

The Cleobury Clarion



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December 2016

THANK YOU

On behalf of the parishioners of Cleobury Mortimer the Parish Council would like to thank Bill White Nursery at Far Forest and Nick Davis of Hobsons Brewery for their annual donation of the Christmas trees in the town. Also for the donations in the collection boxes, all very much appreciated.

Thank you to Flo Hadley and the Horticultural Society, who arranged the tree pleaching ready for our annual volunteers to put up the lights, organised by Andy Goold of the Sports & Social Club including Alan Rodgers, Guy Turpin, Carl Brooks, Steve Todd, Paul Southall, David Hinves, Alan Guest and Council Chairman Sean Thorogood. And to Wendy at the Kings Arms, who supplied free coffee and tea and our professional contractors CMK Electrical, I'm just glad we missed the rain.

St Mary's Church has arranged festivities from 4.00 to 6.00pm Saturday December 3rd with the switch on at 5pm by

Father Christmas. There'll be treats for the children from the Parish Council.

As well as the Councillors being volunteers for the community, we are very fortunate to have lots of kind volunteers in Cleobury Mortimer, in groups and organisations, without whose time and efforts throughout the year our community would not be as productive and harmonious as it is. So please keep up the good work and a **big** Thank You to you all. You will know who you are.

Finally, from the Parish Council, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy the festivities and stay safe.

*Matt Sheehan, Parish Clerk,
Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council*

MORE GOOD NEWS

On Page 13 you'll find a very interesting report from Kit Smith. He's been active in the Crime Reduction Group and its involvement in the Smartwater drive and the more recent installation of a system of CCTV

that will record any criminal activity in the town. He then set out to convince his house insurers they should recognise that this is a safer town. And it worked.

ALL WEATHER GOLF



Ross Moorcroft drives off in the warmth of the Cleobury Golf Clubhouse.

Technology in sport keeps on spreading. Cleobury Mortimer launched its own Swing Studio on November 23rd, when David Pain introduced the Sky Trak simulator to an enthusiastic audience. **See Page 35.**

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The Cleobury Clarion, December 2016.
Volume Fourteen - Edition Nine



*The end of a good morning out
in the fresh air. It's the monthly
Parish Walk.
See Page 17.*



*The Editor has been away on
holiday in the East. And we
don't mean Kidderminster.
See Page 23.*



*In Business - Stephen Peregrine
of Hoskins Family Funeral
Services and Stonemasons.
See Page 55.*

And On Other Pages....

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5 - Bowjangles XmasH Carol | 31 - Senior Citizens' Party |
| 7 - 1067 Shoe Boxes sent | 32 - The Social Calendar - Part One |
| 9 - Spare a Thought | 33 - The Social Calendar - Part Two |
| 11 - Christmas Fayre in Ludlow | 35 - Golf Club goes Techno |
| 13 - Reducing Insurance Costs | 37 - On the Buses |
| 15 - The Clarion Jobs Page | 39 - Co-op Store Opens |
| 19 - Severn Edge Vets | 41 - December in the Wyre Forest |
| 21 - Cleobury Patients' Voice | 45 - Cleobury Dental Practice |
| 25 - The Motoring Page | 49 - The Farming Page |
| 27 - Philip Dunne MP | 59 - Local Information |
| 29 - Nineveh Knockout | |

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BOWJANGLES XMASH CAROL

Farlow and Oreton Village Hall present their next exciting Show on Sunday December 11th at 6.30pm.

Bowjangles XmasH Carol begins loosely based on the favourite Dickens book 'A Christmas Carol.' What you can expect is a festive frenzy of Christmas music, song and dance all presented in Bowjangles' unique and inimitable way. Comedy, huge amounts of energy and surprises galore make this family Christmas show one not to be missed.

Bowjangles are a string quartet who can really play. They dance whilst they play. They sing whilst they play. They leap, tumble, juggle and joke whilst they play.

Tickets £10.00 for adults and £5.00 for children are available from 01746 718642 or www.artsalive.co.uk/Live-Performances.

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

In November, we replaced a stile with a kissing gate on the route we opened up in October. The remaining two stiles are fairly easy to get over so at one mile and quite flat, this is an excellent

alternative for the less agile. Starting from our walker friendly golf course where walkers are welcome to park and use the facilities, it can be combined with a drink and/or food at the clubhouse. Get in touch via footpaths@cmfa.co.uk if you would like more information.

There was an unpleasant incident in October when a walker on one of our leaflet routes in Far Forest was intimidated by a farmer threatening them with a tractor. It has been reported to the police. If you are unlucky enough to suffer anything similar, please report it to the Police (via 101) and let us know as well.

The next Parish Walk will be on Boxing Day starting at 10.00 from outside St. Mary's (no walk on the first Sunday in December) and then we will be holding our traditional New Years' Day walk starting at 2.00pm with refreshments in the Kings Arms afterwards. Both of these outings will be aimed at walking off the over indulgence and are very family friendly, but, of course at this time of the year we can expect wet conditions underfoot.

Graham Simpson

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Another year approaches its end as Christmas is almost upon us. If you notice that this issue of the Clarion is slightly smaller at 60 pages, please accept my apology for that. I have been on holiday in Hong Kong and flew back into Heathrow on the 22nd of November to face the task of getting this edition finished and off to the printer by Sunday evening the 27th. Not much relaxation that weekend.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the regular contributors for their highly valued support through another 12 months. Without them and all our advertisers, you would have a pretty thin newsletter to pick up on the first day of every month. And when this is sent off to the printer (another big Thank You to her for remarkable patience and flexibility) work starts on the January issue, because that is printed before Christmas.

But please don't let that little matter bother you at all. Editing this monthly is a pleasure and brings me into contact with a lot of really good people. May I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.
Jim Reynolds



Cleobury Players is your local amateur dramatics society that has provided entertainment for our community for the last forty years. We are always looking for new members to join our cast and crew to support our own productions. We can also provide technical equipment and support to other local groups needing assistance in their own shows if required.

If you would like to find out more, then please get in touch with Annabel (01299 270666 or annabelgemmill@btconnect.com).



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ANOTHER SHOE BOX SUCCESS

Jenny Vanderhook reports:

We did it! One thousand and sixty three shoe boxes were covered and packed in pouring rain on November 21st by a team of wonderful volunteers. Some were in the Scout Hut and the rest were in Saint Mary's Church and we then took them to the warehouse in Stourport. There they will be checked, packed in crates and on December 2nd we will wave 'Goodbye' and the lorry will set off. Five days later it will arrive in Gdansk, the capital of Belarus.

The children of Belarus will have been told they are to get a gift. Having seen their faces as they undo their boxes I can tell you the joy you give to the poorest children is really wonderful. I hope you enjoy packing your boxes as much as I enjoy organising it all. It takes all year to plan it - the next thing is your used Christmas cards, please.

I and my many helpers will now have a well earned rest. My very grateful thanks to you all from the children of Belarus.

Jenny Vanderhook

THE CLANGERS ACCLAIMED

The 3rd annual Old Time Music Hall was a huge success with full houses. After the show the Clangers received many requests but despite these they have decided to give another one next year!

The dates will be Friday/Saturday, 13th/14th October.

Trevor Wood

WALKING FOR HEALTH

Our summer programme of walks finished in November. They were well attended and included outings to Cleobury Golf Club, Clee Hill and Upper Arley. We were very grateful to Lacon Childe School for again providing excellent refreshments. The Summer Programme returns to the Sports and Fitness Centre on March 1st 2017.

