

The Cleobury Clarion



FEBRUARY 2014

TIME TO THINK BIG ONCE MORE

Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council is asking the community for their ideas on spending the £103,000 Capital Receipt from the sale of land it bought for £1 on the old Muller factory site. There will be an Open Day at the Market Hall on Saturday April 19th, where you can ask questions of councillors and see details of the ideas people have put forward.

The initial suggestion from the Council covers a range of options, from ten smaller projects up to a big idea that would absorb all the money in one go. It's great to have so much money available at this time of cutbacks and the flyer the council have issued carries a list of a dozen suggestion that have come in

so far. They range from a bandstand to crime prevention equipment and the restoration of The Wells in Church Street.

If you have an idea, talk to Clerk Matt Sheehan on CM 271154 or in his Market Hall office. He will explain how you can present your own idea at the Open Day.

This community has come up with some great schemes in recent years, Cleobury Country and its Centre the outstanding examples. The available money is a lot less this time, and the competition will be greater, but that is no bar to people with imagination and determination putting their ideas forward in 2014. This could be quite a year.



Cleobury Country Centre, a good example of what this community can achieve.

TWO PAGES OF JOBS!

Something's definitely moving out there in the economy. In this edition we have two pages of local jobs, and that doesn't include anything from the Job Centres, who seem to have given up on locally centred publications like this. Their loss.

Turn to Pages 15 and 41.

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The Cleobury Clarion. February 2014



*A truly remarkable man. Mike Tomkinson seven months after his near death.
See Page 11*



*Julia Woodison is prepared to walk through the night to help Breast Cancer Care.
See Page 35.*



*Bringing style to the town. Jo Apperley of the super Red Hare Salon.
See Page 57.*

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

MRS MURRELL'S MARVELLOUS MONEY Shaunah Murrell is over the moon with the result of her Christmas fund raising:

As many of you will know, the money collected at the Advent Soup Lunches this Christmas is to be given to the Breast Surgery Clinic at Kidderminster Hospital along with any other monies raised. The Advent Lunches realised £905.54 for the Breast Surgery Clinic and the Christmas Cake raffle for the Homeless raised £300 .£1205.54 in total, A RECORD! The success of this event is due in the first place to the generosity of the soup makers, the apple pie makers, and the donations of bread and cream and butter. Preparation of the room, laying of tables, serving soup and washing up was done with quiet efficiency by people who came along every week. Without the help of the strong men it could not have happened. My grateful thanks go out to them all – too many to name, but you know who you are and your generous support is much appreciated. And the people who came week by week to enjoy soup and buy raffle tickets and goodies. Thank you very much. From comments I have heard, the

soup was the best ever, and such a variety. I also noticed the friendly atmosphere in the room as people tucked in – a great social occasion for all those who came along.

To date it looks as though we will be able to give the Breast Surgery Clinic £4550, which includes a donation from Lloyds Bank of £1000. This says so much about the wonderful community spirit in Cleobury Mortimer. I am again proud to live in this place, where kindness, generosity and friendship abounds in large quantities. We hope to present the cheque during the first week of February. Watch this space and come along; all are welcome.

Shaunah Murrell

BRITISH LEGION NEWS

This year's Annual Luncheon will take place at the Sports & Social Club on Sunday March 16th. Tickets cost £14.00 each, available from Branch President, Ron Breakwell on CM270830

CLEOBURY CARERS GROUP

We would like to thank The Reid Warblers for their Carol Concert in support of our group. It was a lovely start to Christmas and through

everyone's generosity we raised £163 for our funds. Thank you.

Our meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 2.00 pm at St Mary's Place. We are continuing with our coffee and chat on the first Wednesday of every month at 10.30 in The Kings Arms. All carers are welcome.

For further information please contact Wendy Duley on CM 270562.

ROAD CLOSURE

Here's an early notice of a road closure in March. Barkers Lane, the narrow road that takes you down to Purslow's Yard from the the junction of Lower Street and The Hurst, will be closed for one week from March 17th. It's for new electricity cables to be installed.

If there are any further details available nearer the date, we'll try to let you have them in the March Clarion

LACON LOTTERY

The November 2013 winner was Mrs Martin and in December Mr and Mrs Barnett came up trumps in time for Christmas. Both lucky numbers won a very useful £115.00 - great value for a £10 ticket.



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

A GOOD FAMILY EVENING

That's what looks to be on offer at Clows Top's Victory Hall on Saturday the 8th. The Keplow Theatre Company offer one of their 'Live and Local' events with the comedy 'Seven Ages.'

It starts at 7.00, tickets are just £8.00 for adults, or £10.00 if you want a supper included; Under 14s get in for half price. There will be a bar and, as you'd expect at any local event like this, a raffle.

More details and tickets from Mandy on 01299 832456.

INTEREST FREE LOAN SCHEME

The Tenbury No Interest Loan Scheme is a new charity whose objective is to assist individuals or families living in the region who are in receipt of benefits or a low income. We work within a radius of 15 miles of Tenbury Wells, including Ludlow and Cleobury Mortimer.

We offer loans of up to £400 to purchase essential items, like white goods, furniture and household equipment, as well as school uniform and college bus transport. All enquiries are dealt with sympathetically and discreetly. The aim is to provide an alternative to payday lenders, and ensure financial inclusion is available to all.

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Tenbury Emergency Food Relief also comes under the No Interest Loan Scheme and is available by referral 24 hours a day in cases of extreme

urgency. From January 2014 our customers can also take advantage of our Christmas Savings Club, an excellent way to build savings, with no minimum deposit.

Opening hours for both NILS and Tenbury Emergency Food Relief are 10.00 to 2.00 Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4 Teme Court, Teme Street, Tenbury Wells WR15 8AA. Tel/ Fax 01584 811512. Please contact us for further information. In an emergency Tenbury Emergency Food Relief can be contacted on 079944 610659

AND A GOOD WASSAIL WAS HAD BY ALL

Ellie Hooper reports on Bewdley's Wassail:

4,500 people come out for the second Bewdley Wassail on January 11th. The celebration of Bewdley's fruit trees got off to a great start with bells ringing throughout the town as Wytchwood Morris and visiting sides danced their way to the Community Orchard. There the smell of delicious cooking and spiced local cider pervaded the atmosphere, as over 120 dancers and musicians, two chorals, and 22 children, The Wytchettes delighted an orchard full of visitors.

There were workshops for children and dancing throughout the town. In the late afternoon, crowds assembled by the river and the parade, led by the Mayor, sang and danced their way up Load Street and in through Bewdley Museum.

In the Community Orchard, the Wassail ceremony took place with more dancing and singing led by Henry's Orchard

and Bewdley Choral Society. A wassail cup of fine local cider was passed round to toast the health of the trees in the hope of an abundant harvest.

Ellie Hooper

KINLET FAMILY PLAYGROUP

January saw the children celebrating Chinese New Year, thinking about all sorts of animals and where they live. We know lots about farm animals but really had to get to know those from the jungle and desert. Along with a selection of books from Highley Library, we used our computer games, sound lotto games and sorting and matching equipment.

Along with our Little Tiddler sessions, we're very busy this term - always good as it means more friends to be made and more fun to be had. Please look at kinletfamilyplaygroup.co.uk or call 07794 166514 for more information. *Zoe Pearson*

COCO AGM

February will be an interesting time for Cleobury CoCo. For the last year our local organisation has been fighting for Lottery funding to sustain and develop over the next five years. CoCo will hear the result in late January, in time for the AGM on Feb 10th at 7.00 in the Market Hall; all are invited. If unsuccessful, decisions will be made how the project might be run by volunteers alone, where from and if travel charges will need to be introduced. Having made over 500 weekly visits in the last 15 months, CoCo is really helping to change the local landscape for the better and we will fight to keep growing from strength to strength.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

AN UNUSUAL VISITOR



A charming visitor to Cleobury at Christmas. Leah Kim, all the way from Korea.

We have a wide variety of visitors to Cleobury, but over the Christmas holiday it was quite a change from Santa and his reindeer to welcome Leah Kim from Seoul, in Korea. She met Charlotte and Raymond Wallis when they were on holiday in Vienna and called months later to ask if she might spend some time with them, to get the true taste of a British Christmas. She stayed at the KA, where Wendy gave her the best room and she charmed the staff with her quiet, smiling ways. And she had a true British Christmas with the Wallises.

She learned written English at school, the norm in Korea as it is a global business language, but studied further to develop her oral command. Working as a designer at the TV division of the giant LG electronics group she travelled abroad and as the big Three O approached, decided to extend that experience before she settled down. She quit her job, packed her bags and headed for Europe. Britain first, before visiting Norway and Iceland. She smiles: "I wanted more sunshine, so I went to Spain." And from there on to Italy, Greece, Turkey, Austria, Germany and Rumania.

One of her best experiences came in Rumania, where she hadn't exchanged currency and found herself without money. A woman helped her with food and travel, refusing payment. "She just told me to be good to others," she recalls, clearly impressed by such generosity from another human being who clearly did not have a lot to spare.

A young woman travelling around Europe for six months would naturally encounter a range of people. In Venice one ancient with amorous ambitions invited her home and tried to

get her to share his wine, occasionally brushing her knee by way of encouragement. She left, but not before photographing the aged rouee. Talking to another Korean girl she met in that area she showed her pictures and the girl recognised the man who'd given her the same treatment!

local She generally stayed in hostels, but in Austria worked on a farm for her accommodation, looking after livestock and making meals for the family.

