

The Cleobury Clarion

SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

FEBRUARY 2019

A4117 ROADWORKS

There will be significant roadworks on the A4117 starting on Monday the 11th of this month and scheduled to last until March 5th. It's all about the installation of a pedestrian crossing at the Midland Counties Co-operative store and attendant work on the road surface and neighbouring footpaths.

This means there will be lights restricting traffic flow to one lane. They will operate from 9.30 until 3.00, which will mean minimal interruption during the busiest traffic times.

The resurfacing of the road will mean a complete closure, again from 9.30 until 3.00, on Thursday and Friday, February 21st and 22nd. There will be a diversion signed during these two days. The contractors do advise that this timetable is subject to weather conditions.

Shropshire Highways are to be congratulated on the way they distributed clear letters to every house in the surrounding area. It does make life easier if we all know what's happening and when, so that everyone can make arrangements to fit in with the work being done.

ALL FOR CHARITY



Amanda Clugston. All the commission she earns from Body Shop goes to her chosen charity.

Amanda Clugston and her husband moved into Stottesdon last December and have fallen in love with the place and its strong feeling of community.

She works as a freelance education consultant, after a career in teaching that saw her hold down four headships before opting to operate for herself, advising schools on the development of children with special needs. She's a bundle of energy with a big heart.

She wanted to give some of her time to help people who have lost babies. The most positive way she could see was to align with a charity, in this case the Midlands based Lily

Mae Foundation, who cooperate with hospitals to support any bereaved parents. People in need of understanding and support for their loss.

Their service includes the supply of Memory Boxes, with teddy bears in pink or blue and commemorative jewellery with the child's fingerprint. Amanda's target this year is to fund ten of these boxes and so far she's raised enough money for three. "My way of putting something back," as she puts it.

She's available to give talks to clubs and institutes, will take space at local events or can simply supply Body Shop products to individual orders. Call her on 07411 557 550 for a catalogue or try Facebook at busychicksviptips.

THE TRADE CARD

The 2019 Cleobury Country Trade Card is out and readers in the villages outside Cleobury can pick up a copy with their Clarion. It's a very handy guide to local services and trades, free of charge and just right to keep near the phone for information you might need in an emergency.

We'll be topping up supplies through the coming months.



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The Cleobury Clarion, February 2019

Volume Thirteen - Edition Eleven



*Philip Dunne MP signs
Holocaust book.
See Page 45.*



*The editor holidayed in Hong
Kong with family.
See Page 53.*



*Laughs at the Lacon Childe
OAP Christmas Party.
Page 53 again.*

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HOUSEHOLD SALES

This favourite local source of household bargains opens its 2019 season on Saturday the 2nd of this month. The venue is the well established Knowle Sports Ground on the Tenbury Road below Clee Hill village and the starting time is 7.30am if you want the pick of the stock.

Organiser Mrs Audrey Taylor tell us that they welcome donations of good clothes, shoes, handbags, bedding and large jars suitable for pickling onions. You can leave them in the open shed on the sports ground any day of the week.

SING, LAUGH, BREATHE

The Christmas Farmers Market was made even better by the singing of Kate's Sing, Laugh, Breathe community choir. They not only entertained, they raised £110.50 for the Singing for Lung Health group in the process.

They are back upstairs in the Market Hall every Wednesday morning this month from 11.00. A friendly gathering in a great atmosphere.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHES SWAP

The Beavers, part of the town's Scout Group, have a Children's Clothes Swap on Sunday the 3rd

of this month. It will be in the Scout Hut, near The Wells in Church Street, and will run from 2.00 until 4.00.

The idea is that you take clean and good quality clothing that your own children have outgrown and donate them to the sale. You can also shop around and possibly find new outfits for the summer.

Admission is £5.00, or £3.00 if you are donating clothing. All proceeds go to the Scout Group funds.

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

February is a wonderful month, when we see the first shoots of spring nudging their way into the world. First the snowdrops, then aconites. Next the crocus and grape hyacinth. The garden is no longer dormant, it's bursting with life. It's taken a battering over the winter, so when time and weather permit, do a little tidying of beds to keep them weed free. Don't cut all vegetation back, but leave some as there might be hibernating invertebrates. Dig up perennials that are getting big, to divide and replant elsewhere. Now is an excellent time to put up new bird boxes and clean out old boxes.

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. 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 27th February, when the speaker for the evening will be Bill Saunders with a talk entitled 'River Garden School'.

Pauline Bowen

INDEPENDENT LADY

I bought a new fairy to crown my Christmas tree at the Farmers Market in December. A neat little figure that added a touch of golden thread amongst the light.

It was made by Sally Andrews, who trades as Noahs Ark Crafts with the sub-title 'Selling anything I fancy making.' A neat independent approach that means she's not showing the same stuff for long. As we suggest in the headline, an independent lady.

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MORTIMER FOREST SERVICE

This is a rather special service, a multi-faith occasion to celebrate and give thanks for the Mortimer Forest. It will be at Saint Laurence's church in Ludlow. at 11.00 on Sunday March 17th. The former Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Reverend James Jones, who is also an eminent environmentalist, will officiate.

CHESTERFIELD TRIP

On Monday, February 18th Brian Link is taking a group to Chesterfield for the day, where the famous twisted spire will be seen and opportunities will be there to visit the weekly market, which is reported to be one of the largest in England. The group will also enjoy a two course carvery lunch. There are a few seats available if anyone would like to join this group for the day. If you are interested please contact Brian on 01299 832219.

BAYTON SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

Staff and parents will be cycling on an exercise bike on Monday the 4th, from 08:00 to 3:30 non stop to help raise vital funds for our school due to a challenging financial climate schools face. We have set up a just giving page for

donations from all stakeholders associated with the school who may wish to contribute: www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/baytonprimary

IN PRAISE OF 1...

We needed to send the balance of a friend's estate to her daughter in America. After two frustrating and unsuccessful attempts to do this directly from TSB, where it was held, we were informed that TSB could not help.

We transferred the money to our Lloyds account here. Despite being a small branch and unused to dealing with international transfers the staff were undaunted, friendly, cheerful and successful. The whole business was fun!

The money, expected to be in the American account within four days, was there within twenty-four hours.

Thank you, Lloyds and in particular the staff of the Cleobury branch.

Ron and Margaret Booker

IN PRAISE OF 2.....

I'm ashamed to say that I had let both of my ovens get into a bit of state so decided to call Kevin Woodhouse of Ovenclean who advertises in The Clarion. He did an absolutely fantastic job and they look just like new. So, if you

really can't face cleaning the oven, I highly recommend calling on his services.

Diane Waddington

BAYTON'S CONCERT

The ninth Annual Concert for Christmas organised by Brian Link was another huge success. Bayton Church was filled to near capacity with people travelling as many as 100 miles to be at this event. The Much Wenlock Male Voice Choir put on a tremendous show with a varied programme including seasonal numbers, calypso and spiritual songs plus medleys from well known musicals. Our special guest singer Oliver Hart-Bradford who is just 18 years old and studying with the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art also excelled himself, to the delight of the audience. David Fisher FRCO was on top form accompanying the choir and guest organist Brian Stenning provided the music for some traditional carol singing.

