

The Cleobury Clarion

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FEBRUARY 2016

ANOTHER SATISFIED CUSTOMER?



How ironic that the January issue of the Clarion carried a picture of Lloyds Bank to show the lime trees on High Street. And long before it appeared, the same area had changed quite dramatically after an attack with a stolen JCB that saw the cash dispenser torn out and trailered away in the small hours of Monday December 7th. It was a well planned and very quick raid; all the vehicles were stolen and abandoned later.

More details and a picture on Page 23.

BIG HEARTED CLEOBURY

People who help raise money for good causes in this community often talk of the generosity they find. This is not a town of many materially rich people, but it is one with a very strong and proud sense of community. Much the better option it is, too.

I cannot think of a better example of what a very good place this is than the auction and fund raising evening for young Jack Edwards' family on January 2nd. It was held in the Sports and Social Club on Love Lane and the place was absolutely jam packed, with many people outside to escape the crush.

Debbie Price and friends had done an amazing job of getting auction items and raffle prizes, many of them from far outside the town boundaries. And on the night Hilton Smiths, father and son, alternated between the business of auctioning and drawing raffle tickets, with the lucky bidders queuing to pay their bids or collect their prizes. It was a noisy, happy, very special gathering of people from children to OAPs.

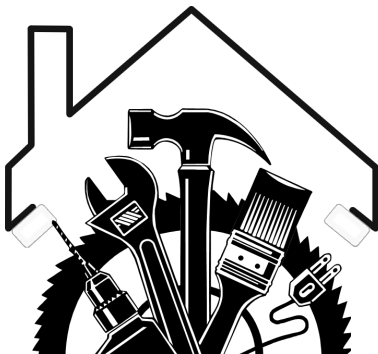


Hero of the evening was Debbie Price, whose work made it such a success.

Before the bidding started, Debbie announced that raffle ticket sales and donations had already hit £2,600, so we knew it was going to be a memorable occasion. But who would have been brave enough to forecast the total would reach £10,000? When we spoke to Debbie early in January that figure had risen to £10,200 with more donations, an amazing figure for a town of about 3,000 people to raise in one night.

JR

Good news on Page 17.



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The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page

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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 24th

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 9.00 to 5.00, Mon to Fri.

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

CLEOBURY CARERS - Wendy Duley CM 270562

CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES - CM270018 Katja Ward 10.00 to 12.00 Wednesday.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY - 01299 272301. Open 9.00 to 7.00 Monday, 9.00 to 5.00 Tuesday to Friday and 10.00 to 1.00 Saturdays.

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

CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES: Dorothy McBride 07761 976610

CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS: Ingrid Purslow CM 270314

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.

MARKET HALL- Dorothy CM 272717, 07761 976610 mobile, or dorothymcbride@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.

NEWLIFE CHURCH - Pastor E Stirrup 01562 630595. Sunday services at 10.30

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

PARISH COUNCIL -Clerk Matthew Sheehan, Market Hall 9.00 to 2.00, Monday to Friday. 01299 271154. www.cleobury.org.uk. Council meets in the Market Hall on the first Monday of the month.

POST OFFICE - 01299 270211. In the Spar Grocery Store, Church Street.

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

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL - 0345 678 9000

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

VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME - 01299 270209 bookings via the Medical Centre

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Nicholas Hughes on 01562 822295 or Wendy Beaumont on 01299 822033

The Cleobury Clarion. February 2016



*And the winner of The Most Unlikely Spot for a Food Outlet is.....
See Page 11.*



Happy Birthday, the Footpath Association, 25th years old this year. Read about the early years on Page 43.



*Elaine and Ann Cuckson, happy with the new Freezer Centre.
See Page 55.*

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THE ADVENT SOUP LUNCHESES

Once again the Advent Soup Lunches proved to be a great success, made possible with the help of so many willing helpers and the donors of bread, butter, and cream and apple pies. I never cease to be amazed by the generous contributions that everyone makes so willingly.

In total we raised £903.11 which has been sent off to the Loaves & Fishes Centre for the Homeless in Salford and the Severn Hospice, only made possible by the generous contributions from people who came so loyally week by week to partake of the lunches. I had an acknowledgement from the Manager of the Loaves and Fishes Centre who is so grateful for our donation, particularly this year as they have to move their venue at the end of April because the lease has run out. It is very difficult for them, because although they have found a place to go to it needs a lot of money spent to make it suitable for use.

The income breaks down to
Soup Lunches: £647.90
Raffle: £140
Chocolates etc £115.21
Total: £903.11

Many people commented on the relaxed atmosphere and the delicious soups every week. It has become a community Meeting Place for the Four Fridays before Christmas. Thank you to everyone and hopefully we'll see you next year.

Shaunah Murrell

PS: I have four plates plus a metal pie dish which have not been returned to the owners. Would you please contact me and I will return them to you – three from last year and one from this year.

Tel: mobile – 07929274767 or 01299270386

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

February is an unfortunate month, being cold and miserable. However, 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.

February is the most wonderful month, when we start to see the first shoots of spring just nudging their way into the world. First you spot the snowdrops, then the aconites. Next emerge the scilla, crocus and grape hyacinth. The garden is no

longer dormant, it's bursting with life.

Gardening is one of the few hobbies that are relaxing, enjoyable and very rewarding. Our Garden Club has a very friendly atmosphere, everyone is welcome. Annual subscriptions are now due for renewal, Membership £10 p a.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 24th February and the speaker for the evening will be 'Rosemary Winnel' with a talk entitled 'Nature of Wyre'.

Pauline Bowen

FLICKS IN THE ROCK STICKS

Flicks is a spreading habit, with two dates a year in the wonderful Rock Village Hall. Friday the 19th of this month offers a double bill, with 'Minions' a U-rated film for the children at 3.00pm ; tickets at £2.50 each include a free ice cream. That's a very nice touch for the kids.

In the evening it's a family show with 'Kingsman: The Secret Service' at 7.30. Adults £5.00 and 15 to 18 year olds £3.00. Contact Maureen Pitman on 01299 832503 for more details.

SILLY BIT

"I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting hard for me to find any."
Anon





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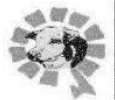
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

COCO CELEBRATION

Katja Jones reports on a local growing success:

It's hard to believe that Cleobury Compassionate Communities has just celebrated its fourth year of supporting and befriending local folk who need us. On December 16th a lovely evening of mulled cider and mince pies was held at the Market Hall to thank all who have supported us over the years, through donations and fund raising, by attending our coffee mornings, by making referrals and by volunteering.

The Cleobury community has shown itself to be incredibly supportive of this local project and in the last few months alone £160 has been raised for us by the Bell Inn through their in-house crib league, £550 by local band Re-booted through their December Bootbash, £205 by Audrey & Mike Hermolle through their market craft stall and £61 by Gwilym Butler for carrier bag sales. Generous donations like these sustain CoCo and ensure that we can afford to train new volunteers, provide further specialist training and support the travel costs of volunteers for visits made across a ten mile radius.

If you are interested in joining the team, training days are held

regularly through the year. If you care for someone with dementia and would welcome a better understanding and some coping strategies, we are hosting an educational session on March 1st. Just contact Katja Jones on 07966 080 111, cleoburycoco@hotmail.com.