She's back home now, with six months of tales to tell her friends, and happy to settle for domesticity. And if she does have a family, will she encourage her children to travel, just as she did? "Oh yes, it is helpful and meaningful for your life."

An interesting young woman, showing that the travelling gap year of many English students applies in reverse, putting us under scrutiny. She admitted spending more time in the UK than any other country, which suggests she liked the place. Good for her English as well, of course.

Jim Reynolds



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FAITH IN A RATHER CROWDED PUB

A record crowd of 30 or more filled the snug of the KA to bursting point for the January Faith in the Pub gathering. Michael Thompson and his son Oliver were there to tell of his remarkable survival of a nightmare while felling trees on their Shropshire farm.

Michael had not realised that an oak tree crown was not stable as he moved its neighbours and



the oak suddenly fell and crushed him. His back was broken, both lungs were punctured and Oliver realised that he might be dead. That didn't stop him jumping into dad's car and rushing back to the house, where a neighbour

who works in the Fire and Rescue Service grabbed a defibrillator and drove back with Oliver to where Michael lay trapped. Oliver held his father while the neighbour wielded the chainsaw and cut the tree away.

Michael was not breathing and had no pulse, but the two got the defibrillator working while they waited for the Air Ambulance to arrive and rush Michael to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. On the flight a doctor with the chopper crew took emergency measures to relieve the pressure building up from fluid in the lung cavity.

In hospital he was given a tracheotomy to make breathing easier and was in a coma for three weeks. He told how his worst fears when he came to were of dangers to his family, with him unable to move; the doctor said he was "pretty violent" at first, perhaps a reaction to the fear for his loved ones?

Father and son alternated in telling the story, Oliver recalling that his father was under the branch for some 15 minutes and that he wondered how long a man can live without breathing. Michael told how he came out of the coma and thought he was at Lake Geneva; he could not

speak and the medical staff thought he was unaware of what was said. He wasn't; he could even remember the voices of the people who visited while he was in a coma.

This man who has come back from near death is full of praise for the care and skill of the surgeons who repaired his back, though he admits the titanium supporting his spine means a strip search every time he passes through a detector screen at an airport. You could see the bond between the man who very nearly died and the son whose prompt action prevented that.

Recovery at home meant walking progressively. He put a chair down the drive and walked to it, rested, and came back. Each day he moved the chair further; when he walked into the church where he is a warden there was a spontaneous round of applause from all the congregation.

A remarkable man, whose modesty shines through with his faith. "The ability to communicate with God didn't come to me when I was in hospital," he explained. "Prayer should be used for those less fortunate than you." Seven months after near tragedy, he held his audience's attention for two fascinating hours.

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Bayton Church of England Primary School



At the end of last term we invited our Key Stage One parents to come into school to experience how phonics are taught here at Bayton C of E Primary School. Two of our teachers took the "lesson" to help bring the scheme to life, giving our parents more of an idea of how much fun our literacy lessons really are and how they can support their children during their journey into learning to read and write. This "lesson" was a great success, as is the Read Write Inc scheme in school. We now have more children than ever achieving advanced reading ability and more importantly enjoying reading for pleasure.



As an extension to this scheme we have rolled out to the whole of Key Stage 2, the Language and Literacy programme developed by Ruth Miskin, creator of Read Write Inc. This programme is designed to stimulate and challenge children's thinking and create enthusiastic, lifelong readers and writers. It further extends children's writing composition, along with developing the knowledge of grammar vocabulary development, critical thinking and spoken language. The programme works in line with the new National Curriculum and is designed to encourage children to read easily, fluently and with good understanding, correctly use grammar, to discuss their own ideas and to write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in for the purpose of the reader.

Our year 3 / 4 class, for example are currently learning all about playscripts and are enjoying researching the key features of plays, then writing their own and re-enacting them. My own literacy group, made up of mostly with year 2 children who have completed the Read Write Inc scheme, are learning about poetry techniques, and are busy writing under-water animal themed poems made up of kennings (2 worded descriptions of a thing, person or animal, without saying what it is). The children are awe-inspiring with their descriptions of their creatures, linking their ideas to the sea, listing star fish that show the animals the way and magical mermaids and haunted shipwrecks, bringing their poems to life.

For further details about our school, contact the office on 01299 832393. Alternatively, visit our website at www.baytonpri.worcs.sch.uk

WORLDWIDE ADVENTURE HOLIDAYS

One of our up and coming overseas holidays and expeditions...

Grand Canyon, Colorado River Rafting & Kayaking (August 2015)

Some of you may have seen the BBC's Operation Grand Canyon, the two part Sunday documentary of Dan Snow recreating Powell's epic 1869 journey to be the first to explore the Colorado river descending through the Grand Canyon and the area then known as 'the great unknown'. If you didn't tune in, it's well worth looking up on iplayer but even better, why not do it!

Live The Adventure Director, Anthony, will be guiding his 3rd trip along this 280 mile journey in the summer of 2015 – aimed at complete novices through to experienced rafters and kayakers it will be the adventure of a lifetime! Unlike Powell's trip this has great food, top quality guides and equipment, plenty of intervals from the river to explore the side creeks – but an equal share of adventure and whitewater!

If this sounds like an adventure for you, check out our website for full details of this and other forthcoming adventures to Sweden, Nepal and Bhutan.

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Star of the Small Ads - The Domestic Goddess



Julia Woodison on Cleobury "So nice. Everyone makes you feel welcome."

You must admit, it is a brilliant title, one you don't forget. But when you meet the lady, she's no goddess, just a down-to-earth mum with a family to care for and her feet firmly on the ground.

The Woodisons moved here from Ashford in Middlesex, six

months ago; for those who've never heard of the place, it's fringe London, on the westward side. Julia ran a similar business there.

"I do household chores, whatever you need," she says. "I'll deal with everything from cleaning the windows inside - not the outside - to clearing clutter." Clutter is one of those areas tailor-made for domestic problems, so who says what's clutter and what's precious? "You talk to people and build up a rapport. I had a customer in London who realised she had a problem and knew she needed help. I used to give her tasks to do." The lady clearly offers more than a household service; she's more like a social worker to the extreme cases.

Her service here is kept local, within a ten mile radius. The cost of transport begins to hit

the price beyond that limit, and she is aware of the need to be affordable.

"I need at least two hours to make it beneficial and I haven't refused anything yet. I do a little shopping on the way to see one lady." Her customers are roughly 50 percent mature people and 50 percent working parents. Her training? "I learned as a mum, I just loved housework," she smiles. "I used to be called Mrs Bouquet." But this version of that TV notable comes with a smile and without the dominating frown.

She also cares about people and will be doing the Moonwalk Marathon with daughter Laura in May, raising money for Breast Cancer Care. A full marathon distance, on Clapham Common, through the night. Details of that and how to sponsor them on Page 35.

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The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

I hope your Christmas and the New Year were good? Bubbles thoroughly enjoyed himself playing with the Baubles, chewing at wrapping paper, and even swallowing small bits of ribbon that he had chewed off. Only after he brought it back up did we even know he had eaten the ribbon, but it would seem that he has learned his lesson for the moment...Had Bubbles swallowed any larger lengths, it could very easily have become a very expensive job to sort him out. Emergencies, by their very nature, happen unexpectedly. There is never a good time to be presented with a large bill for your pets' healthcare.

In the last few years all major insurance providers have started to offer pet insurance policies to help with unexpected costs. There is really no way of telling which one company offers the best deal. However, hopefully I can give you some pointers to help you sort the wheat from the chaff.

First, do you need pet insurance? All insurance is a gamble – you pay the premium, and mostly hope never to use the cover. It is nice to know the cover is there if you were to need it, and that you can opt for the gold standard treatment without having to worry so much about the financial side of things. There are a lot of people who opt not to have pet insurance in favour of just coping with the expenses as and if they arise; all well and good if you are in the financial position to do this, but not all of us are that lucky, and it is heart-breaking when we have an animal that we know could do well with a particular treatment, but their owners have no choice to decline the treatment due to the predicted costs.

Some of our clients opt against pet insurance, in favour of a savings account for the pet – perfectly valid as a way of coping with unexpected costs – as long as they don't escalate above the amount saved.

Pet insurance is different. There is usually a set 'pot of money' to cover each condition for a set period of time. Time Limited Cover covers any condition for a period of time (usually 12 months) from the first point at which it is noticed. These are usually the cheapest policies.

Maximum Benefit Cover is a set amount of money per condition for life. Once the money is gone, you are then liable for the continuing costs of treating that condition.

Life Cover is a pot of money per condition per year. This money resets each year – as long as you continue to pay the premium, and do not exceed the insured amounts, the policy will continue to cover your pet's condition. Why not pick up the phone and speak to one of us at the surgery to discuss pet insurance? I could write a whole book on it, but I'm afraid the Clarion delivery van would struggle with the extra pages.

Also this month (February only) Severn Edge Vets are offering pet nail clips at the bargain price of £5. Call now to book your appointment with the Nurse. 01299 271967.