Walking for Health will again run a Winter Programme to coincide with CoCo coffee mornings on the second and fourth Wednesdays from December through February. Walks will start from Cleobury Market Hall at 10.00am, no notice of attendance is required. Please come along rain, snow or shine, you can decide at the time

whether to walk or just sample the coffee and CoCo's lovely cakes (small charge). We particularly welcome folk who do not take much exercise or can only manage a short stroll and those uncomfortable with walking alone. These short walks of about 45 mins duration will be mainly on hard surfaces around town as the weather dictates. For further information please contact Alan Kimber 01299 271754.

Graham Simpson

LACON CHILDE SENIOR CITIZEN'S PARTY

This warm and welcoming event that is basically run by the school's pupils will be on Tuesday the 13th this month. As usual, it's free to all Senior Citizens of the parish and will include entertainment as well as the food and drink. It will help the catering no end if you call and book your place, and you can arrange transport at the same time; 270312 is the number.

It's another chance to see our local youngsters at their best, looking after others and being both polite and smart. People we should all be very proud of. See you there.

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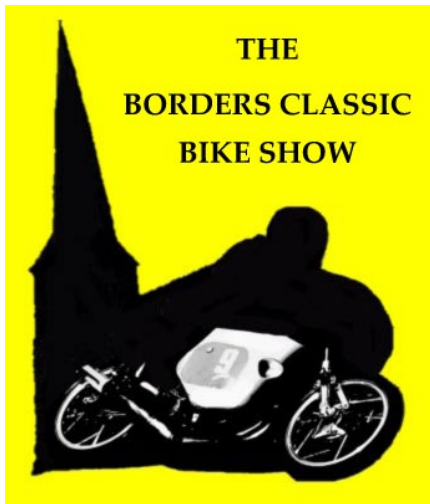
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THANK YOU

On behalf of Sue Brown and the Lacon Childe Parent Teacher Association committee, we would just like to sincerely thank the parents, teachers, staff and local community for all their help and support at this year's Bike Show. Also, a very special thank you to Jim Reynolds for his continued support of Lacon Childe School.

We would also like to thank our suppliers, **Mawley Milk, Katerfresh, Saddlers Barn Eggs, Ashley's Bakery, Posh Potties and Hands on Printing.**

You have helped the PTA raise over £3400 for our school funds. We will also be presenting donations to Macmillan Cancer Support, First Responders and St. Mary's Youth.

Julie Mayall

A BIG THANK YOU

Shaunah Murrell has been out of circulation recently and would like to acknowledge the kindness she found.

I would like to thank all my friends and neighbours for their lovely Get Well cards, phone calls, gifts and visits while I was in hospital for six weeks. I felt much supported and cared for which I am sure helped my recovery.

I would also like to acknowledge the wonderful Care I received at Worcester Royal Infirmary where I had my hip operation, and the After Care in Ward One at Kidderminster General and Ludlow Community Hospital. The food was good too, in all three! In conclusion, CM Bespoke Carers were a tremendous support and encouragement after my discharge from hospital. Their kindness, patience, and understanding of my situation gave me confidence to walk again.

Thank you one and all, and I wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and healthy New Year.

Shaunah Murrell

SPARE A THOUGHT AT CHRISTMAS

Those of us at home with our families for Christmas have a great deal to be thankful for. It's easy to take good health for granted, along with the great support we can call upon from the National Health Service.

So please spare a thought for those less fortunate, and if you have faith, maybe say a little prayer for their recovery.

I'm thinking particularly of Gill Chapman, editor of the church magazine 'Unity', who is home from hospital treatment and in recovery. And Val Simpson, who has contributed so much to this community in the few years she and Graham have lived here; Val has been moved from Hereford Hospital to Worcester, which will make the burden of travelling to see her rather less for Graham, as she gets on with the task of recovery. And Steve Parker, for years a mainstay of the Footpath Association, who is in intensive care in Coventry Hospital as these words are written.

All very fine people, who have done much to make Cleobury the place it is. Please spare a thought for them all and their families.



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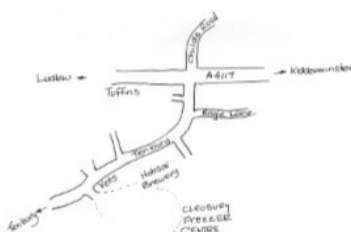
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CHRISTMAS FAYRE IN LUDLOW

There's a rather fine sounding Christmas Fayre at Helena Lane Community Centre in Ludlow on December 20th. It starts at 11.30 and runs until 3.00, with Santa's Grotto open from 12.00 until 2.00. That's a shorter day for the poor old chap, who will be trying to save energy for the Big Night on the 24th, when he delivers lots of presents to the children.

The cafe at the Centre will be open and they'll be offering mince pies and mulled wine, plus a Winter Wonderland Hunt with prizes well as a raffle and tombola. It's all to raise funds for the Centre's Comforts Fund that takes members out to lunches and special outings

through the year. The full address for the Centre is 20 Hamlet Road, Ludlow, SY7 2NP or you can call their office on 01743 257750.

NEEN SAVAGE W.I.

Our AGM was held on November 9th in the Village Hall, when Sandra Dodd gave a talk about Angora rabbits.

Interestingly we heard that Angora wool is the warmest fibre known to man and that the rabbits originate from Turkey.

They have been bred to be many sizes. Sandra brought her own rabbit, Dylan, and presented some knitted items demonstrating the versatility of the fibre and her skill at spinning and knitting. Her presentation included the darker side of fur farming and urged us

all to avoid purchasing items containing Angora wool unless it has been ethically sourced.

Our December meeting has been moved to the afternoon of December 14th at the Clive Hotel, Ludlow, where members will be partaking of Afternoon Tea. If anyone who is not a member would like to join us, the cost will be £12.50. Please contact Sandra Dodd - our new president - on CM 271563 for more details.

There will be no evening meeting on 14th December at Neen Savage Village Hall.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Julie Hobin



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INSURANCE RISK REDUCTION – A REAL RESULT

Kit Smith has some very good news:

Cleobury Mortimer has successfully reduced the risk of burglary and theft in the town due to the efforts of the Crime Reduction Group, with the full support of the Parish Council.

The Crime Reduction Group, organised and secured funding from the Crime Commissioner and our Parish Council, to install 12 new up-to-date CCTV cameras, which record images 24/7.

This will allow valuable and accurate images to be downloaded by the Police after any incident reported, which would be used to prosecute any criminals, using reliable camera evidence in court.

The very active and growing Group, earlier this year worked with the Police, Housing Association and the Parish Council and achieved Smartwater town status with in excess of 85% coverage of homes and their contents. Cleobury Mortimer is the first town to achieve that status.

The combined effect of the new CCTV and Smartwater has

helped to make the community feel safer and appears to have deterred theft and minor incidents.

Some local towns and villages have reported higher incidents of theft while our town has recorded less. Several neighbouring communities are now using Cleobury as a model and following suit.

As an active member of the group I have pursued my NFU Mutual Insurance agency and their underwriters to lower my Insurance premium. After constant correspondence they now believe that there is a significantly reduced risk to them as insurers in Cleobury Mortimer. They have confirmed a 15% reduction on my household insurance – a very welcome and positive result of all the work by our community. My contact has been Tracey McCarvill, NFU 01304 825225

I would urge other members of the community to ask their insurance companies to take similar action to reduce their insurance premiums, reflecting their insurer's reduced risk. You may wish to contact my NFU Tracey - number above - or Evie at Ludlow NFU on 01584 872416.

Please contact the Parish Clerk with any success you have so it can be passed on.

