if you have any concerns – they're here to help.

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Happening on High Street

BIG CABBAGE GOODWILL GIFT



Julie outside Carrot Tops, with one very big cabbage.

Julie at Carrot Tops had a very pleasant surprise when a local gardener, who doesn't want to be named, walked in and offered her a giant cabbage. Apparently he'd offered it to the British Legion for their produce sale, but they concentrate on packaged foods. So he gave it Julie, asking her to use as best she could.

It just fitted into the wheelbarrow that stands outside the shop. A quickly drawn sign offered it as a raffle prize, with the alternative of a £20 voucher to

be spent in the shop, with all proceeds going to the Poppy Appeal. We checked with Julie on Remembrance Sunday and she confirmed that £45 had been collected for the cause and that Leanne Edwards had won the prize. Nice one.

LLOYDS' BIG BIRTHDAY

Lloyds Bank have been celebrating 125 years on Cleobury's High Street this year. A leaflet in the bank tells you that they opened for just one day a week in 1890, operating from the front room of a house, as they were just a sub branch to Tenbury Wells. In 1920 they moved into No 39, where they still operate. Happy birthday, Lloyds!

BIG CHARITY NIGHT AT THE LAMP

The Lamp Restaurant has really struck a successful chord with its Charity Nights. The latest was on October 23rd, when Aaron Booton provided the music and the restaurant pledged to pay 50 percent of the evening's takings to the Severn Hospice shop, which just happens to be next door.

The result was a very welcome £750 cheque handed over to Jayne Leach, to help

those local people suffering and in need of a little help.

SANTA'S COMING

Santa will be arriving on the main street at 1.30 on December 5th, to park his 4x4 outside the Parish Church and attend the Christmas Fair. You can book tickets to see him in his grotto on CM 272628 and there will be a lots of things to see around the church on that day. The Parish Council will be catching the spirit of the occasion as they offer free refreshments in the Market Hall. A nice touch.

At 4.00 o'clock Santa will be conducting the switching on of the Christmas lights, which may well be some splendid new ones if the rumours are true. They will brighten the town for the festive season, as has been the habit for years. We do Christmas well in Cleobury Mortimer, just as we make Remembrance Sunday a memorable occasion. Do come to the High Street on the 5th and capture the happy atmosphere of the season of goodwill.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE VOLUNTARY

CAR SCHEME

A big thank you to all for easing so smoothly into the change made in booking arrangements. 31 calls to the Medical Centre after 10.00 in October which led to successful car bookings, many to Oswestry or Birmingham. I collect the bookings regularly from the Centre and still deal with your queries or concerns on 01299 666119. Please remember that a minimum of three days before your appointment date is needed to secure a driver for you.

Although we have a good driver pool, most only volunteer one of two specific days a week; some Tuesdays we can have six drivers all going in different directions. Please speak to me if you could offer a few hours now and then.

Early in 2016 I will be looking for someone else to step into the Co-ordinator role which is not nearly as onerous since the Medical Centre took over the bookings.

Val Simpson

CHATTERBOX

Chatterbox is a telephone befriending service which aims to help people who are feeling lonely and isolated. Our volunteer Befrienders help us to talk to our clients and make a difference to their lives. Omega Care for Life, established in 2007, is a national charity based in Shrewsbury. Our Chatterbox clients are carers, former carers, people with health issues and those who are going through a difficult time and just need someone to talk with and to listen to them. They come from across the West Midlands as well as Shropshire.

We need more volunteer Befrienders to help us. All we ask is to commit just two hours a week, this is a home-based role. You will need to be available to travel for training purposes, usually within Shropshire, a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check will be carried out.

Omega Chatterbox is a time limited service, a 12 week programme of support when we try to help the client find other support, social groups, information or guidance. Sometimes it takes a little longer depending on the circumstances

but we aim to signpost our clients to what is nearby in the way of social opportunities and targeted support.

If you would like to know more about Omega Chatterbox please email us: chatterbox@omega.uk.net or telephone 0845 259 3163

To find out more about Omega Care for Life see www.omega.uk.net

Angela Pollard

HOBSON'S PLUM PORTER

Hobsons have created a Plum Porter with a twist by using Shropshire Prune Damsons.

The Shropshire Prune has been described as the essence of 'plum' and is possibly the oldest known variety of damson in the UK. This porter delivers on provenance and intense flavour, a delicate balance of rich damson and roast malt sweetness. This special delivery based on Hobsons Postman's Knock not only celebrates the quintessential Shropshire Prune but also the anniversary of Simon Evans. This year marked 120 years since the birth of Simon Evans, who settled in Cleobury Mortimer after returning from World War 1.



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Letter from Westminster - Philip Dunne MP

I was going to write all about the approaching Christmas season of good cheer and encourage good neighbourliness within our communities. I will still touch on this, but as I write, the appalling atrocities in Paris of a few weeks ago remain fresh in my mind.

Thankfully we have been spared such terror on our streets for some time. But I will remember the bus and tube bombs in London a decade ago in which 52 people tragically lost their lives, with over 700 injured. It occurred two months after I was first elected to Parliament, and I was sitting on the green benches as the news started to come through.

We cannot therefore be complacent or assume we will be immune to terrorists seeking to disrupt our peaceful way of life. Here in Shropshire this may seem unduly pessimistic. But we can all be touched by terror, even if it is not on our doorstep.

Last month a friend of mine, who lives near Ludlow, was eating in a restaurant in Paris not far from where the gunman struck down others minding their own business, out for dinner in a restaurant. Thank goodness she was unharmed, but she was close by and was unable to leave her place of safety for some hours.

