
The Cleobury Clarion



SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

February 2015

CHANGES, CHANGES

It seems that Cleobury's main street never stands still. On February 2nd what used to be the Cleobury Pharmacy in Church Street reopens as JFM's Barber Shop. Justin, the man behind it, has established salons in Kinver and Kidderminster and clearly knows his business.

A few doors along is John Carter's Barnaby's shop, its windows full of the stunning photographs that his wife Claire has been producing for years. She has just been awarded a Highly Commended in the Outdoor Photographer of the Year 2014 competition, Light and Land category, with her shot of the Gimsoy mountain on Lofoten Island in Norway.

Later this month she'll be in London to hear the results of the National Geographic Traveller UK competition, where her submission in the River category is one of three



Claire Carter's Highly Commended picture of Gimsoy Mountain.

shortlisted from an entry of 10,000. She is a very talented person, who is about to take the big step of quitting her career in teaching - she's very good at that, too - to make her camera skills her full time profession. We wish her all the luck she deserves.

Almost next door is the Royal Fountain, where Helen and Al have announced that domestic pressures have put the growing and successful

business up for rent. The full story is on Page 23.

And two more doors down is Wells House, where a lot of work has been going on to renovate a picturesque old part of the town centre scene. The latest part to be brought back to life is the cottage, due to be offered for rent very soon. That's on Page 23 too.

A lot of changes in less than 100 metres, with people moving on or moving in.



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The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page

February 2015 - Volume Twelve - Edition Eleven

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Missed your Clarion? Cleobury Mortimer Library keeps the current month's copy on file.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 20th

Clarion Contacts - Useful Local Telephone Numbers and Emails

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

CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE - 01299 272300 In Love Lane. Open 09.00 to 5.00, Mon to Fri.

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

CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES (CoCo) - 01299 270018. Katja Ward.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY - 01299 272301. Vicki Alexander is our librarian. Open 9.00 to 5.00 Monday to Friday and 10.00 to 1.00 Saturdays.

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

CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES: Rebecca Barnes CM 272945

CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS: Ingrid Purslow CM 271118

CRIMESTOPPERS - 0800 555 111. Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.

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

HOME FROM HOSPITAL - 01584 878046. Help over the first weeks back home from Age UK.

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

MARKET HALL- Dorothy CM272717, 07761 976610 mobile, or dorotheamcbride@cleobury.org.uk

MEDICAL CENTRE - 01299 270209. Out of surgery hours, the Shrop Doc Service.

SHROP DOC - 08444 068888. Service available evenings and weekends.

THE PHARMACY - 01299 270219. Closes for half day on Saturday. Delivers prescriptions.

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. 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

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

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

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL - 0345 678 9000

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

VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME - 01299 666119. Mrs Val Simpson is the coordinator.

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The Cleobury Clarion. February 2015



What sensible person calls a business Snoggable Garlic?
This one does.
See Page 17



Sue Griffiths rounded off her year as Lady Captain at the Golf Club by presenting a cheque for £1,000 to her chosen charity, Kemp Hospice.
See Page 25.



In Business. Julie Grimes, the new face at Carrot Tops.
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CLEOBURY MORTIMER

W.I.

Cleobury Mortimer W. I. has a varied and interesting programme planned for 2015 and we would welcome new members and visitors to our meetings on the second Tuesday of the month.

January's meeting was a bring and share event, tasting dishes made with various spices and hosted by our President, Judy Sant. We were able to share in the interesting recipes, such as chile con carne, fruit compote with cinnamon and star anise, ginger biscuits and cheese and biscuits with Boxing Day Chutney.

The charity we are supporting this year is Cleobury CoCo.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 10th, 7.30, in the Market Hall, when Jenny Vanderhook will give an illustrated talk on the butterflies of Mexico. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Gillian Senior

ROAD CLOSURE - EARLY WARNING

Our thanks to Parish Clerk Matt Sheehan for notifying a proposed road closure of the B4363 on March 4th from its junction with the A4117 in

Cleobury through to the start of Kinlet Bank. The road will be closed all day for a drainage investigation and the diversion route(s) will be signposted.

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Members of CMFA enjoyed walks around the area on Boxing Day and New Year's Day and fortunately the weather stayed fine – the sun shines on the righteous!! The mud on New Year's Day was rather challenging, however we all made it back to The King's Arms for food and drinks as is our usual treat on New Year's Day.

Our monthly walks resume on the first Sunday of every month starting from the church in Cleobury Mortimer unless otherwise stated on our posters or on our website. We start at 10.00am, the walks lasting 1½ - 2 hours. We love to see new faces and visitors, to show off our beautiful countryside to others.

Our work parties continue to maintain and clear our footpaths. There is always something to do, be it clearing away growth of grass, nettles to installing new stiles or gates. Bad weather often destroys footbridges or washes away paths along river banks. To keep our footpaths open, it is often

the volunteers who put in the hard work so we are able to continue walking the area. More help is always needed so if you would like to join us regularly or occasionally please contact us via our website.



You may also see our 'Snip & Slash' signs around the area. As the new growth starts to emerge, if you can spend a few minutes cutting back brambles or nettles to help keep the paths open it will help lighten our workload and if you have problems with any paths please let us know.


More members are always welcome to CMFA so if you are interested in walking with us or helping in any way please contact us via our website.

Joy Wilkinson

THE CYCLE SHOW RETURNS

Subject to confirmation from Lacon Childe School, who seemed very keen on the event last year, Rich Robertshaw of Step-Out tells us that he's planning to repeat the very successful Cycle Show on Saturday, September 19th this year. That would be the weekend after the Borders Classic Bike Show returns, but we'll tell you more about that a little later in the year....





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February 21st: Synergie

March 7th: Cooper and Davies

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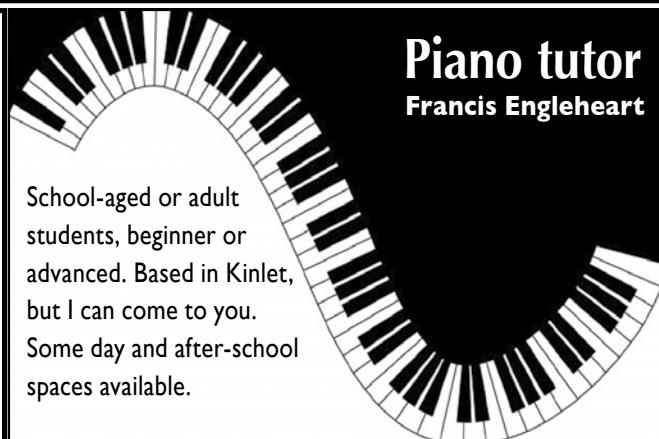
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KINLET FAMILY PLAYGROUP

We are excited to share the news this month that we have been re-rated as 'Good' by Ofsted. In the busy run up to Christmas we had an unexpected knock at the door, and of course welcomed the inspector into our setting and showed her what Kinlet Family Playgroup is all about.

