

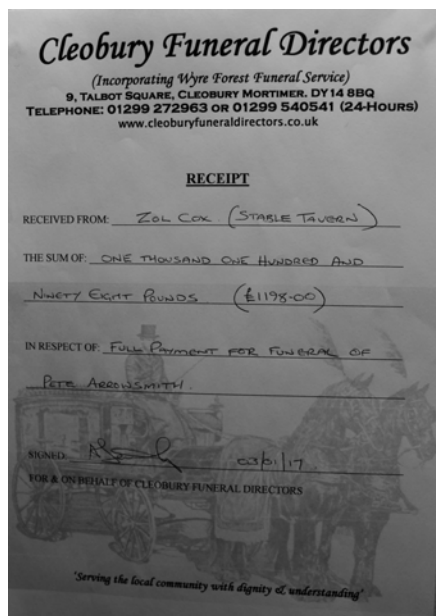
The Cleobury Clarion



SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

February 2017

BIG HEARTED BEER DRINKERS



The big hearted spirit of Cleobury has been at work again. This time it was to pay for the funeral of Pete Arrowsmith, whose brother Mick died last year. They were both regulars at The Stable Tavern and when the problem of paying for Pete's funeral was explained to his mates, there was a whip round amongst them. Our picture shows the receipt from Cleobury Funeral Directors for £1198, the very modest cost that reflects all the services involved keeping the

price as low as possible. When the bill was posted on the wall of the pub, it was next to a list of the 35 people who'd contributed as a farewell to their old drinking mate. Zoll and Kate Cox at the Stable joined with owner John Green to top up the fund to see that the bill was paid.

A fine gesture of community spirit and respect for a man with no wealth but a lot of generous friends.

JOHN JOINS THE TOWN'S COUNCIL



A new face joins the Parish Council after his co-option was agreed at the council's January

meeting. John Bodenham lives in the town and has recently retired from his directorship of the Alzheimer's UK charity. So clearly a man with a belief in working for others.

He told us he wanted to give something back to the community and that work as a councillor will keep him alert and interested. We wish him well as he takes on what will be a growing responsibility as local councils are expected to provide more services.

COURT REPORT

Mrs Elizabeth Griffiths appeared before Telford Magistrates' Court on January 17th. It was a plea hearing regarding a charge of harassment of Matthew Sheehan, Clerk to the Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council between June 30th and August 31st 2016. Mrs Griffiths entered a plea of Not Guilty, stating that she did not agree that her conduct was harassment.

The trial date was set for January 31st, at 2.00. The court reminded Mrs Griffiths that she was still subject to bail, conditional upon her having no contact at all with Mr Sheehan.

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The Cleobury Clarion, February 2017.
Volume Fourteen - Edition Eleven



*The Fighting Cocks at Stottesdon. New owners, a total refurbishment and a new lease of country pub life.
See Page 17.*



*Busy Beverley
See Page 29.*



*In Business - James Smith
See Page 55.*

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ST MARY'S

BREAKFAST CLUB

A little catching up to do here, as this report was received too late for the January issue. JR.

Mark Baldwin emphasised at the start of his December talk on "Signs of the Times", that in compiling the set of slides he showed, he had not set out to educate nor inform, but to entertain. He certainly achieved this objective.

He surprised even Tank Waddington by showing 130 slides in quick succession and in under 20 minutes, illustrating very strange or unusual signs photographed on his travels in UK and abroad. Some were weird street names, some were misleading or ambiguous public notices, some showed (to us Brits) rude brand names, some were odd vehicle registrations and others exceptionally exquisite paintwork, such as the intricate decorations on lorries seen in India and other eastern countries but strangely reminiscent of canal barge artistry.

It was all over too quickly but a very good way of ending the Club meetings for 2016. The Breakfast Club did not meet in January, so our next gathering will be on February 14th at the Cleobury Café, when Steve Todd will resume the story of his time with Customs & Excise. Members wishing to attend should contact Jonathan Fair (271913) to book places.

Barry Treves

BOWLS CLUB NEWS



From left: Club president David Jones, Councillor Paul French and Club Vice Chairman Ron Reed.

Cleobury Mortimer Bowling Club would like to say a huge thank you to Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council for helping us complete some essential major improvements to our green. By way of a grant from the money made available from the sale of the new Medical Centre site they have helped us remove all of our existing slabbed pathways and replace them with tarmac paths. This work was essential due to health and safety issues. The money also helped us to buy some much needed new general maintenance equipment. Without their help we would never have been able to do any of this.

Parish Councillors were invited to join us on our annual Presidents Day so that they could see the improvements made and how the money had been spent. Councillor Paul French joined us on the day and I think was quite impressed with the facilities that we as a small rural club provide to the community.

Lesley Burnside

THE CRIB LEAGUE

The League has been playing for over 30 years, raising money for local groups, who can apply for funds if they have any specific projects or just want to replace old or worn out equipment.

We are again in this position to help out any local organisations. You must be a non profit making group and helping the youngsters of the town. Please apply - with a brief idea of what any donation may be used for - to Peter C o l q u i t t . E m a i l info@argoplastics.co.uk or call him on 07891 219183 if you require any further information.

NEW FACE AT THE LIVE AND LET LIVE

It's one of the most charismatic pubs in the area. Standing in its own grounds overlooking the valley around Neen Sollars, the Live and Let Live has been a popular eating and drinking house for a long time. And now it's changed hands.

Steve and Sue Painter with Ian and Chris Ferguson have run the place for over 35 years and built a reputation for good food. But well earned retirement looms for the, and from the end of January Diane Burch has been in charge. She has worked in the kitchen at the Fighting Cocks and welcomed the chance to take on a living that's all her own. We wish her the very best of fortune and will tell you more about the lady in the March Clarion.

The Clarion is on the worldwide web, from the 4th of every month

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HAPPENINGS IN HOPTON

Some more catching up here, as Marilyn's original message did not get through the ether in time for the January issue.

We held a General Knowledge Quiz in the Village Hall on November 11th and were "full to the gunwales" with 20 Teams participating. The quiz was very hard fought with some excellent results. Congratulations to "Universally Challenged" for a fantastic score, winners for the second year in succession. I think we will have to handicap them in future.

Many thanks to all who supported the evening, donated raffle prizes and bought tickets. It was great to see so many friends and neighbours getting together in our Village Hall. Thank you also to the Cleobury Chippy who provided the delicious supper.

The results: 1st: Universally Challenged 63 points, 2nd: Hopton Beagles 57.5, 3rd: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly 55, 4th: The Cleoberries 54, 5th: Formula 1 (Williams and McLaren team) 53.

Our little Church was packed with many friends and neighbours on a lovely festive evening on December 6th

Many thanks to the ticket sellers who did a wonderful job, especially Glenys, "Star Seller". Also to those kind people who gave prizes for the Raffle.

Thanks also to Richard Mutter, our Curate who was Master of Ceremonies for the evening, the Cleobury Mortimer Church Choir, David Burton, our faithful Organist, the Readers, and Derek Bytheway, our Booking Clerk, for your part in the proceedings.

Also my thanks to Nigel and Nicky Poyner and to Glenys McLaren and Posy Davies for making our Church so festive and welcoming for Christmas.

Marilyn Wood

ROCK PATHFINDERS

The Rock Pathfinders walking group have two morning walks planned this month, to which all are welcome. On Thursday the 2nd they gather at the Six Ashes car park, which is at SO reference 683774, starting at 10.30.

Two weeks later, on the 16th, they'll be meeting at The Dog Inn in Dunley, near Stourport. Again it's a 10.30 start. More details from Alan on 01299 400304.

COFFEE MORNING

There's a rather special coffee morning in the Market Hall, planned for Saturday the 4th of this month.

It's a cooperation between four local groups who all work for the benefit of the community. They are the Nightingale Nursing Fund, Cleobury Patients' Voice, Cleobury Compassionate Communities and Cleobury Carers' Support Group, who will all share the profits.

It's open from 10.00 to 12.00 noon and should be quite a busy social occasion.

HUMBLE PIE CORNER

Oh dear, another bloomer slips through the net and makes the editor look like a fool. It's a style that suits him well.

In the January issue of the Clarion he managed to move the CoCo Coffee mornings from Wednesday to Monday, for no logical reason. We just hope any innocent who turned up on Monday did not wait around too long.