During the interval Christmas tea was served and everyone left having had a superb afternoon. After all the bills were paid Brian was able to present a cheque for over £1300.00 to the Rev Sallie Butcher which will be put to the Church's new heating fund.

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SAINT JOHN'S DODDINGTON NEWS

Christmas already seems a long time ago, but it's possible the wonderful sounds of Cleobury Country Brass band are still echoing somewhere after our Carol Service! Thank you to them for their annual visit up the hill. We start the New Year with a resolution to hold an event every month and have got off to a good start with a Burns Lunch in January.

Our February event is a Jumble Sale: 2.30pm Saturday the 9th in Doddington Village Hall - bring your jumble on Friday or Saturday morning (call 01584 890242 if you have a large amount), and pick up a bargain later. If you'd like to hire a tabletop for £5, contact 01584 318036. Our project to repair and improve the church continues in the fundraising stage; we are grateful for the funds raised last year from our concert, auction and quizzes - we are now in the process of applying for grants and will let you know a lot more if and when we are successful with those.

Celia Gibb

FROM THE BANDROOM

Firstly, a huge thank you to John Sant for fully sponsoring our musical journey to the National Finals in September – we are all extremely grateful for this generous donation.

Now that the Christmas music is filed away for another year, our thoughts turn to the Midlands Area Competition in March. The piece is First Suite in Eb by Gustav Holst.

We are currently auditioning for a new conductor and hope to have one in place during the next couple of weeks. It might seem that we get through a lot of conductors, this is not due to fallings out but merely the distance that somebody has to travel each week, although applications have come in from people living in Swansea and Newbury who are prepared to make the journey to us (but I think possibly only once!)

Perhaps there is somebody local who would relish the challenge of conducting a third section concert and competing band? Please get in touch if you are interested.

We are seeking new players for our main band, bass trombone,

euphonium, solo cornet and Eb bass, so if you are of a good standard then please apply to join our friendly band. We look forward to hearing from you.

We are sad that Jack Martin has decided to stop conducting our training band, due to his new role at Cleobury Primary School and living in Worcester, it is all too much to cope with. We thank him for his time and commitment over the last six years.

We are pleased that David Taylor has been able to take up the baton and rehearsals start at 6.15 in the Parish Hall on Tuesday nights. So if you are learning or starting up again, please come along – you will have a very warm welcome.

Our website lists all contact details www.CMCB.org.uk, please also find us on Facebook
Katie Griffiths

SILLY BITS

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David Letterman

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JAZZ AT ROCK VILLAGE HALL

There's a jazz evening booked at the superb Rock village hall on March 23rd, with all profits going to the Save The Children fund. It's a trad jazz night, music courtesy of the New Orleans Bump band, with tickets at £10 including a ploughman's supper. It does like a bargain night out.

No licensed bar - bring your own drink and glasses. Doors open at 7.30 and the music will start at 8.30. Tickets from Len Pitman on 01299 832294

THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

We are pleased to say that we have been attracting more walkers to come out on our winter walks. There were 20 on Boxing Day and 39 on New Year's Day, though the promise of hot food in the KA afterwards may have influenced some. The food was agreed to be first rate (hot bean chilli or chicken curry with plenty of fresh crusty bread). There are photos on our Facebook page -including a sighting of some early snowdrops!

The lovely weather for our first 2019 Walking for Health also attracted 29 walkers who

afterwards enjoyed the hospitality of CoCo coffee and cake in the Market Hall. Fantastic!

The combination of fresh air, good company and wholesome food is a winning formula. Our next Parish Walk is on Sunday February 3rd - no food on offer but nothing to stop walkers enjoying a sociable time after of course.

Our secretary, Mazella, has been busy recruiting and collecting annual subscriptions - just £5 a head, an active membership will help us keep our footpaths in good condition and keep up our programme of led walks.

To learn more, do please check out our revamped website and become a Friend on Facebook.

Graham Simpson

HOPTON WAFERS

What a fantastic evening the annual Carol Service was. The Church packed to the gunnels with friends and neighbours, and we also had to accommodate folks in the balcony - about 150 in total. A lovely start to the Christmas festivities.

Many thanks to all the ticket sellers and to the kind people who gave prizes for the Raffle and Auction.

My thanks to Rural Dean Ashley, for conducting an excellent service and acting as MC and auctioneer for the evening. Also our organist, David Burton, it was great to have you back in harness.

Heartfelt thanks as well to Cooks the Florist, and Ashley's Bakery for the delicious mince pies and Cleobury Café for the fantastic Christmas Hamper for the Auction.

We hope to see you again for this event in 2019, when the date will be December 3rd. Put it in your diaries now. Kind regards and a happy and healthy 2019 to you all.

Marilyn Wood

MRS GREGORY'S COACH TRIPS

Mrs Gregory's impressive list of coach trips for this year has been produced and we will be giving brief details of them from the March outing that starts the season in March, through to the December journey to Chester.

It's quite a programme on offer, covering venues as far away as Blackpool in October to see the famous lights and Liverpool in May to maybe take in a tour of the Beatles' home city. If you want early details, Mrs Gregory is on 01584 891464.



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Action Centre UK: Guest Services	Part time and Full time position available. Contacting user groups prior to arrival, meeting and greeting group leaders, ensuring smooth operation of clients programmes.	Please contact: Karen Anderson@pioneercentre.org.uk or 01299 271217 for an application pack.
Mawley Town Farm: Part time delivery driver	Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9.00am—2/3pm. Excellent customer service skills. Punctual & reliable. On job training given.	Please contact: rachel@mawleytownfarm.co.uk To apply or for more information.



Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service

On-Call Firefighters Cleobury Mortimer (Retained Duty System)

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service is currently looking to recruit on-call firefighters at Cleobury Mortimer Fire Station. On-call firefighters agree to be available for a certain number of hours per week; they carry a pager and must be able to get to the fire station within five minutes. For this they are paid between £1,587 - £2,116 per annum (dependent on contract) as a Retaining Fee plus payments for attending incidents and drill evenings at Cleobury Mortimer fire station.

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To be a Firefighter requires special skills and qualities, not only do you need to be able to work under pressure as part of a team at operational incidents you need effective communication skills to deal with the public at fire safety events and in their homes. You will work within your local community to support our aim of preventing fire related incidents and road traffic collisions. The Service is looking for people aged 18 or more on their start date who can demonstrate a high level of physical fitness

For an information pack please contact us on 01743 260220, or email HRAssistants@shropshirefire.gov.uk, stating your name, address and quoting Cleobury Mortimer

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service is committed to equality and diversity at work. We positively welcome applications from disabled people and minority groups who are under-represented in our Service.

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They came over the water from Northern Ireland with their tractors and large trailers loaded with farm equipment. That was 41 years ago. Now David and Margaret Robinson together with their son Adrian and daughter in law Rachel, farm around 800 acres here in Cleobury Mortimer, made possible by hard work and good husbandry.