Severn Hospice practitioner Garry Kirliw, who is involved in training the CoCo volunteers, brought his saxophone to the Market Hall gathering and entertained members including Angela and Paul Flowers

Here are a few quotes from many that we collected recently: "My CoCo volunteer is such a breath of fresh air. She is cheerful and has the patience to play cards and dominos with me. I love her visits, thank you." *Client*

"I think CoCo is a very good scheme to help people who are alone. My volunteer is such a lovely caring person and I really look forward to her visits". *Client*

"I am humbled that my visit appears to make such a difference to someone's life" *Volunteer*

BEWDLEY W.I.

TAKE A TRIP

Bewdley W.I. have a special outing today, February 1st. They are travelling to Kemp Hospice to see the facilities and hear about the wonderful work the charity does. Anyone needing a lift should be St George's Hall in Bewdley's Load Street at 7.00, while independent travellers should be at the Hospice for a 7.30 start

Visitors to the branch's meetings are welcome and will be asked for a donation of £3.00, and this sounds like an ideal opportunity to see what a young and active group can offer. Their regular meetings are in the same St George's Hall at 7.30 on the first Monday of each month.

SILLY BIT

"Oh dear, I didn't make it to the gym again today. That makes it about five years in a row."

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE KABIN IN KINLET

Not many people would choose the car park behind Kinlet Village Hall to open up a food outlet. After all, the traffic flow along the B4363 is a bit less than the M6.

But Tricky, who's been there over a year with his mobile unit, is not afraid to think outside the box. He started off with a smaller stall sitting on slabs and developed the area with a gravel surface on the car park and a grass verge with seating units. And business has grown enough to support a bigger unit with a wider range of food and goods. He opens from 8.00 in the morning until 2.00 in the afternoon, making hot or cold sandwiches, serving breakfasts and a range of drinks. I tried a bacon bap that was cooked to order and came with two rashers; the second mug of tea came free. At £3.50, good value.

He's a great supporter of the Village Hall and his price list includes an advert for the place with details of their services. And as well as serving food, he sells household essentials like toilet rolls, soap, toothpaste and even a range of non-prescription medicinal goods. A service to the community and to travellers in urgent need.



Tricky, the man behind Kinlet's handy little Kabin.

So where does business come from to keep this most unlikely of places busy? "The schools, the granite factory, chaps working on the land and on the shoots. I had one customer come from Highley, because he'd heard our sandwiches are the best."

Tricky's one of those original thinkers who has a lot of energy, so this is not his only work. A tidy looking 05 registered VW Passat Turbo Diesel with a full service history marked up at £2995 suggested he knows his way around good value cars as well.

Look in if you're passing that way and feel hungry. There's nothing pretentious about the place, just good basic food and good value.

JAZZ AT VICTORY HALL
Yardbird Art have what sounds like a good treat coming up on February 23rd at Clows Top's Victory Hall. It's an evening featuring jazz saxophonist Alan Barnes with the excellent Remi Harris Project in support.

Doors open at 7.00 and the first note will be sounded at 8.00. This is a good jazz venue, so expect a memorable evening. There's a licensed bar, offering Oldfields Orchard cider along with a range of drinks and there will be bar snacks on sale.

Tickets are £12.00, available from yardbirdarts@gmail.com or telephone 01584 881 564.

HAVE YOU LOST A WALKING STICK?

Robin Conway may have it:

A couple of weeks before Christmas, I found a walking stick on the car park by the recycling area. It doesn't look like a cheap one and I am sure somebody is missing it.

I am happy to return it to the rightful owner (I think it may be a dog owner/walker) if they can describe it, colour, pattern etc. My mobile number is 97974 945631.

Robin Conway

SILLY BIT

"Divorce; from the Latin word meaning to rip out a man's genitals through his wallet."

Robin Williams



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- Level 2 Food Hygiene: Wed 10th Feb, £70.00 +VAT
- Fire Marshall 1/2 day : Mon 22nd Feb, £65.00 +VAT
- Emergency First Aid at work: Wed 16th Mar, £70.00+VAT

Business Networking this month:

Wednesday 17th February 2016

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

HOPTON WAFERS QUIZ

Marilyn Jean Wood is organising a Quiz Night at Hopton Wafers Village Hall on Saturday the 6th of this month. It starts at 7.00, teams of four to six catered for, at £7.50 a head, which includes a fish and chips supper. As it's a fund raising evening for Cleobury First Responders, there will be a raffle as well. Talk to Marilyn about tickets - she's on 01299 271245.

NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT MOFFATS SCHOOL

Scholarships: Moffats School are pleased to announce that they will be offering a number of scholarships for children aged 7-9 years, for entry into September 2016. If you would like to find out more, contact the school on 01299 841230 or email office@moffats.co.uk.

Open Morning: The next Open Morning at Moffats School will be held on Friday March 4th, from 9.30 - 12.30. All are welcome, with tours being conducted by the senior children. Nursery funding is available for children aged three and four attending the Kindergarten.

New Parent and Toddler Sessions: *Mini Moffats* will be launched on February 24th from 10 am - 12 noon. Parents and carers of children aged three and under are welcome to register for the first session: *Mini Moffats Sensory Play*. No charge - just call to register and come and enjoy the fun in the Kindergarten and the beautiful setting. *Emma MacVean*

ROCK PATHFINDERS

This month's walks, both starting at 10.30, are:

Thursday the 4th. From St Peter's Church, Martley, WR6 6QA or Ordnance Survey reference 756598.

Thursday the 18th. From the Colliers Arms, Rock, DY14 9HA, OS Ref. 725722.

More details from Alan on 01299 400304.

STOTTESDON AND CLEOBURY SUPPORT

FOR SEVERN HOSPICE

The Group had an enjoyable year working alongside the Hospice shop in Cleobury. Our fundraising has covered one of Mark Baldwin's fascinating talks, Bridge competitions, Festive shop at the Fighting Cock and Soups for Lent, plus

some very generous donations from the fund raising group based at the Fighting Cocks. How very generous you all are.

With all that is happening in the health and care sector the need for the Hospice can only increase, which makes the funds the Support Groups raise an essential for the future.

We are holding our Annual Meeting on March 1st at 7.00pm in the Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon, and welcome anyone who would like to join us and help our efforts.

Contact Madge Shineton 01299271 186 or Den Ingram 01746 718114

THE LACON LOTTERY

Julie Watts was the lucky winner of the December Lacon Childe PTA draw, with Number 4. An early investor drawing her dividend, being paid £70 for £10 spent. Nice.

CARERS GROUP

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The Jack Edwards Charity Auction



The Hilton Smiths, two of them, kept the evening rolling with some banter and hard selling. Nearly good enough for a job on 'Flog It!'

The evening produced a huge range of raffle prizes and auction items, including a day's work with a JCB and a set of steel gates made to order. Some of the service jobs on offer raised serious money, more than you'd expect to pay if you were doing a job in the garden. But that was what made the occasion so special - generosity exceeded market price for many of the lots.

It would be unfair to name the big bidders, but you suspect they were men and women who might not want to admit to their other halves just how much they'd spent on this very best of

good causes. The presence of young children reminded us it was a precious life in peril that was the reason for the evening.



The idea of moving between auction bidding and raffle drawing was good thinking. As the squad of mums followed up the bids to hand over the lots and take the money, the interest was kept up as another set of raffle prizes was collected.

While all this was going on, the bar staff were working flat out to meet the thirsty needs of the audience. And the hard working auctioneers certainly needed a sip or two.

The last word should come from Jack's mum Chrissie, who has agreed to us quoting her note to Debbie Price: *"I don't know where to start, but I just*

wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you have done for us.....