Our security services have foiled seven terror plots on mainland Britain this year. The Government has in my view given appropriate priority to boosting their personnel and seeking to update their investigatory powers to reflect current means of communication and disseminating information. We should not give in to extremist terror tactics, which aim to disrupt our daily lives, in the name of a warped

sense of Islamic fundamentalism. We need by contrast to undermine their rationale by showing how modern democracies can develop with people of differing views and beliefs living in harmony.

Christmas is a good time to do this. While those of us who are Christian take comfort from the birth of Christ and the hope which this gives the world, we can all follow his example of selflessness to help others.

Many families come together over Christmas, yet some either have no family or do not see them at this time. Some in public service and other essential jobs do not get the chance to take much time off over Christmas.

So spare a thought for those who might be working or lonely later this month. It is the season for good neighbours to take in others for a drink or a meal. If you have elderly friends or neighbours who may struggle in winter, consider offering to drop by or help over Christmas. By being a little generous with our time and efforts, we can all make this a happier Christmas in our community.

Our Armed Forces, security and emergency services will all be working to keep us safe over Christmas. Please let them know you value what they do if you get the chance.

Wishing you a safe and Happy Christmas.

Philip Dunne MP

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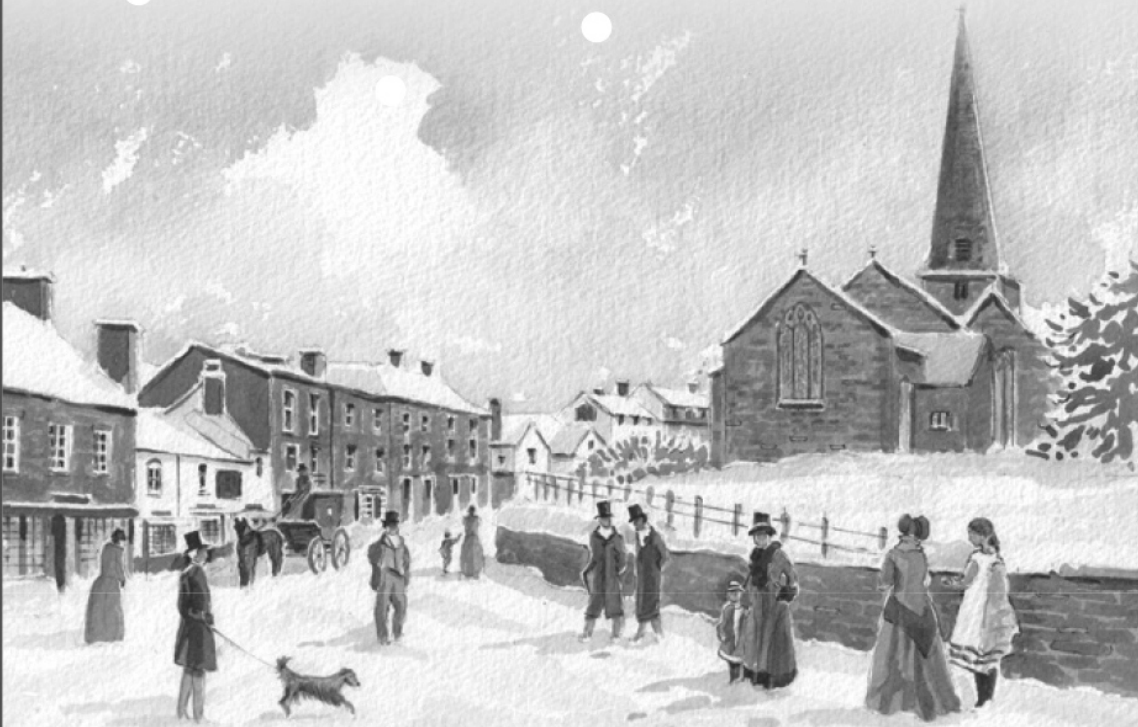


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SPECIAL

Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CLEOBURY

PATIENTS VOICE

Cleobury Mortimer Medical Centre are looking for new members to join the Cleobury Patients' Voice. The group has been established for over five years and was instrumental in helping the practice obtain permission in moving to their new premises in Vaughan Road. CPV is now looking to strengthen its membership by recruiting new members from all age groups and backgrounds. They meet every six weeks at the Medical Centre on a Monday, from 6:30pm to 8.00. They are a properly constituted committee of which minutes of recent meetings can be read by accessing the CPV website. <http://www.cleobury-patients-voice.co.uk/>

In the last year CPV have raised over £2000 to help fund new equipment. This was achieved by organising coffee mornings and by direct approach to Cleobury Parish Council. In addition the CPV organise regular drop-in sessions and displays at the practice for support groups.

If you are interested in joining or coming along to one of our meetings then please call 01299 407224 and leave a message on the answer machine which will normally be responded to within seven days. Or by email cleoburypatientsvoice@hotmail.co.uk

Andrew Stephens

CHRISTMAS

MEMORIAL TREE

Due to the popularity of our Christmas Memorial Tree last year, we erected it on November 28th this year.

The purpose of the tree is to enable the public to write a star in memory of someone special whether it be a small message or just the person's name. These stars will then be hung on the tree where they will stay until the New Year. We will then attach the stars to balloons and release them from outside our offices in Talbot Square.

As part of our ongoing commitment to our community, the stars are available to everyone, no matter where or when they lost their love ones.

They are available from our offices now; alternatively, people can email or facebook us their message and we will write the stars on their behalf.

We understand how difficult it can be, facing Christmas without a loved one. We are available personally throughout the Christmas and New Year period to offer help, support and guidance, 24-hours a day.

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact me on 01299 540541 or email: adriansatterly@btinternet.com or visit our website Cleobury Funeral Directors

Adrian Satterly

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

November walks by Walking for Health group and the CMFA Parish Walk raised a total of £286 for 'Children In Need'. Special thanks to Joan Hockin and the Sant family who raised £145 through sponsorship.