Their family farming has settled down to growing grass, maize and cereals, all to feed the 300 milking cows and their offspring. Apart from feed supplements bought in, the farm is self-sufficient of grass, silage and enough home-grown cereal feed. Bull calves are reared to beef at 16 months, and dairy heifers brought into the milking herd.

Traditionally the 300 cows would be milked twice a day. However, 5 automatic robot milking units were introduced eleven years ago which allow the cows to milk themselves. The cows decide when they want to be milked - usually between two and four times a day - rather than when a dairyman dictates. Although there is housing for all the herd, the cows do use pasture close to the dairy for over half the year but on a hot or wet or windy day many are very content to remain in the shed chewing the cud. This contented hassle free lifestyle certainly seems to suit them.

The 300 cows can produce 8,500 litres of milk a day or a staggering 3 million litres per

year. The Robinsons started bottling milk in 1982, now selling it locally under the "Mawley Milk" brand and delivering it as far away as Birmingham.

Not only is the farm self-sufficient in animal feed but also for energy as well. Electricity is generated from their windmill on the hill, (75KWatts) solar panels on the barn sheds (100KWatts) and the recently installed anaerobic digester using animal slurry, and manure to produce methane gas. When it is sunny with a bit of wind, the farm produces enough energy for its needs and exports the excess electricity to the National Grid.

David and Adrian's farming has to be efficient and commercially viable, but they are not prepared to do it at the expense of the environment and conservation. The whole farm is in the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. This provides partial government grants to promote efficient use of resources, training and skills and a wide range of conservation and wildlife measures. These include planting and maintaining hedges and trees, sowing 8 acres of wild bird seed pasture, and some wider field margins, providing land for the Cleobury Mortimer allotments, by cutting hedges every other year and then only after birds have finished nesting from September. They are very aware of their important role as stewards and custodians of the countryside.

Change is about all the time. Brexit does challenge farming. Farm subsidies and the political direction of farming nationally will be altered, but David feels reasonably confident about the future, as their ability to adapt and to produce food for the nation must almost certainly be as efficient and cost effective as most farmers.

The whole Robinson family are firmly based on a bedrock of faith, family and farming and will continue to be highly valued custodians of the countryside that they farm.

Kit Smith

THE FRIENDS OF SAINT MARY'S

The Friends of our Parish Church have announced their 2019 programme, which starts on the 8th of this month with the Sea Shanty Singers entertaining at the Sports and Social Club. All tickets were sold out by January 18th, which shows what a popular event this is.

Next up is the Annual General Meeting on March 7th, starting at 7.00 in the Market Hall. All are welcome.

And on March 24th the Birmingham Philharmonic are back in the church with one of their excellent concerts, this one with a Classic and Romantic theme. Mendelssohn's 'Ruy Blas' overture, Stravinsky's Symphony in C and the Brahms Symphony No 2. A 7.30 start is firm and a sell-out is forecast. Tickets from the Library, Pharmacy or Spire Hairdressing.

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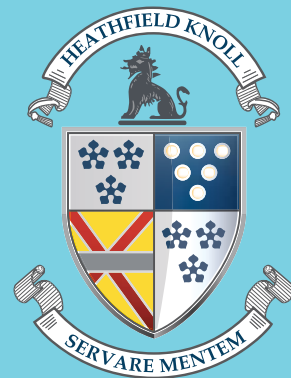
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NEEN SAVAGE W.I.

In December we welcomed Kate Hurst from Camomile and Cornflowers in Shelsey Beauchamp for a demonstration of how to make a Festive table decoration. Kate champions British flowers and encouraged us all to seek them out whenever possible, she also campaigns to reduce the use of florists foam (oasis) as it a product of the petroleum industry and carcinogenic to produce. Instead she uses sand, moss and chicken wire to provide a firm base for her arrangements. It was interesting to see that the current fashion for informal arrangements means that anything goes and we just need to throw everything in! Brenda Weaver was the lucky winner of the finished arrangement. The evening finished with seasonal refreshments and mulled wine.

On December 15th several members joined Cleobury WI to sing at the Cleobury Farmers Market; despite the cold everyone agreed they had enjoyed the experience!

For January's meeting we were joined by representatives from Forest Dog Rescue, including two very well behaved collie crosses. The kennels at Far Forest have capacity for 54 dogs, although usually there are between 30 and 35 dogs in residence and that employs seven members of staff. It costs a jaw dropping £22000 a month to run the kennels, this doesn't even include food as all provisions are donated. It was wonderful to hear the passion and

devotion of the staff who work really hard to ensure dogs are well matched with their new owners, including a home visit, and if a dog has a pre-existing medical condition Forest Dog Rescue will undertake to pay all medical fees for that condition for the lifetime of the dog. Funds come from a variety of sources – there are two charity shops, one in Ludlow and one in Kidderminster; tin shakes; a car boot sale on the 1st Sunday of the month from April – October; fetes and dog show. Gift Aid also brings in £18000 a year. In 2018 the charity rehomed 318 dogs, most only spending one to two weeks in kennels. It is inspiring to see the dedication of this committed team, assisted by a band of volunteer dog walkers and foster homes.

On June 21st we will be celebrating our 70th Anniversary at the Larch Barn and would love to invite past members to join us, please let us know if you would like an invitation.

Our February meeting, 7.30pm in the Parish Hall, on Wednesday 13th is cryptically titled 'The Flying Cortina and other stories from the Water Guard'. No, I have no idea either but it is sure to be a great evening, given the speaker is Mr Steve Todd. Visitors always welcome, £4 to include refreshments and raffle ticket. For more information please contact me on 01299 270647.

Catherine Evans, President

FLICKS IN THE STICKS

Christopher Robin will be the star of this month's Flicks

evening on the 16th at the Parish Hall, when the innocent young lad has grown up and meets a character from his past: Winnie the Pooh. He brings other animals from the past into the present to help him rediscover his innocent self.

Stars Ewan McGregor, Hayley Atwell and Bronte Carmichael and the show starts at 7.30. Admission is the usual bargain £4.00 for adults. Great value.

THE SOROPTIMISTS

Advance Information: Our annual Bridge Tournament will take place on April 24th at its customary venue: Blakedown Parish Rooms, starting with morning coffee at 10.30 am for an 11.00 am start of play. £12 per player. For further details and to book places call Sue Merrill on 07831487648 or 01562 700079 or email: susanmerrill8@gmail.com.

Our next Business meeting is on February 7th, 7.30 pm on at Baxter Church Rooms, Bullring, Kidderminster. The starting time of our monthly Supper/Speaker meetings at La Brasserie, Kidderminster, has reverted to 7.30 pm, to make it easier for those working and/or coming from further afield to attend on time and we look forward to seeing everybody on Thurs. 21st Feb.

The month's commitments will finish on 28th Feb. - as usual, on the last Thursday of the month - with our regular informal coffee morning from 10 am at the George Hotel in Bewdley. Do come along and meet some of us.

For more details about the club and its activities contact us: Tel. 01299 266101.