Kit Smith

BOXING DAY TRACTOR RUN

This sounds like a light hearted way of taking some fresh air - and maybe getting a little mud on your boots - on December 26th. It's the annual tractor run that raises funds for the Kidderminster Prostate Cancer Support Group.

The tractors meet at the Callow Hill Sports Pavilion at 9.00 for breakfast and at 10.00 set off via the Forest for Bewdley, where they have a short break. They may even shake an occasional collecting tin at spectators, to help the fund along.

Then the drivers all climb back on board and drive through the Forest again to Callow Hill. It's normal to use older tractors on these runs and you can expect to see famous names like Ferguson and Fordson Major as they trundle gently past.

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A PARISH WALK

We list these monthly social outings in the calendar, but maybe don't give them enough coverage. After all, they're free, friendly and an excellent chance to see some of the local countryside from an entirely different aspect. The editor put on his walking boots, grabbed a camera and joined the 10.00am November 6th gathering outside the Market Hall....

Timing is everything for a late autumn walk and on the morning of November 6th there was hardly a cloud in the bright blue sky. 21 people had looked at the weather and thought this was too good to miss. Leader Diane explained the procedure of walking along a narrow road in the best position to be seen and set off at a brisk pace, taking the back lane to join Tenbury Road before branching off across the fields to join the lane down towards Barnslands Farm. A short way down the lane we turned right and crossed more fields, progress delayed by the inevitable queue at each stile, where the agility of the younger members shone.



The queue at each stile gives the stragglers a chance to catch up.

The early pace eased over the rougher surfaces and some of the long climbs out of the many small valleys we crossed saw those out of condition, like the editor, stopping to admire the view. Well, that's what they'd have you believe, but not that they were unable to keep up.

There were clouds gathering, but no hint of rain. The effect upon the views was interesting, with patches of brightly lit turf shining out from the areas shaded by cloud. It's part of the fascination of walking in fine countryside, to watch the scenes changing as the light varies.

We joined the lane to Neen Sollars at Southwood Farm and headed for the Tenbury Road before branching off again to stop at the Waddingtons' place at Bransley. Excellent bread pudding and mulled cider were served and the breathless given time to gather strength before we were off again. Up the lane to cross the Ludlow Road and head towards the ornate pumping station and wonder at the widespread store of large pipes in a nearby field. There's a lot of hardware hidden deep below the surface around the area of that reservoir.

Another diversion, this time leaving Green Lane and heading for Cleobury Mortimer, a welcome sight in the middle distance. Cross the Catherton Road and take another field path to join the footpath through the parkland that neighbours the Lacon Childe School sports field. The autumn colours that had brightened our way were still there as we walked through the park, people agreeing that we are

very fortunate to have such a facility in the town.



Nearing the end of the outing, with the distant spire of Saint Mary's beckoning us on.

It's a tradition that these early month walks end back in the town centre, with the warmth of the King's Arms' log fire to take away the chill. A very civilised way of rounding off the morning, but the editor had work to do and headed back to the office. Will he ever learn?

Deana Kimber raised a good question as we walked: How many kissing gates has the Footpath Association installed since they moved on from old fashioned stiles to the easier to use metal gates? Nobody could provide an answer and it seems a check with the County Council will be necessary to get an accurate figure. They certainly do a lot of good work keeping local pathways clear and in use.

The next Parish Walk will be on December 5th and you'll find a warm welcome at 10.00 that morning, outside the Market Hall. It's a good day out.

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Tis the season to be jolly! Winter and Christmas time brings joy to man and pet alike, but there are some festive risks that every pet owner needs to be aware of:

- ❖ **Chocolate** – we all love it! Chocolate has a toxic component for dogs and cats called theobromine. Cacao and dark chocolate has the most. It can cause vomiting, diarrhoea, hyperactivity and even heart problems. At high doses it can trigger seizures and even death. Fortunately making your pet vomit and giving them activated charcoal helps reduce the risk of problems and if enough has been consumed then hospitalisation is sometimes required.
- ❖ **Grapes, raisins, sultanas and currants** – makes you think of Christmas pudding doesn't it? But these are all associated with kidney injury in dogs and cats and can lead to kidney failure! The association between the amount eaten and the severity is not known, so any amount can be very dangerous. Again making the pet vomit as soon as possible is important. The first signs of toxicity are lethargy and sometimes vomiting, followed by depression and irreversible kidney damage. The signs usually appear in the first 24 hours but by then it is often too late.
- ❖ **Xylitol** – the sweetest of treats! This a commonly used sweetener in candy and in some baking goods. It is also found in chewing gum and dental products. But this popular sweetener is very toxic for dogs and even a very small amount can cause low blood sugar, lethargy, tremors and seizures. A high dose will cause liver failure and can be fatal for most dogs. Making your dog vomit straight after eating anything that has xylitol and putting them on a drip is crucial.
- ❖ **Human pain reliefs** – for all those after-party headaches! Ibuprofen and paracetamol are readily available over-the-counter and are also found in almost every home. Paracetamol, even at the smallest dose will cause your cat's red blood cells to die and can lead to liver failure in dogs. Some cats might even need a blood transfusions to survive. Ibuprofen causes vomiting, diarrhoea and lethargy, and can lead to kidney insufficiency and seizures. Making dogs and cats vomit as quick as possible and

fluid therapy reduces the risk of complications.

- ❖ **Onions and garlic** – ah, pies and roasts! They go into many human foods that cats and dogs find delicious and you might find your cat or dog is lethargic and has pale gums if eaten. These vegetables can cause severe anaemia. If caught early making them vomit can prevent serious blood loss otherwise intensive care and even a blood transfusion might be required.
- ❖ **Antifreeze** – the one that helps you drive to Nan's Christmas dinner! Ethylene glycol is the chemical in antifreeze that tastes sweet for our four-legged friends. It is toxic for dogs, cats, humans and rabbits alike and as little as a teaspoon can be deadly for a full grown cat. Signs like depression and lethargy, or even vomiting are the first one. But this chemical is renowned for causing kidney failure. Prompt vomit induction and fluid therapy are needed. The first sign to be suspicious off is the dog or cat licking the ground or their lips around a car that had antifreeze replaced recently or in the garage that has antifreeze.

So with all of the festive merriment please try to remember your four legged friends and should you be concerned please phone your vet for some advice whatever the time of day.

We hope that this will help keeping your pets safe over the holidays and wish you a Purrfect Christmas!

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Cleobury Patients' Voice: Update

As we went to press, the Board of the local Community Health Trust (which operates Ludlow and Bridgnorth Hospitals as well as community nursing and child health services) was meeting to approve a recommendation to terminate its own existence. It has decided that it isn't large enough, nor does it have the ability or capacity to handle the changes expected of it by Shropshire's new Sustainability and Transformation Plan for the future of local healthcare (a plan that has still not been published for public consumption). Regional NHS mandarins have agreed that the Trust will not be financially or clinically sustainable in the future. Given its seeming determination to close as many beds in Ludlow Hospital as possible, for example, this comes as no great surprise to some of us, although it must be acknowledged that it has been starved of funds by 'austerity' so has been placed in an unenviable position.

The Trust anticipates replacement by a larger organisation and is particularly keen on the concept of the MCP, or multi-speciality community

provider. This is a new model defined as a partnership between GPs, community services, mental health services, social care and low-level acute services. You might well ask how all of these parties are going to bind themselves together into an efficient organisation capable of managing a multi-million-pound budget to deliver effective (and, no doubt, cheaper) health services. You wouldn't be the first, and already one such arrangement in the East Midlands has crashed and burnt in less than a year as a result of inadequate financial and legal arrangements (and despite the involvement of some prominent advisors). The Trust describes GPs as being the 'cornerstone' of the new MCP: I wonder how enthusiastic some of our already overstretched GPs will be about taking this on too.