We were very pleased to be rated 'Good' again and that they recognised that "children achieve well and make good progress". As we pride ourselves on being a close-knit community setting, we were pleased to read that "children of all ages display a strong sense of belonging and confidently explore a well-presented and accessible learning environment." We also had feedback that parents are "extremely pleased with the care offered", which is of course of great importance to us.

The full report will be available to view online if you wish to know more, and if you are looking for a small, friendly nursery for your child, please get in touch on 07794 166514 or email info@kinletfamilyplaygroup.co.uk.

THE READING GROUP

We were very pleased to welcome a new member to our January reading group meeting where we chatted about Half a Yellow Sun by Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche. It was generally agreed this was a good book and informative but many suggested it could have been shorter. Set in Nigeria, about the Biafran war, the troubles in the novel seemed very topical and it was remarked that this had occurred several times with our group reads. Incidents and characters in the story were discussed as well as the part our country played in proceedings. Horrific at times, charming at others it proved an interesting although not a fun read at Christmas time. Our next meeting is on 16th February, 7.30pm at Cleobury library. Any questions? Contact me on 271754.

Deana Kimber

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

February is an unfortunate month, being cold and miserable but luckily only 28 days.

There are signs of life erupting from the ground with Crocus, Iris Reticulata,

Snowdrops and Cyclamen Coum giving splashes of colour all through the garden.

If you love pottering around the garden, or need advice, why not join us at one of our monthly meetings? It's a great opportunity to share thoughts, ideas and advice with other members. Gardening is one of the few hobbies that are relaxing, enjoyable and very rewarding. Our Club has a very friendly atmosphere, everyone is welcome. Non-members welcome to any monthly meeting. Annual subscriptions of £10 are now due for the coming year.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 25th February and the speaker for the evening will be Katherine Thornton with a talk on 'Plight of the Bumblebee'.

Pauline Bowen

VISITING BELLRINGERS

The bells of Saint Mary's Church will be ringing on the morning of Tuesday February 3rd, from 10.15 to 11.15am when we have a band of visiting ringers from Worcestershire.

Alec Osbaldiston

(Tower captain)

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE ADVENT LUNCHES

Shaunah Murrell reports another great success:

The money raised at the Advent Soup Lunches is to be given to the Breast Surgery Clinic at Kidderminster Hospital along with any other monies that have been raised by other means. The Advent Lunches raised £905.54 for the 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 and apple pie makers, and donations of bread, cream and butter. My grateful thanks to all who helped.

Without the diners' generous support there would not have been £905.54 in the pot. The soup was delicious, and such a variety. There was a happy atmosphere in the room as people tucked into the soup and apple pie and cream.

We were also able to make a donation of £711 to the Windsor Drop-In Centre in Salford, which the Chair of Trustees says will help their work with the homeless.

Shaunah Murrell

ROCK PATHFINDERS

The Rock walks this month start at 10.30 on the 5th from a lay-by on the A443 at Holt Heath. WR6 6BB or OS Reference 815630 according to your taste.

Then on the 19th they meet at Sun and Slipper in Mamble, where you can expect to return for an excellent lunch. 10.30 start again. DY14 9JL or OS Ref 689714. Alan on 01299 400304 can tell you more.

A CHARMING MESSAGE FROM THE BROWNIES



I am a brownie in Cleobury, so I am a member of Girlguiding UK. On the February 22nd we will be celebrating World Thinking Day by putting a light in our window, and we would really like as much help as

possible to light up our community. If you are a Rainbow, Brownie, Guide or Ranger now, or you were ever one before, then please put a light in your window. On Thinking Day we think of all the Girlguiding around the world which is amazing to be a part of. Happy Thinking Day!

Annabel Barnes – Age 7

A SEA SHANTY EVENING

The Friends of St Mary's are trying something different for their latest fund raising effort: a Fish and Chips evening at the Parish Hall. The entertainment will be provided by the acclaimed Sea Shanty Singers, who sing for their supper and a drop of Hobson's ale. Clearly right thinking and drinking men.

It's a ticket only event, at a cost of £10 each that includes the supper. It's on Friday February 20th, starts at 7.30 and promises to be a right good evening. Book your place with Diane Waddington on CM 272820.

SILLY BIT

"Gone are the days when girls could cook like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers."

Anon.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

On a cold winter night members gathered for a very interesting talk by Rachel Salisbury on 'The Great Plant Hunters.' She had selected some of the first, who have made a great impact on our gardens. It all began in the 17th Century, when the hunters were keen botanists, their trips funded by generous benefactors who wanted to have new plants in their gardens. Some went west, some to the east and they often had to rely on local guides, meeting hostility from the local people. At this time they sailed everywhere and devised many ingenious ways of bringing the plants home. They needed light and water but also had to be protected from the salty spray and water. Unfortunately some plants did not survive but many did and we were able to view them on the slides Rachel showed to us. We all felt that our gardens have benefited from these brave men's adventures and that we now take for granted a lot of the plants that were searched out many years ago.

Our next meeting will be on 9th February, when Rosemary

Winnall will be telling us about 'Gardens for Wildlife.'

Liz Smurthwaite

STOTTESDON W.I.

A gathering of members old and new met for some lively discussion, energetic games, and of course coffee and cakes on January 21st. The WI has a history of association with topical issues, and our first meeting of the year is allocated to debating the range of resolutions, one of which is selected by members for the national campaign. In addition Steff Bryan is organising a sponsored swim for early spring to raise funds for the Domestic Abuse Forum following the withdrawal of government funding.

Clare Tibbits has again planned a lively and varied programme for 2015 beginning with a talk by local wildlife expert and National Trust manager Peter Carty, on Nature Conservation at Dudmaston Park. This should be of wide general interest, so do join us on Wednesday 18th February at Chorley Village Hall 7.30 pm.

Marian Wootton

THE TRADE CARD

Cleobury Country's annual Trade Card is due to arrive very soon, but they do not have a

firm date from the printer. If it is here in time, it will be distributed outside the town through the Clarion's usual outlets. If not, we will get it out to you in March.

