

The Cleobury Clarion

SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

DECEMBER 2018



At times like this, the editor does wish the Clarion could offer full colour on its cover pages. The bright red of the poppies waterfall on the parish church tower must have been the most photographed feature of the town this year.

A fitting backdrop to the solemnity of the Remembrance Sunday parade, laying of wreaths and memorial service. It was interesting to see how efforts are being made to involve our younger people in this reminder of recent history.

See Page 25 for our report on the moving November 11th town centre gathering.

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

To everyone who reads, contributes, helps distribute and prints the Clarion. It only comes out on the first of every month because a lot of good people work together and freely give time and effort to get 64 pages stitched together and out to you.

Thank you everyone who contributes and may you have a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

STEVE TODD

We didn't find room in the last issue to thank Steve Todd for all his work to produce 46 editions of his fine 'On The Buses' column. He certainly had an effect, with copies being passed up the line to county officials. He can fairly be called a prime mover in getting things changed for the better. So 'On the Buses' came to a logical end.

But that's not the last you'll hear from Mr Todd and his sharp eyes, enquiring mind and sharper wit. On Page 27 of this issue he's writing about BT and the matter of dealing with a fault. God's teeth, what a mess. Expect more from Steve.

THE 'ONE SHOW' RICKSHAW CALLS



Maisie rides in with a huge smile and a little help from her escort.

BBC TV's 'One Show' gave the annual Children In Need fund raising great cover for their Rickshaw Ride. A team of riders taking it in turn to pedal the Team McLaren built rickshaw across country, including a stop for lunch at The Larch Barn, which meant a long uphill haul to a cheering welcome by staff and customers. It was another great year for the fund, earning £50.6 million for their charity work.



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The Cleobury Clarion, December 2018

Volume Thirteen - Edition Nine



The town was on on parade for another very fine Remembrance Sunday service and wreath laying on November 11th. See Page 25.



Marlane Delargy wins a second Crime Writers Association award for her translation work. See Page 31.



Ladies in charge up the road at the remarkable Larch Barn. In Business: Page 57

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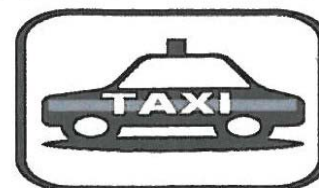
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THE HEARING AID DROP-IN CLINIC

The Clinic due to be held in the Community Room at Saint Mary's Close on Wednesday the 5th will not be run. But if you need help the Ludlow clinic will be held on Monday the 10th at the Helena Lane Community Centre, 20 Hamlet Road, Ludlow SY8 2NP, from 10.00 to 12.00 noon

BURNS NIGHT - EARLY NOTICE

Looking well ahead into 2019, the Parish Hall has already been booked for the annual Burns Night gathering, when tatties and haggis will be served and a wee dram or two sipped.

It's on January 25th and for more information and tickets, please contact Jean Andrewes on 01746 718557.

WALKING FOR HEALTH

Our summer season of short walks, catering for all abilities, drew to a close in November. We thank Lacon Childe School for providing refreshments during term time. Once again we enjoyed walks at Cleobury Golf Club, Upper Arley and Clee Hill

The Winter Programme will again coincide with CoCo coffee

mornings on the second and fourth Wednesdays, beginning on December 12th and continuing through February and excluding December 26th. Meet at Cleobury Market Hall in time for a 10am start, no notice of attendance is required. Please come along whatever the weather, we will decide at the time whether to walk or just enjoy the coffee, cake and CoCo's hospitality (small charge for refreshments). We particularly welcome folk who do not take much exercise or can manage only 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 and walked at a comfortable pace for everyone.

For further information please contact me on 01299 271754 or ajkimber@hotmail.com

Alan Kimber

PENSAX THRIFT SHOP

Pensax Thrift Shop will close its doors for the winter break at 11am on Wednesday, December 5th. We would be very grateful if customers could collect any of their 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 all our customers for their continued support. Even after forty-four years of trading, Pensax Thrift Shop continues to offer a local outlet for you to sell those no-longer-needed items - and you never know what useful and unexpected bargains you may find in any of its departments.

May we wish everyone a Happy Christmas. We aim to reopen for our 2019 season on Wednesday 6 March at 9am, and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Pauline Briggs

ADVENT SOUP LUNCHES

The Severn Hospice Group's lunches in aid of the homeless will be held in the Market Hall on December Fridays 7th, 14th and 21st, from 12.30 till 1.30

A donation of £3.50 will cover lovely home made soup with crusty local bread and butter followed by apple pie and cream.

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CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

December can be a wonderful month in the garden. The days may be short but on the whole the weather is usually not 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, darker months of winter but what better time to start planning your summer garden.

Our last meeting of the year in November, was the AGM and members' social evening. There was a 'Gardener's Question Time' after the formalities and a lovely spread of refreshments kindly donated from members. This was the last event in the year as there is no meeting in December.

It has been a busy year and so a special thank you to committee members for their efforts and to the members because without you there would be no club.

Our first meeting in the New Year will be on Wednesday January 23rd, when the speaker for the evening will be Judy Knight on 'Garden Designing'.

If you're not a member then come along and join us at one of our monthly meetings. It's a

great opportunity for you to share your thoughts, ideas and advice with other members. We have a great programme of speakers as well as Evening visits to local gardens. Our Garden Club has a very friendly atmosphere, everyone is welcome, so don't be afraid to come along. Membership is only £10. However, non-members are welcome to any meeting, on the fourth Wednesday of the month at Clows Top Victory Hall; Doors open AT 7.30pm, for the speaker at 8.00.

Admission Fee: Members £2; Non-Members £4. Free refreshments. Magazine swap. Further Details Telephone Marion Wilson 01299 270475. Or email: clowstopdistrictgardeningclub@hotmail.co.uk.

Pauline Bowen

HALLOWEEN DAY AT THE DENTISTS

Cleobury Dental Practice hosted a Halloween-themed children's open day, aiming to support current and new patients to encourage their kids to brush better – and it was a frightful success.

The team at the practice delivered fun check-ups, face-painting and a spooky-lucky dip.

Dr Ann-Marie Bard said: "We love to host our annual children's day – it's always an event to look forward to. Adults and children enjoy a fun time, whilst learning more about dental health."



These were possibly the least frightening faces in town at Halloween.

CHRISTMAS AT SAINT ELIZABETH'S

Christmas services at Saint Elizabeth's Catholic Church will be:

Monday, 24th:
7.30pm Carol Service
8.00 Vigil Mass
Tuesday 25th
09.00 Christmas Mass

Our thanks to Judy Reid for this information.

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**PROPERTY PEOPLE
MEET**

Erica Hinwood reports:

A seminar designed to bring property landlords up to date with the latest developments in the industry has been hosted by one of the region's biggest estate and lettings agents. The free to attend event was held at the Gainsborough Hotel in Kidderminster and featured a range of speakers who covered a variety of subjects during the course of the evening.

It was hosted by Nock Deighton and followed on from a similar event held near Bridgnorth by the firm earlier in the year. Charlotte Coates, Senior Residential Lettings Negotiator at Nock Deighton, said: "It proved to be an extremely informative evening and there were some interesting questions raised from the floor.

"These seminars offer landlords the opportunity to come along and keep abreast of what is going on in the industry. During the evening they heard about the latest lettings legislation, land and new homes, buy-to-let mortgages, tax advice for landlords and issues surrounding possession proceedings.

"Experts included our own Dawn Clarke and Michael Nettleton, Scott Taylor-Barr, of Carl Summers Financial Services, Fiona Wilkinson, from Stanton Ralph & Co Chartered Accountants and a specialist from Thursfield Solicitors.

"The panel was able to bring current and potential investors up to speed on any financial and legal changes around buying investment property. We had a good response from those who attended and some valuable feedback which will help us when planning further events.

"Nock Deighton is delighted to host these seminars - we think they prove to be an extremely useful forum and I would like to thank all those who attended on the night, guests and experts."