As usual, thanks for reading

Jeremy Hall BVMS MRCVS

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

MAY JORDAN

A real piece of history was lost on December 30th, when May Jordan died. She was 99 and had been in Dodddington Lodge for three weeks, across the road from the cottage where she was born in 1914.

Until the last she retained her memory and wrote about her father being called to do military service in 1916; a quarry man, he was needed to build roads for the British Army. When his pay arrived back home at Dodddington, it meant a walk to Clee Hill to buy what provisions were not home grown.

May went to Hopton Wafers School when she was five, walking there with other local children; no road then, just a track. When she passed her Eleven Plus exam, she went on to be a boarder at Cleobury College, now Lacon Childe School.

She left there in 1933 and started a career in nursing at a children's home near Bromsgrove, where poorly kids from inner city Birmingham came to recover. She was there when the 1939-45 World War started and spent many nights in the air raid shelters as enemy bombers raided the nearby

Austin Motor Works. She moved on to a Church of England Children's Society home in Malvern, where she was Assistant Matron and known as a good disciplinarian.

After her daughter Heather was born, she moved back to Dodddington and will long be remembered there for her 33 years as a church warden and 26 years service on the Parochial Church Council. She had been secretary of the Royal British Legion Women's Section and the Legion provided a Guard of Honour for her final ceremony at Dodddington's lovely little church.

A much loved lady, who saw the world change dramatically in her lifetime. She leaves daughter Heather, grand daughters Emma and Lucy and great grandchildren Ellie, Daisy, William and Peggy. As Heather put it: "She has left an empty space in our home that can never be replaced. But she has also left an example for us all to try to put others first and to be happy with the life God has given us."

REVISED TALK DATE

The interview with Keith Whiting, motorcycle race technician to the stars of the

Honda team, was held over from January and is now scheduled for Thursday the 13th of this month. It's at the Blount Arms, Forest Park, and talking starts at about 8.00. The drinking starts a little earlier.

THE GREAT WAR

The Royal British Legion is planning to publish a booklet this year to commemorate all those who died in the Great War, and who are named on Cleobury's war memorial.

If any readers have any information on these men, or knows where such information might be found, please can they contact Mark Baldwin (270110; mbaldwin2@btconnect.com) or Pat Treves (270319; ptreves164@tiscali.co.uk).

The Cleobury Mortimer & District History Society is helping the RBL with this project, and it is Society members who have done much of the historical research to date.

Mark Baldwin

SILLY BITS

1. This girl said we met at the Vegetarian Club, but I'd never met herbivore.
2. We did a theatrical show about puns. It was a play on words.



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Happening on High Street

NEW FACES, NEW TASTES

High Street news in January was the re-opening of the restaurant at 15A. It's a place with a chequered history, with the stylish Exchange Brasserie the last tenants; since their closure the only news about the place was the lightning strike that left the distinctive chimney stack looking very sad and second hand.

Then a new sign went up for The Lamp, followed by a poster announcing the January 9th opening. No great fanfares, no shouting, but those who tried the Bangladesh and Indian food on offer were very impressed. Gayna Woodland from Severn Hospice and Julie Grimes from Carrot Tops were full of enthusiasm and soon others were joining in. The place was obviously good news for people who like their food with a little spice, or a lot if you prefer. The Editor went along, sipped a glass of water - it was one of his short lived attempts at sobriety - and met the people behind the name.

The partner in place as manager is Jalal Uddi, 20 years in the restaurant business. Fellow partners are Kazi Hussain and Rofik Miah, but Jalal is the face you meet.



Partners in the new restaurant, from left: Rofik Miah, Jalal Uddi and Kazi Hussain.

This is a well established business, with restaurants in Banbury and Smethwick. And the Smethwick restaurant boasts two wins in the Curry Chef of the Year competition, the last time in 2013, when their Shuma Miah beat 43 competitors to take the title.

Jalal Uddi explained their basic plan: "We came here to do business, and we want to talk to the people and get feedback to guide our future thinking. We will offer good food, good organisation and a very clean place to visit."

One very appealing service is the home delivery, free on local orders - within a three mile radius - over £10.00. There has

been a strong take-up on that service, with very enthusiastic reports out there on the social media.

The basic layout and furnishings were already good quality, and the place just needed redecoration to look like new. The well stocked bar offers Cobra and Carling on draught, plus a range of beers and spirits and a wine list at affordable prices.

It all sounded too good to miss, and personal experience confirmed that. The service is very good, the cooking its equal and one of the pleasures of a new place is the chance to experiment a little with a new menu. My starter was a Korahi Kebab, and its mixture of flavours and a creamy aftertaste fixed it in my mind for a repeat treat next time we visit. My wife's salmon tikka was just as pleasing. My main was a tandoori chicken garlic chilli, hers chicken silsila that offered "A nice blend of flavours, very tasty." The tandoori was just great. So we'll be going again, and that home delivery will be tested too.

This is a very good quality addition to the Cleobury culinary offering. Go along and treat your taste buds.



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

ARE YOU STRUGGLING WITH DEBT?

The first two months of the year can be very hard on the finances. As you struggle to catch up with the Christmas spending, bills don't stop coming through the letterbox. It's easy to get very low, the time when people are most vulnerable to the loan sharks, those people who will lend you cash and then demand very high rates of interest as you try to pay the loan back.

The Parish Church is taking positive action to help people who find themselves facing money problems at this time. On Sunday the 9th of this month the 9.45 Family Service at the church will include talks by Dianne Kruczek of Christians Against Poverty and a lady who has been rescued from that situation with the help of CAP.

You don't have to be a church goer to come along and meet these ladies and discuss your problems. They will stay on in the church until 12.30, long after the service has finished, just to be available and offer advice.

If you can't make it to the church on the 9th, or are too shy about your problem to be

seen there, you can still get free advice from Christians Against Poverty on freephone 0800 328 0006 or look at their website at www.capuk.org

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

At our 2013 AGM Flo Hadley was re-elected Chairman and the committed was returned en bloc, apart from Steve Todd, who has stepped down as Programme Organiser. A very big thanks to Steve for his sterling work over the years; Carol Franklin takes his place. At this meeting we also had a demonstration by Marion Wilson on making Christmas wreaths and decorations.

The Christmas Social was well attended, everyone enjoying a feast and quiz. Our New Year began with a talk by Janet Maxwell-Stewart on 'Wild Plants and Eco-Systems'. Janet was representing Plantlife, a charity for plants akin to the RSPB. It is not well known and her talk illustrated the need for the protection of habitats for many small insects and creatures. We saw how the destruction of a habitat meant the loss of many plants and creatures, and we were encouraged to safeguard as many areas within our gardens

as we could. In future we will all think carefully before clearing rough patches in our gardens.

Our next meeting is on February 10th, in the Methodist Hall, and all are welcome. *Liz Smurthwaite*

IN PRAISE OF

It's a pleasure to publish this kind note from Suzanne France, sent to contractors Total Response:

In response to a request from a local housing association warden in Cleobury Mortimer, Total Response have today cut back a hedge which backed onto a public footpath. It is unknown who is responsible for keeping this pathway and hedge clear but I am sure that I speak for all those people who use it when I say a big 'thank you'. The gentlemen who were carrying out the work, have done a fantastic job and the whole path can now be navigated without being attacked by brambles. It is much lighter and they cleaned up the debris, leaving the path so clear that one will not slip on the leaves any more.

I shall forward this message to both the local council and parish council.

Suzanne France

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Letter from Westminster - Philip Dunne MP

This month I visited our troops deployed on operations in Afghanistan. As Minister for Defence, Equipment, Support and Technology, one of my priorities this year is the safe return of troops and equipment as our combat mission in Afghanistan comes to an end. No small task, with around 9,800 shipping containers of equipment in theatre, together with over 1,770 vehicles and major pieces of equipment to be brought back to the UK in 2014.

While in Camp Bastion I met some of the hard working people who are making this happen, including civilians from the Defence Support Group, based in Telford. What was clear was the pride they take in providing 24/7 mechanical support and supplies to keep vehicles and equipment combat ready for soldiers on the frontline. This allows our troops to focus on the important work of mentoring their Afghan counterparts and the security of their people.

Preparing the Afghan Army to take responsibility for internal security is a key priority as we prepare to end combat operations, so I was delighted to be able to visit the new Afghan officer training facility, colloquially known as Sandhurst in the Sand, being developed with British assistance. I was encouraged by the progress being made, and feel confident that this facility will deliver well trained professional officers to lead the Afghan Army in the future.

The process of bringing equipment back is complicated and the staff of DSG are playing a key role. Armoured vehicles for example are fully repaired where necessary and then go through an advanced preparation service, a bit like an MOT, including a high-powered chemical wash to ensure no contamination is brought back to the UK, before being sent home. Many of the vehicles used in Afghanistan were bought for Urgent Operational Requirements. This saw us invest millions of pounds in vehicles that offer unprecedented levels of protection to our people. The Ministry of Defence has recently decided to retain these fighting vehicles for use by the Army of tomorrow: hundreds of Huskies, Jackals, Mastiffs, Ridgbacks, Wolfhound and Warthog, with a sizeable number of Coyotes. These vehicles have served our troops well on the frontline and by keeping them we are future proofing our Armed Forces' fighting capability. We are also ensuring that Regulars and Reservists will benefit from these protected vehicles for decades to come.