To make matters absolutely clear, CoCo Coffee Morning are on the second and fourth Wednesdays in the month, from 10.00 'til 12.00. £1.50 for tea or coffee and a slice of home made cake. Top value.

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UNIQUE CONCERT FOR BAYTON CHURCH

It was not possible to have a Christmas Concert at Bayton Church last year as the church is closed for major building works until the Spring. Rather than disappoint regular concert goers, it was decided to hold a concert at the Clows Top Mission Room, a much smaller venue. To accommodate the numbers there were two performances, afternoon and evening and both full to capacity.

Those attending were in for a number of surprises. Firstly many people had passed by the Mission Room but never been inside and were amazed how nice it is. The guest entertainers, 'Bel Canto', gave two fabulous shows and together with Philip Ward at the Technics organ, Brian Link the producer and compere and some hearty carol singing the programme was complete....nearly! The surprises continued throughout the performances as a substantial Christmas tea or supper was provided in the interval and towards the end of each show Father Christmas arrived with presents for all.

A number of people had concern whether a concert was possible in this relatively small venue, but it was declared a resounding success by those present and bookings have already been taken for the concert this year, which will be in the newly repaired and refurbished Bayton Church.

Brian Link

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

February is a wonderful month, it means spring is in the air, time to start bringing the garden to life. Sow sweet peas now if you didn't get around to doing it in the autumn. We're in late winter, plant growth is about to start. If weather permits give beds and borders a 'once-over' (weeding/ forking-over/ edging) to improve and replenish the soil. Also get the secateurs out and prune your garden roses and shrubs.

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. It's a great way for exchanging gardening knowledge, learning new ways of doing things and sharing tips. Non-members welcome to any

monthly meeting. The annual subscriptions are now due for the coming year, membership £10.

The membership also entitles you to a discount at garden centres listed on the card which needs to be shown before any purchases.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 22nd February and the speaker for the evening will be Robin Pearce with a talk entitled 'Dahlias'.

Pauline Bowen

JUST A REMINDER

Clows Top's Victory Hall are hosting trio 'Synergy' on Saturday the 11th, when they'll be filling the place with the sound of Aire Flamenco. Doors open at 7.00, music starts at 7.30 and tickets are £11.00 from the box office on 07788 604 542.

Sounds like a good evening, with snacks and a bar in support.

NOTABLE QUOTES

"How not to do my make-up."
(Bianca Jagger, when asked what she'd learnt from Andy Warhol)

"It's no exaggeration to say that the undecideds could go one way or another."

(Profound thinking from George H.W. Bush in 1988)



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WYRE COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

We are very lucky to be based in the beautiful surroundings of St Georges Farm, Ruskin Land in the Wyre Forest and are pleased to say the volunteer group continues to grow. We have around 40 dedicated volunteers who give their time to help us carry out the conservation of the Wyre Forest, its wildflower meadows and traditional orchards.



Volunteers working on scrub clearing and burning.

A typical volunteer day involves meeting at 10.00, then heading off to our worksite taking tools, materials and tea, coffee and biscuits. Work tasks depend on the time of year and may include scrub clearance, tree planting, invasive species

control, hay making, fencing work or cattle moves. We have a tea break around 11:30, lunch at 1.00 and finish around 3.00. Everyone feels a sense of achievement after contributing to conserving their local environment. Currently we have three groups on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays.

We are also developing a small estate wood yard here at St George's Farm. The yard will be the central hub for utilisation of the oak that we harvest from the Wyre Forest. The woodworks teams meet on a Tuesday and Wednesday; they have made new doors for the barn, built a firewood store, made a work bench, fitted new windows in the workshop, and are now building a new tool store. Volunteers range from students to those enjoying their retirement. They enjoy the range of activities, meeting friends and having a natter, keeping active and working in the beautiful outdoors.

Current Opportunities

We are now looking to start a brand new 'Woodland Volunteer Group'. We manage around 100 hectares of woodland and would like the local community

to get involved. The group would meet one Saturday a month during winter, from 10.00 to 3.00. If you are interested in joining our new group, one of our existing groups or simply want to find out more, please get in touch. We are also able to offer work experience placements to those looking to start a career in conservation.

Phone me on 01299 488083 or email Kate Quinton, Volunteer and Community Development Officer: kate@wyreclt.org.uk

SING, LAUGH, BREATHE

Kate Jones's friendly singing sessions at the Market Hall have grown enough for her to hold the events every week. Wednesday at 11.00, everyone is relaxed and Kate gently coaches you, even non-singers like the editor. She won't be there on February 22nd, but will be on every other Wednesday in the month.

Kate also runs Singing for Breathing classes in Ludlow for those with breathing problems. Contact her at kate@sing-laugh-breathe.co.uk or look her up on Facebook. No pressure, lots of smiles and recommended.



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NEW FACES



Partners Stacey and Jon, new owners of what was the JFM Barbers Shop.

The Barbers Shop in Church Street will have a new sign very soon, as new owners Stacey and Jon start trading as Smith's Barbers Shop. And they're looking to recruit a qualified barber to manage the place with support from them.

They live in Stourbridge and both work in the hairdressing business. Stacey as a mobile hairdresser and Jon as a barber; he insists upon that title, as he does not do ladies' hair at all.

Between them they have 22 years experience, Stacey having trained at Wolverhampton College and Jon at Birmingham.

The place will continue as a barbers shop with some extra ideas to give a greater appeal. The first one is operating now, a loyalty card that records how often you've looked in for anything from a quick trim to a styling job. When you've had ten calls, the next cut comes free.

The plan is to have the shop open from 10.00 to 5.00 six days a week. That may mean whoever takes over doing five days and one of the partners covering the other day; like most sensible business people, they're flexible.

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

January saw us gather to hear a talk on the Legume family by Leila Jackson. Most of us know about the legumes we grow in our vegetable patch but we heard all about the floral varieties. The common factors are the root system and the flowers; these are the same. The root systems have nodules that convert nitrogen and other things into food and when they finish their life leave a lot of food in the ground for other plants to use, thus replenishing the soil. Legumes can be plants, shrubs or trees and we found this a surprise. A beautifully

interesting talk and very informative.

Liz Smurthwaite

IN PRAISE OF...

This news item will make one very modest man blush, but it reveals a character who does a great deal for this community and does not seek any thanks for his work.

Una Widdett called and asked if the Clarion would highlight how much good work Steve Todd does. Without mentioning names, she explained that a friend of hers had a problem and how Steve gave prompt help and guidance to sort out the matter. And when Una thanked him, he assured her that she could call on him if ever she or a friend needed help.

No praise needed, just a good man helping others in our community. Steve and Iris Todd do a great deal for Cleobury Mortimer and stay out of the spotlight.

His only public exposure is his regular 'On The Buses' page for the Clarion, when his keen grasp of fact and ability to see through bluff and bluster has enough impact for the page to be quoted at high county levels. Simple common sense and truth; it's one straight man's way of working.



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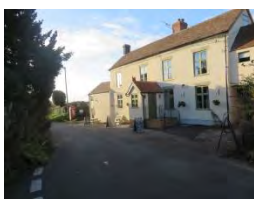
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**THE FIGHTING COCKS -
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*Mine hosts at the Fighting Cocks,
Bre and Mark.*

There's been a lot of work done at the Fighting Cocks in Stottesdon and the place is looking very smart. But what new owners Mark and Bre have done is gently update the local favourite without losing its strong country pub ambience.

If they needed a reminder there was work to be done, it came on the first night they took over. "I'd gone upstairs for a quick shower, as I'd been working on the place," says Mark. "I'd just started to soap myself when Bre was knocking

on the door, telling me to get downstairs quickly. The water was running into the bar!" Quite a few quid later it's all sorted out and looking smart.

The offerings now boast a Gin Bar, with a long row of that tittle as well as a good selection of whiskeys and bourbons. The beers are mainly traditional: Hobsons, Ludlow Brewery and Wye Valley, plus guest ales like St Austell and Three Tuns. "We took over just too late to be included in the CAMRA ratings," Bre explains.