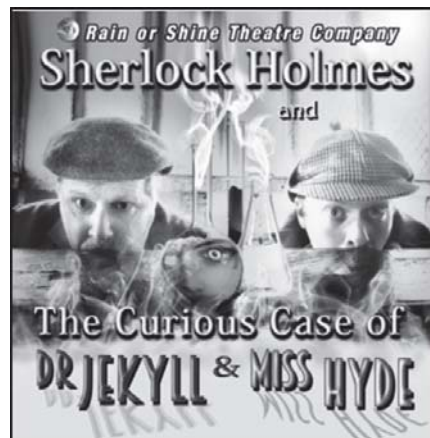
The residential investment opportunities team at Nock Deighton have a wealth of experience in offering specialist advice on the sale of residential and investment properties - managing about £90 million of investment properties across Worcestershire and Shropshire on a daily basis.

For more information, call 01299 271477 or email cleobury@nockdeighton.co.uk

A BIG THANK YOU

Last month, Sylvia Bromley slipped and fell over on the pedestrian crossing, cutting her forehead in the process.

She was immediately helped by a number of people, who looked after her. Sylvia's husband Frank would like to thank everyone who ran to help and offered comfort.



After the success of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and *Dracula: A Pain in the Neck*, Rain or Shine are dying to bring you yet another fantastic evening of entertainment!

The dynamic duo return to solve one of the Victorian age's biggest mysteries, *The Curious Case of Dr Jekyll & Miss Hyde*. Join Sherlock Holmes, his trusty sidekick Watson, and watch a case unfold that is less elementary, and more fantastical than ever before.

Rain or Shine will once again be reinventing the classic Sherlock Holmes characters using their now signature 'Morecambe & Wise-ish comedy' style for another season of mystery, mayhem, but above all multi-role madness!

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RADIO INFLUENZA

I thought I would share this with you. Radio Influenza is a project that my son's partner Beatty has been working on for most of this year on behalf of the Wellcome Trust.

Paul Barrett

In 1918–19, an influenza pandemic raged across the globe. The world's most deadly outbreak of a single disease infected a quarter of the population on the planet, killing between 50 and 100 million people: more than perished during the First World War. No country was left untouched, and the spread of the disease was facilitated by the movement of troops and people around the world as the First World War came to an end.

Radio Influenza is the story of that pandemic, based on in-depth archival research from the British Newspaper Archive. Each day a new soundtrack reports on the devastation of the epidemic through the everyday, using newspaper accounts from exactly a hundred years ago to explore how the profound impact of the flu affected every aspect of life.

The site can be found at RADIOINFLUENZA.ORG and

on Facebook. I found I had to press the "play" button a couple of times to get it started.

Editor's Note: This is not for the faint hearted. It is chilling to listen to newspaper reports being read and realising how many deaths there were just in Britain alone. JR.

W.I. LUNCH FOR NIGHTINGALE NURSES



All of the W.I. members serving at table wore white tops and boaters. A nice period touch.

A huge thank you must go to Cleobury Mortimer W.I. for organising a soup lunch on November 8th, raising funds for the W.I. and your local Nightingale Nursing Fund. The lunch was delicious, with an emphasis on the Great War and

there was a wonderful happy atmosphere.

The Fund continues to support the care of patients in a medical crisis in and around the area. At the Farmers Market on January 19th the trustees of the fund are organising a Tombola to raise much needed funds to continue to support patients. Can I ask if anyone has any suitable gifts or other items that they wish to give, to take them to the Town Council Office at the Library in Cleobury Mortimer. These will be collected on a regular basis and held for the Tombola. Otherwise if you give me a phone call I will see that donations are collected.

Please support your fund if you are visiting the market. Thanking you all in anticipation
Rosemary Abbiss 01746 718451

SILLY BIT

A US Congressman's staff member called a travel agent to book a flight to Cape Town. He was being told about the length of the flight and passport information, then interrupted to say: "I don't want to make you look stupid, but Cape Town is in Massachusetts.."

The agent replied: "Excuse me sir, but Cape Cod is in Massachusetts. Cape Town is in Africa."



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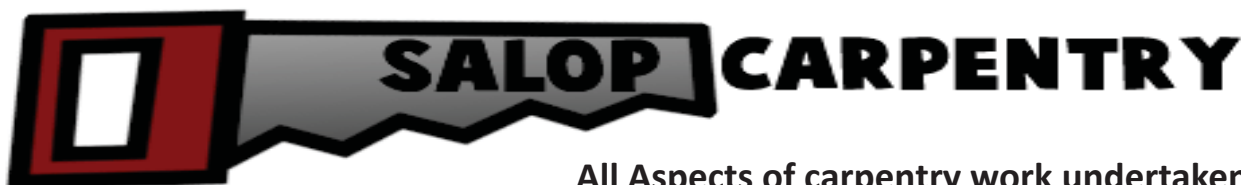
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THE STROKE SUPPORT GROUP

The Stroke Support Group has been meeting each month since the start of 2018. Our numbers go up and down but we are getting established and look forward to a fruitful 2019. It has been helpful to have Katja Jones from the Medical Centre make initial contact with practice patients who have had a stroke, to invite them and help them attend the next meeting of the group. We have a small band of volunteers who attend, but we need more to spread the load of planning our meetings. If you would like to help please contact Katja at the Medical Centre – we need just two hours of your time each month.

We have received many generous donations this year - including from Lacon Childe pupils, the Sports & Social Club annual pub quiz night, Neen Savage WI, Clows Top Gardening Club and generous individuals. This has enabled us to have social events like tea at the Larch Barn and Christmas lunch at the Golf Club and have guests who have led us in singing and sitting yoga. When necessary, we can hire a wheelchair friendly minibus to

take us on trips -one for 2019 is a possible trip on the Droitwich Canal.

We meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month except December from 2.00-4.00 in the Sports and Social Club. Do come along, you will be made most welcome.

Val Simpson

THE SOROPTIMISTS

At our November Business meeting we enjoyed feedback from members who attended our Federation's Annual Conference in Liverpool, with details of the talks given by two remarkable women. Sally Kettle was the first woman to row the Atlantic: twice from East to West and once with her mother, in a rowing boat which had come as a flat-pack and had to be glued together. Not a rower, she got fit and learnt how to row to take up the Atlantic challenge.

Another inspiration was Emily Rose Yates who has cerebral palsy, is a wheelchair user and describes herself as travel writer and accessibility consultant. She was a games maker at 2012 Olympics and was asked to review accessibility for disabled people ahead of the 2016 Rio Games. Her view is to concentrate on what disabled

people can do rather than what they can't.

At our supper meeting we heard another talk by Sandra Hill on 'Forest Schools'. Their philosophy is to encourage individuals of any age through positive outdoor experiences. These, through self awareness can be developed to reach personal potential.

Members enjoyed a visit to the Porcelain Museum under the guidance of Henry Sandon.

Our December Business meeting will take place on Thursday the 6th, 7.30 pm at Baxter Church Rooms in Kidderminster. Our Christmas meal will be on the 20th, 7.00 o'clock at La Brasserie, Kidderminster. There will be seasonal 'entertainment' and advance booking is essential.

The year will end with our regular informal coffee morning at the George Hotel in Bewdley. Do come along on the 27th from 10.00 and meet some of us.

Elke Jury

SILLY BIT

"Spring is when a young man's fancy turns towards what young women have been thinking about all winter long."

John Denver



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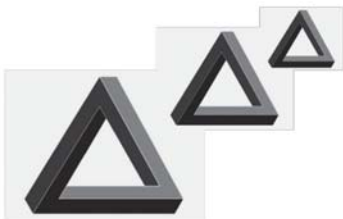
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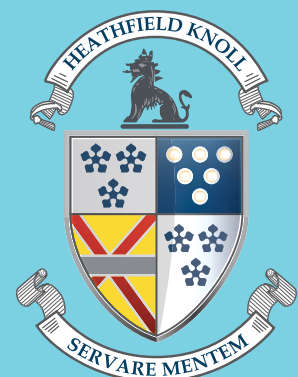
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Cleobury Mortimer Benefice

Services, Events and Activities throughout the Benefice-December

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Cleobury Mortimer.

Services: 2nd-8.30am Said Eucharist & 11.00am Confirmation service.