Footpath maintenance continues through the winter months. When the weather is suitable, members will walk paths affected by bramble and scrub, clearing as we go. If you would like to take part, either by joining a group walk or on your own please contact susan@eaglelane.co.uk. In November we helped Shropshire Council team install a new footbridge near Lower Langley Farm – reconnecting a route to Neen Sollars.

There will be a Parish Walk on Sunday December 6th at 10.00 and our traditional Boxing Day (10.00) and New Year's Day (2.00pm) walks with complimentary food in the KA after the New Year walk. Please join us and bring the family.

Our Walking for Health group are not hibernating, aiming to keep fresh air in their lungs through the winter months. The walks will start at the Market Hall and link up with CoCo coffee mornings on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, December through February, 10.00 am start. Leaders will attune the route to the weather and you can decide to walk or just sample the coffee and CoCo's cakes. We welcome folk who don't take much exercise, can only manage a short stroll and anyone uncomfortable walking alone. These walks of about 45 mins will be mainly on hard surfaces around town. Further information: Alan Kimber 01299 271754. Details as always can be found at www.cmfa.co.uk

The December Clarion Social Calendar

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Mon 1st	7.00pm	Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council meet in the Market Hall. Public may raise concerns in the first 15mins.		
Wed 2nd	10.30am	Cleobury Carers' Group have a Coffee & Chat gathering in the KA, then moving up the road for Coffee & Cake at Pat Marsh's house	Wendy	CM 270562 See PAGE 13
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall. Good Car Parking.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 3rd		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLING BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.00pm	Fashion Show & half price sale at Sports and Social Club, Love Lane. In support of the Haven Breast Cancer Centre in Hereford		See PAGE 13
	7.30pm	Festive Shop Evening at the Fighting Cocks in Stottesdon. Free entry, but determined raffle ticket selling. Lots of stalls with Christmas goodies. Precedes to Severn Hospice.		
Fri 4th	1.00-2.15	Advent Soup Lunch at the Market Hall. Raising money for Homeless at Christmas & Severn Hospice, with home-made soup, fresh bread & apple pie.		
	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington village hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 5th	1.00	The Christmas Fair at the Parish Church, includes Santa Claus in his grotto, then emerging to turn on the town's Christmas lights. Christmas season starts here		
Sun 6th	10.00am	Parish Walk starts from the Parish Church. All walkers welcome.		
	5.00pm	Family Christmas Party at the Sports & Social Club, Love Lane, Disco.		
Tue 8th	2.00pm	Sherry, mince pie & carols at St Mary's Community Centre, thanks to the Cleobury Carer's Group	Wendy	CM 270562
Wed 9th	7.30pm	Neen Savage W.I. gather at the Village Hall for a Christmas Celebration, mulled wine & mince pies.	Angela Flowers	CM 270318
	8.00pm	Royal British Legion meets at The Bell Inn, Lower Street.	David Taylor	CM 270793
Thu 10th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
		Christmas Floral Workshops at Neen Sollars & Milson Victory Hall, With guidance from Claire Bradley		See PAGE 11
Fri 11th	1.00-2.15	Advent Soup Lunch, Market Hall		
	7.00pm	Senior Citizens Christmas Party at the Sports & Social Club, Love Lane		
	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Cleeton St Mary Village Hall		

Two events worth supporting are happening on the 3rd this month. The Fashion Show and Half Price Sale opens at 7.00 in the Sports and Social Club on Love Lane, raising money for the Breast Cancer Centre in Hereford. Tickets are £6.00 each.

At 7.30 the Festive Shop Evening opens at the Fighting Cocks in Stottesdon, with lots of local traders showing their Christmas wares. Proceeds from the evening will go to the Severn Hospice.

Admission is free, but organiser Diane Newsham warns:

“Enthusiastic raffle ticket selling will take place!”

All in a good cause, though.



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The December Social Calendar Continued

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Sat 12th	7.00pm	Music Night is back at Clows Top Victory Hall, with Paze 2		See PAGE 11
Sun 13th		The Cleobury Concert Brass concert at the Parish Hall is a highlight of the town's Christmas Season. Tickets £6.50 from Carrot Tops, includes mulled wine and buffet.		
Mon 14th	7.00pm	The Horticultural Society meet at St Elizabeth's Hall for their Christmas Social.		
Tue 15th	12.30pm	Cleobury Carers' Group Christmas Lunch at the Golf Club. Pre-booking essential.	Wendy Duley	CM270562
	2.00pm	The Friendship Club welcomes pupils from the Primary School, who will entertain them at the Parish Hall		
Wed 16th	7.30pm	Stottesdon W.I. meet at Chorley Village Hall to learn about Making Felt Flowers. All welcome £5 to cover cost of materials.	Marion Wootton	01746 718151
	8.00pm	Whist Drive, Doddingotn Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 17th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLING BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 18th	1.00-2.15	Final Advent Soup Lunch in the Market Hall		
	8.00pm	Bingo Night, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 19th		Panto Time at Tenbury's Regal Theatre starts with Jack and the Beanstalk.	Tickets: 01584 811442	
Sun 20th		Deadline for application for funds to help local youth projects.		See PAGE 47
Mon 21st	7.00pm	The Reading Group gather at the library to discuss the latest read and share mulled wine and mince pies. A very amiable event.	Deana Kimber	CM 271754
Wed 23rd		NOTE CHANGE OF DATE: GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Thu 24th	4.00pm	Kerry's Christmas Eve disco at the Sports and Social Club, Love Lane.		
Fri 25th		CHRISTMAS DAY! DO HAVE A VERY HAPPY ONE AND A SAFE & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR		
Sat 26th	10.00am	The Footpath Association's Boxing Day Walk starts at the Parish Church		
Thu 31st		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED		
		Family Motown Night, featuring Benny Jay, at the Sports and Social Club		See PAGE 43
		LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEW YEAR....		
Fri 1st	2.00pm	New Year's Day Walk starts at the Parish Church and ends with food at the KA		

Tenbury Wells's Regal Theatre has caught the Christmas spirit with its presentation of that old favourite pantomime

“Jack and the Beanstalk”

It opens on the 19th this month and runs through until January 2nd, with ticket prices starting at £10.00.