I was amazed by the amount of money raised and thanks to you I don't have to worry about money and I can make Jack's journey as good as it can be...I will never forget everything you have done.

All our love

Chrissie, Jack and family"

Everyone who contributed can take pride in what they did to make life better for a family who needed our help and found just how generous this community can be.

And how about ending this report with some really good news? 400 people offered their bone marrow samples in a session held at Lacon Childe School and a few days later it was announced that a really good match had been identified. Whether that came from the local sampling is not known, and donors are always protected from publicity. But young Jack's prospects are suddenly much, much better and his family can smile again.

There were people wearing tee-shirts with the message 'Pray for Jack'. It seems that the power of prayer was listening and decided to help.

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Sing, Laugh, Breathe and above all, Have Fun!

CLEOBURY'S COMMUNITY CHOIR

They gather twice a month, in the first floor room at the Market Hall. A friendly crowd, who sit in a circle and introduce themselves under the gentle, smiling guidance of Kate Jones. Pat's been coming for a year and says how much she enjoys the relaxed atmosphere and being part of something "that makes a really nice sound." There are 16 ladies - no sign of any male input - from as far as Highley, Tenbury and Bewdley.

Kate promises that they will make a harmonious sound together. "Maybe not in the same key we started out in," she adds with a grin that's almost a permanent fixture. The ladies are told that they are not allowed to criticise themselves, and if they get a note wrong they can get it right next time. I sit at the back, wondering how such lax discipline will ever make music.



Kate (right) has a happy knack of bringing out the best in people.

Chatting over, there's a series of gentle exercises before Kate recites a tongue twister and gets everyone trying to say it before

moving on to sing it, at which point it becomes easier and the voices move naturally into harmony. When Kate brings it to an end, everyone is smiling.

They move on to familiar songs, all with brief lines that lend themselves to the easy repetition of part singing. Kate sings the song through, the group join in to get the feel of the song, then she divides them into groups of four. One sings the first line, then the second starts and so on through all four groups. The sound is lovely and my foot begins to tap with the rhythm; this is infectious stuff.



Lydia was singing and moving, with six months old Tabatha just enjoying the experience.

Kate introduces a new song, 'Tread Gently on the Earth' and the group try it before taking a tea break. I talk to Lydia, whose six months old Tabatha is used to music, with dad a professional musician; no wonder she feels at home.

Next mother and daughter Marg ("I'm not the younger one") and Roz. Marg has been singing since childhood, but loss of hearing in one ear stopped her until she heard about Sing,

Laugh, Breathe and found a friendly atmosphere where the odd wrong note doesn't matter. Roz enjoys it so much that she fits it in with work at her interior design business.

A short whistle blast - the only sign of discipline in the whole session - brings tea and chat to an end as the group return to the circle. They sit to begin singing 'Tread Gently on the Earth', then stand before practising actions to complement the lyric and finally try part singing. I must confess I sang along, so friendly and welcoming was the sound.



Sheila had come along, curious to see what it was all about. "I'll definitely come again," she vowed. "It's so friendly and welcoming."

This is not a group rehearsing for performances; fun comes first. They sang in the Parish Church at the Christmas Fair and combined with Kate's Lydbury North choir for the Ludlow Festival; those were unusual occasions. Members pay £5.00 per session to cover rental and the tea and biscuits and there is no bar on males; wish I had the time.

Dates this month are the 3rd and 17th, and in March the 16th and 30th. Kate is on 01584 890284 or look in at www.sing-laugh-breathe.co.uk

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The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

Veterinary work has changed a lot for me over the years. I have worked in practice for years now and when the opportunity to work in a mobile veterinary service came up I decided to go for a change. I have worked For Severn Edge Veterinary group for a few months now and my days are getting busier and busier. Being a mobile vet allows me to see animals in their own environment and it is really fun to see how different they can be. One of my regulars is a big bouncy Labrador, the picture of confidence you would think. I go to see him because he gets so nervous at the vets he will wee in the consult room, but now I am presented with a present (usually a shoe that has been left lying around) every time I go to clip his nails!

Obviously being out on the road is very different for me but I am really enjoying it so far and I feel that I am able to

provide a one to one service in a different way through the role. Some visits can be harder than others such as the sad times when we have to let a cherished pet pass away, but somehow when it is at home it just feels a bit nicer for all concerned. Being able to provide support in these difficult times I think is appreciated.

So back on the road again this afternoon to a cat with needle phobia, every day is very different for me now. If you had asked me ten years ago what I would be up to, I would not have guessed being a mobile veterinary surgeon, but it is great the adventures life takes us on.

Anna



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Happening on High Street

WELL PLANNED, BUT NOT VERY LUCRATIVE?



"Job done, let's go!" The stolen JCB sits abandoned across the street after the thieves had fled and before the Police arrived.

The raid on Lloyds Bank in December bore the hallmark of a well planned operation. An eye witness estimated the time from first impact on the building to the stolen Land Rover driving away with the ATM on a trailer at just four minutes. There was a BMW car in the convoy, also stolen.

The cash machine was dumped on a farm at Nash, not far away and remote enough for a quick operation with a cutter to get the unit open and the cash out. After one of the busiest weekends of the year, was there much in there? No official word, but estimates suggest about £20,000. Not bad for a night's work, but not big-time stuff.

All credit to Lloyds and their builders that the bank was open for business four days later, the hole in the wall filled with a temporary building-block job until the new ATM could be installed.

There is speculation that the parking spaces outside the bank had been taken up with stolen vehicles that could be moved to let the raid start and give the JCB easy access. We'll wait until we get a Police report before commenting, but the whole job was a reminder that we should not become complacent because this is a low crime area.

WHOSE TEDDY IS THIS?



He's clearly recovered from the ordeal and is being looked after.

The handsome little teddy bear below left was found in the High Street shortly after Christmas. Apparently dropped by a child who may have had him as a gift, he has a smile that suggests he's survived well.

Anny Roper at Confidantes picked him up and has given him a wash, so he's ready to go back to his rightful owner if you contact Anny on CM 272302. anny@annyroper.co.uk or call in at Cleobury Country Centre. If nobody claims the little chap, she's promised to give him a good home.

A HONDA WITH HUMOUR



Parked outside Cleobury Cafe on a Sunday morning, with big touring bikes nearby, this modest 90cc Honda step-thru with a sticker saying "This is what Awesome looks like."

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Walter Pullan BA - Steve Knott explains the legacy of a local man whose work hangs in the Market Hall

**Walter Pullan BA, Artist and Composer
1911 - 2009**

Walter Pullan was born in Cape Town, South Africa in 1911. He was adopted soon afterwards by a couple from Bradford and took their name. His adoptive father was a violinist, cellist, pianist and composer and encouraged Walter's musical and artistic tendencies. Walter studied at Leeds University, specialising in languages and later went to Berlin in the late 1930s, where he focused on languages and art.

Walter was a lifelong pacifist, yet witnessed Adolf Hitler's rise to power and saw some of the Hitler rallies. After he returned home World War II broke out and Walter was conscripted but refused to take up arms. He always stood up for what he believed in. He was jailed three times in Leeds for his beliefs, after which he was sent to do land work at Carton Farm in Clows Top for most of the war. He was a member of the International Voluntary Service for Peace who loved the area around the Clee Hills and spent his free time painting the landscape, travelling around on his bicycle.