They came here from Cornwall, where they'd run a B&B near Looe. That's given them some great contacts for fresh fish, good enough to deliver 300 dozen scallops that were all sold long ago, plus crab and a range of fish. Wednesday is Fish and Chips Night (home cooked chips, please note) with a beer batter. They do a lot of takeaway business with the locals and surrounding villages.

Apart from the fish, the emphasis is on local produce. And Wednesdays Steak Night, when a 10 ounce ribeye or rump steak with all the trimmings including those chips costs £9.95. That sounds like really good value - look out for a report some time soon. They

have duck and pheasant on the menu too, courtesy of local shoots.

Fighting Cocks home made pies are another attraction, with eight flavours including a veggie option. They are clearly getting it right, with the place crowded from 11.00 until 6.00 on Christmas Day, when diners asked to see the chef and Bre was dragged out of the kitchen to receive a standing ovation!

With all rooms now decorated and a full central heating system installed, they can cater for 60 diners including the Function Room. That room is also available for whatever event you care to name that needs a comfortable room and good catering.

A new feature in the main bar is a range of paintings by local lady Hollie Childe. "People quite often come to dinner and go home with a picture under their arm," smiles Mark.

So one of the most popular local pubs is in good hands. "Every local has said they've never seen the place so busy," Bre explains. They're keeping on events like Apple Day and the Christmas Fair with a special Valentine's Night coming soon. No wonder they say you need to book for a weekend meal.

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Hello. This month's topic is focusing on an area that I feel confuses a lot of owners: nosebleeds. Due to the anatomy of our four legged friends, the causes of (let's use the fancy word...) "epistaxis" can be many, each with varying prognoses. Hopefully by the end of this article you will feel a bit more informed about this clinical sign, should you ever be faced with a horse or pony experiencing a nosebleed!

Bleeding may occur from one or both nostrils and can originate from anywhere in the respiratory system (from the nasal passages, sinuses, guttural pouches, right down to the lungs). Most cases are a "one-off" and probably due to minor damage inside the nose, like a human nosebleed. However if there is a large amount of blood produced or if bleeding recurs you should seek advice from your vet.

Causes

There are a number of potential causes that may be mild and self-limiting to those which can be life threatening. Most causes are not life threatening, so do not worry. But it is important to be aware of any likely causal agent to help you and your vet decide the significance of an episode of epistaxis.

Head trauma, exercise induced pulmonary haemorrhage (EIPH), foreign bodies, infections of any part of the respiratory tract, tumours and growths, fungal infection or iatrogenic (trauma to the lining of the nasal passage).

Diagnosis

Your vet will initially ask particular questions which may narrow down the likely reason behind the problem. So, if possible, make note of when the current episode occurred, whether your horse or pony has suffered from a nosebleed previously, how much blood has been lost, whether the blood originated from one or both nostrils, the nature of the blood, whether your horse would have likely sustained any trauma to the head, whether your horse has undergone any recent intense exercise or travelled recently, whether there has been a respiratory infection circulating on the yard where your horse is kept and whether your horse has been behaving in a strange manner recently.

After an adequate history has been taken a full clinical examination will be performed by your vet to try to determine the underlying cause. Often a diagnosis cannot be made in the field and further tests may be warranted to determine the

origin of the blood. These include the use of an endoscope camera, head x-rays, sinus exploration, blood tests and further high quality imaging techniques such as computed tomography and MRI.

Treatment

Treatment depends on the underlying cause. If your horse is experiencing a nosebleed, in reality, there is little that can be done. Make sure you put them into a stable, keep them quiet and calm to avoid elevating their blood pressure that may worsen the bleed. If the bleed does not stop within 10-20 minutes or if your horse is distressed or behaving abnormally in any way, immediate veterinary attention should be sought.

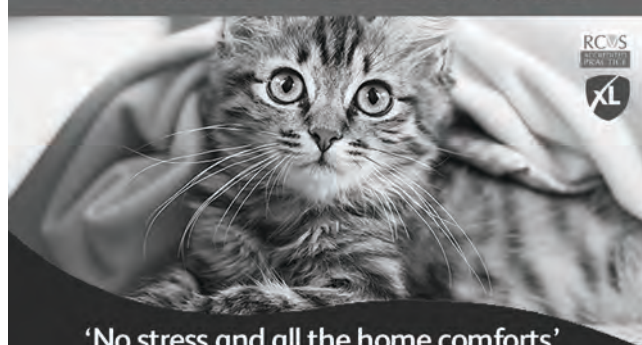
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**Chairman Alec Osbaldiston
with some dates for your diary:**

On Friday, February 17th the Sea Shanty Singers with a fish and chips supper will be performing at 7.30pm in the Sports and Social Club. This is a return visit of this popular group of singers with their soloists, salty tales and stimulating entertainment.

Wednesday March 8th is our AGM to be held in the Market Hall at 7pm. All are welcome. Do come along to hear about last year's events and monies raised. Come and offer suggestions for future events, and activities.

Sunday evening March 19th we have a performance by the Birmingham Philharmonic Orchestra to be held in Saint Mary's church.

Alec Osbaldiston

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Workparty news:

In December, we worked near the Glen Caravan park. The landowner had reinstated some fencing which brought an old stile back into use. We replaced it with a kissing gate and did some repairs to the footbridge. We expect to be back there in March at our first work party of 2017 as both the steps and the footbridge need further work.

Kissing Gates:

A question was asked in the December Clarion about how many gates/kissing gates we have installed. It is 25 and another one is scheduled for early in 2017.

The very first was at the bottom of Lion Lane back in 2008. There are also about another 20 in the area installed by the council, mainly in Neen Savage in 2009 when the footpaths were upgraded.

We can only install gates with the permission of landowners. Some don't want them as they do not want to make it easier for dog walkers due to distressing loss of sheep where dogs have been allowed to run loose among them.

Sadlers Barn Farm have had several such occurrences so we are grateful to them for continuing to allow the lovely permissive route along the river.

The next Parish Walk will be on Sunday February 5th We hope you can join us! See www.cmfa.co.uk for details.

Graham Simpson

CONGRATULATIONS

To Gill Guest, who had a full page feature published in the Daily Telegraph in December. That's quite an achievement for a freelance operating from well outside the London based circles of the big press boys.

To follow that up, it's been her turn to edit the latest Vital Link for Neen Savage. Moving ever upwards, of course.

THANK YOU

Carolyn and Keith Balmer would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the various charities that they supported during 2016.

Wendy and her staff at the Kings Arms and the Severn Hospice shop are just a couple of names to throw in. Yvonne, Lesley, Jenny Vanderhook, Gaynor, Jan and the other Wendy at the Sun & Slipper,

They raised over £100.00 in a raffle for the Teddy Trust at the KA. The Cleobury community is strong.. Without your help we would be nothing.

Keith and Carolyn

FROM THE BAND ROOM

After a busy December culminating with our annual Christmas Concert held in St Mary's Church we are again in contest mode and preparing to retain our champion title at the Midlands Area contest in March. The piece this year is St Andrew's Variations and is proving an enjoyable choice; we will be competing with 21 other bands, all being judged on the same piece.

Our summer bookings are starting to come in (including two band weddings!) and once again it looks like it will be a busy year.

We have an influx of players wanting to join our training band – which is great news. For anybody interested in joining, we rehearse the training band at the Social Club on Tuesday evenings 6.45 until 7.45. Please get in touch if you are interested.

Our website lists our forthcoming engagements and also has contact numbers for both senior and training bands.

www.cmcb.org.uk

Katie Griffiths

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Paul French continues his series about local men who lost their lives in what became known as The Great War:

Some of those who enlisted early in the conflict were to serve only for a very short time, others made it very nearly to the end.

One such was Joseph Gee. His story teaches us how many times individuals could be moved from one theatre of war to another either because of being wounded, getting ill or just because there were changes to how things were done.

Joseph was born in Waterloo London in 1894. He is however recorded in the 1911 census as being a domestic servant in Cleobury Mortimer as "Boots", a domestic cleaning boots and shoes. Single, he had two sisters living at Castle Hill Cleobury Mortimer.

He joined the 3rd Battalion Worcester Regiment on the 25th August 1914, his records do not help us to find out where he was from this date until 12th August 1915 when he was transferred from the 6th to the 4th Battalion and posted to Gallipoli where he contracted jaundice and was shipped home on 6th January 1916.

