

The Cleobury Clarion

YOU CAN INVEST IN THIS FUTURE POWER SOURCE

FEBRUARY 2012



The mill race at Tetstill, where the Neen Sollars hydro electric generator will be installed.

Some revolutions happen quietly. This one launches at Neen Sollars' Victory Hall on Saturday the 18th and could point the way to the future generation of electricity in rural areas without using scarce resources.

It's the Neen Sollars Community Hydropower Co-operative Ltd, formed to install and run a hydro-electric unit in

the mill race next to the weir at Tetstill Mill on the River Rea. The projected cost is £150,000 and the aim is to raise this through investment by local people, companies and organisations. The output, which will go directly into the National Grid, should equate to about 20 percent of the demand in Neen Sollars. That means a payback and the early estimates show investors taking roughly six percent per annum on their investment via payback and tax benefits.

This is the first such scheme in the West Midlands and team leader Bill Duley is praised by Cllr Gwilym Butler for his work in getting the scheme off the ground. Cleobury Country is involved and has raised a grant to buy a £20,000 share. That payback will be ploughed back into other local community schemes.

The launch event runs from 11.00 through to 4.00 and will feature representatives of the

development team, the Co-op itself and design consultants, all there to answer your questions.

A lot of people are excited by this far sighted thinking and will be watching our local project very carefully. If the River Rea can produce power economically and benefit the local economy in a modest way, it is logical to expect the idea to grow and make better use of natural facilities.

Full marks to the people with the foresight and energy who have taken this idea so far and made it ready for launch. All done with no silly shouting or wild claims, just application of common sense and listening to people with the technical knowhow to make it work.

Saturday the 18th is the day you can learn about what may be the start of something very significant. For all our futures, please go along and see, ask questions and learn.

Jim Reynolds

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The Cleobury Clarion. February 2012

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

PEOPLE LOVE THOSE LOGS



Big Christmas celebration for Cleobury's Rugby Club at the Sports and Social Club in December. Left to right are chairman Dave Hinves, event fund raiser Katie Beddows, sponsor Hylton Smith and club fund raiser Andy Goold. We're happy to tell you that headgear is not a regular part of the club livery!

The Rugby Club had a great response to their Christmas Log Drop, with a change to an earlier delivery time so that people could see who was at the door. A big push to get people sponsoring a bag of the logs delivered to the homes of the more mature helped, while the energetic Katie Beddows ran craft fairs at the Royal Fountain

to help cover the costs.

The result was a much bigger take-up of the free logs offer. "Last year we delivered 85 bags, this year it was up to 130," reported a very happy Andy Goold. It was a friendly occasion, with one of our local success stories giving their time free of charge to help others.

And the Rugby Club is having a good season, after promotion to the quaintly titled Midlands West North Two League, with three wins in the first half of the season. Membership is strong at about 50, enough to regularly field two teams.

MORE FROM THE HONG KONG SCAM MAN

Charles Watkins, who featured in the last issue with his campaign to expose a financial scam, has heard from another of the companies quoted in the lying letters being sent out to people the crooks hope to dupe.

The Hung Kai Finance Company have written to quote a whole stream of false names used in the letters, which has all been reported to the Hong Kong police and a warning put out on their website. If they catch Mr Hu Pan or Hu Pong as he's called himself, you get the feeling that he'll cross Stottesdon off his target list.

HAVE YOU TRIED?

One of the range of Oak Farm jams now in stock at the Talbot Store? They're produced in the delightful village of Ditton Priors, on a farm managed by Shropshire Council that provides a day serice for people with severe learning difficulties. Jam making is one of the skills they're taught and their Blackcurrant won the Women's Institute Cottage Industry Award in 2010.

We've bought some and found it really rich in flavour, a real treat for the taste buds. As Stuart Toulson of Oak Farm put it: "If we can go against the WI, with all their experience and skill, we must be doing something right."

They are doing it very right. Try that Blackcurrant and see for yourself.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Ron and Val Breakwell, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on January 21st. They had a gathering of 100 family and friends in the Parish Hall and you can bet that a good time was had by one and all.

A warm hearted touch to the occasion was their request for guests not to give gifts, but to make a donation to either Cancer Research or the Children's Hospice in Worcester to help those less fortunate than themselves.



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Clarion Clippings -The Local News

THE CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOXES

They all went to Crimea. All 949 of them, thanks to your wonderful generosity. It was a lot of work, but such fun - even the chain gangs set up to get them in two Mawley Milk vans and off to the warehouse in Kidderminster.

Now we begin to think of this year. Could we have your Christmas cards now you've taken them down? Just the picture on the front if possible, and take them to Cleobury News or to St Mary's church, where you can leave them behind the font.

Jenny Vanderhook and Myfanwy Baldwin

STOTTESDON W.I.

The December report...

Our tree was one of 18 uniquely decorated for the Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's, which made for an atmospheric candle lit carol service and drew a large congregation. It is to be hoped this delightful custom will continue.

We closed the year's activities with a festive evening at Chorley Village Hall, joined by old friends and visitors, when Kim Fisher taught us to create a lasting nosegay of holly, mistletoe and poinsettia, for highly individual table or cake

ornaments. We were all delighted with our results, though we certainly worked up healthy appetites for a glass of hot punch and tasty nibbles.

And now for January...

We began the New Year's programme with a lively meeting at Chorley Village Hall, our numbers increased with some new members. The business included a discussion on the shortlist of campaign proposals, so members could make an informed choice in voting for the issue they feel the WI should support nationally in the coming year.

Steff Bryan then led us through an entertaining evening of games to challenge our mental and physical faculties, with time to chat and catch up on news.

This month we look forward to meeting Rachel Strivens from Shropshire Council, who will be talking on 'Sustainability Matters' at Chorley Village Hall on Wednesday February 15th at 7.30 pm. Do come and join us - visitors are always made welcome.

Marian Wootton

ADVENT LUNCH SUCCESS

A happy Shaunah Murrell reports

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Advent Soup Lunches for the Homeless again

this Christmas. People who have supported them from the beginning and many new faces again this year. One week we had a queue at the door and extra tables had to be found!

Thanks to the soup makers - many compliments were received about the delicious soups - with a good variety over the three weeks. Thanks as well to the people who put out the tables and laid them, and the men who came in to put them all away. Not to forget the Washers Up, Raffle Ticket Sellers and Stall Holders. Without them the event would not take place.

Soup, bread, butter, apple pies, and cream were all generously donated and goodies for the Bring and Buy and Raffle. Which made it possible to send a cheque for £500 to the Drop In Centre in Salford.

Dot from St Mary's Place won the Christmas cake, and said she was going to share it with her friends. *Shaunah Murrell*

SILLY BIT

"It's hard to believe he originally beat one million other sperm."

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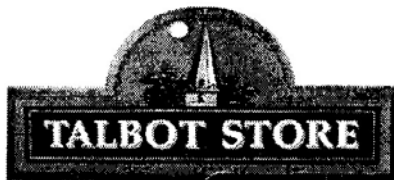
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

VAMPIRES, BLOOD- LETTING AND FALLING IN LOVE

It's all there in a new book by
local author Amanda Turner



It's an unusual title for this first work: 'Dead Skin Chasing Blue Skies, which tells a story of love and deception in the world of vampires. Miranda is secreted away to this strange place and emerges as a natural member herself. She falls in love with brothers Nathaniel and Gabriel and it takes a long time for her and the angelic one to get together, leaving the less loveable Nat furious.

Miranda discovers the history of vampires on earth, hears legends told and then dismissed and learns how to drink blood

without resorting to the chilled stock kept in the fridge. Not quite like the orange juice at Talbot Store....

You can learn a little about the world of vampires in human form in these 268 pages. Amanda tells us it's only available from Amazon or Waterstone's, which is a strong position for a debut novel. It is a pity that publishers Authorhouse didn't have the work proof read before printing, as some elementary spelling errors spoil it slightly.

But it's a brave subject to tackle in your first book. Amanda writes as A J Turner and is worth looking out for.

LOCAL HELP FOR BUDDING AUTHORS

Amanda Turner is not the only local writer with a passion to get a story published. The Clarion has reviewed other works from that source, people brave enough to commit to having a print run produced. It's not an easy process, it's certainly not cheap and there are a lot of pit falls for the lonely author with no experience of the business.

Local author Eve Seymour, whose novels featuring the adventurer Tallis have been a strong success, with the fourth story due out in March, should have the answer. Eve has just launched the Rough Diamond

editorial consultancy, aiming to help those who want get into print in a serious way.

She offers advice from the basic matter of getting a proof reader to go through the work, to negotiating a pay deal with a publisher and promoting the work once it's published. What you won't get, because it is very much not this down-to-earth lady's style, is flannel and flattery. Straight talk and sound advice, to give help in what she knows is a tough job.

www.roughdiamondeditorialconsultancy.co.uk is the place.

FROM THE BANDROOM

One of the highlights of the Band year was the Christmas concert in Cleobury Mortimer. Held in the Parish Hall it was well supported and everyone enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies

Great amusement was caused by the trombone section who dressed as nuns and played music from the well known musical Sister Act.