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Carolyn & Keith Balmer support a number of people who are involved in charitable activities. So we are always looking for soft toys and teddies for the "Teddy Trust". www.teddytrust.org.uk . Also if possible new, or very good quality, pens, pencils, note books, school bits and pieces, anything that would be useful for deprived children.

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Cleobury Mortimer Benefice

Services, Events and Activities throughout the Benefice-February

St Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Cleobury Mortimer.

Services: 3rd-8.30am Said Eucharist & 11.00am The Eleven O Clock Service.

10th, 17th & 24th-8.30am Said Eucharist & 9.45am Parish Eucharist.

Events/Activities:

Benefice Service-Sunday 10th. Bishop Alistair will be licensing Rev. Martin Quayle to the Benefice, St Marys Church at 9.45am. All welcome.

Coffee & Chat-Tuesday 5th. All welcome at the Laurels from 10.30am.

Farmers Market-Saturday 16th. In and around St Mary's Church, 9.30am-12.30pm.

Messy Church-Sunday 24th. All welcome at the Hub at 3.00pm for Crafts, stories, games & meal.

Alpha-Every Wednesday.7pm with supper at the Hub. All welcome.

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kinlet.

Services: 3rd-10.00am Eucharist, 10th-6.30pm Evensong, 17th-10.00am Matins,

24th-6.30pm Evensong.

St Mary's Parish Church, Neen Savage.

Services: 3rd-6.30pm Evensong, 10th-No service, 17th-6.30pm Evensong,

24th-9.00am Eucharist.

St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Hopton Wafers.

Services: 3rd-10.00am Eucharist, 10th-No service, 17th-10.00am Family service,

24th-10.00am Eucharist.

Saint John the Baptist Parish Church, Doddington.

Services: 3rd-No service, 10th-No service, 17th-No service, 24th-3.00pm Evening Prayer

Events/Activities:

Jumble Sale-Saturday 9th. Start at 2.30pm. Jumble can be dropped off on Fri & Sat morning. For large amounts of jumble, call 01584 890242 to arrange for the hall to be open. Tabletops can be hired for £5.

All Saints Parish Church, Neen Sollars.

Services: 3rd-No service, 10th-No service, 17th-No service, 24th-11.00am Family service.

St George's Parish Church, Milson.

Services: 3rd-6.30pm Evensong, 10th-No service, 17th-11.00 Eucharist, 24th-No service.

The Church Office open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday mornings from 9.00am-12.30pm

Contact details: Sam Adams, cleoburychurch@hotmail.com, Tel: 01299 272916

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THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

January saw the Social Club welcoming Tony Barker-Newton to his new role as Bar Steward. Tony's first big function of the year was the Senior Citizens Christmas Party, postponed from December, but complete with all things Christmas in January. 52 folks enjoyed entertainment provided by Year Six Cleobury Primary School pupils singing yes, Christmas Carols, and the ever-popular Trevor Wood, who kept them guessing with a music quiz. Our thanks go to the school, Trevor, Cleobury Co-op for sponsoring the food and to Cath Hinves and Karen Hiles for their help.

February 1st sees France v Wales kick off the start of the Six Nations Rugby Championships. The Club will be showing all Six Nations fixtures through the months of February and March. Come and check out our new TV sound system

February 8th sees the Friends of St Mary's Church Sea Shanty Singers providing an evening of entertainment from 7.30pm. Admission is by ticket only, cost £10 to include a fish and chip

supper. Tickets are available from Cleobury Pharmacy, Cleobury Library or Spire Hairdresser.

On February 16th, CM Rugby Club play Eccleshall, kick-off 2.15pm

On February 24th, there will be a Quiz Night in aid of Club funds, start time 7.00pm. Teams of four, £2.50 per person.

On February 26th, the Stroke Support Group will meet from 2.00 to 4.00pm. Please contact Katja Jones in the Medical Centre for more details.

The Big Quiz will be held on Sunday, March 3rd at 7.30pm with registration starting at 7.00. Teams of up to six people, £15 per team with all proceeds going to our chosen beneficiary for this year, St Mary's Youth Project.

For more information, please contact Tony Barker-Newton on 271448 or via our Facebook page *Glenys Turpin*

WE HAVE OTTERS

Diane Payne reports the excellent news that we apparently have an otter population living within the parish. Sadly, one was found dead in a culvert near Rowley Brook and its presence was

reported to Otters UK and Shropshire Wildlife Trust.


The dead animal has been taken to Cardiff University for a post mortem and if we hear more from that source we will report it. There are only four areas in Shropshire where otters are known to exist and these lovely creatures are worth our protection.

THE CO-OP COMMUNITY FUND

This fund is open to applications from clubs or organisations in the local community. Applicants must be members of the Co-op and grants up to £2,000 are available.

The deadline for all applications is February 15th, so swift action is needed if you are looking to get help from this very worthwhile source.

Contact by email at communitiesteam@midcounties.coop or by telephone at 01902 492235.




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Last month the PM published the NHS Long Term Plan, setting out how it intends to allocate the record extra funding for the NHS in England over the next ten years. The Plan has been developed and driven forward by clinicians, patients and medical experts, and sets out a ten year programme to protect the health service for generations to come and improve patient care.

As a former Health Minister, I have seen first-hand the impact that robust forward planning can make to patient care within the NHS. So I am convinced this Plan, backed with the government’s investment of £20.5 billion a year into the NHS in real terms by 2023/24, will help transform patient care. There is an appropriate focus on prevention, personal responsibility and promoting good health, with more rapid diagnostics, and a focus on new technologies and treatments to improve care.

I am particularly pleased to see real commitment to bringing the NHS into the digital age. Effective use of technology can help solve many of the issues facing our NHS today and into the future. The steps taken in the Plan will mean everyone in the country will have digital access to their GP, including being able to make appointments, manage prescriptions and view their health records online – helping to streamline the service for everyone, whether IT savvy or not.

This investment will also mean additional staffing throughout the NHS, with tens of thousands more doctors, nurses and other health professionals. Better prevention, detection, treatment and recovery from serious diseases alongside record investment in primary, community and mental healthcare will help improve health outcomes for all patients.

This includes earlier and more rapid diagnosis, new screening programmes and an offer of genomic testing to all people with cancer – so that in ten years’ time, 55,000 more people survive cancer each year. It will also see improvements in the prevention, detection and treatment of cardiovascular disease, including expanding the use of mechanical thrombectomy in stroke care and improving access to cardiac rehabilitation to be amongst the best in Europe by 2028. Over ten years, the plan will prevent up to 100,000 heart attacks, strokes & dementia cases and ensure 1,600 stroke patients avoid long-term disability each year.

I was a strong supporter of Freedom to Speak Up champions when I was a Health Minister. So I am pleased to see further commitment in the Long Term Plan to making the NHS more supportive of staff, clamping down on bullying and providing better support services, to ensure the NHS is a world-class employer.