He was posted on January 26th, again no information until May 1916 when he was transferred to the Machine Gun Corps and went to France in June 1916.

At the start of the war all battalions had two machine guns manned by twelve men and an officer. In 1915 this was increased to four guns. The Maxim gun was the weapon used, described as "obsolete" it

had a rate of fire of 500 rounds per minute.

Experiences in 1914 at the battle of Ypres showed that the effective use of machine guns required special tactics and organisation. November 1914 saw a Machine Gun School to train new officers and gunners both to replace those lost and to increase the numbers with machine gun skills.

Still the machine gunners were a battalion/brigade controlled resource, those in command had no specific skills and tactics on how best to utilise them.

In October 1915 the Machine Gun Corps was created by withdrawing teams from battalion level and placing them in the Corps. New teams would replace them at battalion level armed with the lighter Vickers gun.

'No military pomp attended its birth or decease. It was not a famous regiment with glamour and whatnot, but a great fighting corps, born for war only and not for parades. From the moment of its formation it was kicking.'

Shortly after the formation of the MGC, the Maxim guns were replaced by the Vickers, which became a standard gun for the next five decades. The Vickers machine gun is fired from a tripod and is cooled by water held in a jacket around the barrel. The gun weighed 28.5 pounds, the water another 10 and the tripod weighed 20 pounds. Bullets were assembled into a canvas belt, which held 250 rounds and would last 30 seconds at the maximum rate of fire of 500 rounds per minute. Two men were required to carry

the equipment and two the ammunition. A Vickers machine gun team also had two spare men. There is insufficient space to deal with the techniques a gun team needed to learn and then master to be able to cope in combat situations.

One aspect of the peculiarities of the Vickers gun was that it was not initially cooled, so jammed frequently. Once it was water cooled by a jacket round the gun that was better, but what if you had no water to refill the jacket?. Well it was common practice for gun teams to urinate into the jacket if no water was available. Is there no end to human beings ingenuity even in times of extreme stress, panic and fear?

Joseph was reported wounded in the field in November 1916 and then posted no less than five times after arriving in France ... no details are available. Finally he was reported missing on 24th April 1918. He is commemorated on the Pozieres Memorial in the Somme. It is likely by the date that he died during the actions at Villers-Bretonneux.

Josephs links with Cleobury Mortimer are tenuous but he had two sisters and one step sister living in the town. He enlisted in 1914 and served until 1918; he was a member of a significant branch of the British army that is not perhaps as recognised as it should be or as high profile as others.

Thank you Joseph for keeping the Vickers operational and cool.
Paul French

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THE MASONS - A MAJOR FORCE FOR CHARITY

Cleobury Mortimer has been home to a Masonic Lodge since 1950 and this year the movement as a whole celebrates its 300th birthday. It does have a fascinating history that reflects in the ceremonies today.

The first Grand Lodge was established in London in 1717, to serve the interests of the stonemasons whose skills made them such a force in a growing society where new buildings were in demand. That first meeting was in a tiled room, a style reflected in the black and white chequer carpet they use in Lodge meetings today. And to help identify a skilled man there were special handshakes known only to the tradesmen; again reflected in the greeting today.

Tradition still shows in the rule that membership is open only to men, who must be over 21 and believe in a supreme being, whatever their specific belief. From the beginning the need for charity has been part of the doctrine, in giving both time and money to help those in need. There is nothing secret in what they do and the rituals practised at meetings can be seen on the web.



Worshipful Master Bob Hayward with one large cheque for charity.

Every one of more than 8,600 Lodges in the UK elect a Worshipful Master of the Lodge each year, and today's incumbent in Cleobury Mortimer is Bob Hayward. Most of you will know him as a partner with Beryl in The Crusty Cob in Church Street, and his year has included the fund raising at the Christmas celebrations. That has resulted in £736 raised for Bob's choice of charity: Breast Cancer Care Research.

That is typical of the fund raising that features in the Lodge events through the year. They hold eight formal meetings between September and April, at which every member donates to the charity fund. Summer is a more social time, for family and more fund raising.

We talked to Cleobury Lodge secretary Errol Dyer, who explained that the Shropshire Province raises approximately a million pounds every five years through the efforts of its 1,300 county members in §34 Lodges.

In addition to the constant fund raising work, the Masonic movement runs three nursing homes for the seriously ill. They are open to all, but obviously members and family of the movement will get priority.

A modest, soft spoken star of Cleobury's Lodge is Brian Gadd, who recently had a special ceremony to honour his 50 years as a Mason. Brian has seen the Lodge forced to move from its original home in the Assembly Rooms because the building was condemned, to temporary homes in Hopton Wafers and Mawley Hall - where they paid no rent, thanks to the generosity of the Galliers-Pratt family, and donated the equivalent to the charity fund - before moving to their current home at the Golf Club. Where they have a formal handing over of cheques to local charities at the installation of the new Worshipful Master.

So nothing is secret, it's just that they get on working for other people without too much shouting about it. Curious? Talk to Errol Dyer on 01299 832383.

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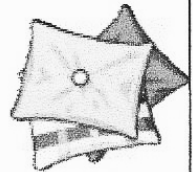
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Winter health pressures

As winter takes hold with colder spells, it has a knock on effect on public services. Frost and ice can increase danger for us all, especially motorists, so the Council have been gritting roads to make them safer. Winter fuel payments are made to pensioners to help with heating bills. But as the most used national and local public service, the NHS comes under increased pressure.

Pressure has been growing on the NHS for a number of years. We all lead longer lives, which means we are more likely to develop the chronic conditions that require frequent care. The number of people aged 90 or above in the Ludlow Constituency has increased 25% since I became your MP. In the past six years, life expectancy across the UK has risen by 12 months. The effect on health systems is natural - demand for NHS services is unprecedented.

To deal with this pressure, the NHS made more extensive preparations this year. We started the run-up to winter with 1,600 more doctors and 3,000 more nurses than last year. £400 million was allocated to local health systems to prepare for winter, and the NHS nationally assured the winter plans for every NHS trust, including Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Hospitals Trust.

To prepare for flu season, the NHS launched its largest ever vaccination programme, with over 13 million people treated. I received my shot at Westminster, and encouraged those eligible in South Shropshire to have their free vaccine.

The result of this winter planning has meant NHS hospitals have seen days since Christmas where A&Es have treated a record number of people within four hours, but some have waited

longer. Although there have been fragile situations in some hospitals, there are signs of the pressure. But more cold weather will increase challenges. So the NHS will consider further measures to reduce pressure. But these decisions will be at the discretion of local clinical leaders.

Looking to the future, resolving long term pressure will mean a practical conversation about the way the public uses A&Es and the way we develop services in the community. NHS England estimates up to 30% of those attending A&E do not need specialist urgent care. So we are looking at ways the NHS can provide good alternative options to those with minor conditions, to ensure that individuals receive swift treatment, in the most appropriate setting.

In Shropshire, A&E provision is being considered through the Future Fit programme. Last month Daniel Kawczynski MP held a debate in Parliament to encourage resolution of this issue, which divides the county. I am pleased that my ministerial colleague at the Department of Health announced an independent chairman for joint meetings of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin clinical commissioning groups, to break the deadlock.

I pay tribute to staff across the NHS, in GP surgeries, community nursing teams and hospitals, who all work incredibly hard, especially over winter, to ensure we receive the care we need, both physical and mental. I have seen some very positive feedback from people using our health services in Shropshire this winter. We can all help, by making sure we attend A&E only when we need it. NHS 111 provides very helpful advice through Shropdoc if you are not



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Beverley Taylor of Panache Administration Services, with one of the best personal car registrations in town.

"I've never stopped work since I left college, apart from a year out when I had Sean." Beverley Taylor admits to being a workaholic, a habit that's seen her progress from a modest beginning at Lipton's in what is now the Spar Store. On through a wide variety of posts to self employment running a busy administration service with a spread of customers that reaches out into the West Midlands and the Black Country. Along the way she's acquired a wide range of skills and qualifications and

seen how to treat staff properly and get the best out of them.

She readily admits being a petrol head and was pointed in the right direction when she got a post at Percy Tait Motors in Kidderminster, one of the busiest Suzuki agencies. From there she moved to a sales admin job at Hylton, then to CryoService, a company that supplied liquid nitrogen to Heston Blumenthal's Fat Duck restaurant, though she never got to meet the man himself. All the time she was broadening her experience and nursing an ambition to work for herself.