Rehearsals are now well under way for more public performances. We welcome any Brass players who would like to join us. Rehearsals are held every Wednesday evening at 7.30p.m. in the Parish Hall, Cleobury Mortimer.

*Stella Wilcox, Honorary Secretary,
Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass*

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The Clarion Jobs Page

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LEK/19695	Teaching Assistant	8.15 to 9.91 ph	30 hours pw
LEK/19697	Labourer	7.20 ph	days
LEK/19704	Office Administration	Meets NMW	21 hours pw
LEK/19705	FLT	Exceeds NMW	5 days
LEK/19706	Maintenance	Exceeds NMW	5 days
LEK/19713	Sports Coach	10.00 ph	6.25 hours pw
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Clarion Business - New Quad Service Launched

A NEW SERVICE TO THE LOCAL FARMING COMMUNITY



Dave Johnson with his MXU450 Kymco quad demonstrator

Dave Johnson is filling a gap in Cleobury based farming services. He's just opened Shropshire Quads at Shunesley, in Neen Savage, offering sales and servicing for those tough little vehicles that have become such a handy tool on the land.

This is not a fancy showroom and plush office affair, he's currently based in a sizeable barn and planning permission has been submitted for a similar building nearer to the road. Inside that barn will be new demonstrators from the Taiwan

built Kymco range and a selection of second-hand units as well.

He was impressed by Kymco quality when repairing scooters for his other interest, The Scooteryard. As distributor Masco is based outside Shrewsbury he got to know the staff there when buying parts and they recognised a capable man. Dave's background includes building and time as a certified gas engineer, installation work with EZSolar and a range of farm work. So he knows his subject and is not afraid to get his hands dirty.

Kymco liked his attitude and offered him the local franchise after checking over his premises and workshop facilities. They are a company with a proud reputation, including building bike engines for BMW's 450cc Husqvarna models. The editor has been to their factory and can confirm that they're good people with a worldwide reputation.

Dave starts his new venture with 300 and 450cc demonstrators that can be tried around the 60 acre site where he's based, or he can bring one to your premises, to try at home. He has ambitions to develop that idea: "I'd like to be able to get a quad in for service and loan my

demo out to the owner." There's no lack of ideas in his thinking.

These quads are well priced, the 300 is £3,999 including VAT and the Big Daddy 450 £5,999. Both come with winches capable of pulling up to 1.3 tonnes and, like all Kymco quads, they have a two year warranty. The 450 has a towing capacity of 447 kg, or a stock trailer with two sheep if you prefer.

They have low emission levels that comply with the Euro 2 standard and the controls are the well established format of low and high ratios with neutral and reverse in the gearbox, and an easy to use automatic operation. Engage gear, move the throttle lever and the quad is under way.

Dave will be out and about at local shows, showing off the quads and talking about their durability and the special insurance deal Kymco have arranged for on-road use. He's on 07904 484 492 and you can get more information about these handy little vehicles, that come in sizes from a child's 90cc model up to the serious 450cc model if you dial up his website: www.shropshirequads.co.uk

Dave's starting from scratch with enthusiasm and proven ability. It will be interesting to watch the business grow.



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Philip Dunne's Letter from Westminster

Last month I attended the opening of the new headquarters for Shropshire Fire and Rescue in Shrewsbury, completed earlier than planned and within budget. Modern efficient offices, garaging with workshops for keeping the county's fire tenders in good condition and state of the art despatch communications system. Welcome capital investment in our county town which will serve our local communities. Design and build was undertaken by Shropshire businesses, funding husbanded by the Fire Service over several years.

The new Bishop Hooper primary school opened in November, the amalgamation of two small schools in the neighbouring villages of Ashford Carbonell and Caynham. A Shropshire Council project, providing first rate facilities to serve rural communities in the lee of the Clee Hill. It comes hard on the heels of the new William Brookes School opened in Much Wenlock before Christmas by the Duke of Gloucester.

These projects reminded me of efforts undertaken to examine the fairness of funding for delivery of public services in rural areas. It costs more to provide these to scattered communities, yet

government funding formulas tend to place rural authorities at the bottom end of the spectrum when allocating funds.

Last month I arranged meetings with Ministers in five different departments to discuss recognition for rurality and relative sparsity of population into funding formulas. These have covered funding for the fire service, per pupil funding in education, Shropdoc's out-of-hours provision and the new 111 telephone triage service in the NHS, improving broadband in rural areas and business rates on rural petrol filling stations. After campaigning on these issues and rural funding formulas in general for some years, I now feel more optimistic that there is a growing recognition within government that rural areas like Shropshire deserve fairer funding to provide quality services. This does not mean more money will be available overnight, it will be hard to introduce greater equity into funding formulas while spending cuts tighten. But I believe that as funding formulas are reviewed by many departments this year, we have a good prospect of seeing changes introduced.

Philip Dunne

Cleobury Patients' Voice - Jenny McCrorie reports

We had a good AGM on January 19th with 15 present. Jacqui Lewis presented the initial results from our questionnaire; these will be presented to the staff and then posted on the notice board and in next month's Clarion.

No committee changes, apart from Pat Smith standing down as Fundraising coordinator to let somebody else take the lead. Thank you Pat for all your hard work over the past year, that helped us present our educational events at no charge. And welcome to Caroline Bartholomew, our new Deputy Secretary.

We still have two committee vacancies for Fundraising and Communications Coordinators.

Both are important roles; will anyone interested in taking on one of them please contact me.

Also at the AGM were councillors representing Hopton Wafers and Farlow and Oretton; we hope we can promptly identify problems arising in our community and that other councils will join us.

Future projects include:

Setting up our own website, linked with the Centre's own; this will go live in a few weeks.

Men's Health events in June/July, with presentations of Prostate and Testicular Cancer and associated issues.

Starting a Compassionate Communities Project, hopefully with the Market Hall as a base.

Fundraising events.

Jenny



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CLEOBURY W.I.

Liz Smurthwaite reports:

December saw us celebrate with a Christmas themed evening of slides and music from Ian Templeton and his wife. Later in the week we enjoyed a splendid Christmas meal at Addison's, where a secret Santa found us with some surprise gifts. As we had concluded our 2011 fundraising we were able to present a cheque of £300 to the Air Ambulance, we now begin our 2012 fundraising on February 23rd with our renowned Winter Warmer Lunch. This will be held in the Parish Hall as usual, supporting the Severn Hospice.

Our January meeting was well attended to listen to Mr. Pearce talk about the garden at night. He is a retired farmer who has devoted his life to the conservation of wild life and has always been aware that wild life and farming compliment each other. He showed fascinating slides of the creatures we might find in our gardens: stoats, field mice, foxes and badgers together with creatures they depend on for their survival such as earth worms and slugs. An informative and enjoyable talk full of lively anecdotes. Flower

of the Month was won by Gillian, second was Jenny and third Liz. The competition for homemade biscuits was won by Liz. Our next meeting is 14th February in the Parish Hall. Please don't forget our Winter Warmer Lunch on February 23rd. We hope to see you all there.

Liz Smurthwaite

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Mrs Smurthwaite again. A busy lady:

Our year began with Wade Muggledon talking about growing vegetables and other produce in raised beds and other containers. He showed slides of the plot behind his house before he began work on it; just a stretch of grass with accumulated junk around. Being conservation conscious, he wasted nothing. Scraps of wood have been fashioned into a store, old paving stones built into a stone wall to support a herbery. The strong clay soil is not good for growing so he has constructed raised beds and filled them with a large selection of vegetables, leaving no space for weeds to grow. Wade favours growing a little of a lot of things and is never without food to eat. He has 31 varieties of apple trees, most ly

trained in 'step over' formation that means they are about 18 inches high and are very prolific croppers. With these he has a fruit area with strawberries, raspberries and gooseberries; in the summer dessert is often a stroll in the garden helping yourself. We were all in awe at his use of cast off items, too many to mention here. A thought provoking evening that we all enjoyed.

Liz Smurthwaite

NICE ONE

Malcolm Millichap only joined Cleobury Golf Club last November and already he's made an impact. Early in January he was playing the Badgers Sett loop on the course and on the 6th hole potted the first hole in one of the year. Nice one indeed.

OUT WALKING

Once more Rock Pathfinders have two outings planned this month. The first is on the 2nd, starting at 10.30 from the car park in Hawkbatch Valley, on the B4194 Dowles Road. The Ordnance Survey reference is 761777.

And on the 16th the start is at the same time, from the Rock Cross Inn, reference OS 735712.

Further details from Alan on 01299 400304 or look in at www.rockvillagehall.co.uk

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The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page



It's a natural thing for a veterinary practise to work with local agencies, particularly those involved in pet rescue. So when Marion Parsons at Newbridge Cat Rescue had her trap taken, Severn Edge stepped in with a replacement and some litter trays and food as an added extra. Peter Howman did the handing-over and handshake at the Cleobury surgery.

Marion has been running her cat rescue service for four years and is registered as a foster carer with the Cats Protection League Ludlow branch. Her love of animals took over when she and partner Mike lost four poly tunnels in their busy plant nursery to the 2007 floods. They've installed their own cat units, built by local shed people Hollywoods, and the CPL have provided another.