It was an honour to see the work our troops are doing and I am particularly proud of the work that civilians from Shropshire in Afghanistan and at home are carrying out to support our Armed Forces. I am always impressed by the humility and cheerfulness of our troops out on operations overseas. I am encouraged by the abilities the Afghan security forces have developed in recent years as they take over security for their country. As the international campaign in Afghanistan winds down, our troops can return with their heads held high, knowing they have done their country proud.



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The Clarion February Social Calendar

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Wed 5	10.30am	Cleobury Carers Group meet for coffee in the KA, Church Street. All carers welcome.	Wendy Duey	CM 270562
	8.00pm	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 6		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.00am	The Happiness Course starts today, in the Methodist Church Hall.	Reverend Helen Roberts	01584 819649
	7.30pm	The Novice Detective brings live theatre to Bishops Castle's SpArC Theatre.	Box Office	01588 630321
Sat 7	7.00pm	Keplow Theatre Company present the comedy 'Seven Ages' at Victory Hall, Clows Top. Tickets: SEE PAGE 7	Mandy	01299 832456
	7.30pm	Flicks in the Sticks features 'The Baker'. Hit man quits, becomes village baker. At the Parish Hall		
Sun 9	9.45am	The Parish Church hosts speakers from Christians Against Poverty, to talk about dealing with the post-Christmas shortage of cash without falling into the hands of the loan sharks. All those in need of advice will be welcome. SEE PAGE 25		
Mon 10	7.00pm	Annual General Meeting of Cleobury Compassionate Carers, in the Market Hall, Church Street. Lots to tell after 15 months of operation. SEE PAGE 7		
	7.30pm	The Horticultural Society meet in the Methodist Hall, Church Street. SEE PAGE 25		
Tue 11	8.00pm	Cleobury W.I. at the Parish Hall host a talk by Sue Brown on looking after your back - avoid those twinges. SEE PAGE 39	Judy Sant	CM 270983
Wed 12	7.30pm	Neen Savage W.I. meet in the Village Hall. Jenny Vanderhook will talk about butterfly conservation in Romania.	Angela Flowers	CM 270318
	8.00pm	The Royal British Legion meets at The Bell Inn, Lower Street.	Ron Breakwell	CM 270830
Thu 13		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		

THE PARISH PLAN - YOUR TOWN'S FUTURE

**Don't miss the Exhibition in the Market Hall, February 5th to the 8th,
open 9.00 'til 6.00; late night Wednesday 5th, until 8.00
FINAL PUBLIC MEETING: 7.30 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH.**

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every Sunday at 7:30pm

The February Social Calendar - continued

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
	8.00pm	The Borders Classic Bike Club hosts Keith Whiting, ex Honda World Superbike technician, interviewed about his racing. Held over from January.	Jim Reynolds	CM 270642
Fri 14	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 15		Berrington Hall, near Leominster on the A49, starts its summer season of opening every day. The Gorgeous Georgians costume exhibition opens 11.00 to 5.00 daily, through to the 28th.		01568 615721
Mon 17	7.30pm	The Reading Group gather at the library to argue politely about their latest read. SEE PAGE 47.	Deane Kimber	CM 271754
Wed 19	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 20		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.30pm	Dick Whittington pantomime at the SpArC Theatre in Bishops Castle. Runs through until Saturday the 22nd final night.	Tickets	01588 630321
	7.45pm	Whist Drive at the Sports and Social Club, Love Lane. Proceeds to the OAPs' entertainment at Christmas.	Alan Evans	CM 270114
Sat 22	2.0pm	Cscape dance company presents 'If The Shoe Fits' at Farlow and Oreton Village Hall, a show for children from 3 to 7. SEE PAGE 39.		
		Happy Birthday to the Guides In the evening, members of the movement will be putting lights in their windows to celebrate the 100th birthday of this great institution		
Wed 26	7.30pm	Cleobury Players gather at 11 Lower Street to read through their November production of the First World War play 'Journey's End'. They urgently need more young men, so step forward you aspiring Oliviers. SEE PAGE 39.		
Thu 27		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 28	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall to round the month off.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO MARCH		
Wed 5	10.00am	The Walking for Health season starts again, gathering at the Sports Centre for a gentle stroll. SEE PAGE 47	Mandy Smith	CM 270312
	8.00pm	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 6		GREEN WHEELIE BINS		

CLEOBURY AND RURAL LOCAL JOINT COMMITTEE
The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 25th.
7.00 at Cleobury Country Centre. Local residents welcome.
Local parishes represented in this open forum.

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7 Hartmann Close • Cleobury Mt'r

Situated to the top of a cul-de-sac in a sought after well established location is this modern semi-detached two bedroom Bungalow. Offering accommodation comprising, kitchen, sitting room, family bathroom and two bedrooms. Garden & stream to rear. Property offers ample parking. Energy rating D.



4 Larks Rise • Cleobury Mt'r

A modern style, four bedroom, detached property on the outskirts of the popular market town of Cleobury Mortimer set back from the road on a private driveway with lawned fore garden to the front, gated access to the rear. Energy Rating D.



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Orchard House • Eardiston

This detached, modern four/five bedroomed property sits in a private plot in the village of Eardiston; approximately 7 miles from Tenbury Wells and 15 miles from Worcester. With accommodation to include: living room, dining room, kitchen, master bedroom with ensuite shower room, three further bedrooms and a final study/fifth bedroom. Energy Rating E.



27 Whitcombs Orchard • CM

Ideal opportunity for first time buyers. Shared ownership property offering 50% share for £81,500, with the opportunity to purchase up to 95%. The three-bedroom family home is well presented throughout. Garden and parking for three cars. Energy rating C.



10 Hartmann Close • Cleobury Mt'r

Two bedroom bungalow located close to local amenities of Cleobury Mortimer. Double glazing and oil fired central heating. Garden and parking for two cars. Energy rating C



The Gardens • Clows Top

Situated in a rural village this detached family home with four bedrooms, two receptions, kitchen / breakfast room, cloakroom, pantry, bathroom and shower room. The property also benefits from a spacious studio and a workshop offering versatile uses. Surrounded by pretty gardens and extensive views over the beautiful countryside. Energy rating D.



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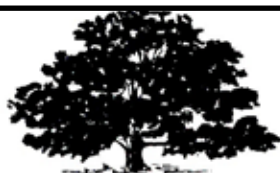
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Clarion Coppers - with PCSO Nick Morris

These are the crimes committed in our area since mid December. Irreparable damage was caused to a door mirror housing of a vehicle in Langland Road when the mirror was stolen sometime on December 13th/14th. On December 18th during the morning, a detached garage in Doddington was twice broken into but luckily the alarm sounded which caused the would-be thief to run off empty handed. Between December 18th and December 21st buildings at the Severn Trent depot at Hopton Wafers were broken into; bolt croppers had been used to cut a lock on a gate. Nothing of value was in the buildings and the criminals, who were possibly looking for metals, also left empty handed. A dwelling at Doddington Heights Caravan Park was broken into between 2:00 and 8:00pm on December 31st. Jewellery and Royal Navy medals were stolen. Readers will be aware of the behaviour of two youths who went on the rampage mindlessly smashing windows of buildings around Talbot Square and High Street, and of a caravan on a driveway in Childe Road in the early hours of January 4th. The youths responsible were arrested soon after and are in the process of being dealt with. (Will the punishment fit the crime I wonder?). One of these two was later detained on suspicion of a further serious offence.

Between 9:00am and 4:00pm on January 7th an Erde single axle trailer was stolen from the driveway of a house in Hopton Wafers. Between January 1st and 9th a 'Slimming World' banner was stolen from railings in front of Tenbury Community Hospital. Between 3:00pm on January 9th and 4:00pm the next day a burglary took

place in Boraston Lane, Burford, and a shed broken into. Power tools worth £600 were stolen. Another burglary took place in the morning of January 14th at Bagginswood; jewellery and a laptop computer were stolen. Also during the morning/early afternoon the same day a Harley-Davidson motorcycle worth £7500 was stolen in Ludlow Road, Clee Hill. A black crash helmet was stolen with it, and the number plates were ripped off and left at the scene.

During the Christmas period 222 people were arrested across West Mercia and Warwickshire for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Perhaps of interest is that on January 10th five men were charged with committing robbery at a house near Shrewsbury soon after the offence took place.. They had stolen passports, cash and a mobile phone. Also, there have been several other arrests of suspected burglars in South Shropshire.

It is noticeable when driving in the hours of darkness how many vehicles have a headlight, sidelight, rear light or brake light not working. Is this down to drivers not checking their lights before setting off on a journey? Or are the bulbs of particularly poor quality with a short life nowadays? Do make these checks because to have a light not working is a driving offence - and if the second headlight happened to conk out it would make the journey very tricky! It would be a good policy while you're at it to ensure that the headlights are adjusted correctly to avoid dazzling oncoming drivers - and pedestrians.

Nick Morris

**The Clarion is on the web from the 4th of every month,
every one of our 60 crowded pages.**

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CLOWS TOP & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

February is an unfortunate month, being cold and miserable but luckily only 28 days long. There are signs of life erupting from the ground with crocus, iris, snowdrop and cyclamen coming giving splashes of colour all through the garden.

If you love pottering around your garden, if you need some fresh ideas or advice for your garden, why not 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. Don't be afraid to come along. We have a great programme of speakers as well as evening visits to local gardens. This year's coach trip will be to Barnsdale Gardens.