9th, 16th-8.30am Said Eucharist & 9.45am Parish Eucharist.

23rd-No 8.30am service, 9.45am Parish Eucharist.

24th-4.00pm Christingle & 11.30pm Midnight Mass.

25th & 30th-8.30am Said Eucharist & 9.45am Parish Eucharist.

Events/Activities:

Farmers Market-Saturday 15th-In and around St Mary's Church, 9.30am-12.30pm.

Community Carols by Candlelight-Sunday 16th-5.00pm All welcome.

Wholeness Service-Thursday 20th-7pm in St Mary's Church, focusing on Peace.

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kinlet.

Services: 2nd-No service, 9th-6.30pm Even song, 16th-6.30pm Carol service,

23rd-6.30pm Even song, 24th-11.30pm Midnight Mass, 25th-No service, 30th-No service.

St Mary's Parish Church, Neen Savage.

Services: 2nd-No service, 9th-6.30pm Advent service, 16th-6.30pm Carol service,

23rd-9.00am Eucharist, 24th-4.00pm Crib service, 25th-10.00am Eucharist.

St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Hopton Wafers.

Services: 2nd-No service, 9th-10.00am Eucharist, 16th-10.00am Family service, 23rd-10.00am

Eucharist, 24th-9.00pm Eucharist, 25th-10.00am Eucharist, 30th-10.00am Eucharist.

Saint John the Baptist Parish Church, Doddington.

Services: 2nd-No service, 9th-11.00am Eucharist, 16th-3.00pm Carol service, 25th-11.00am Eucharist, 30th-No service.

All Saints Parish Church, Neen Sollars.

Services: 2nd-No service, 9th-11.00am Eucharist, 16th-No service, 23rd-6.30pm Carol service,

25th-11.00am Eucharist, 30th-No service.

St George's Parish Church, Milson.

Services: 2nd-No service, 9th-No service, 16th-6.30pm Carol service, 23rd-No service.

25th-10.00am Eucharist, 30th-No service.

The Church Office open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday mornings from 9.00am-12.30pm

Contact details: Sam Adams, cleoburychurch@hotmail.com, Tel: 01299 272916

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CLEOBURY MORTIMER YOUNG FARMERS CLUB

Cleobury Mortimer is blessed by the support made available to the community and its members through the local institutions. One of those, especially for young people, is the Young Farmers' Club who, through their endeavours and activities over the past year and particularly following the recent, very successful Annual Dance, are donating £2500 to be shared with their nominated charities: Midland Air Ambulance, Marie Curie Care, Alzheimer's Research UK and Little Hearts. Andrew Hardy, the Chairman of the Club reports that all the members are very proud of this achievement and acknowledge that these charities will be very grateful for the hard work and effort the members of the club have put in. Special thanks must go to all those who helped with organising the dance and thanks too for all the support that came from the local community.

The Club was formed back in 1949 and since then it has been an important group for young people to come together, have fun, share wide ranging social experiences and learn new skills as they undertake many different activities. All the time maintaining a focus on generating funds to support the local and wider community through charitable donations.

The CMYFC is open to all young people who wish to engage in the activities; these include team sports, drama, public speaking, go-karting and a local treasure hunt. There are also opportunities to take up the operational duties required to run clubs of this nature. This provides great experience which is valued by future employers. One of their key annual activities is providing support for the Burwarton Show where they are regular competitors in a range of the events and they work as Stewards to help setup, in the car parking area and as live-stock field stewards.

Across the community there are many former members who speak very appreciatively of their

time in the club and the contribution it made to their development as well as the good fun and entertainment they enjoyed. The Club is open to members until they reach 26 years of age and many of them are keen to support the ongoing efforts in whatever way they can.

Tom Poyner talks about the value of the friendships he formed that continue to be important now in a social and a working context. Many of the local farmers comment on how they can call on each other for support from time to time and value the relationships that were built up as members of the CMYFC. This provides clear evidence of the economic value of the Club to local businesses and the community as a whole.

John Griffiths whose father was one of the founders of the club, was a member for many years and recalls how well everyone got on together and how they would patronise the local pubs across the area and ring the county answer machine on a Saturday night to find out where the dances and discos were happening. He is delighted to hear that the charity work which was a core activity during his time, continues to be so.

John Griffiths Senior is very happy with the fact that he met his wife through CMYFC. The Young Farmers Clubs are still recognised as the 'biggest rural dating network in the UK!' and there are many others in the area who met their life time partners through the club.

If you are under 26 and would be interested in finding out more about the Club and the benefits to be gained from being a part of it, one of the members would be pleased to share their experience and pass on information. Please contact Andrew Hardy on 07816 410072 or by email at andrew.hardy8@yahoo.co.uk

You can be certain of a very warm welcome.

Mike Hurley

The Club meet every Monday evening, but as they have such a variety of events there is no regular venue. *JR*

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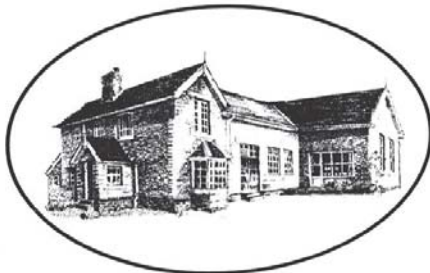
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**REMEMBRANCE
SUNDAY**

The town was awake and moving early on November 11th. Families walking down Love Lane at 10.00, heading for the gathering in Talbot Square or to line the High Street and watch the British Legion parade. By 10.45 there was little room to move and an air of expectation waiting to hear the big bass drum that meant the parade was on the way.



The parade, led by Mike Booth and Cleobury Concert Brass on its way to the cenotaph.

It was an impressive sight, hundreds of marchers of all ages. British Legion members, town councillors, the Fire and Rescue Service, the schools, the Scouts and Guides, the Masonic Lodge, almost every club or association was represented.

Mike Booth made himself heard above the band as he halted the march on the spot and the colours moved to join

Rector Ashley Buck and his servers in front of the cenotaph. The church bells fell silent at 11.00 and the town stood in perfect silence as we remembered those who fell in two World Wars and later conflicts.

David Taylor's bugle sounded and Jim Hulme did his usual fine job leading us all with Binyon's unforgettable poem of praise and the communal vow of "We shall remember them."

Wreaths were laid with great solemnity, again with all local bodies represented and the children from primary to secondary level all acting with great dignity, a fine example of the quality generations that will lead the town in the future.



There was an unexpected interruption when an ambulance bell was heard coming from Clee Hill direction.

David Taylor was the first to move, swiftly down to the street and working with Mike Booth and other leaders to move the waiting parade back to allow the emergency vehicle to drive through with the minimum of delay. The driver tooted his horn in recognition and sped off towards Kidderminster.

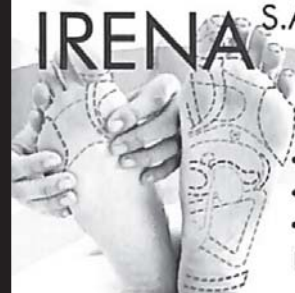
It was an impressive display of clear thinking and later Mike Booth explained that there had been a similar occurrence before and the need to react to such a need is all part of the parade plan.

With the wreaths laid, the parade and much of the crowd moved into the church for the Remembrance service. Others stood and quietly talked or made their way home, many of them in quiet reflection as they probably recalled relatives and friends who had been through war. Some came back; too many did not.

One of the servers said later that as the parade approached, Rector Ashley Buck turned and said: "It's at moments like this I remember what an honour it is to serve this parish." Even the non-believers will respect that view.

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Are you a BT customer?. Have you had cause to ring up to report a fault?. No? Then consider yourself very fortunate and hope that you never have to.

The other week, I tried to ring a neighbour who I do some shopping for sometimes as she is not too well. When I rang, I got a strange noise but no connection so I wandered round to see if there was a problem. She confirmed that the phone was out of order and was concerned as she needs to speak to the Medical Centre on a regular basis and needs the phone in working order. She asked if I could report the fault for her. No problem I thought, just a matter of five minutes or so. How wrong I was...