The need for extra space has seen another unit assembled, warmed by a wooden burning

stove and cosy on a chill January day; she found the money for that addition. It has washing facilities and just one inhabitant when we called, a rescue cat that had to have a leg amputated. He seemed a very friendly chap, making the most of his warm recovery ward.

Marion works closely with the Severn Edge surgery, as all cats are neutered and given a thorough health check before they are released to new homes. It's a busy place, with 88 cats found new homes last year and January looking like a busy start to 2012. Some of the cats that come in have been very poorly treated and need careful treatment to bring them back to health. Fortunately, the CPL backs up the work of approved homes like this and will help with care if a cat falls ill after adoption.

Marion's care isn't confined to just one species. She also takes in chickens rescued from battery farms and you can see contented hens pecking around the nursery. This is not a money making exercise, it's a labour of love that depends upon donations -that's her cat food collector unit outside Tuffins - and the work of volunteers. If you like cats and would like to help, she'd be glad to hear from you. Newbridge is on 01299 270701.

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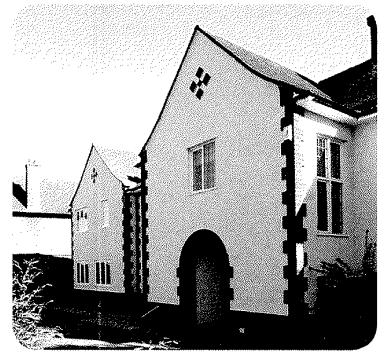
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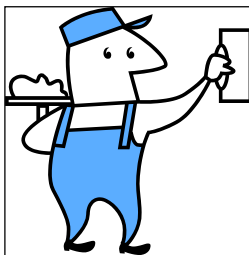
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Bayton - Is There A Happier Place for Children?

After school

As well as being educated within the National Curriculum during school time, children at Bayton Church of England Primary School are offered extra-curricular activities after school.

Every term, children from Year Two onwards are given the opportunity to learn to play instruments with local music teacher Mrs Disney, who comes into school twice a week to teach individuals or small groups during lunchtime, afternoons and after school. Twice a year, Mrs Disney's young musicians put on a Music Assembly which the whole school enjoys.

We are also lucky to have a coach from Kidderminster Harriers come for football training after school. Our school teams compete against other primary schools at football and netball.

Other clubs that regularly happen after school are netball, dance, cookery and Choir. Our talented Choir are currently in training to take part in the Worcester Competitive Arts Festival in March. As there are only five days in the week, some of our clubs run only for one term each school year and these include multi-skills, karate and photography amongst others.

Our enthusiastic children have started up their own Chess and Young Engineers Clubs, which meet during lunch times, and two of our Year Six children run the popular after school "Fun Club" involving arts and crafts which they plan and run themselves.

Sarah Brown

THE PRIMARY SCHOOL. Lovely rural setting and grounds. Ofsted 2011: 'Good with Outstanding Features.' Head Teacher: Avis Pounder 01299 832393

The children have returned after the Christmas break, eager and excited to tell all about their Christmas gifts and the nursery routine is back in full swing. We have welcomed several new children this term which is always lovely to have.

The first Forest Schools session of 2012 began with a very cold and frosty but exciting morning. The children found lots of blocks of ice, some with leaves and twigs in. We also went on a frosty walk around the garden and the children took some lovely photos to display, before coming back into the warm and painting frosty pictures of what they had seen.

Whilst the older children were at Forest School the two year olds had a Messy Monday session. This week we all enjoyed playing in the water, making loads of bubbles with the whisks, sailing boats, pouring through funnels and generally having fun although getting quite wet!

Due to the cold weather, we have brought the sand pit inside so the children are able to have easier access to build their creations and find the pirate treasure that is hidden within! This means there is loads of room under the canopy next to the nursery, so we have the ride on's to play with at the moment.

The children have free access to most of the toys and creative media within the nursery, so they are able to play with what they want, when they want it. A popular choice is playdough, which is probably out every day. We have many cutters, rolling pins, tools, etc. to enhance their play, which can not only promote physical skills and imagination but can also encourage communication.

We have been asked how to make playdough by several parents lately so thought we would share it with everyone:

2 cups plain flour

2 cups salt

2 tbsp cream of tartar

2 tbsp oil

2 cups water

Food colouring (optional) to colour!

Glitter (optional)

Oils (optional) to smell nice!

Put all the above into a saucepan and mix over a medium heat until the dough forms a ball - you do need to keep stirring! Tip out, allow to cool for 10 minutes and then knead. Enjoy!

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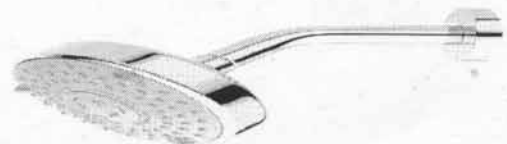
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

KINLET FAMILY PLAYGROUP

During January the children have been using their bodies to get around in our physical activity week, and thinking about all the different types of transport we use to get around. We were very excited when a hot air balloon decided to float over Kinlet and it gave the children plenty to talk about!

We currently have spaces available for children from two years old, and also host the parent and toddler group 'Little Tiddlers' on a Thursday morning within the normal playgroup session - this runs from 9.30-11.30 and is for families and children of any age. Please call 07794 166514 for more info or to arrange a visit.

Zoe Pearson

CHARITY WHIST DRIVE AT CLOWS TOP

We are hosting a charity whist drive at Clows Top Victory Hall on Thursday 2nd February, with all profits going towards the fight against Breast Cancer. The evening will start at 8.00pm and will include light refreshments and a raffle. Everyone is welcome, please come along and support this charity event. Thank you.

Joy Pearson

THE RURAL SKILLS TRAINING PROGRAMME

Linda Iles writes:

A programme of training courses designed to offer new skills and employment opportunities to those living in rural Worcestershire is being set up by Bewdley Development Trust in partnership with the Wyre Community Land Trust.

They will cover all aspects of running a smallholding, and other countryside skills such as fencing, hedgelaying and charcoal burning. On the food side there will be bread making in a wood-fired oven and turning fruit into pickles and chutneys. Those with fruit trees can learn how to prune and then turn the end product into juice or cider.

All the courses will be held at Uncllys Farm, Bewdley. Eligible applicants from rural Worcestershire will pay only £25 per course (plus materials costs in some cases) due to funding from the LEADER programme.

Call Ellie or Peter at Bewdley Development Trust on 01299 405516 or email info@bewdley.org.uk for full information and bookings.

Linda Iles

The available courses will be listed in the Clarion Social Calendar each month through to September. Ed.

CAN YOU HELP?

The Pioneer Centre is looking for some very simple help. They need a supply of firewood.

"One of our popular activities with children is a campfire, and that means having wood to burn," Centre chief Tim Stone explained. "We had a very helpful local business that provided us with pallets, but that source has dried up and we're struggling to find a new one."

The ideal solution would be another regular supply of scrap timber, because at busy times they can have ten campfires over a weekend. That's an indication of just how popular the Centre is. Right now they're happy to accept any suitable donations of dry, scrap timber. If you have something to suit, but can't deliver it, they are happy to collect if they can.

If you can help, please call the Centre on 01299 271217 and speak to Tim Stone or Steve Widdowson.

SILLY BIT

'Money doesn't necessarily bring happiness, but it's much more comfortable to feel depressed in a Porsche than on a bicycle.'

'If you help someone when they're in trouble, they'll remember you when they're in trouble again.'

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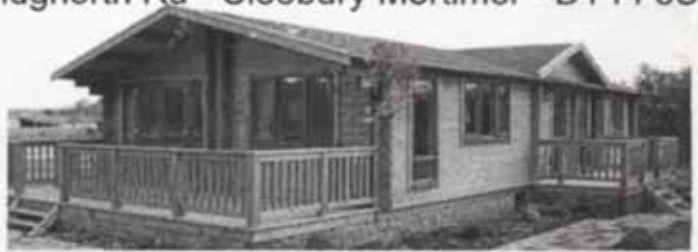
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

AN INVITATION TO ALL TRADERS

Cleobury's Chamber of Trade has a new initiative, working with Peter Roper of Positive Ground. They are running a series of monthly networking events at Cleobury Country Centre in Love Lane. They'll be on the third Tuesday, starting at 6.00 and lasting about two hours. For the peckish, refreshments will be provided. The 21st of this month will be the inaugural event.

Each evening will start with a business building session, looking at ways to increase trade with local companies. That will lead into a chance to exchange details with new faces and learn a little more about prospects on the doorstep. Your business cards will be an essential tool.

The evenings are open to all traders, not just Chamber of Trade members, and with such an experienced speaker and consultant as Peter Roper as the guiding light, they will be well worth attending. They are sponsored jointly by the Chamber and Cleobury Country Centre.

To be sure of a place, book yours through Clare Todd on 272300 or mail clare@cleoburycountry.co.uk.

And for your business diaries, some future dates: March 20th, April 17th, May 22nd and June 19.