This month's meeting will be on Wednesday the 26th and our speaker for the evening will be Jill Guest on 'Easy Garden Design.'

MOONWALKING FOR BREAST CANCER

Julia Woodison, this month's 'Star of the Small Ads' on Page 17, will be joining in the marathon length Moonwalk on London's Clapham Common on May 10th, along with daughter

Laura. The walk starts at 11.00 in the pm and normally takes Julia six or seven hours, so it's quite a test of stamina and determination.

You can support these two by making a sponsorship donation on their Just Giving page. You'll find that at:

<http://www.justgiving.com/juliawoodison-lauracripps>

Please do give something to back this vital cause. It doesn't have to be a lot; the action and kind thought is more important than the sum. The Clarion has pledged already - good causes are very bedrock of a strong community like this.

GOOD LUCK, JAMES

James Key was signed up as a career soldier with the Army, but had to be discharged when his hearing deteriorated. Not the sort to be brought down by bad luck, he's retrained as a painter and decorator and is starting out as a self employed man.

You can see his advert on Page 24, with details of the skills he offers. You'll recognise him by the polished boots.

PAT'S AT IT AGAIN!

You just can't keep Pat Williams down. "A friend of mine contacted me in January and asked if I would be

interested in doing a Robbie Williams tribute night in support of my charities," she told us. "And I'm not one to say no, as you know."

So a Robbie Williams Night is booked for April 5th, at Cleobury Golf Club, who have been so hospitable and helpful in the past. Starts at 7.30, ends at midnight and Ollie Hughes as Robbie Williams will be up there on stage, working for the cause.

It's all about raising money for MacMillan Cancer Care and The Haven Breast Cancer Aftercare. Tickets are £12.00 and include nibbles on the table. The bar will be open all evening and there will be a raffle and a Robbie Williams Tee-Shirt Auction as well. These fund raising events run by Pat and her family and friends always attract good support and generate smiles.

A SPICEY BIRTHDAY

A very happy Spicy Birthday to the Spice Empire and its offspring. It's 16 years since the Miah Brothers moved their business to Cleobury Mortimer, took over the old Steeple Cafe and introduced Indian cuisine to the town. They've certainly come a long way from that modest little beginning

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The Farming Page - Jenny Everingham, with wit and wisdom From The Farmhouse

This is the time of year when a lot of the fun goes out of stock farming. Thankfully, it has not been very cold, but the ground is pretty well waterlogged with pools lying in the fields in places. The Rea has so far remained within its banks, but is running like tomato soup, as it cuts through the soft silt of millena here.

The sheep are moved from field to field pretty regularly to protect the grass from being trodden up too much. Last summer's lovely hay crop is diminishing fast, so a drier spell with some warmth to encourage the grass would be welcome. Lambing is timed for April to take advantage of the new growth, so we hope there will be no late snow this time, and the babies will be skipping about in the sunshine!

Outdoor jobs, at the moment, are of necessity limited to essentials, but hedge laying is one that needs to be done while the vegetation is dormant. This ancient skill has fallen out of favour to a certain extent. It is the traditional way of keeping a hedge stock proof, so, as the trend away from livestock and into arable has taken place, there is less need for it. It is labour intensive too, and therefore a quick roll of

pig netting and a few posts has become the cheaper option in many cases. However, nothing beats the aesthetics of a neatly laid hedge, and the habitat for wildlife is protected. The skill is in partially cutting through the uprights to just the right point so that they bend without breaking, and enough of the sap-bearing wood is left intact to start growth in the spring. The cut stems are all bent the same way and woven in and out to make a living fence. Nice job, boys!

As for the chickens, egg production has never completely stopped, and is on the up again now, as the 'new chicks' are joining in. Two of them have turned out to be cockerels and each has his own harem! They wander happily about the yards and have several nests, which they think we don't know about! They are again confined to barracks until after lunch, since breakfast was disturbed one morning by a commotion caused by a visit from Mr Fox, and two hens had to be snatched from the jaws of death! Both seem to have fully recovered, I'm pleased to say, thanks to Grampa's lightning response. Go Grampa! Omelette anyone?



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

LADY CAPTAIN'S



GENEROUS FAREWELL

Cleobury Golf Club's Ladies Section held their Annual Dinner at the Club recently, when 35 lady members attended and had a great time.

The retiring Lady Captain, Mrs. Mary Job, presented a cheque for £2,341.85 to Maria Jones from Midlands Air Ambulance in respect of the funds raised during her Captaincy from various events during the year.

CLEOBURY W.I.

The January meeting was very interesting and informative as Kim Stanley, whose Health and Beauty salon in the High Street is well known, gave us useful tips and ideas for looking after our hands. The Bring and Share Supper was well received, with many and varied dishes

Have you ever suffered a twinge or been laid low with a bad back? Whether or not, you may be interested to hear how to avoid the problem from our local chiropractor Sue Brown. The next meeting of Cleobury WI will be open to all when we will have information and tips on how to look after your back. Please come along to Cleobury Parish Hall on Tuesday the 11th

at 8.00pm. Only £3.00, including refreshments. Details from Judy Sant 01299 270983..

Gillian Senior

FOR THE CHILDREN

Cscape Dance Company are presenting 'If The Shoe Fits', an interactive dance show, set in a magical shoe shop and using dancing, music and story-telling to get the tale across.

For children from 3 to 7 and families, it starts at 2.00 and admission is £4.00 for youngsters and £7.00 adults. It's at Farlow and Oretton Village Hall on Saturday the 22nd this month. More information on 01746 718642.

CLEOBURY PLAYERS

NEEDS YOU

As Cleobury Mortimer's part in the national commemoration of the outbreak of the first World War, Cleobury Players will present the classic play by R C Sherriff "Journey's End" in November.

The production will be directed by Tom Cartwright and the cast consists of 11 men, ages ranging 16 years upwards. At the moment the Players need 5 - 6 male actors to complete the cast. Tom has arranged a meeting at 11 Lower Street on Wednesday February 26th at 7.30pm to read through the play.

Because there will be a huge demand country wide for costume hire it is important that the play be cast as soon as possible. This will be a major production for the players and is expected to cost in the region of £2,500 to put on. For more information please contact Tom on 01299 271751 or 07831 896392.

ALL ABOUT BEANSTALK

An unusual name for a charity, isn't it? Beanstalk is all about helping younger children to read, helping them develop their abilities.

They are looking for volunteers to train for work in primary schools, where they will look after three children for two 30 minute sessions a week, on a one-to-one basis. That works out at three hours a week, not a big sacrifice to make for such a useful cause.

Those short hours mean a volunteer can give each child full attention and support to improve their reading, which will increase their confidence and inspire a lifelong love of reading. It can really lift a child's approach to learning.

If you would like to help, you can get more details from Nicola Driscoll on 07540 703487 or Michelle Padbury in Birmingham on 0121 771 2922. If you'd prefer to find out more through a website, look in on www.beanstalkcharity.org.uk

THE WISDOM OF DEMON DRINK - SOME PUB SIGNS

'Come in and meet your future ex-wife.'

'German jokes are the wurst.'

'I distrust camels and anyone else who can go for a week without a drink.'

'Free air guitar with every pint.'

'Alcohol and calculus don't mix, so don't drink and derive.'

'Alcohol, because no great story ever started with someone eating a salad.'



Cleobury Mortimer Primary School

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- Exciting topics
- High proportion of pupils take part in extra curricular activities

CONTACT DETAILS

Cleobury Mortimer Primary School

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

Tel: 01299 270313

Email: admin.cleoburymortimer@shropshirelg.net

Website: cleoburymortimerprimaryschool.ethink.org.uk

Clarion Jobs Page Extra

Job Title / Company	Job Requirements	How to apply
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Bricklayer/Multi skilled Cornbrook Construction & Building Services, CM	Experienced bricklayer/multi skilled tradesman required in Cleobury Mortimer; working in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Full driving licence and own transport essential, working full time 39 ½ hours per week. Salary negotiable depending on experience.	Applications to sandra.dodd@cornbrookconstruction.co.uk 01299 271863
Bricklayer/Multi skilled Cornbrook Construction & Building Services, CM	Experienced carpenter/multi skilled tradesman required in Cleobury Mortimer; working in Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Full driving licence and own transport essential, working full time 39 ½ hours per week. Salary negotiable depending on experience.	Applications to sandra.dodd@cornbrookconstruction.co.uk 01299 271863
Part Time Kitchen & Bar Assistant. Little Lakes	Experienced kitchen/bar assistant, Serving food and drinks, basic food preparation, cleaning public and kitchen areas. 18hrs a week, at basic minimum wage.	Applications to nick.fernihough@littlakesleisure.co.uk Or jill.moule@littlakesleisure.co.uk 01299 266400
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

WAGGGS?

WHAT'S THAT?

Rebecca Barnes knows:

World Thinking Day is to celebrate WAGGGS - the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. Girlguiding UK and Cleobury Mortimer Girl Guides (Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Leaders) are all part of WAGGGS.

February 22nd each year is known as World Thinking Day. A day on which all former and current members are encouraged to think about Girlguiding in all its forms, all over the world. This year is particularly special, as it is the Brownies' 100 year Birthday, so we here in Cleobury are encouraging anyone who was once or is now a member of Girlguiding to put a light in their window on the evening of Saturday 22nd February. After doing this, please put your name on a piece of paper and drop it in the box provided in the Market Hall from Monday 24th onwards.