There's a nice touch in their advertising, where they state that they don't take magic beans as payment.

A nice touch, making people smile before they even get through the doors for the show

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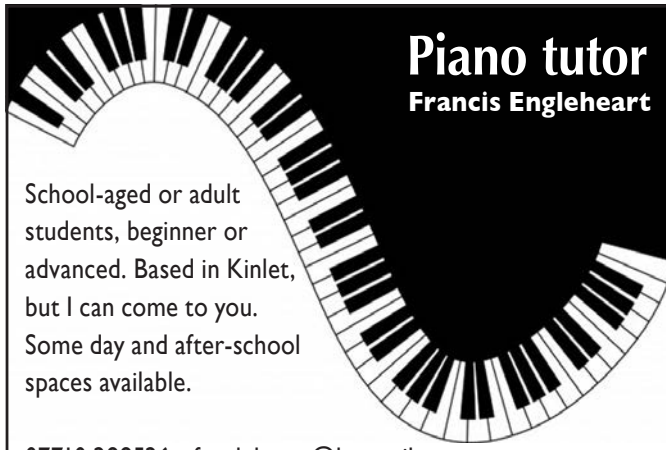
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Andy and Jenny Vanderhook's Trip to China



Jenny and Andy at the Terracotta Warriors Army in Xian, where there are thousands of warriors carved from the local stone.

Andy and I holidayed together this October and went to China for a fortnight, staying in Beijing and Shanghai.

The distances between our chosen destinations were so great that we had to take three internal flights. Our first day was spent in Beijing being joined by the Daily Telegraph Foreign Correspondent Neil Conner. We walked through Tiananmen Square, a vast place full of Chinese queuing to see Chairman Mao mummified, but we walked on to the Forbidden City. It just went on and on, buildings and paving stones, not a single plant or tree to be seen so not my favourite place. On then to a Chinese family's home for a delicious lunch, whilst the daughter played the Chinese zither. Next we were taken outside where local men took us all for a ride in a rickshaw through the very poor part of the city. In the evening Neil Conner spoke of his life living in China and then answered questions.

The next day we were driven to the Great Wall before the crowds arrived, so we were able to have a look around and leave before it got busy. We were taken by boat to a forest

of sweet chestnut which we walked through and then climbed up the Wall. It was very steep so we only went to the first fortress. Coming down was just as bad as the steps were so steep. That evening we were taken to our first theatre and saw a really fantastic acrobatic show.

The next day we flew on to Xian to see the Terracotta Warriors Army. Nothing prepares you for the scale of it, apparently it is only a tiny part of the excavation as there is much more to uncover. We had a professional photograph taken overlooking Pit One, which was about 200 yards long and the biggest of the three found so far. The country around this area was covered in pomegranate orchards with each fruit in a polythene bag, still hanging on the tree. I was told "To keep the insects away." Sadly, we were never offered one to eat.

Off again, to Chengdu to see the Giant Pandas in the company of John Craven of 'Country File' fame. He came with us to the Conservation and Research Centre. Andy and I had volunteered to help care for the Pandas for a morning. About half of our group of 29 did this, sweeping up bits of bamboo, hosing out a cage where one of the twenty pandas had spent the night, feeding one with the special Panda cake and a carrot, and then making Panda cake – soya meal, rice, egg and oil, boiled for three hours, so more like a biscuit. The babies were given what looked like a thin gruel as well as bamboo. I wanted a photo of me and a baby panda, so we were taken to a quiet

part and there was a year-old panda sitting on a bench contentedly eating a carrot. I had to wear protective clothing and gloves so could not actually feel if his fur was soft but Andy managed to get several photos in the ten seconds I was allowed. For me this was the highlight of the whole trip. John Craven then showed a film of him with lots of baby Pandas all tumbling about with each other which they'd never have the chance to do in the wild.

The next day we were taken to the People's Park, really crowded but nice to mingle with Chinese people; a lot of Grandmas were pushing grandchildren in pushchairs. One part was a chrysanthemum garden just being planted up. Nice to see something different from French Marigold – yellow and Celosia – red, these being the colours of their flag which was everywhere we went.

Next was our cruise down the Yangtze River for three days, going through the three gorges to the biggest dam in the world. Another internal flight, then one to Shanghai which is much more westernised than the other cities, really vibrant, it just hummed. We spent a whole day being taken to five different parts of the city. Andy's favourite was going on the Maglev electric train and mine the river cruise in the evening with all the huge buildings lit up!

So ended a wonderful two weeks we shall never forget.

Jenny Vanderhook.

Paul Harding



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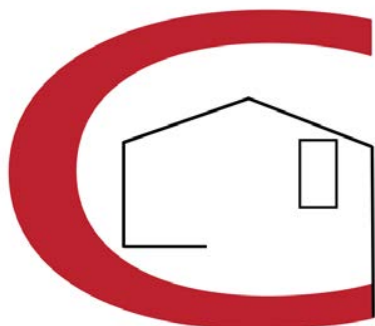
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE READING GROUP

'An Ice Cream War' by William Boyd.

This novel is set partly in Kent, but mostly in East Africa during the First World War. It follows the lives of an assorted group of characters during a little reported and rather ridiculous campaign.