Part of the grand plan for Shropshire healthcare involves the creation of 'Neighbourhoods', defined as building 'resilient communities', creating population-level behavioural change (!) and delivering care closer to home. The role of Community and Care Co-

ordinator is identified as fundamental to this and it is not as well-known as it should be that Katja Jones, familiar to many from her work with CoCo, already performs this role at the Medical Centre, albeit with precious little funding. Also not well-known as yet is the suggestion, on the part of the local health authority (Shropshire CCG), that this funding should be withdrawn. Does the right hand have any idea of what the left is up to?

An LJC meeting in Cleobury is being planned for January on the subject of these healthcare plans. Many of the significant players are expected to attend so watch out for further details. In the meantime, CPV meets at the Medical Centre every third Monday of the month at 6:30pm. We always welcome new members so if you would like to get involved please contact us: telephone 01299 407224, email cleoburypatientsvoice@hotmail.co.uk or make use of our comments box in the Medical Centre's reception area.

Mark Radford





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EASTERN TRAVELS

I'd seen her in pictures and Skype images, but never actually held my fifth grandchild. Holly was born in Singapore on Christmas Day 2015 and moved to Hong Kong within two months. The chance to see and hold her came with an invitation from Iain, my older son, to fly out there.

It took eleven quiet and comfortable hours on a BA Airbus 380 to land there, the clothes needed in chilly England suddenly far too hot. The taxi ride to Iain and Elena's apartment on Prince Edward Road West in Kowloon (there's a reminder that this was once part of the British Empire) revealing a land of sky scraping office and apartment blocks. Not all of them on the American scale, but reflecting the philosophy that if land is expensive you build vertically. How expensive? A new world record for a parking space was set here recently - 600,000 US dollars!

You can't realistically expect a child to immediately accept the presence of a stranger walking into a household and wanting to pick her up. Her older sister Sophie, a shade under two years older, was much more relaxed about Grandad, having recently seen me on Skype, but I suspect not remembering my visit last year. It would take a little time to get to know then both.

Shorts and sandals were standard wear, the temperature in the mid 20s Centigrade every day. One of the benefits of city living Kowloon style is the range of shops within a short walk, the food and supermarket outlets open seven days a week. Beer, one of life's essentials in a

warm climate, came at a price that was a pleasant surprise after Singapore last year. Would you believe £13 for a pint of Guinness at the renowned Raffles Hotel? In Hong Kong one buys decent craft beers for between £2 and 3 a bottle.

Daughter in law Elena showed me some of the highlights, notably The Peak. It's the highest hill in the area, reached by a cable car from a city centre station, where we queued for more than an hour before getting aboard using the elbows technique learned in London in my youth. I may be a country boy (fogey?) these days, but I found it easy to think city style again.

The view from the Peak was limited by slight mist and the gathering dusk, but the stretches of high buildings were very impressive. Back to the apartment, where the children had been fed and watered.



Holly, who I had not held until this visit.

Eating was a mixture of home cooking, Mexican takeaway and just visiting a known restaurant, where the children were made very welcome and high chairs

offered as a matter of course. I found this aspect of service much stronger than we have here in the UK.



Sophie, three in February and a very independent young lady

A brief visit to the island of Macau for the 63rd annual Grand Prix showed how flexible people can be in keeping business going while racing roars through the city centre. This is regarded as the Las Vegas of China, with casinos galore and more pawn shops than food shops.

Hong Kong is a very mixed race community, its shopping malls mostly dominated by the predictable big brand names. But how many Prada, Rolex, Dior or Gucci shops do you need? I found the local Moko Mall more interesting and the street markets a place for a little bargaining. I was offered a fan for 120 HK Dollars and Elena just walked away; 200 metres down the road a similar one was bought for 25 HK. Local advice is a great help.

I flew home knowing what a great experience the place and my family can offer. Can't wait to go back. Landed at Heathrow at 4.45am and got back to work on the Clarion until jetlag hit

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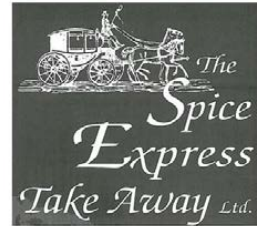
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AIRPORT PARKING

It can be a nightmare, particularly if you're sitting in a long jam and watching planes take off as your arrival deadline ticks ever nearer. I can remember a Stansted meeting with Charlie the advertising sales manager of a magazine I was working for. I'd done that dreary A14 haul from the west, he just made it after a frustrating tour from Surrey up the M25. He left his car in the first available place, the short term car park, and we made the Ryanair flight to what they called Brussels.

It was actually Charleroi, which happened to be where the customer we were visiting was based. Two nights there, then back to Blighty, to find that Charlie's parking bill was more than the air fares for us both! Not a good experience.

I'm happy to say that the world has moved on since then. When I flew to Hong Kong in November, I'd booked a space in the Terminal 5 long term car park and on arrival the camera recognised my registration number and flashed up a personal welcome message.

Returning at 4.45am 12 nights later, which cost me what I thought was a very reasonable £100, I took the shuttle out to my

faithful steed, only to find the battery as flat as Norfolk and me without mobile phone or AA membership. It must have been about 5.30 in the morning when I found the office open and a very sympathetic lady who checked my details and called for a jump start van to come to my rescue.

"Do I pay the man, or you?" I asked. "No charge, sir" was the answer as I walked out a lot happier than I walked in. The van arrived minutes after I'd got back to the car and within a few more minutes it fired up first touch of the button. Needless to say I paid the man, whatever the rules said. And when I reached the exit, the car number was recognised and the barrier went up. Brilliant service.

YOU NEVER STOP LEARNING

I have no love of Vauxhall cars, the legacy of three years driving a Victor 101 estate and putting over 100,000 uncomfortable miles on the clock. Bench seat, rotten gear change, poor spares service, it was totally unlovely. Today I occasionally see one at a classic car event and wonder who could ever think one of those worth restoring and preserving. Ergonomic disaster.

Then I had a current model Corsa as a loan car when my own car was in for a minor crash repair. And what a revelation that little car was.



It was a 1.4 litre petrol model, that surprised me with its gentle whisper when first started up; I could hardly hear the engine. On local trips it pulled strongly, proved to have a very pleasant gear change and offered a radio that was super simple to operate. Nothing over fancy, just everything doing what you wanted easily. Taut handling, quiet cruising at 60 to 70mph and a comfortable place to be.

Ashley Pugh has told me more than once how popular these cars are, both new and second hand. Now I realise why - so easy to live with and relatively cheap to service and run. That's another prejudice put right and a lesson learned,

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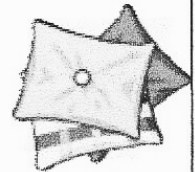
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It hardly seems possible that only a year has passed since I wrote my last Christmas letter from Westminster. David Cameron was still our Prime Minister, leading a recently elected Conservative majority Government in Parliament; I was still a Defence Minister; Barack Obama was still US President; Britain a member of the European Union, looking likely to vote to Remain so.

12 months on, and so much in the world of politics has changed. Theresa May has become Prime Minister, leading a Government in which I am serving as Minister of State for Health. This was not a move I anticipated, but I have relished getting to know more about the healthcare system on which we all rely, and working to improve it for all.