It's a great success as a source of information on local businesses, listing a number of services who do not advertise in the Clarion. Cleobury Country took on the job of producing the card and selling the adverts after the town's Chamber of Trade was dissolved, and have added a strong design element and the discipline of a timetable. If there is a delay like the one we've mentioned above, it makes a difference of just one month; it used to be a great deal more than that in the days of the Chamber handling it.

IN THE PICTURE

Good news for Cleobury Golf Club. They have been chosen as the venue for the photo shoot for the Stuburt Shoe catalogue. This Bristol company has a worldwide reputation, which means images from our local club being seen all over the golfing world. Another coup for that very lively business.

SILLY BIT

'Didn't make it to the gym today. That makes it about five years in a row.'



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References and credit checks will be required and the responsibility of the applicant.

SEE PAGE 23 FOR MORE DETAILS AND PHOTO

On The Market - Belinda at Snoggable Garlic



Belinda, with just a few of the large containers of olives in her unit.

You must admit, Snoggable Garlic is not a name you forget. And with about 5,000 customers spread through the UK, America and Switzerland, it clearly has a global appeal.

It started 15 years ago, when Belinda tired of driving for a living and opted to do her own thing. She was already growing and selling herbs, but needed a winter earner and started to learn about olives and the way to get the best out of them. She soon realised that this is a complex business, the fruit needing a lot of precise handling before it can be eaten.

That lesson is still applied today; there are no short cuts if

you want quality. She won't reveal much of the secrets learned over years, but showed the copious washing facilities needed to soften the fruit and improve its flavour: "Everything is tasted by me before it goes out." The exception is the chilli olives: "I value my taste buds too highly to take the edge off with them," she smiles.

A year after working with olives she moved on to garlic, not a popular choice 14 or so years ago. From an initial 20kg batch in brine, she established that they had a great taste and with the right process had no smell. Hence the Snoggable Garlic title. And she's experimented with flavours, today offering a range of eight, from Oak Smoked to paprika, with specials at Christmas like Pomegranate and Star Anise.

The Snoggable Garlic title is registered and Belinda protects it fiercely if she sees another trader using it. After all, she was developing her knowledge long before others jumped on the bandwagon. Her supply comes from the Clermont Ferrand area of France, near the source of Volvic waters in a National Park. It arrives in a raw state and is processed - another secret - before storing in olive oil and maturing for up to six months

before being sold. "I start making my Christmas stock in about August. You dread getting to Christmas and running out," she explains.

What she emphasises in talking about her processing is the need for cleanliness and proper handling: "You can't just take it out of a brine container and put it in olive oil. I've seen some of that on stalls and the garlic is blue; that's a sign of botulism and it's very dangerous."

She has all those customers because she knows her stuff. Up in Scotland, fishermen are keen on garlic, as the dreaded midges don't like it and stay away; she has a buoyant mail order trade there.

She sells at markets within economic reach: Newcastle-Under-Lyme, Solihull, Stourbridge and the Talbot Inn at Knightwick as well as Cleobury, a place she likes. "I do well considering the footfall." All this plus nut roasts suitable for vegetarians and vegans. "Cooked fresh for the market so customers can take them home and put straight into the freezer." Take a close look at this month's market - this is quality stuff.

Belinda's website:

www.snoggablegarlic.com

A colorful advertisement for the Cleobury Country Farmers Market. The background is dark with a rainbow-like wave at the top and bottom. On the left, there is a circular logo featuring a church and a sun. The text is centered and reads: "CLEOBURY COUNTRY FARMERS MARKET IN AND AROUND ST MARY'S CHURCH SATURDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2015 FROM 9.30AM TO 12.30PM". There are decorative flowers on the right and bottom left.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News



NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK

A great opportunity to get children interested in books and reading. National Storytelling Week at the library started with a visit by noted children's author Daniel Morden, to read extracts from his works and meet and greet the children. More about his visit in next month's issue.

Coming up soon, on Saturday the 7th, is the finale of the week. It features the multi talented Suzanne Thomas as The Dragon Teller from the Shropshire Hills - Clee Hill actually - with a dragon's view of some of the myths and legends that exist. As it says on the official posters: "The dragons of these lands tell a very different story to the ones that were written down."

There will be a Storytelling Quiz during the event, with one of Daniel's books as the prize. That will be presented to the winner at a later date, still to be

decided. Thanks are due to Suzanne for persuading this famous children's author to travel to Shropshire and give his time to the children.

Admission to the Dragon Teller's presence is £1.00 per child, who must bring an adult along, who will get in for free. That couldn't be because the Dragon wants an adult or two for her dinner, surely?

The Friends are also involved in early talks to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Simon Evans's death, with celebration of both his written works and his 26 km daily postal round set to attract some strong interest.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE FRIENDS

Membership of The Friends of the Library has now been set at £3.00 for adults, which allows them to get into chargeable events at a reduced price. Special events are normally charged at £3.00 a head, and members will get in for a mere £2.00. Membership forms are available at the library.

Look out for coming events organised by the Friends, all to get more people, adults and children, aware of the services available on our doorstep.

SHROPSHIRE LIBRARIES

This is the service responsible for all the libraries in the county, and they have a very good new

scheme to support people with dementia. Over 830,000 people in the country are affected by this affliction and the libraries can offer information, support and a safe, welcoming place to both sufferers and their carers.

The target for the service is to have all their staff trained as Dementia Friends this year, with special information available through all branches. A number of branches have special events planned, though we have no dates at Cleobury so far. Ludlow is the nearest branch with special books, and as our Cleobury library staff all work there as well, access is easy. Isn't it good to see that despite severe cutbacks, simple human sympathy still shines through.

NATIONAL HEALTH EXCELLENT SERVICE

An unsolicited story from Judy Reid, whose husband Peter was not well over the Christmas. He had a new medicine to take if the need arose, but Judy wasn't sure if that was necessary, so called 111 for help.

"It wasn't an emergency, just that I wanted to get advice. They insisted that I talk to a hospital and put me through to Kidderminster. They wanted to be sure of the situation, and a doctor arrived in half an hour. This was on Christmas Day!"

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The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

Diabetes: Starvation in Times of Plenty

Diabetes in animals is very similar to the disease in humans. It's often referred to as 'Starvation in Plenty' because your pet will be eating very well but continually loses weight. Some common signs that your pet may be diabetic include excessive drinking of water, urinating more than normal and unexpected weight loss.