WORTHWHILE WARBLING

The Reid Warblers were very active over the Christmas holiday period, as you'd expect.

They started off with a Carol Concert in the Parish Church and raised £100 for that cause.

Judy then got a choir of seven together and went carol singing around the pubs and restaurants to raise £144.57 for Severn Hospice. Judy told us: "Thanks to everyone who sang, allowed us in and contributed. Happy New Year."

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to Joy Wilkinson, newly elected secretary of the CMFA. This is her first report:

Thirty of us stepped out for the Boxing Day Parish Walk, including Evie who at a few months old, appeared to enjoy her excursion. A grey day, but the sun warmed us enough to enjoy the outing without shivering. Along the river, up towards the Pioneer Centre and stunning views over the town towards Clee. Then return through Neen Savage and up Workhouse Bank, having walked off some of our Christmas indulgences on a lovely morning with good company.

The rain on New Year's Day did not deter 34 walkers plus dogs

taking in the views around Mawley Hall. Another lovely walk followed by good food and a chat at a local pub.

For anyone who would like to join us on the first Sunday of each month, leaving from the Parish Church at 10.00 am, it is a wonderful way of getting to know the countryside around the area and finding paths to walk off the beaten track. The walks are usually approximately 1½ to 2 hours and can be tackled by all ages although some stiles and hills can be encountered.

Our next Parish Walk will be on Sunday February 5th at 10.00 am. We hope to see you there.

The Association also helps maintain footpaths. In December we built a sloping gravelled path at the bottom of Cleobury Meadows where the footpath enters a field, making the slope safer to use. Two Waymark posts at Withypool Farm were also put in to make the route of our Walk 15 easier to follow.

If you would like to help us – no special skills needed – please contact: susan@eaglelane.co.uk.

SILLY BIT

"As far as I'm concerned, war always means failure."

President of France Chirac

"As far as France is concerned, you're right."

Rush Limbaugh.

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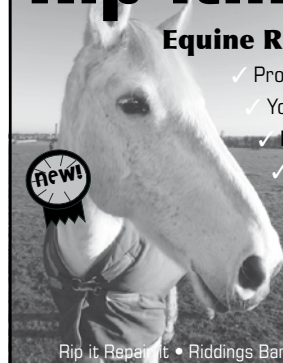
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE READING GROUP

"The White Tiger", by Adiga Aravind was voted by the group as worth reading, it portrayed a different aspect of India exposing corruption in the country. The story of a servant who eventually rises to be a master it was often quite disturbing.

Our next book "The Rain Before It Falls" by Jonathan Coe will be discussed at the library on Monday, February 20th at 7.30, come along if you are interested. Deana Kimber 271754

THE MAVIS CARTWRIGHT AWARD

The Friends of Cleobury Library have again launched their competition for junior readers. It focuses on designing a book cover for a recently read book; this can be drawn by hand or using computer graphics. Children 8 years & over also need to describe the character they would most like to be from the chosen book. Prizes for the best in each category. Forms can be obtained from Cleobury Library & the closing date for entries is 12th March.

KINLET SUCCESS

Kate Ramsey reports:

Kinlet Church of England Primary School are pleased to announce that they have been

awarded the Eco-schools Green Flag. An assessor came into school in November and observed all the projects that the children have taken part in to help the school achieve this award. These included improving the school vegetable garden, tidying up the borders around the school, introducing paper and plastic bottle recycling, monitoring the use of electricity and switching off lights, computers and other electrical equipment when not in use. The whole school is committed to continuing the good work and this year's projects include putting in a green house and more raised beds so that we can grow more varieties of vegetables.

BURWARTON CHARITY GROUP

Hannah Jordan explains:

I am secretary of the Burwarton Charity Group, young volunteers that run the Young Farmers tent at Burwarton Show and then organise and host the charity dance on the Friday evening; every year all the profits raised go to local charities. We recently held a presentation evening where we gave away £8000. The charities this year were Air Ambulance, The St John Ambulance (Bridgnorth) Nightingale

Nurses, Brown Clee Football club, Cleobury Mortimer Rugby club, Breast Cancer, The Cancer unit at Shrewsbury hospital, Severn Hospice, Oak Farm at Ditton Priors from adults with learning disabilities and Shropshire Blood Trust.

All these charities mean something to us. Recently a few of our group have been suffering with cancer, we now know how important these charities are and what a fantastic job they do.

I would really appreciate it if you could publish this, to show all our hard work and efforts don't go to waste and that even when we are hit with serious illness we still want to make a difference to others. We are still going ahead this year with the aim to make even more for local charities. *Hannah Jordan*

WHOOOPS!

Oh dear. In our January issue we featured the Sheepwear shop that has opened at 8 Church Street. The problem was, we moved it up the road a little and said it was on the corner of Eagle Lane. Doh. It's on the corner of Lion Lane, as the Church Street address suggests.

WISE BIT

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The February Monthly Social Calendar - Part 1

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Wed 1	8.00	Whist Drive Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 2		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	8.00	Whist Drive at Victory Hall, Clows Top, with light refreshments and a raffle. Raising funds for the fight against breast cancer. SEE PAGE 2		
Sun 5	10.00	Footpath Association Parish Walk starts at the Parish Church.		
Mon 6/ Tue 7/ Wed 7	7.30pm	"The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo" is at Ludlow's Assembly Rooms	Tickets	01584 878141
Thu 8	12.30pm	For 1.00pm Ladies Luncheon Club, Exchange Brasserie, High Street	Alison Osborne	01584 890414
	9.00pm	Presentation of proceeds of the sale of Old Comrade Ale by Nick Davis of Hobson's to the British Legion. At The Bell, Lower Street. SEE PAGE 33.		
Thu 9		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY.		
Sat 11		Rural Skills Training: "Bread in a Wood Fired Oven" course at Uncilys Farm, Bewdley	Details	01299 405516
Sat 12	11.00pm	To 4.00pm Mawley Hall's grounds open for the annual Snowdrop Walks. Just £1 for a real treat. Top value. SEE PAGE 33.		
	12.00pm	Memorial Service for Roger Philpotts in his favourite pub, the Kings Arms		
	1.45pm	The Horticultural Society meet in the Talbot Car Park and drive out to a Soft Pruning Class at Jenny Vanderhook's house in Baveney Wood.		
Mon 13	8.00pm	Horticultural Society, Methodist Hall, Church Street, John Millington talks about "Propagation".		
Mon 13 Thu 16	7.30pm	Meryl Streep in "The Iron Lady" at Ludlow's Assembly Rooms	Tickets	01584 878141
Tue 14	7.30pm	Cleobury WI		
Wed 15	11.00am	Carers' Drop In Clinic at the Market Hall. Free advice and guidance for all carers.	Jenny Englefield	01694 722024
	7.30pm	Stottesdon WI at Chorley Village Hall to hear about "Sustainability Matters"		
	8.00pm	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall. See Feb 1 st above.		
Thu 16		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		



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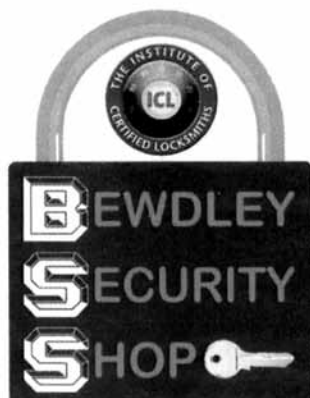
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The February Monthly Social Calendar - Part 2

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
	7.00pm	Folk Down The Track goes to The Castle at Knucklas, near Knighton, The Track means the Marches railway line from Ludlow	Graham	01584 872665
	7.45pm	Whist Drive, Sports & Social Club, Love Lane	Alan Evans	CM 270114
Fri 17		Rural Skills Training: Introduction to Smallholding, at Uncliys Farm, Bewdley	Details	01299 405516
	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 18	10.00am	To 4.00pm Launch of the Neen Sollars Hydro Cooperative at Victory Hall in Neen Sollars village (DY14 0AL for sat naving). SEE PAGE 1.		
Mon 20	7.30pm	The Reading Group gather in the Library in Love Lane.		
Tue 21	6.00pm	Chamber of Trade networking event at the Cleobury Country Centre	Clare Todd	CM 272300
Wed 22	6.00pm	Olympic Torch progress meeting in the Market Hall. All interested parties welcome.		
	7.45pm	Clows Top Gardening Club gather at the Victory Hall to hear Philip Aubury talk about House Plants	Marion Wilson	CM 270475
Thu 23		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Neen Savage Parish Hall	Clare Ratcliff	CM 270173
		Cleobury WIs Winter Warmer Lunch, Parish Hall, Church Street		
Fri 24	8.00pm	Bingo Night, Doddington Village Hall. See Feb 17 th above AND LOOKING FORWARD TO MARCH...		
Thu 1		The Clarion available in your local distribution point. BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 2		Rural Skills Training: Hedgelaying Course at Uncilys Farm, Bewdley. Repeated on Saturday 3 rd	Details	01299 405516
	7.00pm	Annual General Meeting of Cleobury Country in Love Lane Centre. All welcome, but please let them know if you're coming	Clare Todd	CM 272300
Sun 4		The Bells, The Bells! They're due to be ringing out again today, after a winter overhaul.		
Wed 7	8.00pm	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874

CORRECTION - PLEASE NOTE. The Royal British Legion presentation on the 8th is at 7.30, not 9.00 as we have it listed.