She was working as an office/accounts manager and not liking the company's approach to staff when she discussed the idea of starting on her own with husband Guy. "I'll give it twelve months and see how it goes," she promised him. That was a little over three years ago and she looks back with a smile: "It was probably the best thing I've ever done."

The idea is simple: "All that experience and knowledge I've acquired in one pot," as she puts it. Available for hire, to take the burdens off the backs of small to medium sized businesses. "There's no National Insurance to pay, no pension scheme. I just

turn up and get on with the job, or they can send it over and I'll do the work here. About 35 percent of the work I do is here at home." What was the conservatory is now an office for her and Guy to work in, he on his Servacrane business where Beverley also handles the accounts.

She offers book keeping, personal assistant services, human resources, ISO 9001 audit, health and safety and credit control. "I'll look after that while the customer gets on with building the business," she explains.

We talked to Jo Verth at Equus Journeys in Worcester. "She's brilliant," was her response. "So quick and completely trustworthy. She saves us masses of time and that means she saves us money. Can't speak too highly of her."

So does Beverley see the business growing, with her taking on staff to help? "No, I want to keep it personal and give it my personal attention. I'm more than happy with the business I've got."

We'll put that down as a real success story, then. Busy Bev is on 07791 862400, email bev@panacheadmin.co.uk or at www.panacheadmin.co.uk

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THE READING GROUP

Simon Armitage's book "Walking Home, A Poets Journey" was generally well received by our group of thirteen who met in January. It is the story of Simon's journey walking the Pennine Way, travelling as a modern troubadour without a penny in his pocket, stopping to give poetry readings at miscellaneous venues. It was an easy read and several members were familiar with the area he describes which added extra interest. One of the group was reluctant to start the book, as they didn't think it sounded appealing, but was then captivated by the narrative. Comments of approval were, delightful, amiable and liked the authors wry sense of humour. Most remarked on the lovely writing and the evocative descriptions.

The opposing view from a minority is always interesting to hear. One found no affinity with the writer or subject and another said "It was a long walk and I was thankful when he got there". Not all were keen on Simon's poetry, though some have been moved to explore this more thoroughly. Overall we voted to recommend this book. Next to come under our scrutiny is "Saving Fish From Drowning"

by Amy Tan, a very unusual title. We meet on February 20th for a discussion on this novel.

Deana Kimber 271754

JENNY'S LATEST JOURNEY

Jenny Vanderhook is off on another trip to help those in need:

I don't usually tell you about my adventures until I come back. But my next one is different, so I thought I'd tell you about it before we go.

At the end of February seven of us are going to Northern Uganda for two weeks with the charity 'Nurses Reaching Out'.

We shall be helping at the Referral Hospital at Gulu, a town about the size of Kidderminster. We shall be buying food to cook for patients who haven't any relatives, so don't get fed. I have already had a coffee morning and a curry evening for this.

Some of the days we shall be painting the hospital (shades of my trip to Nepal last year) and packing Mother and Baby Kits: a bowl and soap to wash the new born child, a cord and razor to cut the umbilical cord and maternity gear for the new mother. Tiny baby clothes we will be taking with us, for up to three months if you have any?

The third thing, and where you come in if you wish, ladies, is giving sanitary pads. This is not something I've needed to buy for some time, but I find they start at 25p a pack. As we are going with a charity we can take a lot of luggage, so anything you feel able to give, please hand in at the Severn Hospice Shop or to me. Watch this space and I'll tell you how we got on and what happened to your donation.

Jenny Vanderhook

RAINBOWS REMEMBER



Cleobury's Rainbow Group had a sleep-over at Neen Savage Village Hall early in December.

13 enthusiastic young people, who made their own decorations and Christmas cards and then decorated the tree.

Obviously the word about their effort got out to Father Christmas, because he and Mother Christmas arrived next morning to say hello. A nice friendly festive touch to help the season along.



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Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Wed 1 st	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village hall, where parking is very easy	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 2 nd		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders meet at Six Ashes car park (DY14 8HJ) on Bridgnorth Road, for a morning in the countryside. PAGE 7	Alan	01299 400304
Sat 4 th	8.00	Sale of Household goods & clothes at Knowle Sports Ground	Audrey Taylor	01584 890644
	10.00	Coffee Morning in the Market Hall, in aid of several local Charities. PAGE 7		
	2.00	Six Nations Rugby on the big screen at Sports & Social Club. Sink a pint and cheers for England. PAGE 39		
Sun 5 th	10.30	The Parish Walk starts from the Parish Church. All welcome, sensible shoes & clothing recommended. PAGE 21		
Mon 6 th	11.00	The Crime Reduction Group meet at Sports & Social Club. New members with a positive contribution to make, are welcome	Matt Sheehan	01299 271 154
Wed 8 th	10.00	Walking for Health depart from the Market Hall	Alan Kimber	01299 271754
	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall. PAGE 7		
	6.00	Cleobury Country Business Networking moves to Hobson's Tasting Room for a relaunch, good place to talk trade. PAGE 57	Clare	01299 272300
	7.30	Neen Savage WI meet in the Village Hall to hear Charmaine Leek talk about Clear Hearing. PAGE 57		
	8.00	The Royal British Legion meet at the Bell Inn	David Taylor	01299 270793
Thurs 9 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 10 th	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 11 th	7.30	Clows Top Victory Hall hose Synergy for an evening of Aire Flamenco. PAGE 9	Box Office	07788 604542

Sonia Pearsall, probably the best organised of regular event organisers when it comes to publicity, has sent us her impressive annual list of Whist Drive and Bingo Nights at Doddington's very smart Village Hall.

Events like this are the backbone of local halls, keeping the venues in the local public eye and the buildings in use. More power to the organisers' elbows.



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The February Social Calendar Continued

Mon 13 th	6.30	The Creative Writing Group meet in the Library	Jim Reynolds	01299 270642
	8.00	The Horticultural Society meet at the Methodist Hall to hear Joe Hawkins, Head of Landscape at Hagley Hall		
Tues 14 th	7.30am	The Breakfast Club meet at the Cleobury Café, to hear Steve Todd talk about his days as a Customs & Excise Officer	Jonathan Fair	01299 271913
		St Valentine's Day. The Fighting Cocks at Stottesdon promise a special evening for the romantics		01746 718270
Wed 15 th	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 16 th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30	Rock pathfinders will be out, meeting at the Dog Inn in Dunley, Stourport, DY13 0UE on your satnav or OS Ref:7864958891. PAGE 7		
Fri 17 th	7.30	The Sea Shanty Singers entertain at the Sports & Social Club, complete with a Fish & Chip Supper. PAGE 21		
Mon 20 th	7.30	The Reading Group gather in the Library to discuss and sometimes disagree!	Deana Kimber	01299 271754
Wed 22 nd	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning in the Market Hall. PAGE 7		
	10.00	Walking for Health depart from the Market Hall and gets back before the coffee runs out!!	Alan Kimber	01299 271754
	7.30	Clows Top Gardening Club meet at the Victory Hall to hear Robin Pearce talk about dahlias. PAGE 9	Marion Wilson	01299 270475
Thurs 23 rd		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.30	Open Mic at the Sports & Social Club, Love Lane. Turn up with your talent.		
Fri 24 th	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 25 th	7.30	Flicks in the Sticks at the Parish Hall presents "Bridget Jones Baby"		
Mon 27 th	7.30	The Poetry Club meet in the Library, Love Lane.	Jim Reynolds	01299 270642
Thurs 30 th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
		AND LOOKING AHEAD TO MARCH.....		
Wed 1 st	8.00	Whist Drive at Doddington's splendid Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874

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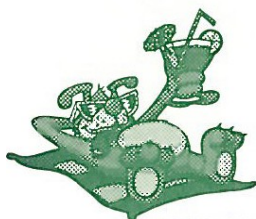
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Hello

Firstly I would like to introduce myself. I am PCSO Liam Jones and I have recently taken over from PCSO Nick Morris in covering the Cleobury and Highley areas. Nick spent many years serving Cleobury and I'm sure you would all join me in thanking him for this and wishing him a long and happy retirement. I am new to the PCSO role and whilst I have some knowledge of Cleobury, (I have played rugby against you a few times) this knowledge is limited so I am doing my best to get to know the area and the job as quickly as possible. I will be trying to get out and about, meeting as many people as I can. I intend to be in Cleobury whenever possible if you see me patrolling please feel free to come and have a chat and I will do my best to assist you. I am accessible through the 101 service and at ch.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk

As a PCSO I do have limited powers but I will try and assist and advise. PC O'Leary will take any actions that require the powers of a constable. I have attended the Crime reduction meeting in Cleobury and am currently in the process of assessing

what the people of Cleobury feel are the issues that affect them. Following this PCSO Sue Eden and I recently visited the Clee Hill quarry with reference to the speed at which lorries pass through the high street. Having spoken to the foreman of the site I was shown a letter that is now being distributed to all drivers prior to them leaving the site.