So how does diabetes come about? Most of the food our pets eat is turned into glucose (sugar) for their bodies to use for energy. Insulin enables this process and a lack of insulin production from the pancreas means that sugars provided by their food don't make it into the cells and remains in their blood.

Too much sugar in the blood is dangerous and your animal's defence is to pass it out in the urine, but this requires more water leading to excessive urination, and your pet has to compensate by drinking more. Another side effect is that the sugar in the urine provides an excellent growth medium for bacteria – meaning diabetic animals are more prone to recurrent urine infections.

The main problem, however, is that the brain cannot function without glucose. If the brain's glucose levels drop too low the body panics and breaks down fats to use as an energy source, which can lead to diabetic crises, comas and even death.

Once diabetes develops, your pet will most likely

require life-long insulin injections which can be costly and reduce the quality of life for both you and your pet.

Testing for diabetes can often be performed via a quick urine test, which can highlight problems early on and allow time to start treatment before your pet gets too poorly. As always, prevention is better than the cure - the best thing to prevent diabetes is to control your pet's bodyweight and ensure they are not eating food which has excessive sugars. If you have any questions or concerns about diabetes, always speak to your vet.

Jeremy Hall

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Happenings on High Street

THE ROYAL FOUNTAIN
Sad news from a local pub that has gone through a tremendous revival. Alan and Helen issued this notice in January:

It is with deep regret that Alan and Helen Rodgers have taken the very hard decision to sell the Royal Fountain Inn due to the ongoing health difficulties of their youngest son, who was born extremely premature in 2013.

Alan and Helen have invested heavily with their own time and money in renovating the historic pub and so it has been with a heavy heart and great disappointment that they've had to come to this decision.

The pub closed to regular business on Sunday January 18th, but we are still able to offer the pub for private functions, whilst the property is on the market. Furthermore, if the pub has not been sold by the summer, we will reopen from 1st June - 31st August with a full programme of music, events and activities so customers can still fully enjoy their favourite beer garden. We will continue to live at the Royal Fountain to ensure the building and gardens are well maintained for the next custodian.

We would like to thank all our customers for their continued

support and understanding. We have been overwhelmed by the incredibly kind words from visitors to the pub during our last weekend of opening and the messages posted on our Facebook page. We will miss the buzz of the business and hope to find a buyer to pick up where we've left off as soon as possible. We plan to stay in Cleobury.

The Fountain Fun Runners club will continue to meet at the pub every Thursday at 7.00pm and the Fountain Free Wheelers cycling club will meet in the pub garden at 10:30 every first Sunday of the month.

What can you say? They put heart and soul into the place and made it a success, but every caring parent will recognise that family comes first. We wish them all the best. JR.

PROGRESS AT THE WELLS



The cottage that is part of the Wells House complex on Church Street is nearing restoration and will be available to rent soon. It's a desirable property, after owners Gilbert and Rosie Bond have spent time and money on bringing it up to date. So far as records tell, parts of the buildings date back to the late 18th century, but the cottage is up to new property insulation standards. Gilbert showed us around, and we can confirm that what was a ground floor of tiles laid on soil is now a concrete bed with stone flags fitted throughout.

Two bedrooms with a very smart bathroom on the first floor, plus a downstairs cloakroom, kitchen and large living room offer an appeal to a couple or small family. In effect, it's like a new house with the appearance of a stone cottage. And outside is The Wells, one of the town's historic sites.

The Bonds have done a good job with this part of the complex and they've opened up at the back of Wells House to give a lot of space. The rear garden stretches down to the brook and as their restoration spreads through the whole collection of buildings, another house of character joins the town's property heritage.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

BASIL MUMFORD



Basil Mumford was a figure in the community for over half a century. He and Barbara moved from Ludlow into Cleobury in the mid 1950s, when Basil took over management of J Roberts the ironmongers in Church Street. When the Roberts family wanted to sell the business the obvious successor was Basil, who consulted the retired vicar John Ashton and was encouraged to take the big step of buying out his employer.

In 1958 the town's ironmonger became B Mumford and he remained in charge until retirement in 1993. The shop was a traditional institution, the outside display left in place when they closed for lunch, and postcards of this memorable place were a popular seller at Baldwin's bookshop.

I had personal experience of his calm, quiet way of giving

service. My mother lived in Childe Road in her final, rather muddled years, and when she found that the gas cylinder for her fire was empty, naturally she phoned Mr Mumford. On one such occasion Basil gently explained that he was only in the shop on Sunday to do a stocktake, but would bring a new cylinder and instal it. No crabbiness, no shouting, just a quiet walk up the Talbot Yard and one old lady left warm and happy. It really was an otherworldly level of service.

Mrs Mumford recalls those gentle days: "It wasn't a job, it was such a happy time, when everybody became our friends." Basil retired in 1993 but remained a familiar and popular figure as he shopped in the High Street, always with the same polite and dignified manner. He is survived by Barbara, who he married in 1953, and his son Stewart. To them goes the sympathy of everyone who knew this gentle, quiet reminder of old Cleobury.

The family would like to thank the many people who sent messages of sympathy, curate Mark Daborn, who conducted the private service at Wyre Forest Crematorium, and Adrian Satterly of Wyre Forest Funeral Service.

CAPTAIN AIDS HOSPICE



From left: Julie Hicks, Marilyn Wood, Sue Griffiths and Ellie Millward, all smiles at the Golf Club presentation.

Sue Griffiths ended her year as Lady Captain of the Golf Club in December with the presentation of a cheque for £1,000 to her chosen charity during her year in office, the Kemp Hospice. Also there were treasurer Marilyn Wood and from the Hospice Julie Hicks and Ellie Millward, who came to accept the cheque and present a framed certificate to record the occasion.

The Ladies Section also took the initiative in supplying a defibrillator to the club. Sue thanked all who had donated to that, the club management and Liz de Vanegas for support, advice, enthusiasm and assistance with the purchase of this vital piece of medical equipment.

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Letter from Westminster - Philip Dunne MP

Christmas can be expensive, so in January I looked at the prospects for those on low incomes in South Shropshire. I am sure we are all united in wishing to address poverty..

There is no doubt that a strong economy helps people into work and alleviates poverty. There has been significant success in increasing employment. Locally, the number of people claiming out of work benefits has fallen markedly over the past five years. Thinking back to 2010, I remember speaking to constituents concerned whether they would still have jobs in twelve months' time. Now, over the past two years, the number claiming Jobseekers Allowance in South Shropshire has more than halved, a remarkable turnaround of local employment prospects, helped I hope by the Jobs Fairs I have arranged during this period.