Despite a campaign where both camps were mired in controversy, Donald Trump has beaten Hillary Clinton to become the 45th President of the United States in January. He will have a major task to heal the divisions revealed through this campaign, while delivering his pledges to the American people. But for the first time in years the new President will have support from the majority in both Houses of Congress. I look forward to continued close Anglo-US cooperation on major issues of common concern, especially trade, security and defence.

At home, the people voted to leave the European Union. The Government will respect and implement the decision of the people, as promised in the manifesto on which I stood in 2015. There will be tough negotiations ahead, but it will be important to make the best for Britain from the future relationships we will forge with EU member states and countries beyond Europe.

Like many, I will be hoping political events in 2017 will not keep up the phenomenal pace of change we have seen this year. Political life is always fast paced, changeable and hard to predict, but there is little expectation of events so momentous in the coming year.

It must be said that this year even the political things that haven't changed were unpredictable – Jeremy Corbyn has won a second election as leader of the Labour Party despite a no confidence vote from 80% of voting Labour MPs and mass shadow cabinet resignations. Now he looks set to stay for the long-haul. UKIP elected a new leader, who promptly resigned, so Nigel Farage is back as leader once again, apparently only a caretaker.

Politics never stands still, and I anticipate further challenges in the year ahead. But this follows what I hope will be a relaxing Christmas and/or New Year break for readers. Before spending time with my family, I shall be visiting those who make Christmas special for all of us and keep us safe when we need them – posties, police, paramedics and other health workers, who are preparing to cope with the pressure the Christmas season brings.

To all those sending cards and gifts, remember the last mainland posting dates to arrive for Christmas are Tuesday 20th December for Second Class Mail, Wednesday 21st December for First Class Mail, or Thursday 22nd December for Special Delivery Guaranteed.

I wish all readers a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

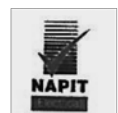
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A RIGHT TASTY PICKLE

We featured Lynne the Pickle Lady back in the August Clarion, with a picture of her in front of the runner beans growing in her Bewdley garden.

Since then parter Phil has shown us the Runner Bean Pickle that the crop has produced and so far we're on the second jar. If you like some strong flavour in your pickle, do give this one a try.

NINEVEH KNOCKOUT

Pippa Bannister brought three of her students from Nineveh Care Farm at Bayton to the October and November markets. They were showing off the range of goodies produced by The Nineveh Project from old pallets and any unwanted timber people have been kind enough to donate.

This is being written before the November market, but we do know that in October they sold over £200 worth and went back to the farm feeling very proud of what they'd achieved. Quite right too.

It's too early to say if they will become a monthly attraction, but this first venture into the world of selling what

you make certainly worked well and who knows where they'll go from such a strong start.



Three well pleased young men from Nineveh Care Farm, with just a part of the range of goodies they can produce.

They'll probably be at the Christmas Market on the 17th and it's well worth a look to see what unusual little and medium sized gifts they have to offer.

It's a feature of the market to let a local association or charity have a free place to promote their activities to the public. It's

normally for just one market, as there's a queue for the privilege; any of the team can tell you more on CM 272300.

THIS MONTH AT THE MARKET

Expect the Christmas spirit to be in evidence at this month's Farmers' Market, with music and carols to add to the friendly atmosphere. We have heard mention of mulled wine, but that's not a definite.

The people behind the market deserve recognition, as it's a very small team of volunteers who meet at 7.30 to start setting up the church with stalls and after it's all over, deal with the clearing up.

A round of applause, if you please, for manager Clare Todd, volunteers Steve and Iris Todd and Cleobury Country directors John Povall and David Webb and his lady wife. All of them have busy lives quite apart from the market. but give time and effort willingly.

SILLY BITS

Long ago, when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft. Today, it's called golf.

A promotional banner for the Cleobury Country Farmers Market. The banner has a dark background with a rainbow-colored wavy border at the top and bottom. On the left, there is a circular logo for Cleobury Country Farmers Market featuring a church and a sun. The text in the center reads: "CLEOBURY COUNTRY FARMERS MARKET IN AND AROUND ST MARY'S CHURCH SATURDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2015 FROM 9.30AM TO 12.30PM". On the right side, there are several stylized flowers in shades of yellow, orange, and brown.

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Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Thurs 1st		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 2nd	10.00	Picklelilly Christmas Magic Show at Moffats School for children 2-5yrs old with parent or carer. Admission free, but book a place.		01299 841 230
	1.00	Advent Soup Lunch served up in the Market Hall. Raising funds for Severn Hospice		
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall, with plenty of parking space safely off road.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 3rd	4.00	Christmas Fayre in the Parish Church, with Father Christmas in attendance.		
	5.00	THE TOWN'S CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WILL BE SWITCHED ON		
Wed 7th	7.00	Local Joint Committee meeting in the Market Hall. Open to all to have your say.		
	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 8th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 9th	1.00	Advent Soup Lunch again at the Market Hall. Lots more besides the food.		
	8.00	Christmas Bingo at Cleeton St Mary Village Hall.		
Sun 11th	6.30	Bowjangles Xmas Carol is a special family Christmas event at Farlow & Oretton Village Hall. SEE PAGE 5. Tickets from 01746 718 642.		
Mon 12th	7:30	Cleobury Mortimer WI gather at the Market Hall for their Christmas Meal.		
Tues 13th	1.30	Lacon Childe School host their annual Senior Citizens' Party, free to all OAP's in the parish, with live entertainment. Great Community occasion.		CM 270 312
Wed 14th	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall. Cuppa and cake for £1.50!		
		Neen Savage WI will be taking Afternoon Tea at the Clive Hotel, Ludlow and will not have their usual meeting at the Village Hall. SEE PAGE 5.		

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The December Social Calendar Continued

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Wed 14th	8.00	The royal British Legion meet at the Bell Inn, Lower Street	David Taylor	CM 270793
Thu 15th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 16th	1.00	Final Advent Soup Lunch in the Market Hall.		
	8.00	Final 2016 bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 17th	9.30	Cleobury Country Farmers Market, in and around the Parish Church. Good place to add to the Christmas treats, plus a great festive atmosphere with music		
Tues 20th	11.30a m	Christmas Fayre at Helena Lane Community Centre, 20 Hamlet Road, Ludlow, including Santa's Grotto. PAGE 11.		
	2.00	Special showing of a Vintage Film of Old Cleobury at the Parish Hall in Church Street. £3.00 a head to see if you're on there!		
Thur 22nd		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Sun 25th		A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL. MAY IT BRING YOU JOY AND HAPPINESS.		
Mon 26th		Boxing Day Tractor Run from Callow Hill Sports Pavilion to Bewdley town and back again. SEE PAGE 25		
Sat 31st		New Year's Eve and parties all over!		
Sun Jan 1st 2017		A VERY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR TO ALL		

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THE GOLF CLUB ADOPTS TECHNO

To a non-golfer this was a step into a mysterious world. I don't mean talking to keen club players or being impressed that 80 or so people turned up on a weekday evening to hear about a new step in tuition. It was the extent to which technology can take one strike of the ball in a studio setting and analyse every aspect. No matter what excuses you normally make in the bar after a bad game, this little box comes up with the merciless truth.

It was the launch of Cleobury Golf Club's Swing Studio, with coach David Pain welcoming the curious and supervising a series of demonstrations in what some of us know better as the dance area for social occasions. The whole point of this ingenious Sky Trak system is that it can be carried to almost any venue and set up to let golfers drive off and then read the detailed analysis off.

The basis is a curtained area with a mat as the driving green surface and a range of famous courses available on the screen that the golfer faces. From Saint Andrews to Augusta, you can choose your venue and then the hole you want to tackle.