After the War, Walter went home to Yorkshire to become a teacher and taught at various private schools. In 1955 he and his wife Mary, also a teacher, moved to Bewdley, where Walter taught at the new Bewdley Secondary Modern School. They travelled widely in the 1950s, 60s and 70s to Italy, Germany, Spain and Russia and wherever they went Walter painted and composed music. His great passion was the theatre and he designed many sets for

opera and theatre, including a number for model theatres.

Walter's pictures, some of which are now over 70 years old, vary in texture and colour. This is due to some of the early ones being painted on boards with thin oil paints, due to wartime restrictions. Others which were painted later, when materials were more affordable and available, are on canvas where the paint was applied more thickly, also painting some in gouache and water colour. Walter did not like using black and used purple instead. He loved colour and this shows in his later work, which is more vibrant and textured. He slowed down as age crept on, doing more composing, writing and studying. He always said "Everyone can paint - just stick at it!" He never signed any of his paintings on the front, but most are inscribed on the back. He held a number of exhibitions over the years and took great pleasure from the two he held in Cleobury Mortimer.

I know Walter would be very pleased and proud that some of his many pictures have ended up on show in Cleobury Mortimer and I would like to thank Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council for the opportunity to show them to a wider audience. My thanks also to Dorothy McBride and Geoff Hainsworth for all their help and special thanks to Bill Duley, without whose vision and perseverance this exhibition would not have taken place. These pictures are on loan and remain the property of myself and family.

Steve Knott

Another Page of Clarion Smalls

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Letter from Westminster - Philip Dunne MP

Last month I was pleased to visit a business in Bridgnorth, to meet their team of eight young apprentices. A special visit, as these apprentices will become the first in the UK to restore completely from start to finish a classic car (a beautiful 1954 Lancia Aurelia, for motoring aficionados out there).

Not only was this a chance to show the benefits of apprenticeships, it is also a really exciting project for these apprentices to undertake. The skill involved in quality restoration of classic cars is considerable, and I hope this project will be the first of others at Classic Motor Cars, a world class historic car restoration company.

In a similar vein Severn Valley Railway, which will see the return of the recently restored Flying Scotsman this summer after more than 20 years, have had great success in training apprentices to work on heritage trains, becoming a centre of excellence in the country.

Apprenticeship numbers have increased greatly over the past six years. In the last Parliament, over 2 million apprenticeship starts took place. During this Parliament there are plans for 3 million more apprenticeship starts by 2020. In the Ludlow Constituency, more than 3,200 apprenticeships have been started by young people since 2010.

Through my work as a Minister, I see the great value of apprenticeships both to young people and employers – the Ministry of Defence is the largest apprenticeship provider in the country, with about 95 per cent of new recruits taking part. That's over 18,000 apprentices at any one time. I'm pleased the Armed Forces have been on hand at each of my Jobs Fairs in South Shropshire to explain to local school leavers and other jobseekers how this training can help them gain experience and build

their careers. But it also pleasing that local employers speak very highly of the mutual benefits apprenticeships offer.

University is not for everyone, and I want every young person leaving school to view an apprenticeship or going to university as being of real benefit. Employers are now in control of creating new standards, which is driving up the quality of apprenticeships, leading many more young people to consider this as an option.

Young people who take on an apprenticeship gain qualifications and experience the reality of the workplace, while earning at the same time. This can be a real boost to future job prospects. Businesses get enthusiastic young workers, who they can train in the skills they need to expand their business.

For more specialist skills, degree apprenticeships were established from last September, introduced in nine subject areas initially, including aerospace, engineering, nuclear and chartered surveying. To date, over 100 companies are involved, working with over 20 universities. I was pleased to lead a delegation of nuclear industry experts to Number 10 last year, to discuss the rigorous standards these new degree apprenticeships will follow.

Support is in place for those employers looking to take on apprenticeships, including a £1,500 grant for smaller employers to take on their first apprentice. For help and advice for both employers and those looking to start an apprenticeship, please visit Shropshire Council's County Training website at <https://new.shropshire.gov.uk/county-training>.

With the right support and access to information, I hope we will see a continuing trend of increased apprenticeship starts in the Ludlow Constituency

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The February Clarion Social Calendar - Part One

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Mon 1st	7.00	Bewdley W.I. are visiting the Kemp Hospice to learn about their wonderful work.		SEE PAGE 9
	7.00	Severn Hospice Support Group AGM at The Fighting Cocks in Stottesdon.		PAGE 13
Wed 3rd	11.00	Sing, Laugh and Breathe at the Market Hall with Kate Jones.		PAGE 19
Thu 4th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders meet at St Peter's Church in Martley for a bracing walk out. PAGE 9	Alan	01299 400304
Fri 5th	10.00	Volunteers Open Day at Berrington Hall, when you can see if it's work you'd like to do as a member of their team. It's near Leominster on the A49		
	8.00	The After Hours Quintet offering an evening of Roaring 20s swing at Victory Hall Clows Top. £12 tickets include meal, or £10 with out. Arrive 7.15 to eat.	Judith	01299 832020
Sat 6th	8.00	Sale of household goods at Knowle Sports Ground, Tenbury Road, Clee Hill. Great source of bargains, get there early.	Audrey Taylor	01584 890644
	7.00	Quiz at Hopton Wafers Village Hall PAGE 13	Marylin Wood	01299 271245
Sun 7th	10.00	CMFA Parish Walk starts from the Parish Church PAGE 43		
Mon 8th	7.30	Horticultural Society meet at the Methodist Church Hall to hear Ingrid Millington talk about herbaceous perennials .		PAGE 45
Wed 10th	10.00	Walking for Health starts outside the Market Hall and ends there with a refreshing cuppa.		
	8.00	The Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street.	David Taylor	01299 270793
	7.30	Neen Savage W.I. meet at the Village Hall, to hear Dinny Jordan talk about Kudos Blends story.		
Thu 11th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Mon 15th	11.00	Celebration of the 300th anniversary of Capability Brown's birth with his layout in the grounds of Berrington Hall, nr Leominster on the A49.		
Wed 17th	11.00	Sing, Laugh and Breathe are at the Market hall again. See 3rd above.		

HOBSON'S NEW FOODIE NIGHTS

The first of Hobson's new Foodie Nights is on Thursday the 4th. Sandra and Malcolm from The Fighting Cocks will be cooking up game dishes like Wild Boar in Cider and Venison in Beer Marinade, plus curried pheasant and freshly baked bread. And vegetables, of course. All this plus a brewery tour, starting at 7.00 It's £25 a head, over 18s only, in the excellent Tasting Room. Book your place on 01299 270837.



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The February Social Calendar Continued

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Thurs 18th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders gather at The Colliers Arms in Rock for another walk. PAGE 9	Alan	01299 400304
Fri 19th	3.00 & 7.30	Double bill Flicks in the Sticks at Rock Village Hall		PAGE 7
Sat 20th	7.30	Flicks in the Sticks is back at The Parish Hall, with 'Suite Frances' Admission £3.00 and there is a licenced bar.		
Tue 23rd	7.00	Jazz evening at the Victory Hall, Clows Top. Sax player Alan Barnes and the Remi Harris Project		PAGE 11
Wed 24th		Walking for Health starts outside the Market Hall See 10th above		
	10-12	Launch of Mini Moffats Parent and Toddler sessions.		PAGE 13
	7.30	Clows Top Gardening Club meet at the Victory Hall to hear Rosemary Winnel talk about 'Nature of Wyre'	Marion Wilson	01299 270475
Thu 25th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Sat 27th		Berrington Hall Book Fair runs through until March 22nd. Near Leominster on A49		
AND LOOKING FORWARD TO MARCH....				
Tue 1st		Cleobury CoCo have a training day for volunteers. PAGE 9	Katja	07966 080111
	7.00	Severn Hospice Support group AGM at The Fighting Cocks, Stottesdon. PAGE 13	Madge Shineton	01299 271186
Thurs 3rd		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 4th	9.30	Open Morning at Moffats School, Kinlet		PAGE 13
	8.00	Locust Honey present American folk roots music at Clows Top Victory Hall.	Judith	01299 832020

GUIDE GROUP'S QUIZ NIGHT

The Guides Group have a Quiz Night at the Cleobury Sports & Social Club on Friday February 26th. Teams will be made up of 4 – 6 people, and the cost is £10 per team. To book your place, please put your name phone number and team name (if you have one) along with a cheque for £10 payable to Cleobury Mortimer Guiding District, and pop it in an envelope into the Market Hall.