Reducing the burden of the state is also making an impact. By raising the Personal Allowance, Income Tax has been cut for 27 million people. This has taken the lowest paid in Shropshire out of tax altogether and saves the average Shropshire taxpayer £700 a year - welcome news for people working to tight family budgets.

In a rural area like ours, most rely on cars to get to work, take children to school or do the weekly shop. So reduction in fuel prices is good news, and we have seen a dramatic fall in recent months. Local drivers recall paying over £1.40 per litre little more than a year ago. It is now heading towards £1.00. This fall in prices, combined with the freeze of fuel duty for the past four years, saves drivers every time they fill up.

Freezing Council Tax in Shropshire for the past four years has also been the right thing to do,

helping thousands of low income families. There was overwhelming support for a continued freeze from my residents' surveys last year.

Wages are now rising faster than inflation, which helps the lowest paid. The state pension has been protected to rise at the higher of wages, inflation or 2.5% for the past four years. Falls in fuel and food costs should keep cost of living increases low, reducing pressures on budgets.

Welfare reforms are helping end the habit of dependency. The number of households where no one works has fallen to its lowest level for almost 20 years. The spare room subsidy, for all its detractors, has encouraged those of working age renting more rooms than they need to downsize. Shropshire Housing Group has seen the number of under-occupied properties fall from 15% to its current level of 8.7%. Discretionary housing payments are available as a temporary measure for those in difficulty.

Shropshire Council are tackling homelessness in the county: the number of people accepted as being homeless and in priority need has fallen by 35% over the past four years. The past year alone saw a 16.3% fall, down from 239 to 200.

For those who do need immediate assistance, food banks do excellent work. I keep in contact with all the local ones, and have been able to help when delays to benefits payments have caused problems for constituents. Of course, I firmly believe we must continue to provide a safety net for the vulnerable in our society. I will continue to help support those in our community, but take encouragement that many of the measures to alleviate poverty are making progress.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

DOG FOULING - THE COUNCIL GETS SERIOUS

Kate Adams of the County Environmental Maintenance unit, explains:

People in Cleobury Mortimer are being reminded to properly dispose of their dog's waste – or risk being fined. Simply bagging any waste and dropping it into a dog waste bin, a litter bin or the domestic waste bin is all that is needed.

We are currently experiencing an increased problem with dog fouling on many streets of Cleobury Mortimer and also on the playing fields. Dog mess on pavements, streets and grass areas presents both a health risk and public nuisance. People tread in it, parents push buggies through it and it is walked into houses, schools and businesses.

Ignorance of the incident is no defence. People who ignore their dogs, or let them foul whilst roaming unaccompanied are still liable.

Not clearing up after your dog is illegal under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and offenders can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice of £80 by an authorised Shropshire Council officer.

Formal warning letters or fixed penalty notices can also be issued when any member of the

public is prepared to supply a witness statement to Shropshire Council detailing a recent, specific incident.

If you are not a dog owner this article may not be appropriate to you; however I would ask for your help in watching out for anyone who may be committing an offence. All information is confidential.

The Fixed Penalty Notice charge is currently set at £80, with a reduced fine of £50 if it is paid within 14 days. By paying the penalty charge, the person discharges their liability to prosecution. Penalties not paid within 28 days leave the offender open to prosecution, which could result in a fine of up to £1,000.

Posters are being displayed around the town and a campaign called 'We are watching you' will be launched in April in conjunction with Keep Britain Tidy. We are undertaking this work in collaboration with Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council.

Those who have information about problem areas, times when fouling occurs, or know of people who fail to clean up after their dogs, are encouraged to let us know by calling **0345 678 9006**.

Kate Adams

NEW SERVICE AT THE MEDICAL CENTRE

Charmain Leek's independent hearing practice, Clear Hear, will be opening this month at the Medical Centre. Charmain is an NHS qualified Audiologist and private Registered Hearing Aid Dispenser and has worked in this field for 28 years. In 2004 she established Clear Hear in Worcester, and as an independent is not tied to any particular brand of hearing aids. She believes every client should be treated as an individual and says "Staying independent provides the flexibility to fit the right hearing aids for each client. It means continual training, being up to speed with different hearing aid makers."

She's excited about this new service for Cleobury: "Starting the new practice in Cleobury Mortimer is fantastic, it's a beautiful area of the country, I already have some clients locally, so I will be able to offer them appointments at their home or at my new consulting room".

She offers a comprehensive hearing service, providing free hearing tests, advice and 30-day trials with hearing aids. Contact Charmain on 0800 731 8545 or email her on clearhear@btinternet.com



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The February Clarion Social Calendar

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Sun 1	10.00am	The Footpath Association gather at the Parish Church for a walk out into the beauties of Shropshire. All welcome; sensible footwear essential.		
Mon 2	7.00pm	The Parish Council meet in the Market Hall. Public can address the council in the pre-meeting Democratic Time. Contact in office hours.	Matt Sheehan	CM 271154
Wed 4	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall; good parking.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 5	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders walk starting at Holt Heath. WER6 6BB or OS 815630.	Alan	01299 400304
Fri 6	7.30pm	Quiz Night at Highley's Severn Centre, team of four at an entry most of £10.	Nadia Dodd	01746 860000
Sat 7	8.00am	Sale at Knowle Sports Ground, Knowle, Clee Hill.	Audrey Taylor	01584 890644
	2.00pm	Dragon Teller Suzanne Thomas relates real Dragon Tales in the Library. It's for the children, at £1.00 a head and adults who aren't too scared get in for free. Tickets from the library.		
Mon 9	8.00pm	The Horticultural Society meet at the Methodist Hall to hear Rosemary Winnall talk about 'Gardens for Wildlife'.		
Tue 10	7.30pm	Cleobury W.I. Meet in the Market Hall to hear Jenny Vanderhook talk about the butterflies of Mexico. SEE PAGE 7.		
Wed 11	8.00pm	The Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street.		

BIN COLLECTION DATES THIS MONTH:

Thursday 5th: Green Wheelie Bins emptied today.

Thursday 12th: Black Wheelie Bins and Recycling Boxes emptied.

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Thursday 26th: Black Wheelie Bins and Recycling Boxes emptied

AND LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH.....

Thursday 5th: Green Wheelie Bins emptied today.