Having returned home, I dialled the advertised number and negotiated a minefield of options including one that asked if I was reporting a fault on behalf of someone else to which I obviously answered 'yes' (this may seem a trivial point but assumes greater significance later). Eventually, I was put through to a nice man in Cardiff and gave him details. Sorry, he said, I can't access the account unless I have the full name and date of birth of the subscriber. As I didn't have these to hand, it was back up the road to get them. Elapsed time now 20 minutes.

I dialled again and went through the same process including the 'Are you reporting on behalf...' question to which I duly responded in the affirmative. After a short wait, I was put through to a lady who I assumed from her accent was somewhere in India. I went through the saga again saying proudly that I was in possession of the subscribers full name and address. As you might have guessed, she wasn't interested in those details, only in my full name, address and date of birth. Having got these and, despite my repeating that I was not the subscriber, spent some time working away on

her keyboard before declaring triumphantly that she couldn't trace me as a BT subscriber. This is not surprising as I am not a BT subscriber thank goodness. I must confess that I got a bit grumpy at this point and said that I wanted to register a complaint which she said would be reported and I would get a response (I haven't). Elapsed time now 50 minutes.

She was clearly trying to be helpful whilst being the exact opposite and then played her trump card. What did the box on the wall in the house where the telephone line plugged in look like? I asked why this mattered and she said she needed to know what writing was on this box before she could do anything. My blood pressure rising steadily, I pointed out that I couldn't see the box in question as it was (a) in another property several hundred yards away and (b) hidden behind a large and heavy looking antique chest of drawers. This made no difference as she was adamant that nothing could be done until she had this information. I said I would get this but demanded they ring me back in one hour to save me going through the whole rigmarole yet again. She said that this would be fine. Elapsed time now 75 minutes.

So, back up the road to find the chest of drawers was even heavier than it looked and was a family heirloom. Luckily, a friend was passing and kindly helped remove the drawers and shift the chest which revealed that... there was nothing on the said box except an old style BT logo. Having made a detailed sketch of the box, just in case, we put everything back in place and I returned home again. Elapsed time now 140 minutes.

Having got back shortly before the call back was due, I waited by the phone. Did they ring back? Find out in next month's thrilling instalment. I bet you can't wait...

Steve Todd

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As Christmas approaches in this centenary year of the end of the First World War, it is a poignant moment to reflect on what Christmas would have meant to those serving during the war, and immediately following its conclusion.

Many will be familiar with the Christmas Truce, observed particularly in 1914, when British, German and soldiers from other nations took part in unofficial ceasefires along the Western Front. Soldiers sang carols to each other, and eventually ventured out of their trenches and into No Man’s Land, to exchange food and fags. There are also tales of enemies coming together to kick about footballs in No Man’s Land at Christmas.

One can only imagine the profound impact this moment of respite must have had for those on the front line. It goes to show that even in the middle of such confrontation and carnage, common themes of faith, kinship and respect in adversity can prevail.

Given Christmas is a time we look to spend with loved ones and friends, or comfort the lonely, the end of the war and the first Christmas following the Armistice must have been a moment of intense relief for families reunited, but also profound sadness for those missing from family tables.

Just one village in Shropshire – Harley, outside Much Wenlock – was a ‘Thankful Village’, having all men return safely from the First World War. In all, 5,286 men from Shropshire were killed during the War, touching almost every community, however small.

In towns and villages across South Shropshire, our war memorials stand testament to those who gave their lives for their country and their friends. I was pleased to attend a tremendously moving ceremony in Ludlow last month, but there were amazing Remembrance events and services with huge turnouts across the county, showing the passing of time has not dampened our commitment to remember those who fought and died.

Today we face different threats as a country. But the hard work and commitment of our Armed Forces remains as strong as ever, providing a continuous defence against those who would seek to undermine our country and cause us harm.

As we celebrate this year, it is fitting we reflect on those who sacrificed so much, and those who continue to serve our country 365 days a year, to uphold the sustained peace we enjoy at Christmas today.

I shall conclude with a quote from a Canadian soldier who had served three years in France, writing home in December 1918: “I will wish you all very happy Christmas and because of the fact that the war is over and peace once again restored to the world one can, in wishing a merry Christmas, know that such a thing is possible.”

I wish everyone across South Shropshire a very Happy Christmas, and a peaceful New Year.

Philip Dunne

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QUIET LADY, WITH DAGGERS

There's an old saying about the quiet people being the ones to watch. Marlaina Delargy, retired school teacher and languages graduate, sharing her house with five cats, is living proof of that.

This genteel and proper lady has recently been awarded her second Crime Writers' Award of an International Dagger for her work in translating a notable Swedish crime thriller into English. This was the late Henning Mankell's 'After the Fire', the final work from this author, best known in this country for the BBC television series 'Wallander.'

Cleobury Mortimer is an unlikely place to include such a noted translator, who studied Swedish and German at Aberystwyth University and has moved through a range of posts in her working life. Like working in a photographic laboratory in Sweden, teaching English in Finland and three years in a greengrocers as she waited for the right offer to come along. After training as a teacher she took a post at Welshpool, moving on to Bewdley High School for a

twelve year term and making her home here.



Two Crime Writers' Association International awards to her credit and a year's work waiting for her expert attention.

She retired from teaching to go it alone as a translator, having done a growing number of jobs for publishers.

She taught part-time at the Aspire Centre in Burford to help pay the bills while she built up the translating business. Today she's in demand, with contracts for a year's work and success like this latest award bringing in more requests for her skill.

She only works on novels, with about 50 of them on her considerable CV, for a wide variety of publishers with

America and Australia dominating. "It's so easy today, with email," she explains. "I can contact an author direct if I have a query."

A hint at why she is so busy: "I always hit the deadline." That's vital in a busy publishing house, where working to a timetable is a basic fact of business life. Get your contribution in on time and you help the operation run smoothly; miss the date and you can create delays all down the line.

The popularity of Scandinavian crime thrillers has been a boost to Marlaina's work, especially when a book is taken up as a film and a wider public gets to like an author they'd never heard of before.

The ability to express the subtlety of the writing in English is a vital factor: "The quality of English matters," she explains. "It's your background in reading that makes you a good translator." That's why she will only work on books with a traditional form of writing; she has been offered books with a modern street language influence and declined them.

And the future? "I shall just carry on as long as I get work. I love it."

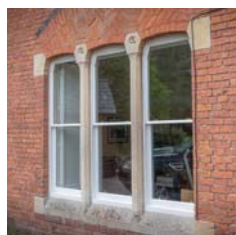
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Sat 1 st	4.00	Community Christmas Fair in and around St Mary's Church, Santa switches on the Christmas lights, stalls, games, hot food and refreshments		
Sat 1 st	6.30	"The Little Girl" is on stage at Farlow Village Hall	James Shier	01746 718642
Sun 2 nd	6.00	Kings Arms Open Mic Night. Acoustic only, all types of music		
Mon 3 rd	7.00	The Town council meets in Cleobury Country Centre		
Tues 4 th	7.00	Christmas Carol Service in Hopton Parish Church. PAGE 51		
Wed 5 th		Last Pensax Thrift Shop session before winter closure. Doors shut at 11.00. PAGE 5		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 6 th		GREEN GARDEN RUBBISH WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.30	Soroptimists meet at Baxter Church Rooms, Kidderminster. PAGE 13		
Fri 7 th	12.30	Severn Hospice Advent Lunch in the Market Hall. PAGE 5		
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall		
Sat 8 th		Coach outing to Cardiff	Mrs Gregory	01584 891464
	7.30	Flicks in the Sticks present "The greatest Showman" in the Parish Hall, Church St		
Mon 10 th	6.30	The creative Writing Group meet at The Library. PAGE 43	Jim Reynolds	01299 270642
Tues 11 th	1.30/for 2.00	Doddington Friendship Club have their Christmas Party in the Village Hall with entertainment from "The Strummers"		
Wed 12 th	10.00	Walking for Health step out from the Market Hall, their regular winter base. PAGE 5	Alan Kimber	01299 271754
	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning in the Market Hall. Good company, great value		
	7.30	Neen Savage WI meet in the Parish Hall for a Christmas Table Decoration competition	Sandra Dodd	01299 271563
	8.00	The Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn in Lower Street	Mike Hermolle	01299 271384
Thurs 13th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 14 th	12.30	Severn Hospice Advent Lunch, Market Hall, Church Street. PAGE 5		
Sat 15 th	9.30- 12.30	Cleobury Country Farmers Market, last before Christmas, in St Marys Church.	Clare/Sam	01299 272300
Sun 16 th	3.00	Carol Service at St John's Church, doddington		
Tues 18 th	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poets Society meet in the Library. Mince pies, wine and rhyme will be served		

Saturday December 1st is a rather special day, as the Community Christmas Fair in and around the Parish Church sees Father Christmas arrive and hand out gifts to the children both at the Fair and in the town centre when the Christmas Lights are switched on and the main street becomes a magic place for the younger ones. Cleobury Mortimer is lucky in keeping this tradition alive and visitors often comment this it is rare to see such a display in a small town like ours. Big towns have shops and supermarkets who light up their streets, but such a display in a small town that is funded by the community is unusual.