The build up to Christmas this year did unfortunately bring with it a rise in crime. I would take this opportunity to remind people to lock out-buildings and report any suspicious activity to the police. There have also been reports in Cleobury and the surrounding areas of people cold calling and offering to complete work on properties. If someone knocks on your door offering to complete work please get a second opinion. Matt Sheehan has also stated that if this is the case he will assist in checking if they are legitimate. If at any point you feel in danger or intimidated please call the police.

I look forward to working with the residents of Cleobury and meeting as many of you as possible.

Liam Jones

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The long awaited Shropshire Bus Strategy consultation document was quietly slipped out just before Christmas (a good time to bury bad news perhaps or has that one already been done?) It sets out the proposed approach until 2021 and aims to prioritise subsidies according to a number of objective criteria such as local transport plan priorities covering the need for communities to have access to employment and medical facilities as well as shopping and other services, accessibility for disabled persons and links to other transport interchanges for longer distance travel. Another important aspect is the rurality of the communities concerned and this definition covers the whole County apart from the seven largest towns. Financial considerations are also to be considered.

Appendix A of the document then sets out a prioritisation framework which gives marks on a sliding scale against the various criteria. When these are totalled, this will produce a 'pecking order' of routes which will influence where any financial support is directed. The full document can be viewed at:

<http://shropshire.gov.uk/news/2016/12/say-new-shropshire-council-bus-strategy/>

and there is a link to an online response form. For those without access to a computer, hard copies are available at the Library and Market Hall. The final date for responses is **February 13th** so please return any completed paper forms to the Library by **February 10th** at the latest. Please respond if you can to ensure that our views are taken into account in any final decisions that are made. I have also put notices to this effect on the bus stops in the centre of Cleobury – or at least I had as, two days later, Shropshire Council (God bless 'em) decided to clean the shelters for the first time in living

memory and hosed them off as well as soaking the timetables I had just put there.... I have now replaced them.

Not a great deal to report on the breakdown front apart from one bus being loaded on to a recovery vehicle at Far Forest on New Year's Eve. No doubt that spoiled someone's celebrations. I have noticed a few services coming through a bit late but nothing too far adrift so this looks promising (unless you know something I don't). We went to Ludlow the other day and were on time both ways although on the way back, there was a strange sound coming from the front of the bus. Turned out to be the driver whistling which would have been fine if only we could have identified any of the 'tunes' he was attempting. Still, he enjoyed it. Who needs on board films when you can have live entertainment, so eat yer heart out National Express....

I have also managed to get another batch of 2L timetables (which are unchanged) as well as Shropshire bus maps and both of these are available at the Library and Market Hall.

On the subject of Diamond, I mentioned last month that they were called to a public hearing in front of the West Midlands Traffic Commissioners on 30 November accused of a number of failings in their operation. No results or decisions taken at that hearing have been published as yet which is unusual as these normally appear within a few weeks. I checked with the Traffic Commissioners and they said that no decisions have yet been taken. This could indicate that they are now taking these matters more seriously so I will keep an eye out for any further developments and let you know.

Steve Todd

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SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB HAPPENINGS

Welcome to our first report, to let those of you without internet access to social media know what's happening at the Social Club.

December saw the club host the Senior Citizens and Children's Christmas Parties. The Senior Citizens Party was very well attended, with 62 pensioners enjoying buffet food and entertainment provided by the Primary School children singing Christmas carols.

The club plans to hold its Spring Senior Citizens and Community Party on March 17th starting at 1.30pm. More details to follow.

The Children's Christmas Party was attended by 74 children, their parents and Santa. Provision had been made for 72 presents, which meant Club staff hastily locating and wrapping two extra presents to avoid disappointing any children. Smiles remained all round!

The Six Nations Rugby kicks off on 4th February, with the first match, Italy v Wales, starting at 2pm. Scotland v Ireland @ 2.25pm and England v France @ 4.50pm.

Open Mic Night in February will be on Thursday 23rd. This is a night of mixed live music, both bands and solo artists, and any age and ability can take part. All

kit is supplied, so musicians bring themselves, their instrument and their talent.

Sunday, March 5th is the date for our Big Quiz, with all proceeds once again going to local charity Cleobury Co-Co, who support and befriend the vulnerable and elderly in our community. Last year's Big Quiz saw over 100 people attend and £700 raised for Co-Co. Team registration starts at 6.45pm with the Quiz starting at 7.30pm. You can see dates for the Six Nations matches and Club events advertised on the boards outside the Club. Andy Goold, our Club Steward also posts regular weekly updates on our Facebook page. You can contact Andy on 01299 271448

Glenys Turpin

OUTSTANDING AWARD FOR JEAN



Jean Basham, better known to the wide community as The Iron Lady, has had her work for the guides movement recognised with an award for Outstanding Service to Local Guiding. She was nominated by her county colleagues and in December travelled up to Barton Marina in Staffordshire for the Girlguiding Chief Commissioner Awards evening, where she was one of the stars. Seen with Jean is Region Commissioner Abi Salter, who handed over the award.

Jean has been leading the Rainbows group in Cleobury since 1999, a very popular figure with the younger girls as they move up the scale towards becoming full blown Guides. A well deserved recognition of the work that Jean puts in.

NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND

The Fund have published a new constitution on their web site which is open for consultation. If anyone has any comments please contact Rosemary Abbiss 01746 718451 so that amendments can be made before we it is sent to the Charity Commissioners for their approval. www.nnfund.co.uk.

Please note my new telephone number, as the one given in the Clarion Local Contacts page is out of date. *Rosemary Abbiss*

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It's good for us to have preconceived notions fundamentally challenged now and then. For instance, we think we have a pretty good idea of the way the world works and then a new scientific discovery seems to indicate that we may have got it substantially wrong.

My subject is the forest and a growing number of studies into what goes on in the soil, particularly the interaction between tree roots and the network of fungal threads called mycorrhiza. It appears trees and many other woodland plants have an interdependent relationship with fungi, where trees benefit from the water and nutrients gathered by the smaller scale and more extensive mycorrhiza while bestowing the benefits of sugars made by photosynthesis. One conclusion from this is that plants (including trees) will thrive best where they can tap into the soil mycorrhiza. Studies go further, and suggest the movement of plant hormones and other chemicals via this underground transport system allows trees to communicate. Examples include sending a warning that they are under attack by pests/herbivores, allowing trees of the same species to release chemical deterrents, or helping ailing individuals by sharing sugars with them.

Some studies of mixed birch and Douglas fir forests showed that each tree species helped the other by sharing the products of photosynthesis at times when it had an advantage, so that the forest was a partnership of the two. This is a direct challenge to conventional forestry which

would see the self-seeded birch as a weed species competing with the fir crop and assumed that each individual behaved as if struggling for its own survival in isolation.

This knowledge has been around from the 1990s but takes time to filter down from the university to the classroom or workplace, and even longer to be digested by the rest of us so that it joins that understanding called 'general knowledge'. The fascinating work of scientists such as Dr Suzanne Simard of the University of British Columbia, who published in *Nature* in 1997, eventually gets the attention of the Forestry Commission and reaches our bookshelves via the popular science of books such as *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben (then comes to you via my attempt at explanation here!). I should also mention the good work of local naturalists, professionals and amateurs, and flag up John Bingham's article on fungi in the current issue of the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust magazine.