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Clarion Coppers - P C Tony Sewell

It has been a very quiet month in relation to crime and disorder, perhaps the quietest since I have been here. There has been a small amount of anti social behaviour by a number of school age boys in relation to knock door run and damage. With the school we have looked to deal with the matter within the community, having spoken to every boy from years 7-11, so you may see us in the next few weeks litter picking and car washing etc with those involved. It is important that we know where our children are and who they are with and if you have any doubts give us a call. The numbers are below if you have any concerns in your area.

On the re structure of Local Policing in the area, I will now also be responsible for Cleve Hill up to the A49 at Ludlow and will be gaining another CSO who some already know, Shaun Cullis. He is a vibrant young man with a strong will to help. The area covered is from the Shropshire border at Far Forest, across the the A49 Ludlow and down to Burford, the Shropshire side of the river.

A few small matters. If your children are out on bikes in the dark, can you make sure they are wearing appropriate clothing and lights.

Dog mess appears to have raised its ugly smell again. It is not acceptable that careless dog owners leave behind their animals' mess. It is an

offence for which the council can fine you on the spot for £50. I am constantly spoken to by mothers with children at the primary school because of the amount of dog mess on the path in Love Lane. When the irresponsible person is found and dealt with I will print their name, to let people know who is responsible. If you know, tell me and I will sort the matter out. If you want to pick up your dog's mess there are bags at the Police station, Library and with Matt Sheehan at the Market Hall. There is no excuse.

We have some timer switches at the station to give away, if you want one let us know. The station is open every morning except Sundays with our willing volunteers. If you can't get to the station, due to disability, let us know and we will pop one round.

If you have a local issue, then let us know. All information is treated in confidence. This is our community, we all have our part to play.

See you round town

PC Tony 3977 Sewell

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

'OLD COMRADE' PASSES ON

That's Hobson's 'Old Comrade', the special ale our local brewery produced and bottled to honour the local branch of the British Legion celebrating its 90th birthday.

Their 'levy' of 5p per bottle pint raised £925, which represents nearly 20,000 units sold. Bear in mind that when the Legion first approached the brewery, all they wanted was for them to produce the beer, rather than to raise money. It doesn't stop there, as they have already handed over £440 from the 'Enigma Evening' that Dr Mark Baldwin presented at the Brewery..

A cheque presentation is planned at the Bell Inn at about 7.30pm on February 8th. Another very friendly occasion that will generate goodwill.

THE SILENCE OF THE CLANGS

Alec Osbaldiston explains those eerily peaceful Sunday mornings:

Within the spire of Saint Mary's Church is a fine peal of six bells originally cast and installed by Abel Rudall in 1757. The last overhaul of these was in 1925.

On the recommendation of the Steeple Keeper, it was agreed that after 87 years it is time for them to have a further refit.

Work started in mid January and some fittings were taken away for renovation or replacement; the bells will remain in the tower. At the end of February the fittings will be returned and the bells rehung: they will then be rung for the first time on Sunday 4th March.

Meanwhile, the clock will continue to work, but the hour will not strike, nor will a bell be rung before the early Sunday and weekday services. While work is going on in the tower it may be necessary for the centre trapdoors to be open to allow fittings to be removed and replaced. When this is happening the room at the base of the tower will be out of bounds for safety reasons.

The work will cost around £12,000 and is being financed by gifts and by grants from bell-related charities. There will be no cost to church finances.

*Alec Osbaldiston,
Tower Captain*

THE SNOWDROP WALKS

Definitely something to look forward to:

The Snowdrop Walks around the grounds of Mawley Hall are scheduled for the 12th of this month. The grounds will be open to visitors from 11.00 to 4.00 and the last guided walk is due to start at 3.00.

This is a lovely setting in which to see one of the countryside's traditional highlights to best advantage, with two signposted routes to choose from. Maps will be handed out and refreshments will be on sale if you need to feed. Tickets are quite a bargain at £1.00 each, with all proceeds from the day going to the Friends of St Mary's. Naturally, this can only happen because Mr and Mrs Galliers-Pratt cooperate in giving consent and helping on the day.

One word of advice. Wear stout shoes or something that will not be harmed by woodland tracks that may be muddy at this time of year. Arrive early to be sure of a place and enjoy the day.

CLEOBURY COUNTRY

A.G.M.

Cleobury Country's AGM will be at 7.00pm on Friday March 2nd in Lacon Childe School. There will be two guest speakers: Paul Stedman of Cognet Ltd, an locally based independent training provider, and Philip Dunne MP will present the case for "The Coalition Government's plans to invigorate the rural economy."

All are welcome to attend. Would you please advise the organisers if you are coming 01299 272300 or e-mail business@cleoburycountry.com

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Clive Davies' Westwood Farm Diary

20th January

What would Grandad think? Our farm business here at Westwood was established near-on one hundred years ago when my grandparents married in 1916. They started their farming on an upland farm near Bishops Castle in south-west Shropshire before moving here in 1939. Their early enterprises were really a mixture of everything, beef cattle, sheep, some pigs and poultry and a few crops. There would have been a dairy cow or two, they were there to provide milk and perhaps farmhouse butter, some of which would be sold at the local markets with surplus eggs. This sort of management policy would have carried on to around the mid '60's when a little more specialisation was adopted and the business grew. Infact, it doubled in size, from about 220 acres to near-on five hundred. Higher production targets were in vogue then and had been since the Second World War. The attitude was much about the Country's self sufficiency of food and there were various schemes and measures to assist farmers with this fundamental purpose. During the 1970's and since it has been what we now call the European Union that has governed most of the farming and countryside management. Their various schemes and regulation have brought a myriad of wheeling, dealing and compliance. To a large extent it's done its job. Bringing the European nations together was really all about keeping peace and what with an abundant supply of food things could be much worse. However, it's not to say that everything has been handled well. The over production period seemed very wasteful. The strict regulation has held some operators back and on many occasions farm businesses in particular have had to play 'the game' whether or not for the all round

best. In this scenario we can recall the keeping of minimum numbers of various livestock for a given length of time, whether or not it was either sensible or practically possible to do. These situations were all about gaining Government support for production. That changed in the mid noughties to a system known as Single Farm Payment. Here the monies were decoupled from production measures and awarded to the area farmed and finalised depending on what sort of so called environment friendly schemes were carried out. This sort of arrangement is up for review again so that by 2014 or so, European farmers will be supported by what is said to be a more universal arrangement. Well, that would be good! For a start, all this comes under the guise of what is known as the Common Agricultural Policy, but, common it's not! Here in UK, farmers receive around about £120 per acre for their efforts; other Countries can be getting up to two hundred and fifty pounds per acre equivalent. Not even the best European politicians are going to be capable of selling commonality to all of the 27 member states! So, agri-politics have changed a great deal since Grandfather started his career, but so too have methods. The fact that a fairly sizeable farm can now be run by a small fraction of staff members. That there is a machine capable of doing most of the day to day jobs. That livestock production is more intense to the point that greater numbers can easily be kept and so much of that is due to much better animal health protocols. That genetic improvement of livestock is producing animals of outstanding merit. Crops are more reliable whether they are of conventional farm types or of a horticultural nature. Indeed, if he were here, what would Grandad think?



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The Clarion Weekly Calendar - Part One