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The February Social Calendar - continued

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone Number
Fri 13	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Mon 16	7.30pm	The Reading Group gather at the library, to swap views on their latest tome. Very friendly atmosphere, not at all stuffy.		
Wed 18	7.30pm	Stottesdon W.I. gather at Chorley Village Hall, where Peter Carty talks about nature conservancy at Dudmaston Park		
	8.00pm	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thu 19	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders walk starts from the Sun and Slipper in Mamble. See 5th above		
	7.45pm	Whist Drive at the Sports and Social Club, Love Lane.	Alan Evans	CM 270114
Fri 20	7.30pm	The Sea Shanty Singers entertain at a Fish and Chip Supper Evening in the Parish Hall. Ticket admission only, £10 includes supper. Great value!	Diane Waddington	CM 272820
Sat 21	8.30am	The Farmers' Market is in and around the Parish Church. Great produce to buy and treat yourself.		
Wed 25	7.45pm	Clows Top Gardening Club meet at the Victory Hall to hear Katherine Thornton talk about 'The Plight of the Bumblebee.'		
Fri 27	8.00pm	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
		AND LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH		
Wed 4		Closure of the B4363 Bridgnorth Road from its junction with A4117 to Kinlet Bank. Diversions will be signposted.		
	8.00am	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874

CLUB SECRETARIES AND EVENT ORGANISERS

Your event could be listed in the Clarion Social Calendar. This is a free service, read by hundreds of people who want to know what's going on and where. All you have to do is send details to the editor, giving date, time, venue, contact and brief details.

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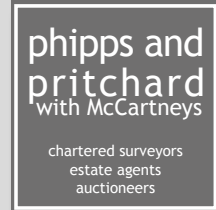
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Pembroke Avenue - Tenbury Wells

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The Cottage - Mamble

Detached character four bedroom family home. Set on a generous plot which includes a detached double garage with accommodation above, front and rear gardens and ample parking. Energy Rating D



O.I.R.O.
£470,000

Prospect House - Clee Hill

Prospect House is a detached property located on the B4214 between Clee Hill and Tenbury Wells (5 miles away). The town of Ludlow is also 5 miles away. With 4 bedrooms and 3 reception rooms the property benefits from a generous plot and good spacious accommodation throughout. Energy Rating E



O.I.R.O.
£295,000

New Buildings - Clee Hill

This mid-terraced property is located in Clee Hill. Comprising 3 bedrooms, kitchen/diner, lounge, bathroom and rear garden. Benefitting from double glazing throughout, oil fired central heating and spectacular views over the surrounding countryside. Energy Rating D



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Cross Street – Tenbury Wells

Number 39 Cross Street is a character, mid terraced property located just a short walk from Tenbury Wells town centre. This well-presented property has been updated and modernized to provide good accommodation. Energy Rating D



Moorfields - Mamble

Four bedroomed detached house set in a desirable village setting with glorious views over the surrounding countryside with the added benefit of a garage conversion to make it suitable for multi-generational living. Four bedrooms, master with en suite. Two reception rooms and conservatory. Energy Rating E



Spregdon House - Cleobury Mortimer

Two bedroom flat located on two floors. located very to amenities of Cleobury Mortimer. Accommodation comprises lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and family bathroom. Energy Rating E

TO LET



Lower Street - Cleobury Mortimer

Semi detached two bedroom home conveniently located close to local amenities. Accommodation comprises lounge, kitchen/diner, two bedrooms and family bathroom. Garden and parking. The property also benefits from double glazing. Sorry no smokers . Pets negotiable. Energy Rating F

TO LET



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Steve Todd's 'On The Buses' Saga - Part Five!

In another triumph of secrecy, the 2L timetable changed on 22 December. Most of the changes are minor with times going back rather than coming forward, but the main change for those going to Ludlow is the fact that the service no longer goes to the Ludlow Leisure centre. As one passenger found out when it carried straight on to the town centre. She was told that to get to the Leisure Centre she should pick up the Shrewsbury bus in Corve Street which she did. Coming back however, was another matter. Aware of the fact that she needed to get back to the revised route, she started walking and walking... An hour later, she had reached Henley with no sign of the bus and was lucky to be picked up by friends. No idea what time the service finally appeared.

The only good thing to come from the changes is the fact that the 9.25 to Ludlow is now the 9.31 so there should be no argument about paying the £1. However, as I write this on 20th January, this is still being charged on the 9.19 (was the 9.10) to Kiddy despite Shropshire Council's claim on 3rd December that this is not happening. We now have revised timetables in the Market Hall and Cleobury Country centre and some drivers have

got copies of the printed version (it does exist!) so ask next time you use the bus. I thought I should get a supply so went into the Kiddy depot and asked if they had any. They did. Five. The good news is that they gave me four. They had boxes of timetables for other routes so once again we are the poor relations. Talking of timetables, Shropshire Council have again demonstrated that they are asleep on the job as, nearly a month after the changes the information on the bus stops in Cleobury has still not been changed to show the revised times.

I have not had an acknowledgement, let alone a response from Shropshire Council to the letter I wrote on 20th December so I have sent a further missive setting out the continuing problems. Sadly, a number of people have told me that they are now either reluctant to use the 2L service or have given up on it altogether. A cynical person might think that this is all a cunning plan to dissuade people from using the 2L service, which could then be scrapped due to lack of use. If true, this would be a work of genius by Shropshire Council so I'm assuming that it isn't. As an aside, when I type in the word 'Rotala' (the parent company of

Diamond Buses) my spell checker suggests 'Scrotal' as an alternative, although I couldn't possibly comment on that suggestion.

Just to show we are not alone with our problems, I read a letter to a magazine recently in which the writer says the bus service in his (unspecified) area is so bad that the only time he uses his bus pass now is to cut a line of cocaine. It still has some use then...

Steve Todd

PS: Just after penning the above, I received a response from Shropshire Council. They say that they will pursue the £1 charge case and get it stopped. For all the other problems (punctuality, breakdowns etc), they have no powers as these are the responsibility of the West Midlands Traffic Commissioner and suggest I might write to them. I will do so but if you wish to do the same, feel free. Their address is:
38 George Road,
Edgbaston,
Birmingham
B15 1PL.

I think Steve Todd deserves an award for the time he's spent trying to ride the buses and reporting in such an amusing fashion. Should we all get together and nominate him for the Irony Cross? Ed.