We'd really like to get 100 names in the box, one for each year of Brownies. This would really help the current Brownies in Cleobury, who are working towards their 'Birthday Challenge Badge' at the moment by having as many lights in the community as possible for this year's Thinking Day.

Rebecca Barnes
aka Brown Owl.

THE MEDICAL CENTRE

As the new Medical Centre grows, the staff would like to keep you up to date with what is planned. This is the first instalment:

Where we are now.

We thought it a good time to write a series of articles up to the opening of the new Medical Centre. We'll explain where we are in terms of the new build and what these changes mean, what we do in Primary Care at the present time. And what the future might be for all of us locally and nationally.

First of all, a huge thank you to everyone who supported and was involved with helping to make building the new medical centre a reality. It is clearly moving on briskly and, as there have been no significant delays to date, it is currently planned to open sometime in May.

The new Medical Practice is being built by developers, who lease it to the Practice for a 25 year period. In the building there will be the Medical Centre, attached staff and the Pharmacy. A third of the area will be 'expansion space'. This is standard and avoids the need for costly extensions or new builds as healthcare expands over time.

The medical centre will have six consulting rooms, two GP training rooms for our registrar and medical student, four nursing and treatment

rooms, one minor operations room, and a multipurpose room. Five administration rooms, a counselling room and a meeting room. Contrary to some comments we have had, there will be no overnight beds and nurses won't be doing nightshifts. The rooms will be used by medical and nursing staff and the allied team, but we also have capacity to expand or offer additional services. We hope to be innovative in the use of some of the unused clinic rooms, current suggestions being to have a part time optician and space for discussion with our CCG and local hospitals. In one part of Shropshire the Acute Hospital uses the minor operations room of their medical practice.

In next month's edition we will go on to explain what we do in Primary Care and the specific roles of the large team attached to a General Medical Practice. One of the reasons why a new building was so desperately needed.

DON'T MISS THE KNOWLE SALES

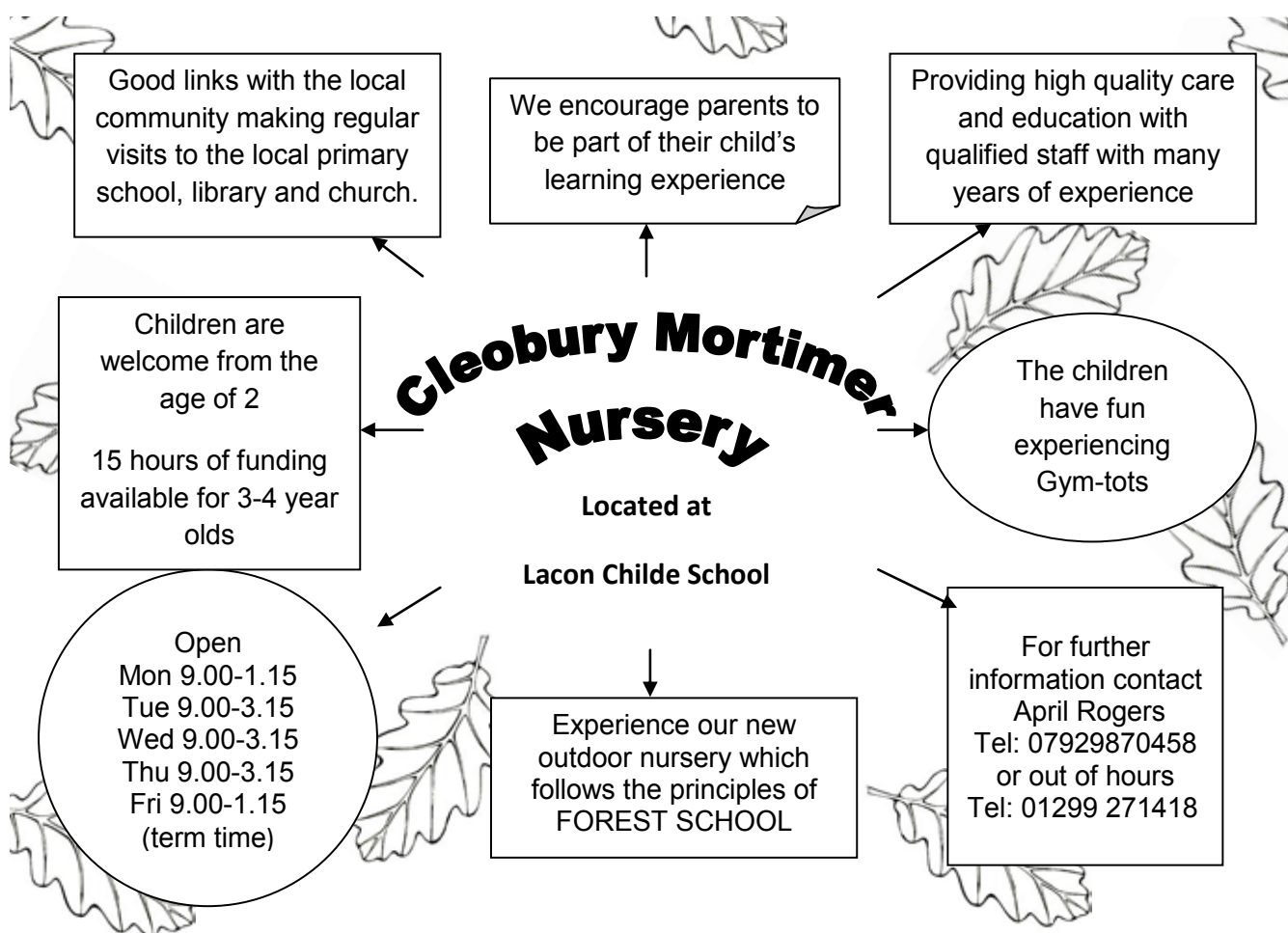
This is rather short notice of this month's Knowle Sports sale - it's on today, the 1st. And if you've missed it, please note that there's a repeat on March 1st.

They're open from 8.00 to 11.00am and are a great source of household bargains and clothing. Get there early for the best of the pickings.

The Clarion is available on the web from the 4th of every month.

Just dial in to www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk

All 60 pages, including the adverts, are there at a touch



Cleobury Country presents...

The Farmers Market

Saturday 15th February

In and around St Marys Church

from 9.30am-12.30pm

Perfect time to pick up those Valentine gifts you 'hadn't' forgot or just spoil yourself rotten!

The Clarion Weekly Social Calendar

Day	Time	Event	Contact	Phone	
Sun	08.30	Holy Communion, Parish Church		CM 270624	
	09.45	Parish Communion, Parish Church		CM 270624	
	09.00	Mass, St Elizabeth's, Lower Street	Canon Walsh	01584 872906	
	10.30	Cleobury Country Archers, Lacon Childe Sports Field	Lesley Burnside	CM 271374	
	10.30	New Life Church – for venue call	Derek Morris	CM 270787	
	11.00	Morning Service, Methodist Church	Rev H Roberts	01584 819649	
Mon	08.00	Kinlet Family Playgroup, Kinlet School Mon to Fri		07794 166514	
	08.00	Chorley Family Playgroup, Stottesdon School Mon to Fri	Zoe Day	01746 718769	
	09.00	Peter Rabbit Nursery, Lacon Childe School Mon to Fri	April Rogers	CM 271418	
	09.00	CM Playgroup, Primary School, Mon to Fri	Jane Preece	07816 193933	
	09.30	Morning Workout, Sports Hall	Deena	CM 271317	
	10.00	Age UK, Monday Club, St Mary's Place	Sarah Wilde	CM 272638	
	15.45	Gym Club with Ann Davis, Lacon Childe Mon & Wed	Don Carter	CM 270312	
	17.30	Cubs Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Kate Pearce	07772 102986	
	18.30	Karate Club, Lacon Childe School	John Nelson	CM 879210	
	19.00	Tai Chi Class, Lacon Childe School	Rose Jacks	01584 875544	
	19.30	Rangers Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Helen Smith	CM 270912	
	19.45	Bingo, CM Sports & Social Club	Alan Evans	CM 270114	
	20.00	Women's Clog Dancing Classes	Linda Small	01746 718624	
	Tue	10.00	Nippers, Moths & Tots, Methodist Hall, Church Street	Emma	CM 272959
14.00		Friendship Club, Parish Hall, Church Street	Janet Rolston	CM 270353	
15.45		Ballet Class, Lacon Childe School	Liz Broadway	CM 251246	
17.00		Sports Roundabout, Sports Hall, Love Lane		CM 271317	
17.30		Beavers Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Becky Keeley	CM 271416	
18.45		Bridge Club Hopton Wafters Village Hall	Wendy Duley	CM 270562	
19.00		Bell Ringers' practice night, St Mary's Church	Liz Walker	CM 271808	
19.30		Chas Beale Dance Club, Lacon Childe School	Betty Ladek	CM 270332	
Wed		10.30	Over 50s Relaxing Exercises, Doddington Village Hall	Freda Childe	01584 891180
		16.45	Gym Club for 6 & over, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312
	17.15	Brownies Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Rebecca Barnes	CM 272945	
	19.00	Guides Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Dorothy McBride	CM 272717	
	19.00	Yoga Class with Anna, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312	
	19.00	Zumba Class with Emma Forni, Lacon Childe School	Emma Forni	01746 862842	
	19.30	CM Concert Brass Band practice, Parish Hall	Stella Wilcox	CM 270560	
	19.30	New Life Church prayer meeting. For venue call	Derek Morris	CM 270787	
	19.45	Choir Practice, Parish Church	Philip Engleheart	CM 270627	
Thu	09.30	Little Tiddlers, Kinlet Family Playgroup, Kinlet School	Zoe Pearson	07794 166514	
	14.00	Scrabble Club, St Mary's Place, Non residents £1.00	Jo Booton	07969 104808	
	16.45	Cleobury Comets Netball, CM Sports Centre term time	Mandy Smith	CM 271809	
	17.30	Brownies Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Rebecca Barnes	CM 272945	
	19.00	Bell Inn Band improvers rehearsal, Bell Inn, Lower Street			
	19.30	Tums and Bums, Lacon Childe School	Don Carter	CM 270312	
	19.30	Adult 7-a-side Football League, CM Sports Centre	Dave Hinves	CM 271317	
	20.00	Bell Inn Band rehearsal, Bell Inn, Lower Street			
	20.00	11-16s Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317	
	21.00	Over 16s Badminton Club, CM Sports Centre		CM 271317	
	Fri	10.00	Tiny Stots, Chorley Playgroup, Stottesdon School	Zoe Day	01746 718769
10.00		Tiny Tots, Parish Hall	Bettina Poole	CM 271868	
17.30		Rainbows Meeting, girls 5-7 years, Old Pump House	Jean Basham	07792 813774	
19.00		Scout Meeting, Old Pump House, Church Street	Chris Andrews	CM 270937	
20.00		Badminton, CM Sports Centre		01584 881359	
Sat	10.30	Junior Coaching, CM Golf Club, Wyre Common	Robert Watkins	CM 271112	