Meanwhile in Wyre Forest the regular practice of thinning carries on in locations like Coldharbour and Shelf Held Coppice. This is a traditional part of forest management, yielding useful timber for beams, plus allowing more light into the wood for the benefit of the whole habitat. The new understanding of the minute interactions at root and hypha level will help refine our ways of working so that we achieve the best outcomes for healthy, productive and wildlife-rich woodlands that we can all enjoy.

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Neil Sampson – overriding considerations with implant dentistry are all about recovering quality of life



IT'S HARD to imagine after losing natural teeth things could ever be quite the same again. Even the loss of a single tooth is now recognised as a serious life event.

And for most, with the loss of teeth comes an emotional hurdle – now clinically recognised as a mourning process and recently highlighted in the British Dental Nurses' Journal.

The article noted the loss of one or more natural teeth is “a serious life event that can result in significant disability by impacting on daily living activities, including chewing food adequately, preferred food selection and speech.”

Less visible, however, and perhaps more significant, is the way it can compromise social interaction. Losing teeth and having teeth that are failing can erode confidence and dislocate lifestyles by embarrassment or discomfort.

And the same can also be said of dentures that are unstable and uncomfortable.

Although recent figures suggest oral health is improving, millions of UK adults suffer with tooth loss.

Solutions without dental implants have been around for a long time – indeed, bridges, full dentures and partial dentures still offer excellent options.

But a growing number of people have found a renewed confidence by having teeth supported on implants, small titanium anchor points that fuse into our jawbone.

It's a procedure still often perceived as only for the very rich and Hollywood A-listers. Nothing could be further from the truth.

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- Those with multiple missing teeth. Implants can support bridges without compromising adjacent teeth
- Those for whom root canal therapy has failed
- People whose crowns are damaged or the tooth structure beneath them no longer offers enough integrity for a replacement

deals on implant loans – have put this hugely creative therapy, with increasingly predictable clinical outcomes, within reach.

Improved patient education also means more are becoming aware that replacing missing teeth with implants is a worthy lifestyle investment and if cared for could last a lifetime.

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Implants are effectively substitute tooth roots and form a stable foundation for replacement teeth that look, feel and function like natural teeth.

Implant restorations can also create the smile of your dreams.

The preferred choice of dentists for fixed replacement teeth, Cleobury Dental's implant surgeon Neil Sampson MFGDP(UK) BDS Birmingham GDC 60624, says: “Implants present a choice of clinical options for us to explore, but the overriding considerations with implant dentistry are all about recovering

quality of life. Procedures can also restore confidence and enable a better social experience for the patient.

“Ultimately those considering implants have to ask themselves how much their smile is worth.”

An experienced implant dentist, Neil won Dentist of the Year with Oasis Dental Care in 2010 for his “personal approach and expertise in the area of dental implantology.”

One of his Cleobury patients, who has had three implants placed – two for crowns with single teeth and one to support a two-tooth bridge – says: “Neil was so generous with his time, put me at ease and explained everything to me and that the process would take a few months.

“He was so calm and it's easy to trust him.”

A dentist with a long experience of advanced restorative and aesthetic treatment, Neil is a member of the Association of Dental Implantology.



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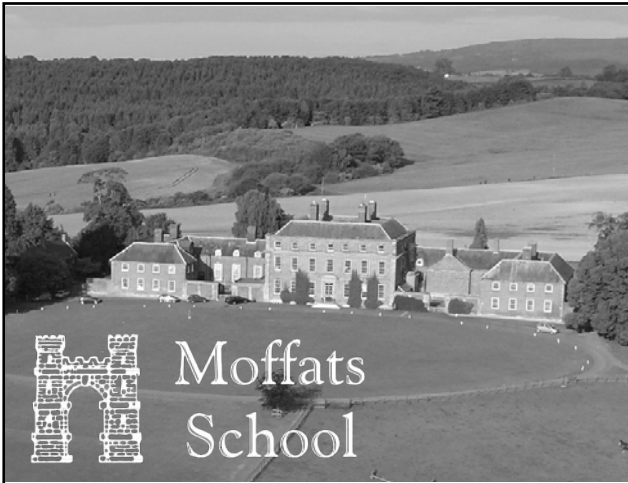
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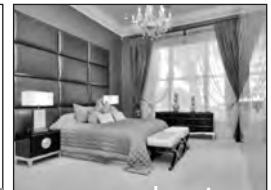
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On the world-wide markets, global milk prices have increased lately due to a reduction in supply. UK milk suppliers are paid an average of 25.6p per litre, but this is well behind what some of our European neighbours receive. In France 29ppl, Ireland

27ppl, Germany 27.9ppl and Italy 28.37ppl. Annual data (according to Agriculture & Horticulture Development Board) showed a decrease of 22.5% (2015) to the UK farmgate price.

In other farming news, readers with backyard chickens will be aware of the recent outbreak of ‘bird flu’. All flocks in the UK - from large commercial set ups to backyard keepers with a few birds – have to keep their chickens housed without any contact from wild birds until at least the end of February. This is to protect our birds from this deadly disease that has been spread from the continent by wild birds. Hopefully this restriction will be lifted if there are no more cases.

As always, thank you to our loyal customers who continue to purchase Mawley Milk.

Rachel

**And an additional seasonal news item:
Our fundraiser for the Birmingham Children's Hospital (5p from every 4 pint of semi skimmed milk sold during the month of December) raised a brilliant total of £879.25. Extra thanks to the individuals who also sent us a contribution for BCH**



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James, a man happy with his choice of a major change in life.

James Smith was working in industry, a qualified chemist who found that promotion took him away from what he enjoyed most - tackling projects and problems and finding solutions. "I'd had enough of the corporate world," he explains. "Moving away from the hands-on work that I found satisfying."

He opted to train as an osteopath, where he'd be meeting and helping people. It was a brave decision, taking on five years of training that included 1,000 hours of time spent with patients, under supervision, and alternating weekends attending lectures on

the many aspects of medical knowledge necessary to qualify as a government registered osteopath. There's no easy way of getting that vital qualification if you want to practice - you have to put in the hours and reach a high level of knowledge. And through those five years he held down a job in industry.

He has a quiet manner, but when you ask about interests and he admits to competing in Iron Man marathons, you realise that this is an example of the iron fist in a velvet glove.

Two years ago he qualified and agreed to rent Sue Brown's clinic premises when she was not there. It's a handy deal, James opening at 7.00 in the morning to deal with patients on their way to work while Sue is there through the normal working day. Then James takes over again until 8.00pm for people on their way home.

He's happy with his new life, able to help people who come to him in pain. "People sometimes get the wrong idea about Osteopathy," he says. "It's not about clicking and clunking joints back into place. As Osteopaths we are actually intending to change the way the nervous system operates, assist

muscle relaxation and encourage blood and lymph flow. We use a variety of techniques depending on each patient's condition and preferences. I do use clunks and clicks, but more often I will only massage and gently stretch and move the patient to help relieve pain. I do prescribe exercises and support this by demonstrating and then emailing exercises to the patient."

Apart from the flexible hours he works in the High Street clinic, he offers his skills to Cleobury Rugby and Running Clubs and to Ludlow's Swimming and Cycling Clubs, plus wheelchair tennis athletes. His own background of Iron Man competitions means he knows how athletes can suffer strain injuries, but their fitness means they cure quickly. He's still fit, fitting cycle training in with gaps in the working day, building strength for long distance races, up to 150 miles long!

He has also added medical acupuncture to his skills, to ease persistent muscle knots. And he plans to investigate the latest development in his established skill - cranial osteopathy.

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James works alongside Sue Brown at Cleobury Chiropractic in the High Street.

If you would like an early-morning or evening appointment then please call James on: 07506 287191.

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Sat Mar 18th. Ireland vs England

5.00pm

Other games will be shown but

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BIG HEARTED CLEOBURY

Every year Roger Gittins reports the results of charity fund raising in the town. And every year it confirms what big hearts there are in this area.

The Sunday League Charity Fund:

Last year the Fund donated 90 percent of the funds raised to Macmillan Cancer Support, Nightingale Nurses and Cleobury Compassionate Communities. They each received a cheque to the value of £755. We also donated 5 percent to Cruvo, which was £125.