There is an expectation that the NHS plays its part in cutting waste and uses taxpayers’ money as efficiently as possible. When the NHS is receiving over £120bn per year of public money, even small savings in percentage terms can lead to significant extra funding to put back into patient services. So new digital ways of working and increasing back office efficiency will help save more than £700 million across the NHS.

In coming months the NHS will work with communities to see how this plan will be implemented at a local level, and I shall be pressing to see the detailed impact of this Plan for Shropshire.

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A CARTERART DVD

Claire Carter, the award winning photographer whose work you can see in the windows of her home on Church Street, has produced a DVD. It's called 'Dancing Lights' and uses the many pictures she's brought back from photographing the aurora in both Iceland and Northern Norway, with part of the video using a succession of still shots in a sequence that shows the aurora as it moves.

It's set to music written and performed by Terry Fawkes and will be released on February 2nd with a price tag of £10. Not a lot to see such a dramatic natural phenomenon captured by an outstanding photographer. She's on CM 271137 or go to www.carterart.co.uk

A PIONEER POEM

Naomi Thompson, one of the Guest Services Team at the Pioneer Centre, has agreed to tell us something of the events that happen at that very busy facility up on the hill. To introduce you to the activities, she sent this poem that the staff wrote for Christmas:

We all love it here at Pioneer,
Everyone works to conquer fear.
We have over 300 beds,
And about five funky sheds.

Many kids come here to try to
abseil,
We work hard so they do not fail.
Outside there are lush green
spaces,
City kids see it and have smiley
faces.

Challenges come with high up
climbing,
Out team love making poems
with rhyming.

Our kitchen supplies us with
tasty food,
That helps to put us in a good
mood.

House team work hard to keep
things clean,
When guests arrive every place
has a sheen.

GST try to keep things right,
They are here until late at night.
Sue and Kev take bookings for
us,
To keep schools happy with the
Action Plus.

Naomi also tells us that in 2018 the Centre hosted 476 groups of people. which meant 35,336 bed nights and an amazing 104,489 meals served. We look forward to reading more about this well run place that most people in Cleobury know very little about.

A WARNING

Our thanks to Paul Barrett for bringing this West Mercia Police notice to our attention:

West Mercia Police have received a number of reports of males in the area attempting to sell items door-to-door.

The sales group, known as 'Nottingham Knockers' traditionally carry large holdalls containing cleaning items, which they offer for sale. Some residents are reporting that if they decline to purchase any goods, the individuals use pressurised selling techniques causing the home owner to feel intimidated. West Mercia Police are advising that if any sales person comes to your door selling any products, do not be persuaded to part with money for products you don't need or are of poor quality. Residents are also advised to use precautionary measures such as a door chain and to ignore callers if they are unsure who it may be.

Anyone selling products on a door-to-door basis are required to be in possession of a valid Pedlars certificate; a card with the person's name and photograph is not sufficient. Contact 101 (or our local bobbies) if they are in your area.

SILLY BIT

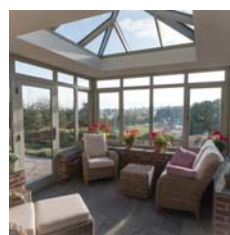
'The only reason they say "Women and children first" is to test the strength of the lifeboats.'
Jean Kerr

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Fri 1 st		France V Wales Six Nations match on the big TV at the Sports & Social Club		
Sat 2 nd	07.30	Knowle Sports Club sale of household goods, Tenbury Road, Clee Hill.		
Sun 3 rd	10.30	The Parish Walk starts at Parish Church to take local views & fresh air PAGE 11		
Sun 3 rd	2.00	Children's Clothes Swap, Cleobury Scout Hut, Church Street, PAGE 5		
Sun 3 rd	6.00	Open Mic Night at the Kings Arms, Church Street, Acoustic Only		
Wed 6 th	10.00	Drop In service for NHS hearing aids, Cleobury Country Centre		
Wed 6 th	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe with Kate at the Market Hall, PAGE 5		
Wed 6 th	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall, Easy Parking	Sonia	01584 890874
Thu 7 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 8 th	7.30	Sea Shanty Singers entertain at the Sports & Social Club. Ticket only admission PAGE 25		
Sat 9 th	2.30	Jumble Sale at Doddington Village Hall PAGE 19	Celia Gibb	01584 318036
Mon 11 th	8.00	The Horticultural Society meet in the Methodist Church Hall to hear Flo Hadley talk about "A flower cutting garden for all seasons"		
Tue 12 th	7.30	Cleobury WI meet in the Market Hall, PAGE 35		
Wed 13 th	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall		
Wed 13 th	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe with Kate at the Market Hall, PAGE 5		
Wed 13 th	7.30	Neen Savage WI meet in the Parish Hall, PAGE 19		
Wed 13 th	8.00	Royal British Legion meets at the Bell Inn, Lower Street		
Thu 14 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Thu 14 th	7.00	Dementia Friendly Town meeting, Market Hall, PAGE 37		
Fri 15 th	8.00	Bingo Night at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia	01584 890874
Sat 16 th	9.30	Farmers Market, In and around the Parish Church	Clare/Sam	01299 272300
Sat 16 th	10.00	Dementia friendly Town Meeting, Market Hall, PAGE 37		
Sat 16 th	2.15	CM Rugby club play Eccleshall on the Sports Field		
Sat 16 th	7.30	Flicks in the Sticks at the Parish Hall present Christopher Robin, PAGE 19		

A Dementia-Friendly Town

Dementia is a development that is talked about a lot, but the sufferers probably don't admit they have it, because they will not be aware. The Town Council are addressing the matter of making people aware of the problem, how to identify it in our family members or friends and how to deal with the matter in a sympathetic way. Thanks are due to Cllr. John Bodenham in laying on a series of meetings where you can simply sit and listen, ask questions if you want to, or get involved because you like to help sufferers. The Clarion will look in on one of the meetings listed on these pages and report next month.



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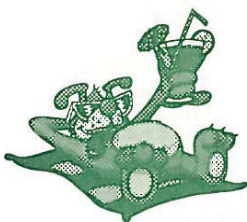
Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Mon 18 th	7.30	The Reading Group gather in the Library to share opinions. PAGE 45		
Wed 20 th	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall. PAGE 5		
	7.30	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia	01584 890 874
Thurs 21 st		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
Fri 22 nd	8.00	Bingo Night, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia	01584 890874
Sun 24 th	7.30	Quiz Night at the Sports & Social Club. PAGE 25		
Mon 25 th	7.00	Dementia Friendly Town meeting, Cleobury Country Centre. Page 37		
Tues 26 th	2.00	Stroke Support Group meet at the Sports & Social Club. PAGE 25		
Wed 27 th	10.00	CoCo coffee Morning, Market Hall		
	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall. PAGE 5		
	7.30	Clows Top Gardening Club meet at the Victory Hall. PAGE 5		
Thurs 28 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
		AND LOOKING FORWARD TO MARCH.....		
Sun 3 rd	7.30	Big Quiz Night at the Sports & Social Club. Profits to St Mary's Youth Project. PAGE 25		
Mon 4 th	11.00	Dementia Friendly Town meeting, Market Hall. PAGE 37		
Wed 6 th	11.00	Sing, Laugh, Breathe at the Market Hall		
	7.30	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia	01584 890874
Thurs 7 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		

THE BIG QUIZ NIGHT

This special event at the Sports and Social Club on Love Lane is actually on next month - Sunday, March 3rd. But it's worth a good plug because it's not expensive to enter a team and all the profits go to Saint Mary's Youth Project, which is doing a great job to cater for the younger people in our community. And top marks to the Club for hosting this and so many other fund raising events; it really has come alive in recent years and put a lot of effort into making a family friendly place.