day	time		contact	phone no
SUN	8.30	Holy Communion)at the Parish Church of St Mary		CM 270264
Sun	9.45	Parish Communion) the Virgin, Church Street		
Sun	9.00	Mass at St Elizabeth's Church, Lower Street	Fr J Robinson	01584 872906
Sun	09.00	Cleobury Country Archers, Sports Centre	Lesley Burnside	CM 271374
Sun	10.30	New Life Church, for venue call	Derek Morris	CM 270787
Sun	10.30	Health Walk in the Wyre Forest, Visitor Centre A456	Visitor Centre	CM 266929
Sun	11.00	Morning Service at the Methodist Church	Rev H Roberts	01584 819649
MON	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe (term only)	April Rogers	CM 271418
Mon	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Mon	8.00	- 17.30 Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Mon	10.00	-19.00 Library open at Cleobury Country Centre	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Mon	9.30	Morning workout in the Sports Hall £2.00	Deena Edwards	01299 271217
Mon	9.30	Belly Dancing Class at Victory Hall, Clows Top		
Mon	9.30	CM Playgroup, Market Hall (term only)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Mon	10.00	Monday Club, St Mary's Place £5.00 for day incl 2 course meal	Jenny Ferriday	CM 400773
Mon	17.30	Cubs meeting (term-time only)	Karen King	CM 270001
Mon	18.30	Karate Club, Lacon Childe School	John Nelson	CM 879210
Mon	19.00	Tai Chi Class, Lacon Childe School	Rose Jacks	01584 875544
Mon	19.00	Cleobury Mortimer Ladies Rugby Team Training	Sarah Cound	07977 120272
Mon	19.15	Yoga Class, Bayton Village Hall	Linda Thomas	CM 832998
Mon	19.30	Rangers Meeting (term-time only)	Judy Ellis	01584 890759
Mon	19.45	Bingo, CM Sports & Social Club (exc. Bank Hols)	Alan Evans	CM 270114
Mon	20.00	Prize Bingo, Sports & Social Club, Love Lane		
TUE	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Tue	8.00	- 17.30 Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Tue	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe till 3.15pm	April Rogers	CM 271418
Tue	09.00	-17.00 Library open	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Tue	9.30	CM Playgroup, Market Hall (see Mon)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Tue	10.00	Nippers (Mothers & Tots), Methodist Hall,	Emma Greenaway	CM 272959
Tue	10.30	Health Walk in the Wyre Forest, Visitor Centre A456	Visitor Centre	CM 266929
Tue	17.00	Sports Roundabout, CM sports Hall. £1 per hour		CM 271317
Tue	17.30	Beavers meeting (term-time only)	Becky Keeley	CM 271416
Tue	17.30	- 19.30 Youth Forum meets at 8 Talbot Square	Sandra	07964902549
Tue	18.45	Bridge Club, Hopton Wafers Village Hall	Wendy Duley	CM 270562
Tue	18.45	Yoga, Victory Hall, Clows Top	Linda Thomas	CM 832998
Tue	19.00	Bellringers' practice night. St Mary's Church	Liz Walker	CM 271808
Tue	19.00	Dog ringcraft class, Clee Hill Village Hall	01584 890999	or 890478
Tue	19.00	Zumba Fitness, Lacon Childe School	Faith Thompson	07517 753375
Tue	19.30	Peak Physique, Lacon Childe School	Kim Bills	01384 877702
Tue	20.00	Charles Beale Modern Dance Sequence Club, Lacon Childe	E Wrigglesworth	01562 822291
Tue	20.30	Aerobics, Lacon Childe School. £2.00	Ms K Bills	01384 877702
WED	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Wed	8.00	- 17.30 Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Wed	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe (see Mon)	April Rogers	CM 271418
Wed	9.00	Open Doors in the Market Hall. Parents & toddlers 1 st monthly	Rachel	CM 272920

The Weekly Calendar continues on Page 41....

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The Weekly Calendar - Continued

<i>Day</i>	<i>time</i>		<i>contact</i>	<i>phone no</i>
Wed	09.00	-17.00 Library open	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Wed	9.30	Rising Fives Playgroup, Market Hall (see Mon)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Wed	10.00	Citizen's Advice Bureau, CM Library (appt only)		01584 876933
Wed	10.30	Over 50s Relaxing Exercises, Doddington Village Hall	Freda Childe	01584 891180
Wed	14.00	- 17.30 Library open, Cleobury Country Centre, Love Lane	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Wed	17.15	Brownies meeting (term time only)	Jadwiga Borns	CM 270215
Wed	16.30	Gym Club for ages 6 and over £3 (booking essential)	Don Carter	CM 270312
Wed	19.00	Guides meeting (term time only)	Bev Pearce	CM
Wed	19.00	Heartbeat Fitness, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
Wed	19.00	Yoga Class, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
Wed	19.30	Rugby Club Training, Lacon Childe		CM 271317
Wed	19.30	Band practice, Cleobury Mortimer Concert Brass	Stella Wilcox	CM 270560
Wed	19.30	New Life Church Prayer meeting. For venue, please ring	Derek Morris	CM 270787
Wed	19.30	Choir Practice, St Mary's Church	Philip Englehart	CM 270627
THU	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Thu	8.00	- 17.30 Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Thu	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe till 3.15pm	April Rogers	CM 271418
Thu	9.00	-17.00 Library open	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Thu	9.30	Little Tiddlers, birth onwards at demountable, Kinlet School	Sam	CM 271847
Thu	9.30	CM Playgroup, Market Hall. (term-time only)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Thu	11.00	Sale of second-hand goods, Knowle Sports Club,	Mrs A Taylor	01584 890644
Thu	13.30	Cards and Scrabble, St Mary's Place, Love Lane	Jo Booton	CM 270792
Thu	14.00	Scrabble Club, St Mary's Place, £1 non residents	Jo Booton	07969 104808
Thu	17.30	- 19.30 Youth Forum meets at 8 Talbot Square	Sandra	0796 4902549
Thu	17.30	Brownies meeting (term-time only)	Jadwiga Borns	CM 270215
Thu	17.45	Cleobury Comets Netball at Sports & Social Club		CM 270317
Thu	19.00	Bell Inn Improvers rehearsal. Bell Inn, Lower Street		
Thu	19.30	Tums & Bums, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
Thu	19.30	Adult 5-a-side Football League, CM Sports Centre	Dave Hinvies	CM 271317
Thu	20.00	11-16 Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317
Thu	21.00	Over 16s Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317
Thu	20.00	Bell Inn Band rehearsal. Bell Inn, Lower Street		
FRI	8.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, demountable at Kinlet School	Tracey	CM 841210
Fri	9.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe till 3.15pm	April Rogers	CM 271418
Fri	09.00	-17.00 Library open	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Fri	9.30	CM Playgroup, Market Hall (term-time only)	Ceri Little	07816 193933
Fri	10.00	Tiny Tots, Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon Primary	Zoe Day	01746 718769
Fri	10.00	Tiny Tots, Parish Hall £2.00 per family	Bettina Poole	CM 271868
Fri	17.00	Junior 5-a-side Football League, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317
Fri	17.30	Rainbows Meeting girls 5-7 years (term-time only)	Jean Basham	07792813774
Fri	20.00	Badminton, CM Sports Centre. Adults £2.50,		01584 881359
SAT	8.30	Sale of second-hand goods, Knowle Sports Club	Mrs A Taylor	01584 890644
Sat	10.00	-13.00 Library at Cleobury Country Centre	Jenny Robinson	CM 272301
Sat	10.00	Telephone advice line to Citizens' Advice Bureau		01584 810860
Sat	11.00	Junior Golf Coaching for boys and girls, CM Golf Club	John Jones	CM 271628

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
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Clarion News - High Street Happenings

THE BIG ONE

The biggest event of the year on High Street will be the parade of the Olympic Torch through town on May 24th, on its way to the Olympic Games. Cllr Madge Shingleton chaired a meeting on January 18th, to report progress and hear questions and comments.

There will be a Banner Workshop in the Parish Hall on February 10th; the plan is to have an Avenue of Banners down Ludlow Road as the torch arrives. Lacon Childe School has offered to host the torch bearers here and let them meet local children. On March 1st the BBC's School Report will include a report from Lacon Childe and that will include the Torch's visit.

Mark Greaves will recruit 16 and 17-year-olds to help and the Friendship Club were keen to have them help members in wheelchairs. The British Legion will assemble at the War memorial and marshal its own wheelchair members.

Sean Thorogood was sure the Parish Council will want to help, probably with publicity and marketing, and Lloyds TSB, as a major sponsor of the Games, will want to be involved too.

Crowd barriers were discussed, but provision is not part of the parade; associations may decide

to provide their own. The Police will not be closing the road, but street parking will be suspended from early morning; as the 24th is a bin day, Veolia will be asked to alter their schedule.

Severn Hospice volunteered to make bunting; young children can make their flags if they are not provided by the procession sponsors. Extra toilets will be hired for the day.

It was explained the Police had advised no banners should be stretched across the road because of obstruction to high vehicles. The Shropshire Council and West Mercia Police will handle traffic control.

Mrs Shingleton will get answers to questions raised and the next meeting will be at 6.00 in the Market Hall on February 22nd.

REMEMBERING ROGER

Roger Philpotts was a Cleobury man who left this earth much too early on November 30th. He was just 73 and living in a home in Ludlow.

A long time regular at the King's Arms, he will be honoured with a memorial service in the pub on February 12th. It will be in the tap room, starting between 12.00 and 12.30 and lasting no more than 30 minutes. It will be conducted by a minister of the church.

As the man himself would have wished, the normal trade of the

pub will carry on. That's what he liked about the place, and it will be a fitting tribute to his memory.

OUR HISTORIC LIME TREES

As many readers know, the seventeen lime trees that gracefully stretch the length of the town were planted to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, thereby witnessing life in the town for longer than any of Cleobury's residents. This year, they will see yet another Diamond Jubilee and will be looking spectacular, thanks to a joint effort to raise the funds to pay for them to be pleached once again. Shropshire Council will pay half the cost and a number of local residents and groups, including the Horticultural Society and the Chamber of Trade, have pledged an annual contribution of £400. Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council will pay the remainder. All in all, this is an excellent piece of collaboration between local councils and residents, which we hope will continue for many years to ensure the health, appearance and impact of these unique trees. So look out for the professional arboriculturalists who will be in the town in late February.