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Wed 19 th	7.30	"The Curious Case of Dr. Jekyll and Miss Hyde" at Kinlet Village Hall. PSGE 9		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall		
Thurs 20 th		GREEN GARDEN RUBBISH WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 21 st	12.30	Last of the Severn Hospice Advent Lunches, Market Hall, Church Street		
	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall		
Mon 24 th	7.30	Carol Service at St Elizabeth's Catholic Church		
	8.00	Vigil Mass at St Elizabeth's		
Tues 25 th		CHRISTMAS DAY, MAY YOURS BE A VERY HAPPY ONE		
	09.00	Christmas Mass at St Elizabeth's Church		
Fri 28 th		BLACK WHEELIE BIN AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.00	Soroptimists Coffee Morning at The George Hotel, Bewdley. All Welcome		
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO JANUARY AND THE NEW YEAR.....		
Fri 5 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Wed 9 th	7.30	Neen Savage WI meet to hear about Forest Dog Rescue	Sandra Dodd	01299 271563

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS

THE SEVERN HOSPICE ADVENT LUNCHES

A relatively new event to join the Christmas Social Calendar, the Severn Hospice Advent Lunches have become firmly established as an attraction not to be missed. The idea, like all the best ones, is very simple: A bowl of Homemade Soup with Crusty Bread, followed by a Homemade Sweet, all in good friendly company. They happen in the Market Hall in Church Street, from 12.30 to 2.00 on December Fridays: 7th, 14th and 21st.

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A VERY SPECIAL CALENDAR

The Severn Edge Vets 2019 calendar is sure to be a hit. This is how they advised us of the plan:

“Recently our Nurse and Branch Manager Michelle Marsh was diagnosed with breast cancer and her treatment will mean that she will be off work for the best part of a year.

Michelle is the life and soul of our practice here at Cleobury and we all wanted to try to help her and her children get through the tough time ahead, so the idea of a calendar came into fruition. If you know the film Calendar Girls then that’s what our style of calendar is loosely based upon, but all in the best possible taste of course!

None of us felt very comfortable doing the photographs but we all reminded ourselves that it was nothing compared to what Michelle is facing. The calendars are available to order from reception and cost £15 each. For those who prefer ordering online you can make a donation to our Just Giving Page : - <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/nakedvets>”

What can you say about such thoughtful and caring work colleagues? Buy a calendar.

THE CHORLEY FAIR PARTY

This was a really good idea, a party in Chorley Village Hall to celebrate the success of their show and hand over cheques to some good local causes. Anyone who took part or helped the event was welcome to come along.

John Woulfe, chairman of the show committee, thanked everyone and explained that the First Responders who were there on first aid duty had just item one to deal with, when raptor demonstrator Chris had a brush with an American Bald Eagle and required an Elastoplast.



Show committee chairman John Woulfe handing over a cheque for £2,000 to Hope House.

John then introduced Rachel Lewis from Hope House Hospice, who read a letter from an eight year old child, thanking them for the help given to both her and her parents. Hope House was the main focus of the fund raising and a cheque for £2,000 was presented to help them in their work.

Willowdene is very much a part of the Chorley community and the show is held on their land. Matt Home then stood up to be handed a cheque for £500 to help with their rehabilitation work, followed by his daughters Emma and Katie, who had raised £100 for Hope House. A lovely touch.

The final cheque, another £500 worth, went to the village hall that is a well used hub of this warm hearted community. Just getting the people who were involved and the charities their event helped was such a simple gesture that spread goodwill for the next event.

GENUINE CLIPS FROM WICK COUNCIL COMPLAINT LETTERS:

“My lavatory seat is cracked. Where do I stand?”

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WILLOWDENE'S 40TH BIRTHDAY

As anyone who knows about the work done at Willowdene would expect, the 40th birthday drew an array of special guests to share their admiration for this outstanding residential drug rehabilitation centre.

It was started by John Home MBE, whose blend of humility and wisdom came over in his opening speech. It was in 1978 that he decided to change from being a pig farmer to rescuing young people lost to heroin and other drugs. He recognised the need to make them feel they belonged to the community and asked local employers what they thought these people should be trained to do, then developed training in line with that opinion. Not a smooth process, teaching farming and forestry skills, especially when a visiting insurance man saw recovering drug addicts carrying chainsaws off into the woods. A letter arrived, saying they were no longer insured. He found an alternative at much lower cost.

"We only laid the foundations," he said of their work. "Matt and Sarah have expanded on that and the best is yet to come." Loud applause for that.

Matt Home talked about people labelling recovering addicts, always referred to as students in this place. "People do not wake up at the age of 12 or whatever and decide to inject heroin," he explained. These people listen and understand; the result is 85 percent of their students completing the course and moving on to employment.

Philip Dunne MP had recorded a video, praising the work here, recognising how cost effective it is and saying that he would like to see more of such units.



Jim Barton (above) a director in the Ministry of Justice responsible for the Probation Programme, explained that the ministry was looking for a more effective strategy and last

summer saw a reduction in addict numbers. He could see the number of women imprisoned because of drug use reducing.

Sarah Home, Director of Care at Willowdene said there is now scientific proof of childhood trauma affecting development. Living with an addicted parent meant intolerable stress that can be identified in an MRI scan of the brain. What prospect for such a child?

Rosanna O'Connor, director of alcohol, drugs and tobacco within Public Health Britain told how readily alcohol and drugs are available, with drug pushers becoming more aggressive.

She saw Willowdene looking at people in the round and how residential rehabilitation clearly works well, but funding is hard to raise. She rounded off by asking everyone involved to not overlook volunteering work and its value. It was her own route into the work she does today.

Does that all mean only gloom and doom? Don't believe it, there are lots of capable and devoted people driven by good ethics who offer hope. People like John Home, who had a vision and has seen it grow. JR



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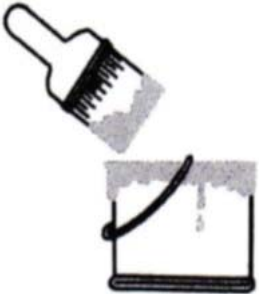
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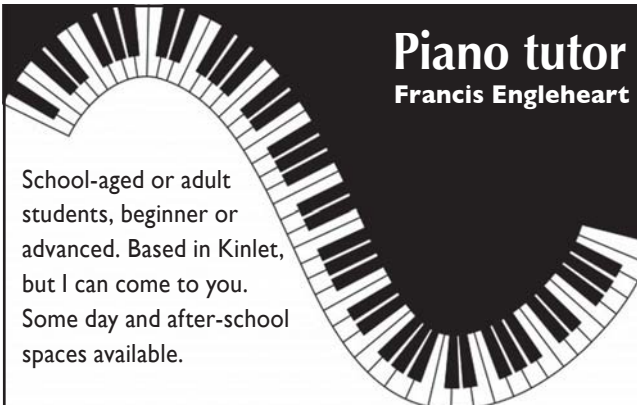
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With nearly all the leaves gone from the forest's deciduous trees, now is the time to gather evergreens to decorate our homes. This practice dates from at least Roman times, when the midwinter feast of Saturnalia brought some fun to the gloom of the year's shortest days. Masters and servants would swap roles and normal rules were suspended. When the traditions of Saturnalia were absorbed into the Christian celebration of Christmas, greenery kept its place in homes and barns and it may also have been the origin of the practice of electing a 'Lord of Misrule' to preside over the Christmas revelries.