CLEOBURY MORTIMER SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB NEW WINTER & SPRING ENTERTAINMENT

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Friday 20th December - **Senior Citizens Party**
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31st December - **NEW YEARS EVE PARTY**
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Saturday 15th March 2014 - **SHERYLL**
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JOSH CARPENTER - TOP MAN



Cleobury golfer Josh Carpenter had an outstanding season on the greens in 2013. A member of the Cleobury Mortimer club, he just swept the awards at the Worcester County awards night.

He came home with a Gold Medal, the G D Carr Cup, the Youth Championship, the Secretary's Bowl and the Guy Bigwood Trophy that was won in an open competition - no easy task for a junior, no matter how talented he is. And at the English Amateur Championship he reached the quarter final. "The most successful amateur to ever represent Cleobury," said club marketing manager David Pain.

THE READING GROUP

Catching up, Deana Kimber reports on December and January in one go:

Our group celebrated the festive season with drinks & nibbles whilst reviewing "Nurse on Call" by Edith Cotterill. Not a great deal of enthusiasm for the book, too much about dogs before getting to the 1950's district nurse narrative. This section was interesting, as one or two people had experienced similar careers so we discussed changes to health & living

conditions over the last 60 years. Not recommended, though some incidents produced a smile and the last chapters were quite moving.

"Ordinary Thunderstorms" by William Boyd was our book for January. This was a moderately good thriller, a page-turner and easy read. Enjoyed by the majority even with some unbelievable sections, it had interesting characters each displaying a good and bad side.

We next meet at 7.30pm on Monday February 17th at the Library to talk about "Mudbound" by Hillary Jordan.

Deana Kimber

CONGRATULATIONS

To young Brett Thompson of Bowketts in the High Street. He has recently completed his training and exams and is now a qualified butcher.

CONGRATULATIONS TOO



Big birthday at Walking for Health, when Joan Hockin celebrated her 90th on an extra outing with her friends. That's Joan seated left, next to daughter Judy Sant, with walk leaders Alan Kimber and Mandy Smith behind

Asked what she was doing for her 90th Birthday, Joan Hockin said "It's Wednesday, I'll be walking with the Group." But it was in the winter, when no Walks for Health happened. So Leaders Alan Kimber and Mandy Smith contacted all the regular walkers and laid on refreshments, a Birthday Cake, and 28 walkers turned out.

We are fast approaching the Walking for Health season for this year. It will officially start on March 5th, when walkers of all sorts will meet at the Sports Centre and join in a guided social walk of about an hour, before returning to the Centre for light refreshments. Nothing hurried or stressful, just a gentle stroll in the fresh air and a good place to meet people if you're new to the area. Mandy on CM 271809 will tell you more

COMING SOON

Cleobury resident Christopher Newman has been keeping journals for many years, and has often been told they'd make a good book. So he's taken his courage in both hands and put one together, the words complemented with his own drawings of the tools he used as a cabinet maker.

It's not here yet, but a launch at the Library is the plan. It's called 'Nailed to the Page' with the subtitle "Extracts from the Journals of an Unsupervised Mind," which does sound promising. Hardback £19.99, soft back £10.00 at the launch. Look out for posters giving the launch date, or enquire of the man himself on CM 270851 or 07833 358 050. Review in the March 'Clarion'.

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Linda Iles'

February In The Forest



A few days ago I heard something from a certain Secretary of State that got me pretty hot under the collar. He implied that there would be more planning permissions in future allowing development on ancient woodland sites, providing that “many more trees” were planted elsewhere to compensate, which would “deliver a better environment over the long term”. This ‘biodiversity offsetting’ is not unheard of, and ensures that where habitat loss cannot be avoided some kind of recompense is undertaken.

So why was I annoyed? Let’s look at the term ‘ancient woodland’, which, by the way describes our Wyre Forest. The National Vegetation Classification describes 19 different types of British woodland with their own distinctive trees, shrubs, flowering plants and often ferns, mosses, liverworts and lichens. All are ‘semi-natural’, which is to say that they have been modified to a greater or lesser extent by human activity, and all have a complex web of wildlife associated with and dependent on them. Ancient woodland can be defined as woodland that has covered an area continuously (but not necessarily without partial felling and re-growth) since 1600. So even a forest which is clear felled and allowed to regenerate from the seed in the soil would still be termed ancient. The forestry term ‘Plantation on Ancient Woodland Site’ is an important distinction, recognising that even a plantation of non-native conifers retains some wildlife benefit from the relict habitat (soil, bacteria, fungi, soil invertebrates etc) still remaining.

This should lead you to the conclusion that it ain’t just about the trees. The backlash to said Secretary of State’s ill-thought-out comments from not only conservation organisations but also the broadsheet press was predictable and (to me) satisfying. I’m heartened that there is enough opposition to the conservation equivalent to destroying say, a Turner, in favour of a hundred quite nice college students’ paintings to see the proposal kicked into touch. Quantity rather than quality won’t work in this case. There is a Native American saying, popularised by Greenpeace: *When the last tree is cut, the last fish is caught, and the last river is polluted; when to breathe the air is sickening, you will realize, too late, that wealth is not in bank accounts and that you can’t eat money.*

And what’s all this about the Environment Agency stopping development in flood plains? Don’t we all know of examples where new houses have been built on flood plains since the floods of 2001? Puxton Marsh, for example, where valuable wet woodland was lost when planning permission was given on appeal in 2011.

Rant over.

Do enjoy the wonderful natural world this month, as winter is stealthily overcome by spring in the form of snowdrops and hazel catkins.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

MARATHONS RUN IN THIS FAMILY



Jo Watson, passionate about the Tommy's charity.

Joanne Watson has the ideal family background for someone with London Marathon ambitions. Her dad Joe did 25 of them in a row, starting in the early days of the event and raising something like £50,000 for charities during his running career.

His daughter shows a similar determination, though she's not out to match her father's record. Not yet. But she ran the Birmingham half marathon last October as part of her training for London, and tore some tendons just six weeks before the race. She was told she'd have to withdraw, that she couldn't compete with such an injury.

There's a tough lady behind that smile, and after treatment at the Clayton sporting injury clinic on Tenbury Road she was off to Brum and her first big event. She did the 13 plus miles in two hours and three minutes

and admits she's disappointed that she didn't get below the magic two hours time. This year, maybe?

She's running in London to raise money for the Tommy's charity that supports research into safe pregnancy and the loss of children in that time. The charity's stated target is to halve the number of babies who die during pregnancy or at birth by 2030. She had to be approved by the charity before she could use their name; the fact that she says she's "passionate about this charity" will have helped there.

She's following a strict training regime, building up the weekly miles until near the big day, when she'll ease off and build reserves for the run. At the moment she's covering 25 to 30 miles in her four long runs per week, plus time in the gym and a more social outing with the Royal Fountain Inn Fun Runners. She's fitting that in with running the home, looking after three children, teaching part-time at Highley Primary, and acting as a governor at Cleobury Primary. She's full of praise for partner Neil: "He's great, really supportive."

Her aim is to raise at least £2,000 for Tommy's, and when we talked in late January she already had £1350; a phone call from dad at that time advised that two collection boxes in Tenbury Wells were full and needed replacing. You can see that she'll get there.