Our group had a wide range of opinions about the story, ranging from enjoyment to disappointment with a variety of comments in between. The characters also provided much discussion, some thought them well drawn and fascinating, whilst others found so little of interest they didn't care what happened to them. The facts regarding Africa and the chaotic war there were new to many of us and appreciated but overall we didn't feel this was a book to recommend. We look forward to our next read, "Thin Blue Smoke" by Doug Worgul, and discussing it on December 21st at Cleobury Library. Please contact me if you would like further information.

Deana Kimber CM 271754

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

A well attended AGM heard a comprehensive Chairman's report of our activities during

the year. As a society we keep the horse trough on High Street tidy and attractive, organise the tree pleaching, organise Cleobury in Bloom that involves most of the schools in the wider community and tend the allotments

The officers for the coming year will remain the same, all the post holders being re-elected. A vote of thanks to our Chairman, Flo Hadley, was proposed by Aileen Hood and wholeheartedly seconded by all.

Following business we partook of hot shepherds pie and cake, followed by a floral demonstration by members Aileen and Marian. Their theme was 'Christmas', one working mainly with foliage and flowers from the garden and the other with artificial flowers and foliage. The decorations they produced were beautiful and inspiring and many of us felt we would try to follow their lead for our own Christmas decorations.

Our next meeting will be the Christmas Social which we hold at Saint Elizabeth's Hall on December 14th at 7.00.

Liz Smurthwaite

CRIME REDUCTION

Notes from the November meeting of the Group.

1. Anyone who is eligible and has not yet received a SmartWater pack, please see Matt Sheehan at the Parish and collect yours.
2. If you have your pack, please use it and put stickers in the window. Don't forget the shed contents - they are being targeted.
3. The Crime Reduction Group will be calling on town businesses to discuss the use of SmartWater.
4. We have a grant to help upgrade the town CCTV and are looking at other towns' schemes to see what is best suited to us.
5. The Group has booked the Mobile Police Station to be present at the December and January Farmers' Markets, with officers in attendance. We hope to make this a regular feature.

Matt Sheehan

SILLY AGEING BITS

'You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.'

'I used to be indecisive, but I'm not sure now.'



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CLEOBURY MORTIMER PARISH HALL

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There will be no Flicks this month; we will recommence in January. The film is yet to be announced.

On Sunday 13th December with Christmas around the corner Cleobury Concert Brass will hold a Concert with Mulled Wine and buffet. Tickets are available from all band members

The Friendship club meets every Tuesday afternoon from 2.00, so why not come along and make new friends. We have plenty going on with meals out, theatre trips and days out to various places.

TO HIRE THE HALL PLEASE CONTACT JAN 01299-271070

Clarion Coppers with CPSO Nick Morris



The reported crimes in our area for the last month are: Just after 1:00pm on October 21st, CCTV captured a blue Ford Transit being loaded with water pumps and switch gear worth £11000 by a male at an industrial unit in Boraston Lane, Burford. There was not a good enough image for further investigation. A burglary took place at a house in Mawley Oak on October 27th but nothing was stolen. A Mitsubishi L200 pick-up worth £8000 was stolen from a yard near Burford between October 29th and November 3rd. Jewellery and a large sum of foreign currency was stolen from a house in Ludlow Road in a burglary in the afternoon of November 4th. It is likely the thief knew what was to be found there. Overnight on November 7th/8th, two panes of glass in a greenhouse in Lower Street were smashed after a beer bottle had been thrown. There was an attempted burglary at a garage in Neen Sollars between November 7th and 9th. It is thought the would-be thief was disturbed when the occupant looked out of a window after hearing a noise. A vehicle parked at The Crown Inn at Hopton Wafers was deliberately set alight on the evening of November 12th; enquiries are ongoing. In the early evening of November 13th, four sheds at a house in Callow Hill, Rock, were entered. Nothing was stolen, but a lawnmower was taken from one and left outside.

A burglar was disturbed when he tried to steal from a garage in Milson at 11:20pm on November 15th. A garage was broken into overnight on November 17th/18th in Oreton; a green Kawasaki scrambler motorbike was stolen together with power tools. Overnight on November 21st/22nd, two burglaries took place in Catherton Road. One was a workshop where a strimmer and two chainsaws were stolen, and a

lawnmower was stolen from the garden shed of the other. The victim of one of these had not used his SmartWater kit, and it is unknown if the other victim was in possession of his kit.

Criminal damage was caused just after midnight on November 22nd when a known local male had a tantrum after he was asked to leave licensed premises in Lower Street. A wooden bench was thrown causing damage to the wing mirror of a parked car. Sometime during early to mid November, damage was caused to the wash basins and pipework in the gents toilets in Childe Road and they had to be closed for repair.

A brief reminder about scams: be on your guard against cold callers. My advice is to either tell the caller that you are not interested and not to call again, and then hang up, or preferably just hang up. My BT 'Call Guardian' really works wonders and costs £1.75 per month - job done. I only accept calls from numbers I am aware of. Whatever you do, DO NOT give any of your personal details to anyone over the phone. Nor be taken in by a caller saying that there is a problem with your computer. You don't, otherwise you'd have discovered it yourself. Be firm and say 'no'. If you have inadvertently been a victim of this type of crime, please report it to 'Action Fraud' on 0300 1232040 or via their website:- www.actionfraud.police.uk Have a Happy, Crime-Free Christmas, and don't delay using your SmartWater. If you are eligible to receive a free kit and have not had it delivered, please see Matt Sheehan at the Market Hall.

Nick Morris



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

ON THE BUSES

Another fun filled month (for some at least). One departure from Kiddy was 20 minutes late arriving at the Bus Station and was further delayed when the bus hit a car. As a result, it took the passengers via the Worcester Road depot where they had to change vehicles. Total delay about 45 minutes. Two days later, the early bus to Ludlow got as far as Hollywaste before expiring with a loud bang and a cloud of black smoke. Passers by could smell burning as the passengers evacuated (the bus, that is). It took nearly an hour for a replacement to appear which meant that the 0914 departure to Kiddy left at 1015. At least the passengers didn't have to pay the £1 charge...