Holly is the most plentiful native evergreen and has some useful symbolism to recommend it too: the prickles like the thorns of Christ's crown, red berries that mirror the red blood of his sacrifice, white flowers pointing to the purity of the Virgin Mary. Ideas that holly might have been a 'witches' tree' still lingered and may have been the reason why it was considered unlucky to bring it indoors until Christmas Eve. Nicely berried sprigs of

holly were harvested in the forest and used to make decorative wreaths. I remember our neighbour spending many cold hours in her shed in the forest and getting sore fingers turning out these wreaths - not an easy way to earn some extra Christmas cash.

Mistletoe, with its strange shape and growing habits, not to mention its association with Druids, was regarded with great suspicion. In most churches it was forbidden but its underground reputation as an aphrodisiac and fertility booster ensured that a bunch would be found hanging in many houses. It is a semi-parasite of many trees (taking water and minerals from them but photosynthesising for itself) and can be seen on poplar, willow, apple and hawthorn. I recently became aware that the large lime tree I was standing under at Hartlebury Castle was full of mistletoe when I saw the ground scattered with large numbers of its leaves, torn off in a storm. It grows well in this part of the country due to the mild, damp climate and abundance of suitable hosts, and Tenbury hosts auctions of mistletoe and holly in late November and early December that go back 160 years.

Using 'Christmas trees' to decorate the house probably has a long history but Prince Albert is credited with making the practice much more popular in Victorian times. Today we can choose from a variety of exotic conifers: spruce, pine and fir; and these can be bought from local growers and the Forestry Commission.

I wish you a very happy Christmas and time to draw breath before we plunge into 2019!

Linda Iles



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DODDINGTON

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

2nd October: A party of members travelled by coach to Llandudno for a short stay at the Saint Kilda Hotel for a 60s themed week. The food and entertainment were excellent, a most enjoyable few days.

30th October: Adrian Williams gave an amusing afternoon with stories and anecdotes relating to children's Nativity plays.

November 13th: The club had a very interesting insight to the workings of Ludlow Brewery by Glyn Hughes, who not only explained the making of different varieties of beer, but also provided small samples of each type - much to the delight of the members.

THE CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

12th November 2018.

Jim (Read by Peter): The Road Home: A young man returns home from the front at the end of WW1, wounded though not seriously. A mix of emotions. (Well received by all.)

Doris: A personal recollection triggered by a pair of ornamental vases. (Fascinating tale based on trench craft.)

David: An account of his grandfather's part in the war

from the modest perspective of the grandfather and the more realistic perspective of his wife. (Intriguing stuff.)

Maria: The death of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, reimagined. (Imaginative - as ever.)

Edwin: The death of a 13-year-old boy soldier. (A sobering tale with considerable impact.)

Peter: (Off topic) Extract from a romance novel. A mood lifter?

Next meeting: 10th December
Topic: A children's story (no key terms)

Peter Hill

KUDOS BACKS LOCAL STUDENTS

Kudos Blends, the leavening agent manufacturer, has been supporting two students from Lacon Childe School in their mission to change the lives of Tanzanian schoolchildren.

Harvey Locke and Charlie Brown, both aged fifteen, are aiming to raise £4000 each to take part in a humanitarian project in Tanzania in Summer 2019.

In true 'The Apprentice' style, the students, Harvey and Charlie were tasked with running a bakery business for a day. The challenge was to secure customers in advance, bake as many cupcakes as they

could in one day and decorate each cake to a Halloween theme.

A competition for the best decorated cake was judged by key members of Kudos staff with a donation by Kudos of £200.

With guidance from two of Kudos' experienced bakers, Seb Penney and Natalie Narey, the students enjoyed learning the processes involved in making large batches of cakes. Their siblings, Thomas Brown and Jessica Locke, both aged thirteen, joined them on the day to provide a helping hand. Cupcake decorations were kindly donated by Orchard Valley Foods and Nimbus Foods and the students managed to produce an impressive 300 cupcakes, with a total of £520 proceeds from the competition.

Along with other students from Lacon Childe, Harvey and Charlie will spend four weeks helping to transform a dilapidated school, construct housing and monitor endangered animals.

Laura Yates

SILLY BIT

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GEORGE CASTLEDINE

George Castledine's death from a heart attack in Iraq on October 12th came as a great shock to all who knew and liked this gentle, humorous and dynamic man.

He moved to Shropshire as a child of two and grew to love this county and its neighbours. His mother was a sister in Whitchurch hospital and would sometimes take young George with her to work, where he would sit and talk to the patients who had no visitors. That was probably the root of his easy style with people, his willingness to listen and his decision to train as a nurse.

He qualified at the North Staffs Royal Infirmary and was granted an NHS scholarship that took him to Oxford and a Diploma in Social Studies. He went on to Liverpool University and gained an honours degree in Social sciences and took up nursing at Manchester Royal Infirmary, where he was regarded as outstanding. He was the youngest nurse ever to receive the Royal College of Nursing Fellowship and a very popular speaker.

While he was at Manchester he did some work with the World Health Organisation, which led

to regular charity work. He did not go for an easy life, working in the Balkans, Iraq, Sudan and Afghanistan, but not prepared to boast about it. I talked to him once when he was recently back from Mosul, describing the conditions for the civilians there and full of concern for people simply trying to bring up their children in such a hostile place.

He was a considerable sportsman, playing rugby for Whitchurch and later for both Oxford University and Sale. He also followed Liverpool Football Club and held a season ticket for 20 years.

Early pocket money and earnings as a choirboy were spent on Dinky Toys, a collection he continued to build up through his life as he also searched for old board games, nursing and medical memorabilia, postcards, stamps, coins autographs, lead figures, Baleek china and anything to do with Tintin. Such a wide range of interests, no wonder he could sit and chat knowledgeably to almost anyone.

What stood out about this quite outstanding man was his love of life and a strength of character that enabled him to work in some of the most

dangerous theatres of conflict and still talk about the suffering of others. He really was a special human being.

He was diagnosed with bowel cancer last year and went through major surgery, followed by six months of chemotherapy treatment. It did not change his cheerful character one little bit, and he led sessions of the Kings Arms Poetry Club as well as attending the poetry group sessions in the library.

George was a proud family man with Adam, Georgina and Rebecca blessing his life and more recently two grand daughters adding to his joy.

He was chairman of Nurses Reaching Out, founded during his work in Uganda, that became a registered charity in June this year. In March he celebrated 50 years since qualifying as a nurse by flying to Kiev to watch Liverpool lose to Real Madrid in the European Cup Final. In August he spent two weeks in Uganda on more charity work. He seemed tireless and was working on a spiritual healing ministry here in our parish church.

But a heart attack took him in his sleep in Iraq. So much talent, such a loss to the world. JR

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CLEOBURY COUNTRY VISITS KUDOS

The final Cleobury Country visit to local businesses in 2018 was to Kudos. A manufacturer of leavening agents for the baking industry and a huge success story, advancing from one unit on the Six Ashes Business Estate to a complex that keeps on expanding as the business grows.

It's the brain-child of Dinnie Jordan, who realised the need for a company that developed baking aids in line with what the industry wanted. The size of the business, employing over 40 and serving the baking industry on every continent, is proof that her thinking was right.



Very bright lady - Dinnie Jordan

Her management style is informal but firm. She was sitting outside, chatting with lads taking a break when we arrived at 7.00, addresses everyone by their first name and had department managers addressing the visitors and explaining processes.

Cleanliness at every stage of production is obviously vital, as is the proper packaging to keep the product safe in transit. Colour coding helps no end with that.

The latest development on the building side has been an expansion of warehousing space and a second processing unit that will boost output as the Kudos name gets better known internationally and sales keep on growing.