My thanks go to the captains and players of the teams at the Old Lion, Bell Inn, Stable Tavern and the Sports and Social Club. The Lottery players at the Bell Inn donated £265 to the fund.

Roger Gittins, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Poppy Appeal 2016:

The Poppy Appeal has so far raised £6374.67. May I pass on the thanks from the Appeal to all businesses who allowed us to place collection boxes on their counters. My thanks to the collectors, schools and all who did a grand job in raising such a magnificent total.

Roger Gittins, Poppy Appeal Organiser

NEEN SAVAGE W.I.

Our first meeting in 2017 went very well. Unfortunately our guest speaker had to cancel, but this did not stop us having a very lively business meeting, chaired by our new President Sandra Dodd. We discussed the WI resolutions that had been nominated, chatted about our programme for the year, with

many thanks to Cath Evans who always does a wonderful job of organising our very varied programme. We were pleased to welcome new members to our group and very much look forward to seeing them throughout the year.

Our next meeting will be on February 8th at the Village Hall at 7.30. Our speaker will be Charmaine Leek of Clear Hear, an audiologist based at the Medical Centre in Cleobury Mortimer. She will be giving us an insight into her work and developments in hearing aids and implements - everyone welcome to join us.

Julie Hobin

THE SOROPTIMISTS

Our last Supper speaker was Lori Napier who recounted her early life in Nazi Germany and escape to safety in the UK on one of the Kinder-transport trains. She became a British citizen and settled in Kidderminster, where she worked for one of the carpet manufacturers. She highlighted the problems refugees faced coming to this country without common language or culture, particularly the prejudice shown to someone who is different, such as children react to other children - attitudes which unfortunately are still around today.

Our February Business Meeting held in the Baxter Church Rooms will be on February 2nd at 7.30, whilst our Supper Meeting will be on February 16th, at La Brasserie, Kidderminster, 7.00 start. We look forward to another interesting talk in our series:

‘Why I am’ by Jan Bowden, joint President and President-Elect of our Midland Arden Region. She will be speaking about ‘Education in Prisons’.

CLEOBURY COUNTRY NETWORKING

Local business networking at Cleobury Country Centre is a well established feature that gets traders old and new together. A good idea, where people trade thoughts and sometimes establish new customers.

The concept has a relaunch this month, starting on Wednesday the 8th at a new venue - the Tasting Room at Hobson’s Brewery - for a one-off gathering before it goes back to its established home. This special meeting will hear from Peter Banford of Shropshire Council’s LEADER project and regular adviser Peter Roper. Beer and cider will be served along with a ploughman’s feast, so there will be a charge of £10 for the evening. Which starts at 6.00 and is scheduled to end at 8.00

If you want to be there, book your place on <http://cleoburynetworking.eventbrite.co.uk>

REPORTING ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Did you know that there’s a special number you can use to report anti-social behaviour?

It’s 0345 678 9020 and they will take reports of such behaviour from 8.00am until 6.00pm on weekdays and 9.00am until 1.00 pm on Saturdays. It must be quite busy, because we waited a long time to get through and check the opening hours.

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The Second Clarion Jobs Page

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Casual Staff—part time: Fri/Sat/Sun Pioneer Centre	Working in a busy 270 seater dining room, to help with serving breakfast, lunch & dinner; resetting the dining room & helping in the wash up area. Also, cleaning accommodation lodges.	Apply to: Karen Anderson 01299 271217 karenanderson@pioneercentre.org.uk

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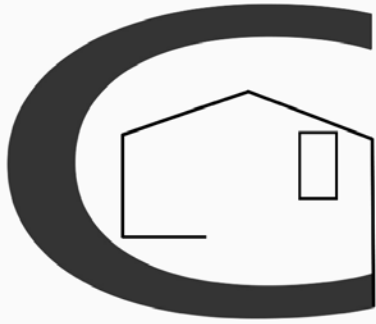
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CLEOBURY PATIENTS' VOICE

An error in the copy deadline in the online version of December's Clarion meant that readers were spared a detailed account of the latest developments in the saga of Shropshire's "health economy". Suffice to say, the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) for its future was finally made public, and led to a further bout of political infighting that culminated in a Parliamentary debate and a meeting with the Health Secretary. An "independent" chairman is to be appointed to break the voting deadlock between Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin over which gets to retain a local hospital Emergency department, and there will be an "independent" review of the process by which the decision was arrived at. This process is Future Fit. Despite running for three years, in November the West Midlands Clinical Senate effectively described it as inadequately modelled, insufficiently detailed, self-contradictory, poorly evidenced and overambitious. This does not inspire confidence. Formal public consultation on Shropshire's plans is now delayed until the review has finished.

Shropshire finances the healthcare of the Medical Centre's patients, but the majority are referred into Worcestershire for hospital treatment. Even the Health Secretary acknowledged the depth of the crisis in Worcester's

A&E over the New Year period, describing the hospital as the most worrying in the country after two patients died after day-long waits on trolleys. Worcestershire has its own STP, and has started public consultation. From a Cleobury perspective, the most significant aspect is the transfer of much 'planned' care from Worcester to Redditch. This is clearly an attempt to relieve the pressure on Worcester, but Redditch is much away for those who have to travel from our area. A group is campaigning to reopen services at Kidderminster but its pleas appear to be falling on largely deaf ears, with a planned increase in day-case surgery at Kidderminster the only concession. Public consultation ends on 30th March; there are drop-in events in Tenbury (2nd Feb) and Kidderminster (21st Feb), and an online questionnaire.

Slightly closer to home, CPV will be supporting a joint Coffee Morning on February 4th in the Market Hall (10 am to 12 noon) in support of local carers' groups. All will be welcome so do come along. Finally, a mention for the Singing for Lung Health group which meets every Wednesday afternoon in Ludlow under the care of Kate Jones. If you have any form of breathing difficulty, singing can help. It's backed by the British Lung Foundation and no singing experience is required; it's also good fun. Contact Kate on 01584 890284 or 07817 250762 for details.

Mark Radford

THE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

We have started the New Year with a new Councillor, Mr John Bodenham, who has hit the ground running, looking for grants for the Play Area makeover among other things.

We are currently looking at changing all 22 concrete streetlights to LED, as every year they cause issues. We are looking at fitting two feeder pillars in the High Street for next year's Christmas lights.

We are putting in for more grant funding through the Crime Group to increase the CCTV, to cover from the cemetery to the fire station. Your Councillors agreed at the last meeting not to raise our precept on Council Tax, which shows the good work they are doing to get where we are.

The community came together to bury the Arrowsmith twins, Pete and Mick, who recently died paupers, six months apart. Compassion and generosity is the Cleobury way, and thank you all who contributed. Any new residents who want to get involved in the community, please contact me.

Matt Sheehan

SILLY BITS

When you are dissatisfied with life and would like to go back to youth, just think of Algebra.

One of the many things no one tells you about ageing is that it is such a nice change from being young.

Ah, being young is beautiful, but being old is comfortable.



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CITIZENS ADVICE		08444 991100	Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00
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MARKET HALL	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	dorothymcbride@cleobury.org.uk
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NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND	Rosemary Abbiss	01746 718451	
PARISH COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Market Hall 9 to 2 pm, Mon to Fri. 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			richard@ssyf.net.
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THE DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE IS FEBRUARY 23rd

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Residential Sales

In December we saw a monthly decrease in house prices of 0.3%, but the year-on-year price increased by 5.4%. Despite the small dip prior to Christmas, we are predicting the steady increase in house prices which we saw during 2016 to continue throughout 2017. A lot of commentators are warning of a tough year ahead, but those fears are very much based on the London market which is currently facing up to a number of its own challenges. House prices in London have fallen due to a perfect storm of uncertainty over Brexit and a natural correction of over-inflated prices in recent years.



Erica Hinwood
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Lettings

The Council of Mortgage Lenders has just undertaken the largest-ever survey of landlords, and the results are interesting! The key trend that struck me was that the majority of landlords said they were looking to gradually decrease their property portfolios over the coming years, but interestingly, only 21 per cent of landlords said the reason for wanting to reduce their stock was down to tax changes. There was a higher proportion of people blaming tax changes among those with buy-to-let mortgages though, so they are starting to have an effect. To read more on this article please visit www.nockdeighton.co.uk.



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