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Dining on High Street - The Exchange Brasserie

First a recommendation from a Clarion reader:

I thought I would write to let you know how pleased we were after the great night on Sunday December 18th at the Exchange Brasserie. We went in to speak to Robbie in October to see if they could accommodate a surprise 21st birthday meal for about forty people. They said they could open for us on the Sunday before Christmas, the day after my daughters birthday, as this is their day off and they were happy to help sort out a menu that was not just Christmas meals.

On the night they opened in plenty of time for us to put our balloons and photos of my daughter as she was growing up. They also greeted everyone with a smile and made us all feel very welcome. When my daughter arrived they turned the lights down to let us know she was coming. On greeting her and her boyfriend they made out it was a table for two, to keep the element of surprise going as long as possible. This meant we saw the surprise on her face when she walked in and saw her friends and family there. The staff were very organised, especially for a relatively new business. The meals came out in good time and they asked us regularly if we needed drinks; they also did a ticket tab system which a lot of people felt was a very good idea and easier with quite a large party. They were more than happy to do Christmas meals, as my younger children are fussy eaters, Overall the service and meals were of a good standard especially as there were forty two people all having three courses. it is because of all

this that I felt I would write and let everyone know how we found the service at the Exchange Brasserie. Myself and the rest of my family and freinds would like to say a big 'Thank You' to all members of staff for making my daughter's 21st one she will remember.

Stella Weaver.

Why we went there:

This was an event we could not let pass without saying goodbye properly. Elayne Jonas, our long term correspondent for what is now Severn Edge Vets, is away to pastures new, so we booked a table at the High Street's newest eatery to see her off in style. It was purely a lucky coincidence that it was her birthday as well.

The decor at the Exchange is mighty impressive and the bar and furnishings breathe quality. Service was friendly and attentive without being overwhelming, and when we asked for a half portion of a dish normally served for two it was no problem. I like that willingness to fit in with the customer's needs.

Elayne's own report on the eating experience follows, but my much better half agreed with me that they did a really good job. She judges places on the quality of a dish she wouldn't cook at home, the surprise element of a special occasion. For Valerie it started with a warm mackerel salad and really hit the spot with a delicately cooked salmon steak on a bed of lime noodles. Big smiles, big hit.

I went the fish route too, perhaps in deference to our vegetarian special guest, and chose a cod loin. A picquant sauce complemented both flesh and vegetable selection. We were

all three of us impressed and the portions were generous enough to put a third course out of the question.

A first experience of The Exchange for my wife and me as well as our guest. We were the last to leave on what was clearly a quiet night, yet the staff never made us feel that we were over staying our welcome. I do wish I'd had that maturity and calm when I was working in retail as a young man. I'm impressed JR

Elayne's Final Word:

Instead of the usual two minutes silence, I had a special treat to celebrate my birthday this year. In the company of the editor and his wife I spent a lovely evening at the X-Change Restaurant here in Cleobury. It was my first time in the building and was impressed with the set-up, the enormous bank of light switches, having never seen so many in one place - I don't get out much.

Served by very welcoming staff I had the vegetarian option of pasta with olives and aubergines which was terrific. Result - a great evening out in good company.

The editor has been kindness itself to me over the years I have been writing the Hollybush/Severn Edge Vets page in the Clarion and I want to take this chance to thank him for putting up with me and the late entries and the occasional rant.

I also want to say farewell to all the lovely people that I have come to know whilst working at the Cleobury surgery over the past 10 years. It's been a pleasure.

Elayne Jonas

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

FEBRUARY IN THE FOREST

Linda Iles with more from her great store of Wyre Forest knowledge:

When I was a towny, or more of a towny than I am now, I used to think February was the lowest point of the year. Dark, cold and usually wet. Now that I am immersed in the forest and fields of Wyre, however, I can see that there is no month of the year that is without wildlife interest and February has its share of encouraging signs of life and growth. The treatment for my version of Seasonal Affective Disorder is to get out in the woods, farm and garden as much as possible.

What do we find there? For me, best of all are the snowdrops. Every year I resolve to move the clumps by the back door to a more visible position and generally act on the resolution, but every year some manage to pop up again in various unsuitable nooks and crannies where weed control or grass cutting is bound to damage them. I think they're just incredibly resilient and I love their determination to bring their delightful little white bells to brighten our winter.

Hazel catkins come a close second. The lovely little trees are hard to beat for usefulness to country folk and wildlife, and their male flowers open up on warmer days this month to release clouds of yellow pollen which can be carried by air currents to fertilise the female flowers. The latter are worth seeking out; borne on the same trees but looking like tiny, bright red sea anemones. This is where the hazel nuts will form.

As I have to write this in early January I have no idea what the

weather will be like when you read it. So far this winter there has been little icy weather and I hope that has continued. Some more rain, though it makes the forest paths unpleasant, would be very helpful to refill the ground water reserves, brooks and ponds which are so vital. Some of the pools I know have been empty since last summer. It is remarkable that wildlife such as freshwater invertebrates and their larvae, which rely on these habitats, can persist and recolonise after such droughts. I hope that many of the toad tadpoles that I saw in huge numbers at the reservoir in Cold Harbour Coppice in May will have survived. On the other hand we may be facing floods in February, in which case you will be laughing ironically!



If I was able, I would certainly join the happy band of Health Walkers who, led by volunteers, march out every Tuesday and Sunday at 11.00am to get fit and enjoy both the woods and the company. These walks are free and are just the job to get more active and build fitness. If you are coming for the first time please arrive at 10.30am to complete some health details.

During the half-term holiday there will be children's activities

on the Tuesday and Friday from 10.30am to 12noon. Information about these activities, which are aimed at 5 to 11 year olds: wyre.forest.discovery.centre@forestry.gsi.gov.uk or you can ring 01299 266929.

Linda Iles

Forestry Commission

RAISING MONEY

Roger Gittins, landlord at The Bell and noted charity fund raiser, writes:

The Sunday League Charity Fund.

As I reported in the December issue, the Fund has this year donated 80 percent of the funds raised to MacMillan Cancer Support and the Nightingale Nurses. They each received a cheque to the value of £2634.70

My thanks go to the captains and players of teams at The Bell, Lion, Stable and the Club. The lottery players at The Bell donated £780 to the fund. A copy of the baance sheer can be viewed on the Talbot Square notice board. Not bad for a tiddly little league on a Sunday night in Cleobury!

Poppy Appeal 2011

The Appeal this year has so far raised £3995.78, with the church collection and five wreaths still to be paid in. My thanks to the poppy sellers, shops, pubs, schools and all who contributed to such a magnificent total.

Roger Gittins

AND A THANK YOU...

This message arrived on the same day:

We would like to give a big thank you to the Cleobury Mortimer Sunday League Charity Fund who have given us a cheque for £2634.70. this will enable the good work carried out by Macmillan to carry on.

Sue Henderson

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Crayfish & Prawns served with Apple & Mayonnaise on Dressed Leaves £6.25

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Hummus served with Roasted Peppers & Bread £4.50

Hot Belly Pork with Plum Sauce & Dressed Leaves £5.50

Cajun Chicken Strips served with Salad and Garlic Mayonnaise £5.95

All starters served with bread and butter

MAINS

Braised Beef on a Bed of Horseradish Mash £11.95

Beer Battered Cod Served with Chips & Mushy Peas £10.95

Slow Baked Pork Belly with Dauphinoise Potatoes £11.95

Chef's Chicken Curry Served with Rice (Vegetarian option available) £10.50

Lamb Shank in a Red Wine Jus served with Spring Onion Mashed Potato £12.95

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Community Cooperation

The Cleobury Clarion gives our Parish Council space to keep you up to date with their work and plans.

Clerks Progress Report from Dec 2011 - Jan 2012

The new streetlights for Steeple Close and Church Walk have to be raise and lower type, for ease of maintenance, as they are to be situated on paths. They are made to order and this will take 6-8 weeks.

A meeting with Shropshire Council has taken place with Western Power, Cllr M Reiner and clerk to sort out the connections for Steeple Close and Church Walk. Church Walk will be closed off when the underground cables are laid. To be notified.

To resolve ownership of streetlights, a drive and walk around was done by Cllr D Brown and clerk, to do a complete stock take in Cleobury Mortimer and identify places for new streetlights.

- 1) We have secured the new beech trees free of charge for the Parish; to be collected on Sat 4th February to replace the diseased ones cut down in the Cemetery.
- 2) As soon as the file for the New Toilets is returned from Shropshire Council and the plans are agreed correct, we can then obtain tenders.
- 3) Precept agreed for £33,000, same as last year. Has been submitted to Shropshire Council.
- 4) Meetings will have to be arranged with the Parish Council subcommittee, to push ahead with public consultation of the Parking Review.
- 5) The application for Parish Plan funding grant of £1,500 has been successful.
- 6) A complete review of Parish Council assets is in progress to update the Asset Register and make sure properties and land owned by the Parish Council are properly registered. Initial investigations show this may not have been done.
- 7) Dog mess is still an issue being reported to the Clerk who has free dog bags to hand out. Small children are being affected and it CAN cause blindness. Any concerns please report to the clerk.