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"Blood-curdling screams. Hayes, will do nothing to help us catch a fish."

DEFIBRILLATORS

Our grateful thanks to Keith Brown for advising us that there is a defibrillator in Rock village, at the side of the Rock Cross pub. No code is needed to access it. There's another in the red phone box at Clows Top, and at this one the ambulance service will give the access code when they receive a 999 call.

Keith is running a First Aid Training course at Rock Village Hall on April 1st, running from 7.30 to 9.30. He makes the point that a defibrillator is useful only if the person operating it has been trained and knows how to give CPR (that's cardiopulmonary resuscitation) until paramedics arrive.

The course in April is free and is provided by the British Heart Foundation through Heartstart and is suitable for people who want to learn life-saving skills, and for those who want to update and refresh their knowledge. It will show you how to give CPR, how to use a defibrillator and give advice on how to help someone who is having a heart attack.

Places must be booked before the course and you can do this through Kath Thornton on 01299 832503 or text 07792 595664. Places are limited, so don't hesitate if you want to take this chance to become a potential life saver. If you'd like to make a donation to the Heartstart charity while you're on the course, it will help their invaluable work.

THE CMFA WILL DINE

The Footpath Association are very good at the social side of life, with their meetings always in a pub and many of their

walks finishing back in the centre of town with easy access to lunch and a little thirst quenching in the King's Arms.

They're fussy where they take their annual dinner and this March 8th will be returning to the Sun and Slipper at Mamble, where they ate very well last year.

CLEOBURY W.I.

We welcomed a large number of visitors to our January meeting and started the year with a talk on Laughter Yoga, "Giggle your way to good Health".

There was no need to bring mats or wear fancy leggings, you only had to have an open mind and a willingness to participate. Our instructor Jane Hadwell introduced Laughter Yoga to us and it was impossible not to join and feel joyous to see so many happy people.

Thank you Jane for a fun evening and helping us to understand how using Laughter Yoga can make for a healthier life.

We look forward to our next meeting, February 12th when Dr Mark Baldwin is giving a talk on "Presenting Postcards - A history of this unique form of communication."

Do please have a look at our interesting programme for the year which is displayed in the Library and Market Hall.

We meet at the Market Hall at 7.30 pm and would like to invite you to join us.

THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

January 14th was our first meeting of 2019. We enjoyed a thoroughly entertaining and beautifully illustrated talk on

"Courtyard Gardens" by Adrian James. He began by introducing himself as a commercial plant and garden designer who has developed into an avid photographer. Courtyard gardens were first designed in the Islamic and Persian areas. They were constructed to give a cool, shady space for people to relax in and be thoughtful. They are mainly divided into four main areas with smaller areas in between filled mainly with grass and scented citrus trees. The Muslims took this style of gardening all over the world. Famous ones being at The Alhambra Palace and the Taj Mahal.

They were always of geometric design and usually had a central water feature. Adrian showed us many of these gardens that he has photographed, the star shaped quadrants being very spectacular. He certainly transferred his enthusiasm for these gardens to us, oh that we had the space to create one!

Liz Smurthwaite

THE LEGION'S LUNCH

The Cleobury Branch of the Royal British Legion is holding its Annual Lunch on March 24th, at the Sports and Social Club.

The guest speaker will be Kenneth Ballantyne, who will be talking about 'The RAF, 1914 to 1945.'

Tickets cost £15, and are available from Ron Breakwell (270830) or Mark Baldwin (270110).

SILLY BIT

'We are here on earth to do good unto others. What the others are here for, I have no idea.'

W H Auden

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Cleobury Clarion - Page 36 - February 2019

PLASTIC - NOT SO FANTASTIC

We've recently seen images of the infamous "fatberg" on the news. A Cleobury friend brought this home to me when she described sewage rising in her driveway last week, following a blockage in the waste water system down the road. The cause of the blockage? Research shows that wet wipes actually make up more than 90% of the material that causes fatbergs and other sewer blockages. (Friends of the Earth, January 2019)

Wet wipes often contain plastic fibres, making them a single use plastic item and unsuitable for flushing down the loo. Invented in 1958, they only became popular in the 1990's so we can survive without them. Alternatives include damp flannels, paper kitchen roll or reusable dishcloths. But if you do need to use wet wipes, they should be binned, and never flushed. Even if they say flushable on the packet, they do not decompose quickly and can still cause blockages in the waste water systems. And if they make it through, they can end up in the sea or on the beach,

shedding plastic fibres as they go.

So the tip for this month is bin your wet wipes, don't flush. Or even better, avoid using them wherever possible.

Please contact us with your own ideas of how to reduce our single use plastic usage in 2019 and beyond; we would love to hear from you. Plastic:Not So Fantastic will promote tips you send us. You can contact us by email at: Neil.tysall@cleobury.org.uk

Louise Francis

A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY TOWN?

Town Councillor Jon Bodenham explains:

Cleobury is working towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Town which will also help other vulnerable groups old and young. We are holding public workshop sessions to join this country's 2.5million Dementia Friends. Please come along for an interactive 45-50 minute session where a Dementia Friends Champion will take you through a dementia awareness session. By the end of this session you will have a good understanding of dementia and how you can help others. Individuals, businesses, public

and private sector organisations can all help us become dementia friendly by taking this first step of becoming more aware of dementia and how we can help people living with it, take part and live well in Cleobury. If you are unable to make one of these days and want a group session on another date, contact Clr. Jon Bodenham on 07795121995 or jonbodenham@hotmail.com

No need to book, just turn up with an open mind. We have tried to offer dates and times so all can take part.

Monday 25th February 7.00 to 8.00pm - Cleobury Country Centre.

Thursday 14th February 11.00 to 12.00 noon - Cleobury Market Hall.

Saturday 16th February 10.00 to 11.00am Cleobury Market Hall

Monday 4th March 11.00 to 12.00noon - Cleobury Market Hall

Jon Bodenham

SILLY BIT

'I've been married to a communist and a fascist and neither would take out the garbage.'

Zsa Zsa Gabor

'When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife.'