And after she's done it? "I'll carry on. but I'm not sure if I'll do the London one again. But I will definitely do Birmingham again and we'll just see where it

goes from there." Right now she's looking for local business support and Clarion readers can back her with donations on line at: www.justgiving.com/joanne-watson-marathon/

SWISHING EVENT

Ladies - advance notice! A 'Swishing' event is being organised for Spring at Kinlet Village Hall.

It involves everyone donating unwanted clothes, accessories etc and taking other goods that they want.

There will be a nominal fee towards light refreshments, no cost for goods taken and all remaining items will be donated to charity.

So please start sorting through your wardrobes and cupboards! Further details to follow....

Enquiries to Angie Brooks
01299 841891

A BIT OF A GEM

Vicki Alexander has made her mark on Cleobury's library since her appointment. One of her ideas is the Creative Writing Group, a disparate but happy bunch of people who simply enjoy writing. We get a guideline of three words chosen at random by the group, and come back each month with up to 1,000 words telling a story around those three essentials.

Some offer poetry, others script, but they all vary. The style of English used varies enormously, as you would expect with an age range from 18 to 90, but everyone is listened to and admired. It's a small group, and all the better for the easy atmosphere that creates. If you're interested, have a word with Vicki on CM 272301.



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

NOT EXACTLY A GLAMOROUS JOB

In fact, more glutinous than glamorous.....



Alan Kimber and Geoff Hainsworth take delivery of more footpath gravel.

It was a mucky job, but it badly needed doing. Where there used to be a mudbath at the western access to the sports field, there's now a decent, rolled gravel path. It's there as a result of cooperation between the Footpath Association and the County Council footpath people, who responded to a number of complaints about the muddy gateway that didn't get any better in recent rainfall.

CMFA members Geoff Hainsworth, Alan Kimber and

Graham Simpson volunteered to do some manual labour while the County crew covered every job and got the whole project finished in two days with their expertise.

The result is a hard surface footpath from the Sports and Social Club to the footpath around the public park and the sports facilities. There used to be an alternative tarmac route through part of the Lacon Childe grounds, but that had to be closed because of dog mess left in the school's play areas. So it was another case of people with a conscience clearing up the mess left by those who don't care.

Our thanks to the County Council and CMFA for a job well done.

CHEQUE PRESENTATION



There was a cheque presentation at Lacon Childe in January, when £300 was handed over to the Clebury First Responders by the school's Parent Teacher Association chairman Tracey Rochelle. It was part of the profits made at last September's Classic Bike Show. With Tracey - that's her on the left - were Responders Liz Vanegas de Quickenden in the centre and Rachel Lloyd on the right.

A very generous gesture by the PTA, but First Responders didn't support the Show. Strange.

HUMBLE PIE DEPT.

The January Clarion carried a description of the problems faced when the editorial computer went on strike three days before the print deadline.

With much help we overcame the problem, but something went wrong in the process between writing and printing. So Pages 1, 28, 37 and 47 all had captions out of line or bits missing. Apologies for that.

SILLY BIT

Q: What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary?

A: A thesaurus.

'I used to be a bank manager, but I lost interest.'



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE PARISH PLAN - ALMOST THERE

It has moved slowly forward, with very little public awareness of what it was doing. But the Parish Plan will come together as a blueprint for the future.

The meeting on January 15th looked like the final one before there's an exhibition for the public to have their final say. But in fact there's one more public meeting later this month to agree the plan that will be laid before the Parish Council.

These meetings don't exactly swing along, with seven areas of public concern to assess and agree what action will be asked for. They are not helped by an archaic style of the three headings on each subject - What You Said, What Has Happened and What The Plan Will Say - being read out to people who could all read! Then the matter was discussed, sometimes in minute detail, so that in the first half hour just two subjects had been dealt with.

One alarming matter that came to light was that the Closed Circuit Television cameras installed in the High Street are working, but we're not getting feedback from the control centre in Shrewsbury. That should produce some

interesting questions at the five day February exhibition in the Market Hall.

There is clearly going to be conflict between those who want to reduce parking in the main street to help traffic flow and people who live there and want to park their cars in the area. We are fortunate to have two car parks, but they are close to full at times; it seems that the perennial problem with the growth of the town is that more people have cars than available parking can accommodate. Yet there was a time when houses due to be converted to flats met with Parish Council opposition because of the parking problem, but the old District Council gave permission for the work.

In fairness, this whole Plan is a reflection that clearer thinking is happening at higher levels in the county, but it's too late to correct the errors of the past without upsetting local folks.

If you want to see what the result of this long process is, get along to the exhibition in the Market Hall starting on the 5th of this month and due to last until the 8th. Open 9.00 until 6.00 with a late night until 8.00 on the Wednesday. You can have your say, or report your views, on the questionnaire that will be available there.

To follow that up, there will be the final public meeting on February 28th, at 7.30 in the Market Hall. From the reaction there the final draft of the Parish Plan will be drawn up and presented to the Parish Council. And they, poor innocents in this world of austerity and cutbacks, will have to decide what can be done with whatever money is available.

Please don't let any air of scepticism in this report stop you being interested and speaking your mind at the coming public events. I may be weary of meetings that take far too long, which reflects in these words, but let's not forget that this is still a democracy and that we all have the right to speak our minds. If you think it's all too much trouble, it will be no good moaning when things start to move forward. So please do go along, but if you can be brief it leaves more time for democracy to emerge.


Jim Reynolds

SILLY BIT

Yorkshire man at the vets:
"Ayup lad, I need to talk to thee about me cat."

Vet: "Is it a tom?"

Yorkshire man: "Nay, tha daff beggar, I brought it wi me."





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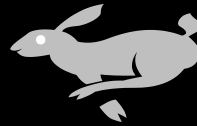
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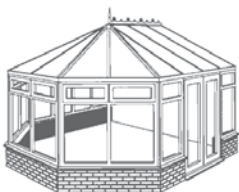
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IN BUSINESS: Red Hare Salon



Lady in charge. Jo Apperley.

You can feel the happy atmosphere as you walk in the door at Red Hare at 45 High Street. You can't miss the place, with its eye-catching window displays and enough lights on at night to intrigue.

It's owned by Jo Apperley, who spent ten years as a freelance artist, showing her work at exhibitions like the NEC Spring Fair and selling prints all over the world. She was helping part time in a hair salon and enjoyed it so much that she opted to train for a new career. But you can see the influence of her art background in the way the salon is laid out, everything looking attractive and in the right place.

The tidiness is logical. "If you keep everything where it should be, it's easy to find when we're busy and have a lot of customers to look after."

She currently employs five. Beautician Lily, apprentice Chelsea on a two year course for her NVQ Level 2. and stylists Cassy, Katy and Lauren, all of them trained by Jo, who sets a high standard of work, attitude to

customers and personal appearance. Not dictatorial, but carefully guided and explained in a way that produces a friendly atmosphere. The touch is gentle but there's steel inside.

It's something learned in ten years running her own salon, four of them at Red Hare. Before her standards had been taught to all staff she recruited from a different background and anyone who couldn't reach her standard was let go. While we talked, a young man of primary school age came in with his mum, and was made to feel at home with a friendly reception and interest in what he asked for.

"We cater for all ages, from young children to pensioners," explained Jo. "The staff have to be sociable and not put people on edge." That explains their customers from as far as Halesowen and even Birmingham. Not to mention Bewdley, where there are twelve hair salons

The premises are much deeper than a glance from outside suggests, with styling posts at the front, a consulting counter and sofas for waiting customers, and beyond that the beautician's private salon. All stylish and complemented by displays of the range of products Jo has carefully selected. The beauty treatments include organic facials, non-chemical peels, waxing, Shellac nails and nail extensions.

She pays careful attention to more than the trends and methods learned at the training days all the staff attend every year, and sees a move to more natural products in both hair styling and beauty treatment. "People are concerned about what they're putting in and

on their bodies," she explains. "There is no sodium laureth sulphate in the products we use. All the colours and perms are PPD, Ammonia and Paraben free with outstanding results, and are OK to use on post cancer patients. We understand how hard cancer treatment can be for a woman if she loses her hair, and can offer a wig cutting service, advice and support as natural growth is restored."

The salon is open from 9.00 to 6.00 on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 11.00 to 8.00 on Thursday and 9.00 to 4.00 on Saturday. With two children to look after and the admin work to handle as well as the daily salon work, she doesn't get much time off. "I don't think you ever stop," she admits. So does she still enjoy it? "I love it. Can't wait to get back to work - I use the urge to create every day."

There's a website coming, with William Withers of Computer Repairs in Mable hard at work on the project. They never stop improving.



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The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page

February 2014 - Volume Ten - Edition Eleven

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E-Mail: editor@cleoburyclarion.co.uk

Printed by: Linda Fowler at Glint Print 01299 266657

The Clarion On The Web:www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk

*The Clarion is owned and published by
Cleobury Clarion Media Limited*

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THE DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 23rd

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CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE CARERS (CoCo) - 01299 270018. Katja Ward is the contact; office hours 10.00 to 12.00 noon, Monday to Friday.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER POLICE. WPC Anne O'Leary; ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

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PARISH COUNCIL - Clerk Matthew Sheehan is in the Market Hall from 9.00 'til 2.00, Monday to Friday. 01299 271154. The Council meets in the Market Hall on the first Monday of the month; meetings are open to the public. Website: www.cleobury.org.uk

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