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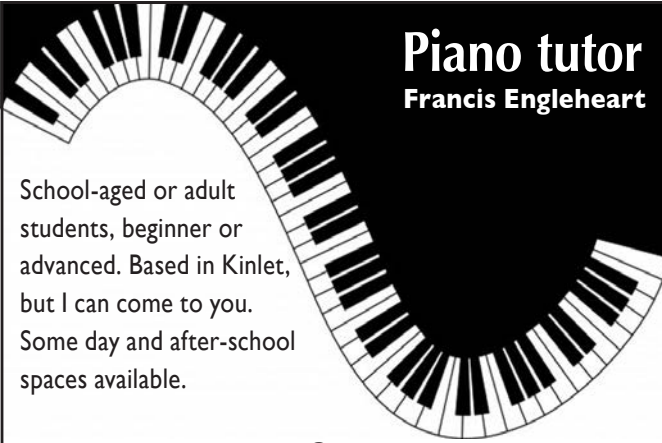
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

HOBSONS ARE IN THE AWARDS AGAIN



Nick Davis of Hobsons collects another award from CAMRA's Brewery Liaison Officer, Dave Haddon.

Hobsons Brewery has topped 70 awards following the recent Campaign for Real Ale Regional Beer of the Year Competition. An impressive total of four awards were added to the tally of honours for our local brewer, who picked up three silver and a bronze award. Hobsons dominated the Golden Ales category claiming silver and bronze certificates for its popular Town Crier and Twisted Spire ales.

Their most decorated beer, Mild, picked up a silver award in the Mild category. This beer alone has won 19 awards since it was first brewed in 2002 including the prestigious Champion Beer of Britain award in 2007. One of Hobsons top selling bottles "Old Henry" also collected a silver award in the Real Ales in a bottle category.

The awards are the outcome of CAMRA members voting

for their favourites. The top six beers in each category are selected for regional judging. The various categories of beer are blind tasted by a panel of experts at the different beer festivals and the results collated for the overall CAMRA West Midlands Beer of the Year Competition.

"Great products start with great ingredients and our award-winning beers are all brewed with locally grown Maris Otter malting barley. Over the past five years we have been championing a programme to develop a network of local farmers to grow this premium barley for us. The majority of our hops are also grown within 7 miles of the brewery. This close link with our supply chain ensures we source the best. Our brewers are passionate about their craft and to receive this string of awards is further testament to their skill," commented founder Nick Davis.

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Two walks at Christmas and New Year were well supported with 44 people on out on the latter. Our next walk will take us to see the snowdrops in the Mawley estate on Sunday February 7th, starting at 10.00 outside St Mary's Church.

We are continuing to do weekend "clearance" walks and welcome members of the public. The next is on Saturday

February 13th, details will be on the CMFA website.

Winter Walking for Health walks also run in February: Weds 10th and 24th at 10.00 outside the Market Hall.

We would love to hear from you if you would like to join CMFA and take part in our work, our walks and social activities – check on the website www.cmfa.co.uk

Graham Simpson

CLEOBURY £1 SHOP OPENS



Bev, the smiling face that greets you in the new shop.

The Pound Shop is open in Talbot Square, with an amazing range of handy bits and pieces. Would you believe a broom for just £1? It's there. The stock covers household goods and drinks and snack items, the results of a thorough search by Bev, who has chosen the best buys from four different warehouses to stock the place out. Well worth a visit, open normal shop hours and the tanning booth is still open too.

Paul Harding



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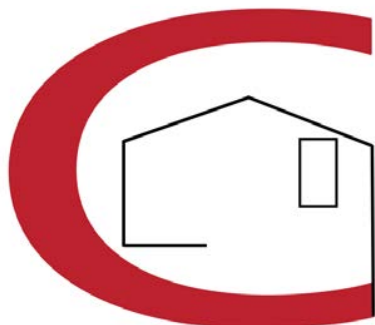
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Clarion Coppers with CPSO Nick Morris



A locked and secure van parked in The Crescent, Clee Hill was broken into overnight on December 14th/15th and power tools stolen. Between 3:00pm on December 15th and 10:30pm the next day, an outbuilding at a house in Burford was broken into, but no items were stolen. A Renault Traffic panel van had a front wing damaged whilst it was parked outside The Kings Arms in Cleobury. It is believed that the damage was caused by someone kicking it between 10:30pm and 10:45pm on December 16th. The theft of the ATM from Lloyds TSB in High Street on December 21st is well known locally. Also of the associated theft and subsequent recovery of the JCB from Withypool Farm. A Landrover Defender which had been stolen earlier from a farm near Bromyard and used in the crime was found burnt out in Gloucestershire with the empty ATM in the vehicle. Enquiries are ongoing. In the early hours of Christmas Day a one foot square glass pane of a window in a listed building in Lower Street was smashed. Between 2:00pm and 3:00pm on December 28th at a farm in Farlow, 100 litres of red diesel was stolen and an attempt to gain entry to a storage container discovered. It is suspected that the offenders were driving a twin wheeled Ford Transit lorry with blue sides and an amber beacon on top of the cab as it had been seen leaving the farm minutes before the theft was discovered. There was another theft of tools from a van parked in Worcester Road, Burford between December 24th and December 29th. Two pedal bikes were stolen from a shed at a house in Station Road, Far Forest overnight on January 10th/11th. A burglary occurred at a house in Stottesdon during the day on January 13th. A laptop computer, jewellery and cash was stolen. At sometime over the weekend of January 16th/17th, a bird table, which had been a Christmas present, was taken from the garden of a property in Worcester Road, Burford. Luckily it was found abandoned half a mile away. A coil trailer belonging to contractors

was stolen from a farm at Rock overnight on January 18th/19th. At Far Forest on January 19th/20th, a Cub Cadet utility vehicle was stolen without keys from a locked garage adjacent to a dwelling.

Across Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Shropshire there has been a spate of scams. Details of different methods can be seen on the West Mercia Police website. One such is when a fraudster telephones you claiming to be from your bank or police. You are told that your bank card has been used fraudulently and suggests that you hang up and ring the bank or police to ensure the call is genuine. The fraudster stays on the line and then tells you to read out or key in your PIN. Then you are told that a courier will be sent to collect your card. Then, with your card and your PIN, they will spend your money. Banks and Police will never ask for your card PIN, ask you to transfer money to them or send a courier to collect your card. If you think you are being scammed in this way, hang up and call police on 101 immediately, but from a different phone. If you have elderly or vulnerable relatives or friends, please try to ensure that they are aware of such scams, and that they are aware that they should never give their bank details to anyone over the phone.