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THE FARMING PAGE - Catherine and John Evans

I always think February is month for looking forward! Christmas is far behind us and everyone is starting to think about Summer holidays (unless you are a farmer), longer days and better weather! The early lambs are all safely delivered and we are waiting for the main flock to start lambing, it could be challenging as recent scanning has shown up a large number of triplets! By the time Lambing Live arrives on the TV we are well on the way to finishing! However it is a round the clock job, checking the ewes regularly through the day and night, fortunately shared between 3 or 4 people so some sleep is possible! Once lambed the ewe and offspring are penned together for a couple of days to bond then once the weather is fine and dry ewes and lambs are put out into the fields. Orphaned lambs or those from multiple births are either adopted onto ewes who have lost their lambs or will be bottle fed (this is always a big hit with the B&B guests!)

Whilst we don't produce milk we are very concerned about the problems affecting Dairy farmers at the moment concerning the price of milk which is continually being pushed down by supermarkets and other global influences, irrespective of how much it actually costs the farmer to produce. In no other industry

is the customer allowed to dictate the price so why with our food? Once the supermarkets have put all our Dairy farmers put of business they will start on the egg producer or beef farmer and before we know it all our food will be imported, is this really what we want? We buy many of our calves from dairy farmers where they are surplus to their business of producing milk and rear them on to produce beef for the butchers, without dairy farmers we would have to change our way of farming. In 2001 there were over 20,000 dairy farmers in the country, at the start of this year that figure had fallen to under 10,000. Last year farmers were getting 31p a litre for their milk, this year it is down to 20p a litre and the supermarkets are trying to push it down further, despite it costing around 24p a litre to produce. So when doing your weekly shop, whether in Cleobury or further afield, please try and buy British dairy products:- milk, butter, yoghurt and cheese. We are lucky to be served by Mawley Milk so there is no excuse not to buy local and even have it delivered. Surely it is worth paying a penny or two more for our daily pinta to ensure a sustainable future for our dairy farmers to look forward to.

John and Catherine Evans



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Clarion Coppers with CPSO Nick Morris



Reported crimes in Cleobury area for last month:

Criminal damage to a car on December 19th/20th in Kinlet; driver's window smashed and panelling scratched. Between December 23rd and 29th an unoccupied house in Woodlands Rise was burgled. An untidy search was carried out, keys to a safe were found from which contents including a gold pocket watch and chain were stolen. In Clee Hill village on January 2nd/3rd someone maliciously punctured four tyres on a vehicle parked on a driveway. Four new JCB tyres worth £2000 were stolen from a farmyard in Oretton on January 2nd/3rd. Also in Oretton on January 3rd/4th a red Scania flat bed lorry was stolen. On January 5th/6th a Daihatsu Fourtrak was stolen in Clee Hill High Street; it was later found in the River Rea near Coneybury Coppice. Forensic examination has been carried out and investigation is ongoing. Between Clee Hill and Bitterley a theft of power tools from a parked van occurred between December 29th and January 5th. A shed at Stottesdon Primary School was broken into between December 19th and January 5th, but there was nothing of value inside. On January 5th/6th two vehicles parked outside their owners' properties were entered; one had a radio stolen and the other a 'satnav'. Two sheds at a house in Clee Hill were broken into overnight on January 7th/8th but nothing stolen. The offender(s) may have been disturbed by a powerful searchlight which was activated. On January 10th/11th a large lantern worth £100 was stolen from the doorstep of a house in Clows Top. Overnight on January 15th/16th power tools worth about £1500 were stolen from a shed at Milson. And finally an attempt to break into a workshop at a house in Ditton was foiled by a drop bar on the back of the doors and by door

handles which had electricity passed through them.

I am told by PCSO Shaun Cullis of something which everyone should take note of, that occurred in Bishops Castle. Some males had been knocking on doors of houses of elderly residents, pretending to sell items from a case. They were in a blue/green Mk2 Ford Focus and one had a large tattoo on his neck. They managed to talk their way into one house and stole a leather bag containing £6000. Obvious lessons to be learnt here. Do not let strangers into your home and do not have large amounts of cash accessible are the two main ones. Report any suspicious activity to Police.

Immigration Officers have been proactive in the area recently and two people were arrested in Cleobury on suspicion of immigration offences. I have to mention yet again the problem of owners of dogs who don't pick up their dogs' muck. In recent weeks a collection has amassed on the footpath by St Mary's Church. If you witnesses this happening anywhere and can identify those responsible, please pass details to myself or Matt Sheehan in The Market Hall so that we can do something about it.

On a positive note, I will tell you of a good piece of kit I bought. I have updated my landline phone which now has a 'call guardian' system. In essence I can opt to choose whose calls I take or refuse. I will never now be disturbed by strangers wanting to speak to 'Meester or Meesees Moorees' and those informing me that I've won a fortune in a draw I entered in Timbuctu or that my non existent computer has a fault "please let me fix it for you", or.....

Nick Morris

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- Good care, guidance and support provided for individuals
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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

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
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 Wafers 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
	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	Debbie Fowler	01562 743304
	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
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
19.30		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
14.00		CM Bridge Club, Parish Hall, Church Street	Pat Smith	CM 270592
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
	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	Phil Moore	CM 271112

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Linda Iles

February In The Wyre Forest



Linda's photo is simply captioned 'Coppice in Snow' and captures the winter mood of the Forest.

As I write this the country is suffering dramatic weather: high winds, wintry showers, hail and thunder mostly affecting Scotland. I don't know what February will bring, but can it be worse than the incessant rain and floods of last year? I hope for more 'normal' weather, but in February that can mean almost anything ('February brings the rain, Thaws the frozen lake again' said Sara Coleridge, but Flanders and Swan despondently modified this to 'February's ice and sleet, Freeze the toes right off your feet!')

In the forest, I hope that the ground has a chance to dry out

to make walking more pleasant. None of us like the mess left by 'forest operations' – not so much the felling of the trees as the churned ground concomitant with their removal by tractors, forwarders and log lorries. I've heard that such disturbance can be a positive factor in the development of the woodland, providing a suitable growing medium for newly-arrived or long-buried seed with the bonus of the increased light levels brought by felling or coppicing. Who knows what long-dormant plants may reappear? At Kingswood deep ploughing brought not only poppies but a reappearance of small-flowered catchfly (*Silene gallica*), absent in these parts for many years but persisting in the soil's seed bank. Bluebells often pop up where conifers have been removed, having remained dormant for decades. Slightly more prosaic is John Bingham's discovery of a clutch of tomato plants among the needles of a clear-felled patch in Withybed Wood – testimony to a forester's lunch box.