All of this indoors, where the weather can't spoil the occasion. We watched as a series of volunteers stepped up to the tee and drove down the green. Well, down the screen actually, but with just a touch of imagination you could dream you were out on some exotic course. They were using real clubs and balls, and when one man wanted a left handed club he was handed David's own.

The little black box that sits by the ball on the tee then projected its detailed analysis onto the screen, giving a wide range of measurements and directional accuracy.



Ross Moorcroft drives off.

This new development is David's baby, an extra facility to add to the coaching that he has built up since training for the job. He was rather overwhelmed by the response: "I was hoping we might get 30 or so people, but the number was nearer 80, and we got really good feedback," he reported the following morning. The reception on the evening was certainly very positive, with lots of enquiries and the range of special spots sold out.

He's certainly a very busy young man, putting in 40 hours a week in his work as a director of the club and another 30 hours in a normal week's coaching.

It was interesting to talk to members who have a high regard for the way the Pain family runs the club, feet firmly on the ground and a friendly atmosphere that draws members of several other clubs to play the range of 27 holes on what must be one of the most attractive grounds. Ann from Spire Hairdressers and husband Mel have been members from the beginning and can tell how they used to walk through mud in days before the tarmac got up to the clubhouse. Looks like a winning formula.

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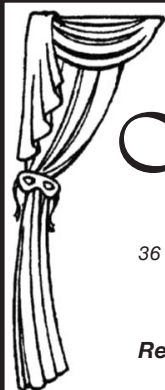
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Unfortunately, the meeting with Shropshire Council to discuss the bus situation and possible solutions was postponed from the beginning of the month and is now scheduled for 29 November so any report will be too late to feature in this month's column. However, the LJC meeting in Cleobury in the evening of Wednesday 7th December is still on and the agenda will include an update on the bus situation. It will be in the Market Hall starting at 7pm so get there if you can.

On the operating front, there have been several incidents during the month including a breakdown at Hollywaste and a much delayed 9.17 on the 8th caused by the bus being 'delayed by a lorry' apparently. Must have been a very slow lorry as the bus didn't appear in Cleobury until 9.55. The Transport Minister recently announced in the House of Lords that, in future, bus operators will be required to give better on board information to help deaf and blind passengers. This would include information on routes, stopping points and diversions but in the case of Diamond even the drivers don't know this, let alone the passengers.

As an example, there was a problem with yet another driver not knowing the route around Bewdley and having to ask for directions. Apparently, he looked about 14 (mind you, everyone looks young to me these days) and had to be pointed in the right direction. Fortunately, Liz Bishop was on hand and took him under her wing ensuring that everyone arrived safely. She must be getting used to these duties by now and should perhaps be awarded her Navigators wings. There was also a report in the 'Shuttle' about a Swedish tourist who wanted to catch a bus from Kiddy to Stourport. After two buses failed to appear, she gave up and got a taxi...

A study by the University of Leeds recently concluded that a 10% improvement in local bus

services in the 10% most deprived neighbourhoods in England would create thousands of new jobs and increase people's income. They said that bus investment was not just a matter of transport policy but also had positive effects on health, education skills, wellbeing and social cohesion - Shropshire Council please note. As I mentioned last month, I have invited Philip Dunne to accompany me from Kidderminster to Ludlow on the 2L and have said I will take food parcel to sustain us in case of disaster. I'll let you know what the response is.

You may recall that last time there was a mention of the concept of 'Shared Spaces' in which all signs, pavements etc are removed from a certain area which is then to be shared between vehicles and pedestrians. I tried the Kiddy version out and can't say I was impressed. It is helped slightly by the fact that most traffic (apart from delivery vehicles coming from the Rowland Hill Centre) is approaching from only one direction but, even so, I saw several people wander across without realising that the traffic shared the same space. Several local Councillors have expressed concerns about the layout but Wyre Forest Council have expressed confidence in the scheme so that's all right then...

Still no sign of the the Shropshire Council Bus Strategy consultation which was said to be starting in October but as I write this in late November, there has been nothing. Given that the consultation was due to be finished about now this needs to be monitored just in case something is slipped through on the quiet (perish the thought...)

STOP PRESS!. A burnt out Diamond bus has just been seen being recovered from the A449 at Ombersley. Probably the 303 Kiddy to Worcester so if you are thinking of using this service, be afraid, be very afraid...

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THE CO-OP STORE IS OPEN



Such a contrast with the old Tuffins store. The spanking new Co-op on the West End site.

It's been a long job and rumours talk of a cost running into several millions. What was Harry Tuffins is now a branch of the Midcounties Co-operative, that opened its doors to the public last month.

It's a credit to the town, the sort of place this community deserves, with a very smart store backing up the new fuel station and a proper parking layout for visitors.

The prices when we first visited were very keen indeed, and will inevitably

hit some of the other local businesses. But you would expect a powerful group like the Co-op to announce its new place with offers that will draw people in. That will have an immediate effect upon rival shops, but we would expect prices to settle down to a competitive level with selected special offers, in the normal manner of new names.

What we as the shopping public should be glad about is the confidence in this community that such a big investment represents.

Elliott Cook is the manager with a big responsibility to guide this newcomer to the main street to success. It's a warm and welcoming place, with some familiar faces on the team and wide, uncluttered aisles to move around. Both store and fuel service are open from 6.00 in the morning until 11.00 at night, seven days a week. It looks like a real asset.

VERY EARLY NOTICE

The Parish Council are backing a new venture in

2017. It's called the Cleobury Community Celebration and is scheduled for June 10th. The concept is a family fun day, celebrating local groups, organisations and talented individuals.

The main movers are Parish Council clerk Matt Sheehan and a newcomer to the town, Peter Blackburn, who has a long term service record with the Police . They promise more news in the New Year, so watch this space.

STRANGE....

We published a very friendly letter from the Parent Teacher Association of Cleobury Primary School recently. It thanked all the people who support their Christmas Fair that raises funds for the children and is a big attraction for the children.

But upon enquiring about the date of this year's Fair for the Social Calendar, we were told that it's not going to happen! Very sad.

SILLY BIT

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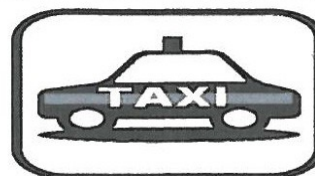


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It's pretty quiet on the farm at the moment. There's a flock of Wiltshire Horn ewes on an extended visit, minding their own business in the cider orchard hay field. The chickens squawk and mutter occasionally, but one cockerel is definitely quieter than two, and I've got used to him leading the hens on cheeky forays over the gate into the flower garden. The boy lambs (wethers) and the two pigs have gone to provide some very tasty dinners, such being their *raison d'être*. The cattle herd are cared for by the Wyre Community Land Trust and only occasionally come to Uncllys to munch our grass and have their annual TB test.

This makes life easier for the farmers in the winter months. We have our work cut out for us keeping the house warm by barrowing logs from the woodstores to the stoves, and if there's a freeze we'll be getting water to the livestock. Winter is the time for traditional tasks such as

pruning, mending fences and machinery and hedgelaying.