There have been some reports recently where drivers have been upset by people being verbally abusive to them if they have parked outside their houses. Be aware that members of the public DO NOT have the authority to tell others that they cannot park on a public road. As long as there are no restrictions and no obstructions caused, a driver may park anywhere on a public road. Nor does anyone have a right to obstruct drivers who have parked on a public road. Advice is to call police on 101 if you have been intimidated in this way.

Nick Morris



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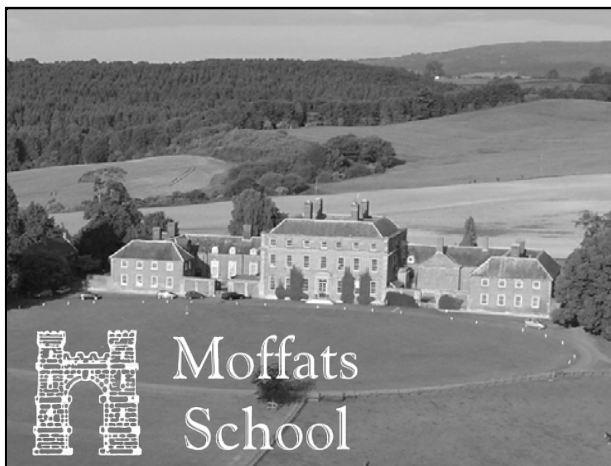
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On the Buses - Steve Todd reports

Happy New Year! and it seems that there are signs of improvement at Diamond with fewer reports of delays and cancellations than usual. Most of the times I have seen buses around, they seem to be more or less on time and some are even quite new – one I saw the other day was only two years old which is brand new by Diamond standards. I would congratulate them on their performance but this is only what they have been paid for and failed to do for the last three years. Residents of Redditch haven't been so lucky. One driver refused to pick up a disabled man as he said there was no room. A girl on the bus pointed out that there would be room if people moved to the back of the bus whereupon the driver swore at her and upset her so much that she got off and caught a later service. Two Diamond customers had a frustrating Christmas Eve trip. This is what happened in their own words:

“We travel to Cleobury every Friday from Bewdley, to Red Hare salon and Bowketts. On this journey we have had many mishaps; I must tell you what happened on Christmas Eve.

Our journey as usual took us through Bark Hill and Hales Park, chugging sometimes over pavements due to roadside parking. Dirty old bus, hard seats, sounded like a tractor, fingers crossed we would get to Cleobury. We arrived five minutes early. As we alighted, we always say “See you on the way back, don't leave us. Ho ho ho.” Well, it was Christmas. Business done, we made our way to the bus stop, thinking we'd better be early for the 10.55 to Bewdley. By 11.20 there was no sign of the bus. There was one other passenger waiting, a young lady who was going to work in Kidderminster, who said “I'm going to be late, I don't know what my boss will say.” The next bus was due at 12.55; we gave up and went back to Red Hare for a coffee to warm us up.

Suddenly the receptionist said “There is a strange bus parked outside, with two drivers,” so I went to investigate. There was a nice newish Diamond bus parked in the High Street, pointing towards Ludlow, half on the pavement. No sign of the two drivers, no one on board, in darkness. This is the best bit: looking up to the front of the bus I see by the sign it was going to ‘Dossington No 27.’ I think this is a new play by

Diamond: it looks better if it is going somewhere and not ‘Not in Service’ as usually displayed, because you know where that's going - to a breakdown. Does anyone know where Dossington is? It was pouring with rain, so we gave up waiting for the two men to come back. It was parked for 20 minutes. We arrived home eventually by phoning our grandson to come and pick us up. I forgot to mention our journey home on December 18th, when we caught the 14.55 from Cleobury on time. The doors remained open all the way, the ticket machine had packed in, so everyone was waved in, and the ‘Stopping’ sign would not go off. This is the worst bus company we have ever had. Oh, for the old Midland Red or even ‘First’.”

There have been more details relating to the business activities of the former leader of Shropshire Council in another 'Private Eye' (no 1408) and I see that the leader of Worcestershire Council has also resigned after pleading guilty to drink driving. They say we get the politicians we deserve but I don't know what we have done which is so wrong...

Worcester Council had a meeting on 14 January to discuss a motion of no confidence in Diamond. There was talk of referring the matter to the Transport Commissioners although going on previous experience, I wouldn't bother. I have had no feedback as to any conclusions from the meeting but will share them when I do. Interestingly, the mover of this motion received a threatening phone call telling him to 'back off' although Diamond insisted it wouldn't have been one of their employees.... Talking of Diamond employees, the Director brought in to sort out the problems at the Kidderminster depot has left after just a few months. The date for the next LJC (Local Joint Committee) meeting to discuss the bus service has been (nearly) fixed and will be either 23 or 24 March in the Market Hall. The final date will be confirmed next month so don't forget to make a note in your diaries as even if the buses have become more reliable, there are still the issues of the convoluted route, lack of consultation, infrequent service etc to be discussed.

Steve Todd



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Linda Iles

February In The Wyre Forest



I wrote this article fairly early in January to meet the publication deadline, with the result that my news is old news and my projections about what may be happening in the forest in February may be way off the mark. All I can say is that flooding has been of disastrous proportions this winter, caused by rains brought by warm air over the warm Atlantic Ocean. The minor personal inconvenience of encountering mud on every possible path through the forest is insignificant compared to the miserable job of clearing out a home flooded by filthy water, and competing with friends to observe the most unseasonal natural phenomenon hides a deeper worry about the future chances of the wildlife whose existence becomes increasingly precarious with each deviation from 'normal' weather.

How do wild creatures and plants respond to these events? Flooding along the forest's Dowles Brook and its tiny tributaries will sweep away many plants and small aquatic animals from their habitats, drown burrowing beasts, and render the waters of the brook too silty for others to fish. If the flood happens in winter it is less damaging than in the summer, when many invertebrates are present in the form of eggs, larvae or nymphs. However, summer droughts are probably more damaging to populations of aquatic creatures. 'The Nature of Wyre', recently published by the Wyre Forest Study Group, mentions this as a threat to the endangered native white-clawed crayfish, which holds on in four of the

Dowles' tributaries but is up against pollution, damage to its habitat, and a parasitic fungus carried by the alien American signal crayfish. In a situation like this the resilience of a population is already low and a catastrophic event can be the last straw.

Early appearances of leaves, blossoms, frogspawn, nest-building and the like bring the risk of all being destroyed by ice or snow if the weather reverts to a more normal pattern and the organism concerned may be unable to 'do it all over again'.

What can any of us do to counteract such powerful forces as the weather? The human-induced change in the climate is due to the sum of the actions of individuals, and the first step is to recognise our share of the responsibility for this. The similarity with the philosophical question, 'How can an individual change the world for good?' is no surprise, and both are nicely answered by Gandhi's, 'Be the change you want to see in the world'. Our energy consumption (for transport, heating, electricity for gadgets etc.) has a direct effect on the climate in terms of CO2 production. What we eat and throw away is also part of the problem: beef and milk come from cattle which produce lots of methane, a greenhouse gas also emitted from landfill sites when we throw food into our bins. I could go on (and often do) but will limit myself to adding that we need to take this very seriously and be willing to take actions that won't be comfortable.



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Happy Birthday the Footpath Association



Guilty parties in the early days, secretary Bill Duley and chair Paul French.