Dinnie is very frank about the way the company is progressing and told us that turnover is now north of £7 million and the target for 2010 is set at £10 million.

What she would not detail was another breakthrough in development that will be announced very soon. She gives full credit to the development team for this next step in a remarkable history that keeps on advancing. One of the best Cleobury Country visits.

THE TREE OF REMEMBRANCE

While Christmas is a time of celebration for many, it can also be difficult and painful for those who have lost a loved one. To help anyone who has suffered such a loss, each year a Memorial Christmas Tree is displayed in our Funeral Home.

Everyone is welcome to visit Cleobury Funeral Directors and display a message of remembrance on our Tree. Our team will be pleased to assist you, we will provide you with a memorial card for you to write a message and we will offer you refreshments, if you have time. Messages can also be left in memory of those who you know have lost a loved one.

This year the Tree will be on display from December 1st.

I know how difficult it can be coming to terms with the loss of someone special, whether this be the first year without them or if they died many years ago, the pain does not go away. We hope that you will take comfort from leaving message for your loved ones.

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Adrian Satterly



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Stephanie's Kitchen has moved!

Up to 44 High Street that used to be Bowkett's Butcher's Shop. It's now combined with the Cleobury Curiosity Shop, and is helping the creative community by displaying local artisans and artists' work, which you can admire while you sip a great coffee and nibble a delicious cake.

Stephanie is also stocking Bowkett's renowned meats and reminds you that your Christmas order needs to be placed **BEFORE DECEMBER 14TH**

It's the same delicious food, cooked by Stephanie, and now served in more interesting surroundings. Look in and see for yourself.



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THE HALF DEAD POETS' SOCIETY

We had a World War 1 theme for our October meeting. Pauline Ray read "Where are all the Soldiers Gone?" to remind us of those who did not come home, then David Walford offered John Betjeman's ode to Miss Joan Hunter-Dunn as a reminder that social life carried on for some here at home.

Tony Smith read two poems he has written for the play 'A Journey Through War', booked for a short run in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter. His 'Remember Us' captured the mood of post-war depression for those who came back facing life with wounds physical and mental. A masterful piece of work that rounded off the evening.

Our usual schedule says that we will meet on Monday the 24th. But that being Christmas Eve, we will break our Monday habit and meet at 7.30 on Tuesday the 18th, when the theme will be 'All Things Bright and Beautiful.'

CAROLS AT HOPTON

There's a Christmas Carol Service and Grand Raffle at Hopton Wafers Parish Church on Tuesday the 4th, starting at 7.00. A lovely old building for such an occasion.

It will be followed by Mulled Wine and Mince Pies, to get everyone in the Christmas mood.

THANKS FROM THE TALBOT

September saw the anniversary of ourselves arriving at The Talbot. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in Cleobury for making us welcome and for your custom over the last year. Here's to many more.

The festive season is fast approaching and we have our Christmas Fayre and Christmas day lunch menu available. Pop in and ask a member of our team for a copy.

We will be having a Christmas raffle running from mid November that will be drawn on the week before Christmas with fantastic prizes. All funds will be donated to a local charity.

Kindest regards.

Val and Steve Wilson

CARROT TOPS

What used to be such a friendly place, when first Rachel and then Julie ran it, has closed. The opening hours had become more and more erratic and one lady who thought she'd got a job there stood patiently waiting for the place to open for a couple of mornings.

Their bill for an advert in The Clarion has not been paid and we are told that others are owed money.

We also hear that the shop has been let and will reopen before Christmas, trading as Cleobury Fruit and Veg. Welcome.

THE READING GROUP

'The Elegance of the Hedgehog' by Muriel Barbery; a puzzling title that does not immediately become obvious. Originally in French, this is a cleverly written novel with good translation. Most members loved the book and several intend to buy a copy.

After a slow, rather wordy start, you are immersed in the lives of two people in an upmarket apartment building. Renee, the female concierge, hides her intelligence from her tenants, to whom she is only an attendant. The other character is Paloma, daughter of a family who live in the apartments. She seems to despise her family and intends to end her life when she is thirteen. Later, Makuro Ozu a Japanese gentleman is introduced and life unfolds for them all. There are some amusing passages, a few surprises and some beautiful pictures painted by the language used. A great book if you can manage the philosophy in the first chapters. One member was inspired to write a Haiku about the book:

Star écrivain française

Kaleidoscope idea, prismatic knowledge, sunny humour, indigo empathy.

Translator piano tuner.

Our last meeting of the year will be on December 17th.

Happy reading.

Deana Kimber



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SIMON EVANS AND THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The Friends of Saint Mary's organised a very promising evening as part of the World War One commemoration, with Doctor Mark Baldwin combining the life of Simon Evans with memories of what was known as The Great War. Evans was gassed during that conflict and was advised that he should find a post in the country, where his damaged lungs would not suffer as they did working in a polluted city. In a canny move, he swapped places with a man who wanted a busier life and Evans came to live in Cleobury Mortimer, where he worked as a postman and became quite famous for his writing.



The story was rather spoiled with a microphone system that did not work properly for the first half of the evening. Did no one think to simply test it before the evening began? But even at poor volume and clarity it was a good experience to listen to such an effective historian tell a well researched tale.

DO YOU HAVE A DEFIBRILLATOR?

Barry Treves of the History Society came up with a good common sense suggestion: Why not list where all the defibrillators in the area are located and give details in the Clarion?

An excellent idea. We will happily print a full list of where these possible life savers can be found every quarter, just to remind readers where they are in case of emergency.

So would Parish Clerks please let the editor have details of any in their areas? Full contact details on Page 63 and we will need to know where they are located and how easy access is in the event of an emergency.

There is never a way of knowing if a defibrillator is going to be needed tomorrow or in six months' time, but having one nearby could save a life.

FRUSTRATION!

I changed my telephone and broadband server recently. Well, I think I did as I write this on November 24th, but there are doubts.

I had opted for Utility Warehouse, instead of British Telecom, to save money. I will have to find another way of watching my favourite Moto GPs, but economics demanded some trimming of spending.

On November 15th BT ended my internet connection and the landline telephone was cut at the same time. Brian Davies - always reliable and an ex BT engineer - came to instal my new router and see that all was well. It wasn't, I had no connection.

Brian and I both spoke to one of the support team at UW, who told us there was problem with the BT line and they had said it would take 3 to 5 days to sort. Seven days later, still no internet. I called UW again, to be told there was a problem somewhere at BT and that it would take - you've guessed it - 3 to 5 days. On the 24th I still have no internet.

Apologies to all who sent reports that did not get through. I just did not see them



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A QUALITY COOKERY COURSE

It's unusual to find cookery courses organised in a custom converted kitchen with six separate stations for students to work in. Add a separate dining room and the alternative of a large terrace for summer days and you can see that this is a professional approach. This is Harriet Wakeford's Collier's Cookery School.

It is based on Collier's Hill, a fine house outside Bayton, where parking room and fine country views come as part of the package.



Harriet Wakeford, the driving force behind Collier's Cookery School.

Harriet has clearly been planning this venture for a long time, searching for chefs who will conduct the one-day courses with which she will launch the school in January. She's visited cookery schools, quizzed friends, taken in the Ludlow Food Festival and spent time on social media.

The result is impressive, with Steve Lyons heading the list. This is a man who has worked in two restaurants each boasting two Michelin stars. He opted out of that high pressure world to spend more time with his family and today works as a freelance with his All About The Food service and conducting tuition courses.

Tom Court is a local chef, proprietor of The Sticky Fig Catering Company and able to cater for a wide range of diner numbers and culinary tastes. He will be teaching fish courses at the school.

Beca Lyne-Pirkis hails from Cardiff and adds to her reputation as a chef with work as a writer and on television. This lady clearly knows how to deal with pressure, having been a semi-finalist in the 2013 Great British Bake Off. Naturally, she will be leading courses on baking.

Harriet herself has completed a three-day patisserie course in France and will be considering one of those courses if demand is strong.

The school will open in January, offering one day courses starting at 10.00 and ending at 4.00 to give students time to get home at civilised hour. That will include lunch, which should be interesting if there is a full house of 12 preparing it. It will be a hands-on day, with all equipment and ingredients provided and younger people welcome on the young chefs' course. I will admit that I know a teenager who may be getting a rather special birthday gift next year, but not a word to her, please.