A few days later, the 0740 to Kiddy arrived 10 minutes early and drove straight through Cleobury. As a result College students missed it and were excluded from their classes as apparently the lecturers lock the doors at 9.00. Not sure whether this is to keep the students out or in. The following week, we had the misfortune to follow the afternoon service back from Bewdley. The speed never got above 30 mph and most of the time it was between 15 and 20. It looked as though the driver couldn't go faster uphill and didn't dare go faster downhill. As a result, it was followed by a long, growing and frustrated queue of traffic which shows that Diamond buses can cause you grief even if you don't use them.

There have been a number of other sightings of broken down buses scattered along the route with forlorn drivers awaiting rescue. In one case, the driver was holding a watering can. Whether he was going to use this to top the bus up or drown it is not clear. Even if the service does run, some customers still have problems. In one case a woman boarded, clearly the worse for

wear and continued to swig from a can of lager during the journey. Normally this would be frowned upon but I, for one, have some sympathy with an individual who has to rely on alcohol in order to summon up the courage to board a Diamond bus. It's all right Madam, we've all been there...

The next LJC (Local Joint Committee) meeting to discuss the buses is scheduled for February and will be held in the Market Hall again. Diamond staff will be invited as will representatives of Shropshire (and possibly Worcestershire) Councils. Hopefully this time the latter won't all have remembered prior engagements. Date and time will be advertised as soon as they are known and it would be good if there could be another substantial turnout to congratulate all concerned on doing such a fine job.

It is said that nothing changes and this may be true as I have just seen a copy of a letter dated October 1944 from the Birmingham and Midland Omnibus Company Ltd to Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council in reply to a request for extra buses between Kidderminster and Cleobury. They say that they regret that they are 'experiencing difficulty in obtaining extra staff and vehicles' and that nothing could be done at that time. At least they had the excuse that there was a war on and the trains were still running to Cleobury...

The Campaign for Better Transport says that 2,400 bus routes have been lost or reduced since 2010 due to a reduction in subsidies to local authorities of £78 million. They are urging George Osborne to protect bus spending in his Autumn Statement due on 25 November. All may be revealed next month.

Steve Todd

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Sunday 6th December - FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY

5pm-8pm - DISCO PARTY WITH A VERY SPECIAL GUEST - £2.50 per child including a Present

Friday 11th December - SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Featuring **Kevin Wrench** - Starting at 7.00pm - Light Buffet Included - Free Entry

CHRISTMAS EVE - KERRY'S CHRISTMAS EVE DISCO - Club opens from 3pm

Children's Gingerbread Man Decorating Competition and 'Energy Zapping' Disco 4pm-7pm

SUNDAY 27th DECEMBER - KING MANTIS - Live Band - from 9pm

MONDAY 28th DECEMBER - CHARITY DARTS COMPETITION - Prize Money - Registration 2pm

NEW YEARS EVE - FAMILY MOTOWN NIGHT - featuring the Sensational **BENNY JAY**

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Linda Iles

December In The Wyre Forest



By the time you read this the future of education in the Forestry Commission's part of the Wyre Forest will have been decided. Organisations and individuals were invited to tender for the opportunity to take over the delivery of forestry-themed learning to visitors from all walks of life. 'Learning' will still go on at Wyre, with much still happening at the Heritage Lottery-funded Community Discovery Centre, but the FC's Discovery Centre team (of which, some of you will know, I was an enthusiastic member) will no longer be leading schools, playgroups, holiday visitors, adults, Cubs and Brownies *et al* in a wide range of activities designed to engender a love and understanding of the woodland environment. At such a time we can only reflect that the past 23 years of these experiences will have had a lasting effect on many folk in our local shires, Birmingham, the Black Country and further afield, and helped to influence the style of delivery of environmental education. New faces will be doing things their way with new ideas and fresh enthusiasm, and I join my ex-colleagues in wishing them very well.

Wiping away a tear, I can encourage those of you with children to use them as an excuse to visit the Stick Man trail which opened at the end of last month. It starts at the Forest Café, where you will want to buy your activity pack for £3 before you set out on your adventure. The trail is just a mile long with activity panels, different things to spot around the trail and special places to make rubbings. The pack

includes a trail leaflet, A4 paper, A4 booklet with extra games and puzzles, a pencil, a wax crayon and pipe cleaners to make your very own Stick Man!

Meanwhile in my neck of the woods the only stick men to be seen will be those splitting logs, fencing and planting trees (and anyway, around here they're far outnumbered by stick women). This winter there are 150 trees to be planted in the St George's Farm orchard. Already most of the tree guards, essential to protect new trees from browsing by deer, have been built from split chestnut and the new cherries, pears, plums, apples and cider apples will soon start to arrive. This isn't a money making enterprise by the Guild of St George which owns the farm and the rest of Ruskin Land. Rather it is the restoration of a landscape feature and habitat that was characteristic of the Wyre in its railway era (1860s to 1960s) and which greatly increased the biodiversity of the area. Nowadays the economics of full-sized fruit trees doesn't really work but we aim to fulfil John Ruskin's wish that this piece of England will be 'beautiful, peaceful and fruitful' and in a few years' time there should be some good pickings available. Would you like to join a planting work party? Call Sally on 01299 488083 or email sally@wyreclt.org.uk to find out the dates.

And of course I wish you a very happy Christmas!

Linda Iles

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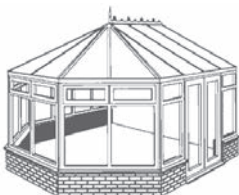
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE CRIB LEAGUE

The Cleobury Mortimer Crib league meets on a Wednesday evening in the pubs and the club in Cleobury.

We play a few games of cards, enjoy a sociable evening and in the process raise money that we then donate to the younger members of our community.