In the spring of 1990 Paul French and Bill Duley, among others, walked the Neen Savage parish boundary on existing rights of way, an annual event then. Few of the footpath routes were clearly marked and accessible, quite a struggle to complete the walk. On one of these walks Jim Reynolds went missing almost at the start and gave us quite a scare until he turned up near the end having (without telling anyone) taken his own route to the finish.

Paul and Bill also walked the route of the old rail track from the Blount Arms to Newnham Bridge. Though mostly not a right of way, it was reasonably accessible, stopped at the old

railway pub in Neen Sollars on the way, and served as an inspiration to make the existing paths more user friendly. This led directly to the founding of the CMFA in the autumn of 1990 at Paul's house; we have met at pubs ever since!

The founder members were Myfanwy & Mark Baldwin; Bill Duley; Bill Elliott; Paul French; Alec Osbaldiston; Adrian Pearce; Jim Reynolds and Jenny Vanderhook.

Paul was elected chairman and Bill secretary. Our initial challenges were how to determine what were the rights of way and how we could obtain equipment to maintain them. We were helped early on by Alan Althorp, an architect who worked on the renewed Market Hall. Shire Hall supplied us with the definitive maps, equipment and training. The other founder members started path clearance and reconstruction as they still do today. Once the routes started to come together, Alec Osbaldiston and Bill Elliott, and soon afterwards Don Thompson, started writing up the route descriptions, the basis for the large inventory of walks we have today. Robert and Graham Pain gave the first £10 to CMFA

funds allowing us to open the bank account still in use today. The Pains helped us determine which landowners to contact for permission to work on their land. Initially, it seemed that we would have to work through Shirehall.

In about 1993/94 the County asked CMFA to become the first P3 group (Parish Paths Partnership) in Shropshire, and serve as an example to other groups who attended a launch event in Shrewsbury.

Back then, we received some letters from someone in Walsall who frequented our pathways, often losing his way and getting entangled in brambles or barbed wire. He came to be known as the 'Walsall Wanderer'. If he could only see our footpath network now!

The current members are inviting the Founder members to join them for a celebratory meal at the Live and Let Live in February.

Graham Simpson

February Walking Dates:

Sunday 7th: 10.00. Parish Walk, from St Mary's Church.

Wed 10th: 10.00. Walking for Health, Market Hall.

Wed 24th: 10.00. Walking for Health, Market Hall.

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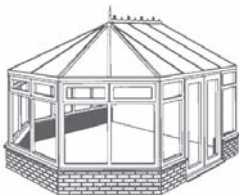
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

KINLET FAMILY PLAYGROUP

We had a really busy start to the new year, welcoming some new faces in to our sessions and to our 'Little Tiddlers' toddler and parent sessions.

The children have been learning about zoo and farm animals and making masks and models, as well as animal sandwiches and doing animal body movements.

Before we go on our half term break we will be learning about Chinese New Year and celebrating Shrove Tuesday and Valentines Day. *Zoe Pearson*

THR HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

A Happy New Year to all who were unable to attend our Members Gardeners Question Time. A very entertaining evening with members asking questions and others contributing answers; until you have an evening like this, you do not appreciate the knowledge in the Society.

The perennial question about ground elder brought several answers, none of which members thought totally eradicate it, as the tiniest bit will regenerate. However, the questioner was satisfied and

decided to try a couple of the suggested solutions. A very satisfying and enjoyable evening, to be repeated in the future.

Our next meeting in the Methodist Hall is on February 8th, when we will be hearing about herbaceous perennials from Ingrid Millington. We would welcome visitors and anyone wishing to join.

Liz Smurthwaite

THE READING GROUP

We were delighted to welcome Marlaine Delargy, a local lady who translates books from Swedish, to our well attended meeting in January. Marlaine translated our latest read, a psychological crime novel "Frozen Moment" by Camilla Ceder. A creditable first novel, not so much a who-did-it more a why. It was enjoyed in varying degrees by many, though not all. Comments were made that it could have been edited better, names were confusing and maybe the love affair was unnecessary. On the plus side it gave a great feel of the bleak Swedish landscape, the plot wasn't bad and it read fluently due to good translation.

Recommended by about half present.

Our thanks to Marlaine for joining us, answering questions regarding the book and her work. Book donations were gratefully received. What interesting people we have in Cleobury.

Our December meeting was very convivial, with drinks and nibbles and we even managed to talk about the book we had been reading, "Thin Blue Smoke" by Doug Worgul. Not many of us would have picked this from the shelves but it was a well crafted novel, most entertaining and apart from a few minor quibbles, enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Monday February 15th, any questions phone 271754. *Deana Kimber*

SHINDIG ARE BACK

Promoters Shindig have 'The After Hours Quintet' booked into Clows Top's Victory Hall on Friday the 5th of this month. They promise a full five-piece 20s swing band to entertain. 8.00 o'clock start, tickets £12.00 if you want a meal, £10.00 without. Eat at 7.15 - don't be late. Judith on 01299 832020 or 07788 604 542 for bookings.

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On The Market - Bennett and Dunn Rapeseed Oil

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Rupert and Tracey Bennett sold their first bottle of rapeseed oil in November 2014 and within twelve months had won a Best New Product at last year's Ludlow Food Festival. And they won a Great Taste award from the Guild of Fine Foods too. It's that success that they're building on, with the emphasis on its Shropshire roots and the quality of the oil you can buy.

They have about 100 acres of rapeseed growing, harvested and processed all under their direct control. It's Rupert who drives the combine harvester that brings in the vital, small seeds. The crop is stored in their barns to wait for the regular call from the man who cleans the seed, then it's cold pressed on the premise the oil dripping slowly into large tanks as the solid waste from the husks is processed for animal feed. 100 percent of the product is used.



Rupert and Tracey, the joint power behind a growing brand.

They use cold pressing because that removes any risk of the taste being contaminated by elements of the seed husk getting into the oil, which can happen with hot pressing. The great advantage they have is their own control of every part of the process. "Every stage is traceable," Tracey emphasises. The final stage is filtering through multiple layers of paper to leave a pure oil that is rich in Omega 3.6 and 9.

They sell to chefs and through selected shops, plus Cleobury Farmers' Market. Rupert's a big fan of the market and was there in January. "The oil I sold on

Saturday at the market was bottled on the Tuesday before. You don't get much fresher than that," he says.

Tracey is the sales side of the partnership, looking after 150 mixed outlets and collecting feedback from chefs and shop owners. What you and I will see at the market is a very smart black and white bottle; chefs buy it in much larger plastic containers. The 500ml bottle costs £4.99 and I've used it in both stir fries and as a salad dressing. And I'll carry on buying it - real quality stuff.

Their chef customers use it in a variety of ways, and at the Inn at Shipley the traditional olive oil and bread dip is now B&D rapeseed oil. They will be hosting a get together of local chefs to exchange ideas and listen to suggestions for future development. They are already developing flavoured versions with lemongrass and ginger and basil, plus there's a Shropshire Mayonnaise that should be on the market fairly soon.

It's another Shropshire success story, with sales and reputation growing. They won't let it become too big, but do expect more quality produce.

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Lots of wines and beers on sale, a rack full of papers and magazines and winter opening hours to suit the customer: 6.30am to 7.00pm Monday to Saturday and 7.00am to 4.00pm on Sundays. These are clearly serious people, who intend to make the place buzz, and we wish them every success. And you can get the Clarion there.