In the forest itself the last of the leaves are dropping from the oaks. Big drifts of leaves have been on the ground for a month now but are gradually being nibbled away by worms, millipedes, woodlice and suchlike helped by fungi and bacteria, so that their nutrients and organic fibres are added to the woodland soil. Recently I helped to dig out a heap of beech leaf mould (compost) and it was noticeable that, despite having stood for two years, the leaves are still not completely broken down. The leaves of the each tree species will have a slightly different chemical composition and not only show a range of resistance to decomposition but attract a different assemblage of organisms to feed on them. Carbon dioxide is released into the soil as they are broken down, so that there is more in a forest soil than in the column of air above it from ground level to the top of the atmosphere (see Michael Allaby's *Woodland Trust Book of British Woodlands*.) This 'carbon sink' effect is a very precious attribute of woodlands and one which is reversed when forests are cleared.

Now that the trees are bare we are able to see through them again, and the holly is once more king of the forest with its shiny evergreen leaves and bright red berries. No wonder we use it to brighten our Christmas season!

Linda Iles

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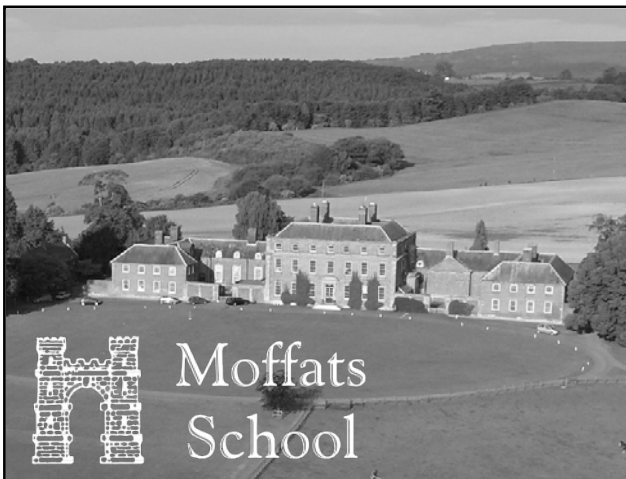
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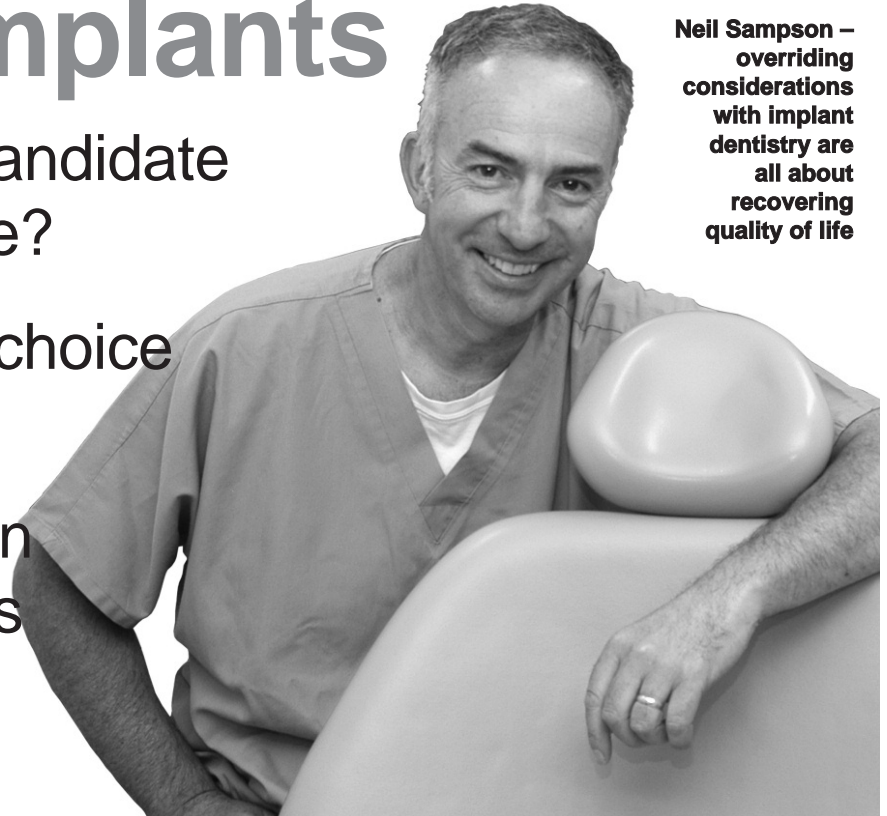
Dental implants

❑ Am I a good candidate for this procedure?

❑ Best possible choice for missing teeth

❑ Perfect solution for loose dentures

Neil Sampson – overriding considerations with implant dentistry are all about recovering quality of life



IT'S HARD to imagine after losing natural teeth things could ever be quite the same again. Even the loss of a single tooth is now recognised as a serious life event.

And for most, with the loss of teeth comes an emotional hurdle – now clinically recognised as a mourning process and recently highlighted in the British Dental Nurses' Journal.

The article noted the loss of one or more natural teeth is "a serious life event that can result in significant disability by impacting on daily living activities, including chewing food adequately, preferred food selection and speech."

Less visible, however, and perhaps more significant, is the way it can compromise social interaction. Losing teeth and having teeth that are failing can erode confidence and dislocate lifestyles by embarrassment or discomfort.

And the same can also be said of dentures that are unstable and uncomfortable.

Although recent figures suggest oral health is improving, millions of UK adults suffer with tooth loss.

Solutions without dental implants have been around for a long time – indeed, bridges, full dentures and partial dentures still offer excellent options.

But a growing number of people have found a renewed confidence by having teeth supported on implants, small titanium anchor points that fuse into our jawbone.

It's a procedure still often perceived as only for the very rich and Hollywood A-listers. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Keen finance packages – Cleobury Dental Practice is currently offering interest free

Who can benefit?

- Those with missing single teeth due to gum disease, trauma or decay
- People with teeth that are mobile and painful
- Denture wearers experiencing stability problems.
- Those with multiple missing teeth. Implants can support bridges without compromising adjacent teeth
- Those for whom root canal therapy has failed
- People whose crowns are damaged or the tooth structure beneath them no longer offers enough integrity for a replacement

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deals on implant loans – have put this hugely creative therapy, with increasingly predictable clinical outcomes, within reach.

Improved patient education also means more are becoming aware that replacing missing teeth with implants is a worthy lifestyle investment and if cared for could last a lifetime.

Smile of your dreams

Implants are effectively substitute tooth roots and form a stable foundation for replacement teeth that look, feel and function like natural teeth.

Implant restorations can also create the smile of your dreams.

The preferred choice of dentists for fixed replacement teeth, Cleobury Dental's implant surgeon Neil Sampson MFGDP(UK) BDS Birmingham GDC 60624, says: "Implants present a choice of clinical options for us to explore, but the overriding considerations with implant dentistry are all about recovering

quality of life. Procedures can also restore confidence and enable a better social experience for the patient.

"Ultimately those considering implants have to ask themselves how much their smile is worth."

An experienced implant dentist, Neil won Dentist of the Year with Oasis Dental Care in 2010 for his "personal approach and expertise in the area of dental implantology."

One of his Cleobury patients, who has had three implants placed – two for crowns with single teeth and one to support a two-tooth bridge – says: "Neil was so generous with his time, put me at ease and explained everything to me and that the process would take a few months.

"He was so calm and it's easy to trust him."

A dentist with a long experience of advanced restorative and aesthetic treatment, Neil is a member of the Association of Dental Implantology.



For appointments & information call:

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**There will be no FLICKS this month due to all the Christmas
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We will recommence in January.

However due to popular demand we will be holding a second showing of
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On TUESDAY 20th DECEMBER commencing at 2.00pm

**All are welcome to enjoy the film at a cost of £3 per person to include tea/
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Do come along you may see yourself on film!