If you are involved in the running or organisation of a group that offers activities or support for the youngsters in Cleobury you are welcome to apply for a donation.

In the past we have donated to many of the non-profit making groups in the town, if you have previously benefitted please feel free to ask again.

We would appreciate an idea of what you would like to use the donation for, as we like to tell the members of the league what the money we have raised has been used for.

Please get any request to me before December 20th. If you are uncertain whether your group qualifies please feel free to call me first.

Please send an email to: sarahbarnsley61@googlemail.com

Or call 07837126827

A TRIBUTE

Since moving to Cleobury Mortimer a decade ago my wife and I have delighted, not only in the beautiful countryside in which we are privileged to live, but also the warmth and friendship extended by so many. This was brought home to me a few days ago. Older friends, one of whom does not enjoy good health, phoned to say that their heating boiler was not working. This was ill-timed, to say the least: temperatures were about to tumble. They were being stoical, but I felt help was needed.

I contacted Stuart Hancocks ('Revive Bathrooms') because he refurbished our bathrooms and kitchen, with excellent results. He replied that he wasn't qualified to work on boilers, but didn't hesitate to offer to visit our friends before the day was out to see if he could help in any way.

I needed a boiler engineer and Jamie Pearce has maintained our boiler since our arrival in the town. So I turned to him. Could he help? Predictably, he was very busy, but promised to attend as soon as possible. After a couple of hours our friend called us to say that Jamie got the boiler up and running. She

was delighted by the excellent service he provided to someone who, hitherto, had not been a regular customer.

I phoned both gentlemen, thanking them for their eager willingness to assist vulnerable people who were in need. After doing so, I pondered on the question whether such a service would have been rendered in the Thames Valley, from where we moved. I am confident that had we still been there, our friends would have shivered and suffered.

Just one more kindness, freely given, that is the hallmark of living in Cleobury Mortimer. Let us show our appreciation by supporting our local tradespeople whenever we can.

P.A.J. Waddington

THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

The Primary School children are coming to the Friendship Club at the Parish Hall on December 15th, at 2.00pm to entertain us with carols and Christmas songs.

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Val Breakwell

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

TARA'S TIME AT KUDOS



In July Kudos Blends welcomed a works experience student, learning about the business through a variety of day-to-day tasks. With a keen interest in Chemistry, Tara is currently looking for ideas for her future career; she recently completed her GCSEs at Lacon Child School. As thought leaders in the chemistry behind baking, Kudos was the perfect place to learn how science can be used in ways not always considered scientific career paths. She writes about her time there:

"My first experience of both factory and office based work and during my week I have been surprised by the amount of different jobs that are required for a company. I have been experiencing most of these jobs

observing the work and taking part in fun tasks. To begin I had a site tour to get to know where everything was and meet the friendly staff. Within the factory I saw the careful and precise process of the baking powder, learning about all the various ingredients and seeing how it was made. This was a new experience, interesting to observe as I have never seen a factory before.

I was set tasks within each department, the first in customer services and supply chain. This involved me estimating the batches of ingredients that were needed for next month and inputting the list into the systems database. This began the circle of process within the factory as they needed the ingredients in order to produce the final products.

I spent a day in the laboratory, tasked with identifying three different baking powders. This was linked to a baking powder training I had with the technical team and showed me how different types have different properties and are used for

different baked goods. I did two experiments, one on particle size and one on quality control; these identified the properties that I would then use later in baking. My time within the technical team finished with a baking project. I made scones and Madeira cakes with the three different baking powders to see what the visible effects of the baking powders were. This was very interesting as it showed the importance of the correct ingredients to get the best result. Overall the tasks within the technical team were my favourite as they allowed me to do physical analysis and see the scientific side of baking.

To end my week, I completed small tasks on customer research and marketing as these showed me the advertising side of the business and the importance of keeping up with customers.

I found my time at Kudos Blends extremely enjoyable and really interesting. Everyone made me feel very welcome. I feel I had valuable experience for my career and loved my time there."



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On The Market - Pat Hill



Pat at her Farmers' Market stall, with a potential apprentice Evie Woodhouse learning the trade.

You never know just what you're going to see on Pat Hill's stall at the Farmers' Market. When we first talked she had an array of cushions she'd made, plus rolls of fabric to sell whatever length you might need. In November she had a range of Christmas gifts, all of them wrapped and ready to go under the tree. This is not a

boring same-old, same-old lady.

Health problems meant her giving up the garden, so she looked around for an alternative. "Fate came in the shape of a large quantity of fabric that was destined for the skip. What a waste!" she explains. "So I had it, but that meant I needed a sewing machine and I'd got rid of mine a couple of years earlier. Sarah our daughter saw one for sale; we bought that off Sandra Cooper (Cleobury's Parcel Lady. JR) at a very fair price and it's been great."

"We sold some of the fabric off the rolls, but had lots of remnants, so I thought I'd have a go at making cushions, then make some smaller Christmas ones. Now I'm making Christmas decorations by hand, and I'm working with Sarah on some candles in antique cups that

are going very well for presents." You can see why, it's an attractive cup complete with saucer, the cup itself filled with a delicately coloured wax that gives off a pleasant perfume. Ideal as a gentle table light or a bedside comforter for those nervous of the dark.

You get the feeling that nothing is going to stop Pat and that she'll turn her hand to whatever comes along and keep herself occupied and creative. "I'm really enjoying what I'm doing," she says. "I think everyone needs a hobby, it keeps your mind and body active." And she enjoys the happy social atmosphere at the Farmers' Market. It's worth looking out for her, if only to see what she's come up with as the latest idea. And some of those little Christmas decorations did look very attractive.