HRH Prince Philip



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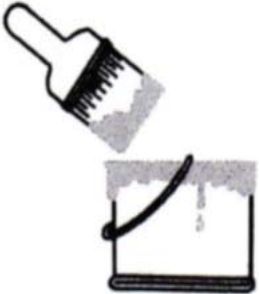
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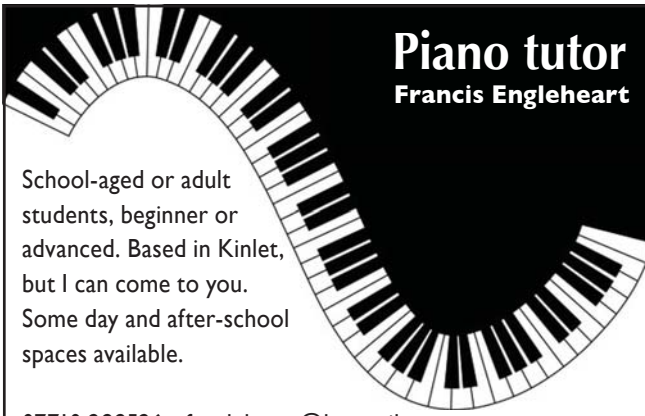
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February 14th to 21st is National Nestbox Week. It always coincides with St Valentine's Day, which I think is rather sweet. I'll be using the opportunity to gain some woodworking skills and I'm hoping the birds aren't too fussy about the finish! Advice on the dimensions and siting of boxes for different species of birds can be found in an excellent new book by the British Trust for Ornithology: 'Nestboxes: Your Complete Guide'.

Over the years we have put up many boxes that didn't get used, or didn't attract the species intended. The Blue and Great Tits have probably had a population explosion around here thanks to the boxes we put up to attract Redstarts to nest in the cherry orchard. The answer there is to block the entrance holes until the Redstarts arrive from abroad, but we're not as quick off the mark as we should be. In the garden we have a few boxes that have never been used but I shall persevere and try them in different places. I try to think like a bird: is it safe from cats; will it be too hot in summer; are wasps, bees or mice already using it? You can help to make nest boxes safe by fixing a metal plate or ring around the entrance hole, preventing woodpeckers and squirrels from pecking or chewing their way in to predate the occupants.

Another way we can help is to provide nesting materials. This could include feathers from old pillows, sheep's wool and moss from

the lawn. Beware of long fibres in which nestlings could get entangled. Materials could be offered near a bird table in a satsuma net or just left in a shrub or flower bed. Nest boxes can be cleaned out when the nesting season is over, and since several species have more than one brood this probably means waiting until autumn. Old nests are often infested with fleas and other parasites, so all nesting material should be thrown a good distance away from the box.

If you walk in the woods in or near Ruskin Land you will notice that a number of larger boxes have been placed for Tawny Owls, Barn Owls and Kestrels. Our support for wildlife-friendly farming comes from the EU via a Countryside Agreement with the Department for the Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs. The parcels of land which belong to the Guild of St George and others under private ownership all have their own agreements, all of which are designed to increase biodiversity. The substantial, triangular-shaped boxes are built for us by the volunteers of the Wyre Community Land Trust and then placed in positions which should be attractive to Barn Owls. There is no guarantee that they will be avail themselves of the best 'des. res.' in the area but we'll keep a lookout for the tell-tale blur of white swooping low at dusk.

Linda Iles

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A POEM TO AMUSE

George Munro sent us this one, which the local followers of poetry may find amusing. Enjoy.

I'M ON A COMMITTEE

Oh give me your pity, I'm on a committee
Which means that both morning and night
We attend and amend and contend and defend
Without a conclusion in sight.

We confer, we defer and demur
And re-iterate all of our thoughts
We revise the agenda with frequent addenda
And consider a host of reports

We compose and propose, we support and oppose
And the points of procedures are fun!
But though various notions are brought up as motions
There's terribly little gets done

We resolve and absolve, but we never dissolve
Since it's out of the question for us
What a shattering pity to end our committee
Where else could we make such a fuss?

Sadly, the editor's skills (skills! huh!) with operating this computer thing don't run to getting the frame for the poem inline with the rest of the page. As ever, he's the one to blame.

THE READING GROUP

We had a convivial meeting in December, celebrating another year of reading with drinks and nibbles. We even managed to mull over feelings about our book, 'Shtum' by Jem Lester. A well written book was the majority decision. Dealing with a severely autistic child and the problems arising in the household, it wasn't a book one could say was enjoyable. However, it was clever, informative, interesting and had plenty of content. Not everyone liked the characters and the parents came in for a good deal of discussion. Some felt the ending was rather convenient, others not so.

This month we've been reading 'Summertime' by Vanessa Lafaye that provoked very mixed and wide ranging opinions. A first novel based on fact, it deals with race relations, disgruntled WW1 veterans and the forceful 1935 hurricane in Florida, which killed several hundred people. Attitudes were hard to take and we're not sure if things have improved, as prejudice against minorities remain.

A complete change of subject for February, science fiction 'Sleeping Giants' by Sylvain Neuvel. We meet again on 18th February, 7.30pm at Cleobury Library.

Deana Kimber 271754

SERIOUS SUSTAINABILITY IN GERMANY

Porsche AG, builder of a range of luxury cars including the timeless 911 and successor sports models, sends press releases to the Clarion office. We do not know why, but are glad and flattered that they do. We do know their products are the main reason why the editor has a weekly flutter on the Euro Lottery.

Their latest news release will please those who take the future of our planet seriously. It tells that their new 'Zero Impact' factory has an area of its facade made of aluminium coated with titanium dioxide, which acts as a catalyst and breaks down absorbed pollutant particles to harmless water and nitrate when exposed to sunlight.

They are testing an area of 126 square metres and claim that it performs the same work as ten trees in keeping the atmosphere clean. The new factory is where the all electric Taycan will be built, a car due to be launched at the end of this year. Production of the new model is designed to be CO2 neutral. They do take the matter very seriously and have won recognition of their work from the German Sustainable Building Council.

PHILIP DUNNE SIGNS HOLOCAUST BOOK

Philip Dunne MP signed the Holocaust Educational Trust's Book of Commitment last month and commented:

"My visit to Auschwitz-Birkenau some years ago with two students from the constituency, thanks to the Holocaust Trust, made a deep and lasting impression on us. As the Holocaust moves from living history to history, it becomes ever more important that we take time to remember the victims and pay tribute to the few survivors."

Karen Pollock, Chief Executive of the Trust, said: "The Holocaust did not start in the gas chambers, but with hate filled words. Our mission is to educate young people from every background about the Holocaust and its contemporary relevance."

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On buying a car. Part 1

According to the papers, car dealers throughout the UK have got their heads in their hands because of a substantial slump in the number of new cars being sold. Given some of my experiences when trying to buy from them, I wonder whether they really want to sell me anything at all. Perhaps they are afraid of disturbing the showroom display..

On one occasion, I went into a showroom and asked for a brochure on a particular model. I was commuting to work on a motor cycle at the time and had my bike gear on which may have confused the salesman but I don't think this justified his greeting which was "Are you really interested in buying a car or are you just collecting the brochures?". As I was in my 50's at the time, I don't think I could be mistaken for a spotty teenager... Nevertheless, despite this unpromising start, I returned for a test drive which went well until I asked him to give me some idea of what it would cost me to change my current car for his new model. Despite repeated requests he just wouldn't say, only wanting to talk about the extensive range of features and wonderful styling of his product. I'm not sure whether this was some kind of psychological ploy to soften me up for the kill or whether he was just a useless salesman but sadly it didn't work as I left and bought elsewhere.