In the Wyre Forest, as in other woods in the UK, alternatives to clear felling and replanting are being trialled. Selective felling and coppicing, using a mixture of tree species, are probably less disruptive to wildlife and may be more resilient to plant diseases and climate change. The publicly-owned areas of the forest will see conifers continuing to be removed and replaced by deciduous trees, so in those areas clear felling will still be a feature for a while to come, but what replaces them may be very different to the even-aged stands of oak that dominate the forest now. Let's hope so: darkness and uniformity are neither good for me nor the woodland wildlife!

This month look out for hazel catkins, snowdrops, leaves and green flowers of dog's mercury, peacock and brimstone butterflies emerging from hibernation if the weather is warm enough, and perhaps some birdsong and nest-making.

Linda Iles

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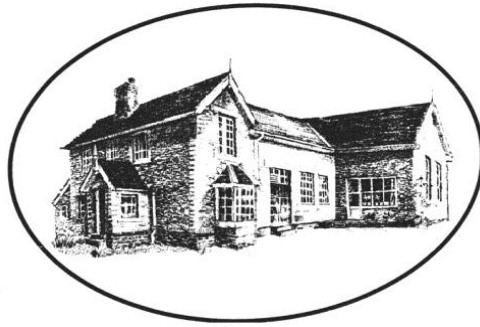
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To further support our budding mathematicians we have been offering intervention groups comprising of:-

Numicon - this offers our KS1 pupils who have need extra support the opportunity to develop a sound foundation of basic number understanding which is essential if they are to achieve their individual potential and to encourage a positive experience of learning mathematics. It encourages children to acquire early number skills, counting skills, the ability to recognise and exploit pattern and early calculation skills.

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And finally, we offer before and after school maths booster classes for our year 5 and 6 pupils. Here, the year six children are not just being supported for their level 4/5 SATS but this gives them the opportunity to access the level 6 paper too.

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Saturday 14th November	COVER GIRLS – 1940's Theme
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Friday 11 th December	SENIOR CITIZENS PARTY
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Wednesday 18th February 2015

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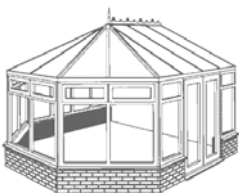
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IN BUSINESS: Julie Grimes at Carrot Tops



Julie - big stocks, big smiles.

Julie Grimes has been running Carrot Tops less than two years, but her smiling welcome is one of the best known on the High Street. For over three years she was a popular figure at Bowkett's, a company she has nothing but praise for, before moving down the road a bit to take over.

"When I first heard that Sarah Barnsley had sold to Rachel Siddall I thought I'd have liked that. I had this dream of having my own business," she recalls. "Then someone said it was up for sale again and I went straight down to talk to Rachel." Two months later, in June of 2013, she had the keys to her own shop.

She's changed the layout, giving customers more space to look around and bringing in big chiller units to help show off the wide range on offer. There's a bigger range of fish in stock,

with even more available from her nearby supplier if you place an order. A whole range of Carrot Tops labelled jams, pickles, cakes and biscuits are on the shelves, along with Wenlock Edge Farm bacon and hams, plus Clun Valley sausages, cooked meat, cheeses and Laeth Y Llan yoghurts, made by Gareth Robert and his family at Llanefydd. Those yoghurts are a real treat and one taste should explain why they sell so well. And they carry Saddler's Barn eggs and just one range of milk and cream - local Mawley Milk, of course. She sums it up: "I try to be a little bit different."

Vegetables and fruit are delivered fresh six days a week to the shop, which opens seven days. They do good trade with a lot of local businesses, including the Royal Fountain, The Lamp and Cleobury Cafe, but that doesn't mean that the customer wanting to buy a small quantity is overlooked. "You can come in here and buy one carrot, or one potato," says Julie. "And if you want me to split a pack of peppers because you only want one, I'll do it."

A very handy service is their box deliveries, up to ten miles from the shop and free of charge if you spend over £10.00. For fresh produce delivered to

your doorstep, it's a lifeline for people who don't have transport or access to a computer to reach the supermarkets.

She's in the shop seven days a week, some days for a little while when Sue or Pam take over. And Mike's there when he's not busy with his own consultancy, QES Systems Ltd. They carry on Julie's habit of making sure everyone who enters the shop is greeted with a smile. At those times Julie will be at the cash and carry or dealing with the inevitable paperwork. That thought tends to take the smile off her face: "I was surprised how much paperwork there is."

She has a very warm relationship with her customers, several of whom make jars of jam for her. And one lady saw her shivering on a cold morning and promptly went home and came back with a flask of hot soup. You don't get that in any supermarket.

Future plans? Like extra lines to offer? "If anyone wants something we don't have, tell me and I'll look into getting it." And does she see a move to a bigger shop in the future? "I'll stay here. I'm never going to be a millionaire, but I'm happy."

No wonder it's such a welcoming place.

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Pembroke Avenue - Tenbury Wells

Located in a cul-de-sac position is this extended 5 bedroomed semi-detached property. Just a short walk from Tenbury Wells town centre. Having accommodation to include: 5 bedrooms, family bathroom, shower room, open plan kitchen/dining room area, utility, conservatory and living room with gas fire. Benefitting from double glazing and gas central heating throughout.

Energy Rating D

NEW



O.I.R.O.
£235,000

Swan Close - Burford

Located in a cul-de-sac position, just a short walk from the market town of Tenbury Wells with views of the bridge into Teme Street and townscape views beyond. With spacious accommodation to include: 4 bedrooms (one with ensuite), family bathroom, kitchen, utility, cloakroom (with downstairs WC), living room (with gas fire), dining room and conservatory. Energy Rating D

NEW



O.I.R.O.
£310,000

46/47 High Street - Cleobury Mortimer

A Large town house situated in the sought after village of Cleobury Mortimer in South Shropshire. This character property dates back to the 17th Century and provides plentiful and spacious living to accommodate the largest family and would even be suitable for multi-generational living with its 6 bedrooms and four bathrooms this property has to be viewed to be appreciated.

Energy Rating F

NEW



O.I.R.O.
£299,950

Church Court Barns - Milson

Set in a courtyard location in Milson is this character 4 bedroomed barn conversion just 3.5 miles from Cleobury Mortimer and 5 miles from Tenbury Wells. Having a wealth of character with vaulted ceilings and exposed beams on the walls and ceilings throughout. Energy Rating D

NEW



O.I.R.O.
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