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With the harvest and autumn planting well under our belt, this time of year our focus turns to housing the cattle over winter and the many maintenance and servicing jobs that have to be done to the machinery that has been busy all summer. The Mawley herd continues to work hard to produce our Mawley Milk. There are currently 250 cows in milk, with an additional 45 'dry cows' who are in the rest period before milking. Last month we had 26 calves born. We keep all our calves - the bulls for beef and the heifers join the milking herd at around 2-3 years of age.

We continue to supply the independent shops in our town six mornings a week. With our on-site pasteurising and bottling of the milk, the pint you pick up in Cleobury has only travelled the mile and a half from the farm to the High Street! We also travel a little further afield to Ludlow/Church Stretton to the west, Bridgnorth to the north, Worcester

and Kidderminster/Bromsgrove to the south and east. Our aim has always been to keep it local and we are very grateful to our loyal customers, some of whom have been purchasing our milk for many years!

Although we do not provide a direct doorstep delivery any longer, Sean Boden & Son are doing a super service for the community, delivering our milk and cream and other goods to the doorstep.

If you don't receive a Christmas card from us, please don't be offended - you aren't off the list. Instead of sending cards we make a donation to a charity very close to our own hearts - Little Hearts Matter. Also for every 4 pint of Semi Skimmed milk we sell this December, we will donate 5p per carton to the Birmingham Children's Hospital - look out for our special labels. We wish you all a happy Christmas and peaceful 2017.

Rachel



The photo on our charity label is a gorgeous view of our lovely town in the frost, by our friend Leigh Griffiths.

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Hoskins' Family Funeral Services is a long established company that can trace its foundation back to 1878. By 1996 Ray Hoskins, the third generation in charge, decided to retire and Stephen Peregrine bought the company.

Stephen had been in the funeral business for 20 years and knew that the Hoskins name along with the long established J Waite funeral service they had recently acquired was a prize worth winning. The last 20 years have seen steady growth, to the point where today the Hoskins name has offices in Ludlow's Tower Street, plus Kidderminster, Stourport and Worcester, with an unmanned office in Cleobury's Market Hall. Next year Stephen and son Adam plan to open a fully functioning Funeral Home in Cleobury.

His son Adam is a stonemason and works closely with Hoskins to supply memorials, while older son Sean is a qualified grave digger who currently works outside the service to better support a growing family.

The company has a fleet of three Jaguars, plus contacts to provide almost anything a family may desire for the final farewell to a loved one.

The spread of the service means that Stephen watches trends in what families ask for. "There are fewer religious ceremonies and more humanist," he explains. "If we could replicate the Cleobury Mortimer parish here in Ludlow there would be far

fewer humanist ceremonies. The demand in the Ludlow area is about 50/50, but the nearer you get towards Birmingham it changes; probably 70 percent cremations."



Stephen Peregrine, a man with 40 years experience of funerals.

He clearly has a high regard for the clergy in Cleobury and their ability to find out about the life of the deceased before delivering a eulogy. His own approach fits in with that ethos, taking notes of whatever religious beliefs a bereaved family may have and guiding them in their choice of hymns if they are not familiar with the range. "Modern technology is a blessing there, I can play a range of hymns on my iPad to help them choose," he explains.

He chooses his staff carefully, his drivers and bearers all retired policemen: "They're smart, men of the world who can work together as a team." Experienced staff handle the administrative work; he describes himself as "a people person who concentrates on presenting the funeral properly

and gently guiding and advising the family at a time of great stress."

"There is a tendency to overspend," he emphasises. "It's too easy to think you must have the best for your mum or dad. We only stock the basic coffins here, but if a family wants more we order it in especially."

The new crematorium at Kidderminster earns praise: "Service time is an hour, while others give 30 or 35 minutes. An hour allows a family to create a send off they truly want for their loved one."

Stephen lives next to the Chapel of Remembrance at Ludlow, so that the grieving will not see their loved one as lying in isolation, but close to someone who will care for them.

He's on call 24 hours a day, so that someone facing a loss can talk to a person who will listen and help.

He talks to his staff and offers encouragement if they are upset by the grief they witness. "This is a sensitive job to be in, particularly after a sudden death or the passing of a child" he says. "You get caught up in the emotions."

What shines through when you talk to him is his belief in what he does for a living: "I know that buying this business was the best decision of my life. The feeling of gratitude you can get from a family when you've done a good job is worth a million dollars. We've got to get it right."

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2017***

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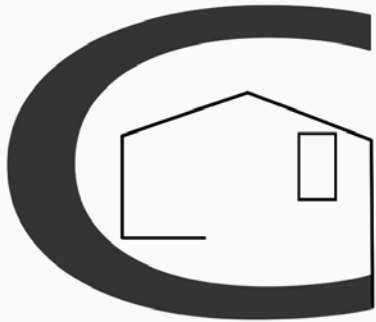
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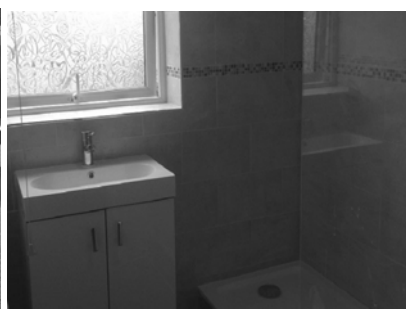
For more information contact:

Lee Rollings

Telephone: 07506 791 577

Email: lee@lrdevelopments.co.uk

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Community Contacts for Clarion Readers

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR	Theresa Parfitt	07703 965 064	theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk
CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE		01299 272300	In Love Lane, 9 to 5 Mon to Fri.
CITIZENS ADVICE		08444 991100	Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00
CLEOBURY CARERS	Wendy Duley	01299 270562	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 Weds
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 7 Mon, 9 to 5 Tues/Fri and 10 to 1 Sat.
LOCAL POLICE	Constable Anne O'Leary		ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Ingrid Purslow	01299 270314	
CRIMESTOPPERS		0800 555 111	Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE		0800 783 1359	Women's Aid, 24 Hour support:
HOME FROM HOSPITAL		01584 878046	Help over the first weeks back home from Age UK
MARKET HALL	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	dorothymcbride@cleobury.org.uk
MEDICAL CENTRE		01299 270209	Out of surgery hours, use 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	Rosemary Abbiss	01746 718210	
PARISH COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Market Hall 9 to 2 pm, Mon to Fri. 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			richard@ssyf.net.
VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME		01299 666119	for bookings
WASTE DISPOSAL		0345 678 9007	The contractor is Veolia
WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCIES	Severn Trent	0800 783 4444	

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THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE IS DECEMBER 24th

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Residential Sales

There is a popular myth out there that Christmas is a bad time of year to sell your house. The reason behind this is that most people would assume property will be the last thing on someone's mind, but there are still plenty of people who either have their house on the market or are already ready to go, and over the festive holiday is when those who aren't on the market may start to think about moving in the New Year. Boxing Day is in fact Rightmoves busiest day of the year for people searching their website for properties, so it certainly isn't a bad time to have your house on the market!



Erica Hinwood MARLA
Office Manager

Lettings

As a landlord, having access to good tradespeople is a must for maintaining your property, but how to find them? Firstly, word of mouth is always a good starting point, so ask your friends and local businesses who they would recommend. If you don't live in the same area as your property, try looking for Facebook groups local to that area. Checkatrade.com, is also always worth checking out. A key bit of advice we give to our landlords is that it's always good to have at least two people in your mind for each job - if you rely on one plumber and they are on holiday when the boiler breaks down you will be in a sticky situation.



Coral Walrond MARLA
Lettings Negotiator