Upcoming

Dice Buchanan (Carers Support and Development Officer for South West Shropshire) is holding a Drop In Advice Surgery in Cleobury Mortimer at the Library on Wednesday 15th February between 11-1.00pm, giving carers information and advice.

This will be for Carers who want to speak to her for information and advice on an individual basis.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

EXPERTISE AVAILABLE FOR FREE



Andy Evans. Long experience of the high standards in the aero industry.

Andy Evans has worked in the aircraft industry since he earned his first degree in Aero Engineering at Hertfordshire University. He's moved from design to safety work during his career, and is currently a director of a company specialising in aero safety. In an industry where safety is absolutely paramount, he knows about very high standards.

His thirst for learning and improving himself has seen him earn a Masters Degree in Business Administration with the Open University and then an MSc in systems safety.

Living happily in Cleobury Mortimer, he feels he should be putting something back into the

community where he and his family have settled.

So Andy is offering to coach people in business systems and administration in his spare time. That means evenings and weekends. "At any level," he explains. "From someone starting out in self employment through to company managers who want to take a fresh look at the way they operate."

"I won't make a charge for my time, but if the customer says it works, I'll ask them to make a contribution to charity. I prefer the Severn Hospice and Help for Heroes, but any other charity is fine if the customer has a strong personal choice."

"The sessions will generally be one hour long, and if the subject needs more time, we'll spread it over as many sessions as it takes."

You won't find many offers of hard earned skills as generous as that. He gives for nothing, you learn and advance, the charity of your choice gets the financial benefit. A winning deal all round.

Andy is on CM 271816 or e-mail andy.evsko@virgin.net

SYBIL MORRIS

Mrs Morris passed away on January 4th. A quiet, gentle lady who remained independent until the last few weeks and never looked her age - she was 96. Our sympathies go to her son Nick and the family.

THE FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Cleobury Friendship Club welcomed pupils from local schools at their pre-Christmas dinner, held in the Parish Hall.

Lacon Childe provided the waiters and children from the Primary School came along and entertained delighted members with Christmas songs and carols.

The Club extends a warm welcome to all Senior Citizens who would like to join. Come along to the Parish Hall on an Tuesday at 2.00; if necessary local transport can be arranged. For more details, contact me on CM 270353.

Janet Rolston

EARLY NOTICE

The Cleobury Mortimer Macmillan Cancer Support Group are holding a Charity Quiz on Friday March 9th, at The Sports and Social Club, Love Lane, starting at 8pm.

The admission charge is £7-50 per person, to include a ploughmans supper. To book a table for four or six persons please phone either 01299 271947 or 272820.

Sue Henderson

SILLY BIT

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THE LADY WITH THE LENS



Claire Whiteman-Haywood, in Cleobury at the parish church. Her wedding video business will bring her back here in the future.

Claire Whiteman-Haywood has a strong Cleobury background as a past pupil at Lacon Childe School, a place that holds lots of good memories for her. From here she progressed to university and a First Class Degree in Film and TV Production before moving on to work as a freelance. She has a flair for live filming and has worked on a number of major soaps before her new move as an independent video producer.

Weddings will be the obvious staple of the business in its early days, but she can readily handle corporate videos, with experience covering the local floods, an arts festival and the Severn Valley Railway's recovery from major flood damage.

A good professional covering your wedding makes a lot of sense. Who hasn't been through that day and come to the end wondering what happened? With her careful production, you'll know in detail. Most wedding work she'll handle as a solo, but if it's a big occasion she can call in back-up on a second camera. So who filmed her own wedding two years ago? She smiles: "The firm I was working for at the time."

The whole film is then edited to tell the story of the special day. That will work well only if a good professional does it, and Claire combines the film with a soundtrack of music chosen by the happy couple. The result is a long lasting memory jogger that the couple won't tire of, because they had personal input to add a final touch.

Contact Claire at 07528 512 620 or e-mail claire@ontrack-productions.co.uk

Alternatively, visit her website www.ontrack-productions.co.uk

McCARTNEY'S UNITE TO EXPAND

Two of the best known local names in the property business have merged to form one of the largest, multi disciplined, independently owned specialists in the country.

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EARLY NOTICE....

We will remind you of this nearer the time, but thought you'd like early notice of the popular Mamble Car Boot Sale, coming your way on April 21st.

It's been a great hit before, probably because the organisers very thoughtfully don't let regular boot sale traders in. It's strictly for local people only, to clear out unwanted stuff or show off their craft skills.

Sandra on 01299 832796 can tell you more.



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IN BUSINESS

Wild at Heart Flowers



This is a tale of transformation. About Mawley Oak Garage taking on a brighter look that has heads turning as drivers see a florists showroom out in the country. Who on earth thought of that?

Rachael McDonough is the artistic drive behind the change that has people calling in to satisfy their curiosity and discovering a world of colour and creation.

She's been passionate about flowers and wildlife since she started pressing flowers as a six year old fascinated by the gardens her father tended at Kettlethorpe Hall in Lincolnshire. She left school 25 years ago, when the family lived in Birmingham, and went into a job at a florist's. She learned fast and is entirely self taught in the art of creating floral tributes.

There was one break in her floristry work, when she became her father's full time carer and nursed him for four and a half years until his death. She was looking around for work with flowers when partner Alan suggested she tried putting on a

small show in the garage he and his sister run. It started as one table at Easter in 2010 and has grown to take over most of the Mawley Oak showroom.

What Rachael does that appeals is sit and listen to what people want, then come up with a design to suit. She doesn't have a standard list of shapes, she'll sit and custom build a floral tribute of almost anything. Like a much loved dog, a horse, an owl. When she was running a shop in Birmingham a local dustman passed away; she produced a dustcart made of flowers. When another customer wanted something really different for Christmas, the whole front of their house in Hockley Heath was dressed out in flowers. No challenge is too big for this lady.

She controls the temperature of the showroom carefully, to keep the stock fresh. And every Thursday she's off to Birmingham market to replace all the flower stock, to ensure constant freshness. Expensive? "It was at first, but I've learned and I've nearly sold out by Wednesday," she explains.

Stock is dominated by English grown flowers in season: "I don't believe in buying it all in from Holland, we've got to keep local growers in business, and nurture what's left." She details the long list of varieties of English lilies as an example, and there are far too many of them to list on this crowded page

She will buy foreign grown flowers in if the customer requires, but there can be surprises tucked away in some of those boxes. "I bought a box of Heliconias in, I think they

were from Costa Rica, the flowers all wrapped up in brown paper. I found a green tree frog in there - it survived six months in a local pet shop!"

Her years in Birmingham got her used to dealing with some pretty big names, with the Royal Ballet and Hippodrome theatre near the shop she ran . Good demand from those sources for bouquets and sprays for the stars of the shows.

Mawley Oak is very different from city life, but determination still shines through. She's in the showroom at 7.30 in the morning and stays until 6.00, with Wednesday a half day as on Thursday she's off to market at 5.00am. The shop is open six days a week.

Rachael makes her wreaths and tribute pieces on the premises."I work in front of people, not hidden away. It creates interest," she reasons. And she happily gives advice to amateurs free of charge. If the flower arrangers in any local church need supplies, she offers a special price and again free advice if it's wanted. Any delivery to local schools carries no extra charge.

None of her output carries fancy city prices. Small hand ties start at £10 and her special tribute models are a fraction of the price you'll pay in the city. It's all part of another good reason to shop locally and save money with a very special service. The enthusiasm for the job comes over loud and clear, even though she's soft spoken

And Rachael will never hurry you - she'll listen, think carefully about what you want and come up with a true original.

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The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page

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Clarion Contact - Useful Local Telephone Numbers

CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE - 01299 272300 In Love Lane.. Open 09.00 to 5.00, Mon to Fri. You can also contact the new Shropshire Council free of charge.

CHAMBER OF TRADE - 01299 270279. Mrs Lesley Burnside is the Chair.

CITIZENS ADVICE - 08444 991100. Or through the Wednesday link at the Cleobury Centre.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER POLICE STATION - 0300 333 3000. The Station is not manned full time; you can contact **PC Tony Sewell** direct at: anthony.sewell@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS AND GUIDES - 01299 270215. Robin Borns is the contact.

CRIMESTOPPERS - 0800 555 111. Free Police contact. You can talk in confidence, to report any crime. You do not have to give your name.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE - Women's Aid, 24 Hour support: 0800 783 1359

HOME FROM HOSPITAL - 01584 878046. For help over the first few weeks back home.

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

MARKET HALL- Dorothy on CM270324, 07761 976650 mobile or mcbrideneenpc@aol.com

MEDICAL CENTRE - 01299 270209. At weekends, the Shrop Doc Service.

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

PARISH COUNCIL -Clerk Matthew Sheehan is in the Market Hall from 9.00 'til 2.00, Monday to Friday. The number there is 01299 271154. The Council meets in the Market Hall on the first Monday of the month; meetings are open to the public, who may address the Council in an open session before the business meeting starts.

POST OFFICE - 01299 270201. Many services in Cleobury: car tax, foreign currency cash point

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL - 0345 678 9000

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

VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME - 01299 270833. Mrs Pat Smith is the coordinator.

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