Looking further ahead, by autumn 2019 Harriet is looking at courses on foraging, vegetarian cooking and specialist cuisines.

One thing she does want people to do is wear comfortable shoes, as there won't be a lot of time spent sitting down at Collier's Hill.

Talk to her on 01299 832013 or look in at www.collierscookery.com

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In Business - The Larch Barn

It attracts people with its distinctive signs along the Bridgnorth road, telling you that The Larch Barn is just ahead. On the top of the climb past Six Ashes, it's an unlikely place to open a quality tearoom. But just walk through the reception area to the main dining room any lunchtime and you'll be amazed how busy the place is.

The Underhill family have been established on this site for eight years, with their Landscape Plants business that supplies plants and trees throughout the UK. So why a tearoom that far out of town? "We had this unique place and that view," Jenny Underhill, co-owner with husband Paul, points at the rolling stretch of Shropshire countryside to the west. The sort of view that you'd sit and look at for hours; or drive out to sit there and enjoy your lunch in amiable company with a great outlook.

Co-owner with Jenny is daughter Sophie Zytke, who's also managing director. She has a catering background and oversees the day to day operation of the Barn. Not short days up here; they are open from 9.30 until 4.30 seven days a week.

The first impression when you drive in is the big space available for parking, then the wide lawned area with wooden table and four seat units. The Barn itself is in two parts, the first reception, the second the main dining area with kitchen behind. All in the wood you'd expect from the name, built by local craftsmen using locally sourced materials wherever possible, with big picture windows looking out over that great stretch of Shropshire. They did negotiate a Euro grant towards the cost of building the place, but that accounted for only about a quarter of the cost; the rest came from the Underhill family funds and reflects a sizeable commitment to this community.

They employ eight people, most of them trained on site by experienced manager Courtney Harding and Danielle's Coffee

came in to tutor them all in the matter of making coffee properly; the same source roasts the beans for them.

So what's the most popular line that they offer? "Home made coffee and cake," says Sophie without a moment's hesitation, while mum blushes as she's acclaimed as the responsible cook. There was a lot of cake being served when we were there.



Ladies in charge. From left: Jenny Underhill, with manager Courtney Harding and Sophie Zytke.

The Barn is drawing people from a wide area, as far as Dudley and Worcester, and they are working to encourage clubs to visit plus a recent Ladies Festive Shopping Evening, raising funds for Macmillan Cancer Trust. We chatted to Sarah Gaskin and Katie Stone, who spotted the Larch Barn signs, looked in out of curiosity and are now regular customers who enjoy the quality of both the surroundings and catering.

The Barn have had one problem, the two generators developing a fault that left them without electricity and all the stock lost. But they got their heads down, sorted it out and carried on succeeding. Great place.

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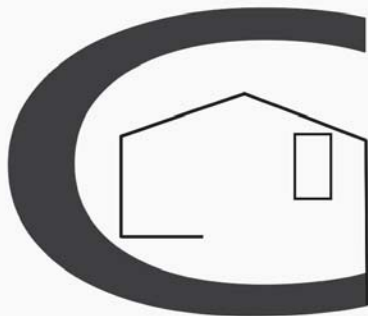
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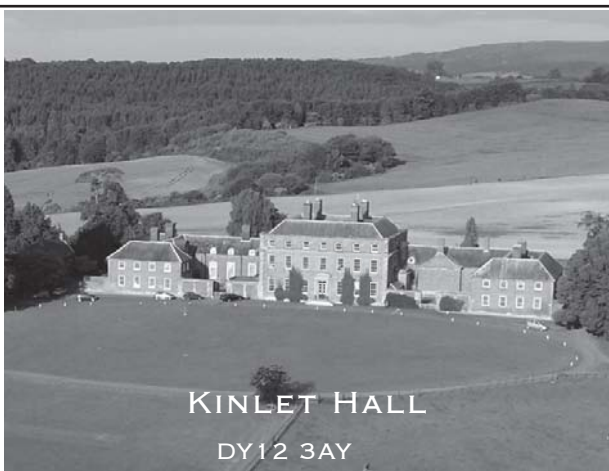
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December 2018 Clarion

We would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers who helped put up the Christmas lights on Sunday 18th November. We also would like to thank Alan Guest and Bill White for donating the Christmas trees outside the bakery and in the Memorial Gardens. We look forward to the Christmas Fair on Saturday 1st December and will be giving out sweets to children following the switching on of the Christmas lights.

We have a Councillor vacancy. If you are interested in making a difference, representing your community and getting involved in shaping the future of the parish and would like to be considered for co-option to the Town Council please contact the office on 01299 271154 or email matthew.sheehan@cleobury.org.uk.

The next Council meeting is on Monday 3rd December, 7pm at the Cleobury Country Centre. We have a guest speaker, Professor John Whitelegg, who is going to speak about his campaign to reduce the speed limit on Shropshire's residential streets to 20mph. Please come along and find out more about this project. The public are always welcome to attend Council meetings.

Following a meeting with Shropshire Council Planning department, Cleobury have been cleared to come up with their own planning document as part of Shropshire's overall plan. This is great news as it will mean we will have real influence over housing and employment land allocations as well as how we protect and develop our environment. See www.cleobury.org.uk Neighbourhood Plan for more detail and to check on progress.

J Bodenham.

WW1 Exhibition 10/11th November

First, a very big thank you to all those who lent the wide range of items which made for a varied and interesting display. A large number were treasured family items which made their inclusion all the more exciting and appreciated.

At peak times the room was full of people exchanging memories, experiences or speaking about families who they knew. This was not just an exhibition it was a proper community event.

Thanks to anyone who helped during the two days and to the Market Hall who allowed use of the space at minimal fee.

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Community Contacts for Clarion Readers

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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 5 Monday to Friday and 10 to 12 Saturday
LOCAL POLICE	Constable Anne O'Leary		ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Iain Smith	01299 271809	
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	Ali Sheffield	07752 542 853	markethall@cleobury.org.uk
MEDICAL CENTRE		01299 270209	Out of surgery hours, use the Shrop Doc Service.
SHROP DOC		0333 222 6655	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 718451	
TOWN COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Cleobury Country Centre 9 to 2 pm, weekdays. www.cleobury.org.uk. Council meets in the Centre 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
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Copies are also available from the Parish Churches in: Cleobury Mortimer, Bayton, Doddington, Hopton Wafers, Milson, Neen Savage and Neen Sollars.

Missed your Clarion? Cleobury Mortimer Library keeps the current month's copy on file and all back issues are available to read as pdfs from www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE JANUARY ISSUE IS DECEMBER 12th

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Residential Sales

Christmas is coming, and although the property market does tend to be quieter at this time of year, it can still be a good time of year to sell your house. Anyone looking for property at the moment is likely to be a serious buyer, so although you may have fewer viewings, they are likely to yield much better results. People often ask whether they should put up decorations if their house is on the market. The best approach is to be subtle with your decorations. Giving your home an extra bit of seasonal sparkle can help make it even more welcoming to viewers, but too much tinsel and going overboard on flashing lights can distract them from your property. It's also important to avoid squeezing an oversized Christmas tree into your lounge because it can make the room seem cluttered and small.



Erica Hinwood
MARLA MNAEA
Office Manager

Lettings

We were delighted to welcome existing landlords and potential property investors to an information seminar in Kidderminster recently. There was a great deal of interest in the current issues surrounding property investment, such as the ever-changing legislation every landlord needs to be aware of. We had experts from the worlds of finance and law, in the form of Fiona Wilkinson, from Stanton Ralph & Co Chartered Accountants, who discussed tax advice for landlords, financial adviser, Scott Taylor-Barr, who discussed what lenders are doing to tackle new restrictions. Specialists from Thursfields Solicitors also looked at the buy-to-let purchase process and issues surrounding possession proceedings. Everyone who came said they found the seminar useful, so we are already looking forward to the next one!



Coral Walrond
MARLA MNAEA
Lettings Negotiator