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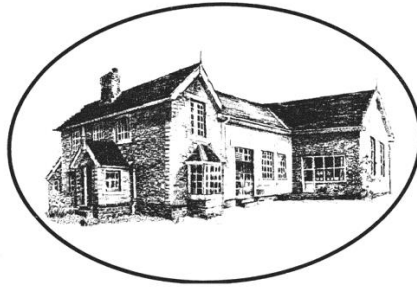
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Moving into December is always a busy time at Bayton C of E Primary School and this year is no exception. Rehearsals are now starting for our KS2 Carol Concert to be held in St Bartholomew's Church in Bayton and for our KS1 and Reception classes' Nativity play called Born in a Barn. This play will be the first time many of our younger children have performed in front of the wider school community and their parents, and is a task they are thoroughly looking forward to and feeling proud to be a part of.

Our school choir, run by Mrs Helena Evans, a parent and resident of Bayton village, will take part in the Bayton Church Christingle Service on Sunday 13th December and carol singing in various locations around our catchment area.

At the time of writing this article we have some children preparing to take part in the Clows Top Amateur Production's pantomime, Snow White, playing Santa's helpers.

And whilst all of this is going on, children will also be busy making Christmas cards and calendars for the new year, as well as fitting in a Christmas treat in the form of a trip to a Birmingham theatre to see *Gangsta Granny*, which I am sure will be go down a storm with children across the whole school.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our children, their families and readers of this page a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We currently have places available in our years 2 and 5 classes. 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 CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Here's a little puzzler to test both your knowledge of flowers and sense of humour, all at the same time. These clever little cartoons on the next page, which come courtesy of Pat Smith, all suggest the name of a flower. What you have to do is work out the names and send your answers to the editor on a sheet of paper, with the numbers and your answers, plus your name and contact number. The first correct answer to arrive will earn the winner a ten pound note, delivered personally to your door or wherever you care to meet. You can use email, post or deliver by hand, whichever suits you best. Good luck!

CONTACT ADDRESSES:

Email: editor@cleoburyclarion.co.uk or uncle.jim@icloud.com
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The Clarion Christmas Quiz.

See page 54 for details on how to enter



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The Farming Page - Rachel Robinson of Mawley Milk

Seasons greetings from Mawley Town Farm. I am writing this on the 'dark days before Christmas', however we cant complain too much about the weather as until now it has been so mild! All the cattle are safely housed for the winter and the tractor work is finished until the spring, so we are kept busy with the daily routines of feeding and bedding and maintaining machinery. The milking cows are as busy as ever. We calve all year round but do have a few extra calves born in November to meet the increased consumer demand for milk and cream over the Christmas period.

The dairy is in full swing from 5.00am six days a week to bring you the freshest milk on the shelves and it also provides employment for five local people. Whilst our little dairy will have a couple of days shut down for Christmas, the cows and herdsmen won't be getting any time off. The cows are milked every day of the year (yes even Christmas morning after Father Christmas has been!) on

an automated milking system so the cows can go and be milked as and when they want to, anytime throughout the day or night. Don't worry - The Big Man in Red makes sure they have a bit of extra silage on Christmas morning...

Mawley Milk is available on the doorstep from two independent milkmen who cover a wide area throughout Cleobury Country. If you are interested in having a doorstep delivery service, give them a call and they will be happy to let you know where and when they deliver. Boden & Son - Clee Hill to Cleobury Mortimer 01584 891550, and May Tree Dairies - Rock, Bewdley, Far Forest & Kinlet 01299 266380

On behalf of David, Margaret, Adrian and myself, we thank you for your continued support for Mawley Milk, and wish you a happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Rachel



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE TOWN LIBRARY

The future of the town library has been decided, with local feeling in favour of Option One on the list that was circulated.

This means that the Cleobury Country Centre staff will be trained in the use of the library equipment and provide a service to users as well as the work they already do for the Centre. Vicki Alexander, our established librarian, was offered an alternative post but opted to take redundancy.

The County Library Service is committed to pay towards the operation for three years, but beyond that date nothing is clear. What is planned is the library being open normal business hours Monday to Friday and on Saturday mornings.

There will be alterations to the layout, with the automated taking and returning of books being brought closer to the reception area. There will be a direct line to the County Council offices in the same area, available to all, with a privacy screen to keep conversations confidential. There will also be a small office built in the library area, but we are assured this will not mean a loss of book space; the object is

to let the office and support the finances of the Centre.

This is a compromise, which is a word we're going to hear used more often as cutbacks in local government finances grow. But we will have a library, something this town has fought for in the face of earlier threats; some other branches of the service have been closed.

Doubts have been expressed about the promised support for the new library staff and there have certainly been gaps in the offering so far. The automated booking service has been broken down for some days as these words are written and the training is only half completed, while staff promised from Ludlow two days a week are not always appearing.

What was a five page working agreement between the county and Cleobury Country Centre has been revised, presumably by the eagle-eyed legals and is now a small booklet of about 50 pages. We do hope that will be agreed and signed by the official handover date of January 1st.

Let's not get gloomy, as we have a very good library that attracts much support. But we

will need to watch carefully and be prepared to stand up and holler if promises are not kept. JR

THE BRITISH LEGION

Our October AGM had several guest speakers. Cerys Rowles and Verity Smithson spoke on their trip to Belgium and France. They stayed for the buffet and set up a laptop with more photos and a chance to ask more questions.

Second speaker was the County Chairman, with an update on County and National events. The RBL currently spends more than £1.8 million every week, over 90% raised in the weeks leading up to Remembrance Day. The Ukulele concert was a great success and raised over £500 for the Poppy Appeal.

There was an excellent turn out for the Remembrance Day Parade and for the service on the 11th at the memorial. The next event is a trip to the Coventry Motor museum on the 4th December. Details from the bookshop.

The Legion would like to send their Best Wishes to all for the Festive Season.

David Taylor



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