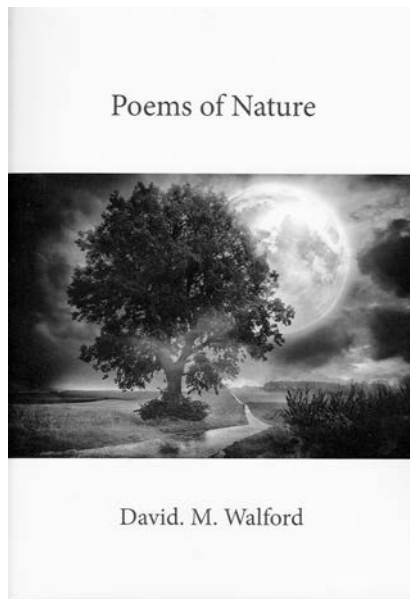
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It's on February 6th and the service is encouraging people to look in at their local libraries to see how much is on offer. Sign up for your library card and it's yours to use at no charge.

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If you love words as much as David does, that's quite a bargain.

THE JANUARY QUIZ

Another keen response, with just one all correct offering from Robert Hodge, who listed:

1. Tosca (Puccini)
2. Gloriana (Britten)
3. Die Fledermaus (Strauss)
4. Merry Wives of Windsor (Nicolai)
5. The Mikado (Gilbert and Sullivan)
6. Carmen (Bizet)
7. Queen of Spades (Tchaikovsky)
8. Madam Butterfly (Puccini)
9. The Magic Flute (Mozart)
10. The Flying Dutchman (Wagner)
11. Ring Cycle (Wagner)

Sadly not enough room for a puzzle this month, but if you enjoy a challenge, please watch this space. Again, thanks to Pat Smith for the drawings.

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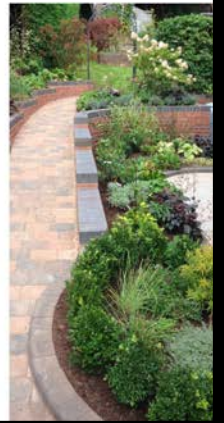
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CLEOBURY W.I.

All are welcome to join our meeting in the Market Hall on February 9th, 7.30pm when local prizewinning photographer Claire Carter will be teaching Cleobury WI members how to take a good photograph. We plan to put the new skill to work, then choose from our own photos to make a local calendar for 2017.

Following a Christmas meal at the Kings Arms, sharing presents from Santa's Sack, our meeting in January about deciding which resolutions should go forward to the 2016 National AGM. Subjects were many and varied.

For more information, find us on Facebook or get in touch with Judy Sant 01299 270983 or email judysant10@gmail.com

THE BRITISH LEGION

The Legion are holding their first ever Quiz Night at the Bell Inn on February 18th at 7.30. Teams up to four, with an entrance fee of £8. All proceeds to the Poppy Appeal. The subjects will be 1940's based and include rounds on The Great Escape, Matinee Idols, and Name That Tune. For more information please get in touch with the Chairman on 270793 or cmrbl@hotmail.co.uk

David Taylor

CLEOBURY PATIENTS' VOICE

New Chairman Mark Radford writes. A slight change to our meeting times, they will be on Monday evenings at the Medical Centre, starting at 6:30, every third Monday of the month, so the next will be on Monday the 15th February.

The objective of the group is to promote involvement in monitoring and developing our local health and social care services. We welcome new members. More information at our website www.cleobury-patients-voice.co.uk/, email cleoburypatientsvoice@hotmail.co.uk or ring 01299 407224.

Mark Radford

HOBSONS' FOODIE NIGHTS

Hobsons are planning Foodie Nights this year, the first one on the 4th of this month. It will be hosted by Sandra and Malcolm, ex The Fighting Cocks, and will feature game dishes. Beers and cider to match. Starts at 7.00, the cost is £25 per head, prebooking essential at CM 270837 or online at the brewery website. Sounds really good.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Towels Duvet Covers Sheets Mattress protectors Pillow protectors Cushions Blankets Bedspreads Pillows Duvets Heated Blankets Plus Much More 	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">OPENING TIMES</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>MON</td><td>-</td><td>CLOSED</td></tr> <tr><td>TUE</td><td>-</td><td>9.00-5.00</td></tr> <tr><td>WED</td><td>-</td><td>CLOSED</td></tr> <tr><td>THU</td><td>-</td><td>9.00-5.00</td></tr> <tr><td>FRI</td><td>-</td><td>9.00-5.00</td></tr> <tr><td>SAT</td><td>-</td><td>9.00-5.00</td></tr> <tr><td>SUN</td><td>-</td><td>CLOSED</td></tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 5px 0 0 0;">TEL: 01584 319001 tenburylinens@hotmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">ITEMS NOT CURRENTLY IN STOCK CAN BE ORDERED</p>	MON	-	CLOSED	TUE	-	9.00-5.00	WED	-	CLOSED	THU	-	9.00-5.00	FRI	-	9.00-5.00	SAT	-	9.00-5.00	SUN	-	CLOSED
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Mob: 07957 659909
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In Business: The Cleobury Freezer Centre

The Cuckson family have built up a successful business supplying frozen foods to the catering trade under their Katerfresh name. They know the business and where to get the best value, and now they are offering the benefit of their experience to the general public.

The operation is headed by Phil and Ann, with daughter Elaine in support and Lynne Mantle, the saleslady who answers the phone and any questions you may have.

Cleobury Freezer Centre is in their warehouse on the Newhouse Farm trading estate on Tenbury Road. But this is a proper retail business, offering a wide range of foods in household sizes. If you want a single tuna or salmon steak, they do it; no need to buy bulk.

A big advantage of their out-of-town location is the ease of parking, with lots of space and no time limit.

The range of foods available is very impressive and Ann Cuckson pointed out that this is the only fish shop in Cleobury. With a big range, including swordfish steaks as well the normal tuna and salmon. If you're having a special party and would like a whole rainbow trout, they do it. Shellfish from King prawns to mussels and scallops. And all available six days a week.



Elaine and Ann with typical big Cuckson smiles that greet customers to the very smart new showroom.

They cater for just about all tastes, including a range of vegetarian dishes and almost a full Indian takeaway menu of Mr Daves Curries, including naan breads. If you want a handy little treat to keep the younger members of the family happy, they have a pack of eight choc ices at just £1.50.

Ann is very proud of the range of frozen fruits: "No waste and they make lovely smoothies -just add yoghurt!" She's a mine of information and ideas and has promised to let us have some recipes to tempt your tastebuds. She'll get them done whenever she finds time, and she is a very busy lady.

The cheerful atmosphere in the busy office does carry over in the friendly manner on the telephone and helpful style dealing with customers.

The same applies to deliveries to any home in the local area - free if your order is worth more than £20.

The Freezer Centre has taken over the front of the warehouse ground floor. Fresh paint, new display freezer cabinets and lots of bright posters make the place very welcoming. And if you do end up with a big purchase, you can back the car up to the door for ease of loading.

The range is remarkable, and the leaflet listing all the details is handily divided into sections like 'Let's Party' and 'Easy Peasy Meals', which can make catering for a special event very simple to deal with. Pre-cut cakes and gateaux that you can serve straight from the freezer - 14 or 16 portions is the norm - can make a summer birthday party memorable.

The Centre is open from 9.00 until 6.00 Monday to Friday and from 9.00 to 12.00 on Saturday mornings. They take all debit and credit cards and when you ask a question they all have the knowledge and experience to give you a full answer. And the prices are very good.

They're on 01299 271345, but the best way to see just what a range they have is to call in and see for yourself. It may be a frozen food centre, but you'll get a warm welcome.

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