At a different dealer, Having asked what the cost to change (i.e. the cost of the new car less their trade in offer) would be, all the salesman would say was "That will be £90 a month for 36 months" despite me not having mentioned anything about a loan or HP. Again, despite repeated requests, he could only parrot the same figures saying that for anything else, he would have to consult his Manager who was out. I assume that he must have been anticipating a healthy commission on any finance deal he concluded but once more it didn't work and I went elsewhere.

On another occasion, the salesman assured me that they were doing really great deals if I purchased straight away. I asked him to put some figures together and he came back with a deal that involved paying the full list price with a part exchange offer of £1000 less than I had been offered elsewhere and in a colour I didn't want. He seemed surprised when I declined the opportunity.

All this assumes you can find the dealer in the first place as there seems to be a game of 'Musical Franchises' at present. Dealers for several makes I might be interested in have vanished from Kiddy requiring me to travel either to Stourbridge or Worcester. When considering a purchase, I usually do some research at home to produce a shortlist of four or five potentially suitable models and then get brochures on these for further study. Or at least I used to. Have you tried to get any hard copy information on a car lately?. Any enquiry normally involves a reference to the relevant website which as a paid up member of the BOF (Boring Old Farts) Club, I don't find nearly as useful as being able to study a brochure. Any request for a printed brochure is usually met with 'They aren't in yet – have a look at the website' which doesn't impress me.

One company does offer the option to order hard copy on line but, having negotiated their complex application screens, the last question requires your postcode – or would if it accepted the details. Somewhat frustrated, I spotted an E mail help desk address and contacted them with my problem. 'No sweat' they said promising to send me a copy in the post. They did say that it could take up to 10 working days but, two months later, nothing has appeared. Perhaps they don't work on many days... At this point, we haven't even considered the pros and cons of individual models. This can be considered in more detail next month

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Friday 1 February 8pm Six Nations Rugby starts

All Six Nations rugby matches will be screened at the Social Club. The opening match is France v Wales. Like the Club Facebook page to see notices of themed drinks promotions; the Sunday matches will also have food promotions.

Friday 8 February 7.30pm Hobsons Inland Sea Shanty Singers

Organised by The Friends of St Mary's Church, Cleobury Mortimer, this is a popular musical evening including a fish & chip supper. Tickets £10 from Alec Osbaldiston 01584 891351.

Cleobury Mortimer Rugby Club has two home games in February:

Saturday 2 February v Wednesbury
Saturday 16 February v Eccleshall

Kick off 2.15pm. The Club will be open for bar, hot drinks and snacks to take to the touch line.

Friday 15 February 6-8pm Children's Disco All welcome

Sunday 24 February 7pm Sunday Quiz at the Club

Fast and furious 50 questions with a bar break at half way. Teams of four. £2.50 per person. Come along with your prize-winning team name!

Advance notice:

Sunday 3 March - The BIG QUIZ 7pm

Come and join this National event. All proceeds to St Mary's Youth Project



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HOBSONS IN THE AWARDS AGAIN

Hobsons took their fine ales to the Campaign for Real Ale's recent West Midlands Beer of the Year gathering in Birmingham and came back with a host of awards won.

In the Bottled Beers category they won Gold for the Best Dark Ale with their 'Old Henry' and in the Light Ales they came out top again with 'Old Prickly', the charity beer that generates donations to the British Hedgehog Preservation Society. Just to dominate the podium, they also took silver for runner-up with their 'Town Crier'.

The most decorated beer in their catalogue, 'Mild' won a bronze in the Mild category. That's over 20 awards won by this particular brew, including being acclaimed Champion Beer of Britain back in 2007. And 'Twisted Spire' rounded off the day with a Bronze award for third place in the Golden Ale category.

Marketing Manager Kate Pearce summed up a very successful weekend: "These awards really underline our ongoing commitment to using the finest local ingredients and continually improving to produce both cask and bottled real ales of a high standard in flavour and freshness. Our brewers are passionate about their craft and to receive this

string of awards is further testament to their skill."

Well done everyone at Hobson's, another Cleobury Mortimer success.

A LATE REPORT

Back in April last year we reported that Veronica Hargreaves and daughter Rebecca would be teaming up to take on the MacMillan Cancer Support Mighty Hike. That was a 26 miles walk from Alnwick to Bamburgh along the Northumberland coast.

They've got their breath back and tell us that they raised a total of £1576 for that very good cause. Congratulations to them both.

FAREWELL, OLD FRIEND

Losing a good and faithful friend you've known for 13 years is not an easy thing to face. But my cocker spaniel Jenks was clearly not well and a blood test showed a serious kidney problem and other complications.

This was just before Christmas and the question of quality of life had to be faced. I accepted that his time was running out, but didn't want him put to sleep so close to what is always a happy family time; it would have upset my grand daughters. The vet gave him a booster injection to give him a lift for a few days and he got quietly through the

celebrations, sleeping most of the time and not eating much.

I was off to Hong Kong on January 1st and did not want to leave the family with a possible crisis in prospect. Time to say goodbye.

I cannot speak too highly of the gentle treatment my good old friend and I had at Severn Edge Vets. An injection saw him go, the vet left me and my son to say goodbye and we then left him there to be cremated. His ashes will be scattered in the garden he loved to patrol.

ROMANY WOOD

Can we remind you of the performance of Romany Wood, an opera for children that will be performed at Theatre Severn in Shrewsbury at 7.00 on March 25th? It was a joint creation by local men David Carr and David Gaukroger.

This was the sell-out show that opened the theatre ten years ago, back for a birthday repeat. Tickets are £15 and the box office is on 01743 281281.

CREATIVE WRITING

"On the spot" was the theme for December and on January 14th six writers offered a wide range of interpretations. Vicky Honeybourne left her feline tale unfinished and asked us to think of ways to end it.

We meet again on Monday the 11th this month, with our offerings of a story using the title "Talk talk". Creative ideas allowed to flow.



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HONG KONG



*The reason I went there. From left:
Holly, Iain, Sophie and Elena.*

My son arranged for me to fly out to Hong Kong on New Year's Day for a holiday. After all the grief of producing the Clarion with no email working I certainly needed a break. So when my daughter in law asked what I'd like to do the answer was simple: Sit and read and catch up on sleep.

They live in Kowloon, part of the HK complex and very busy. Living in a small country town, I found the crowded shopping and constant traffic stimulating because it was so fresh, but not for too long.

It's amazing how late the shops are open. We were walking back from a Saturday evening dinner when Elena said she needed to buy some bread. At ten minutes to ten we walked

into Marks and Spencer and picked up a small loaf. When she asked me how much I thought it cost, I guessed at £3.00. After all, it's not a staple food over there. "It was about double that," she replied. "But it's not as nice as the G.I. loaf you can buy in Cleobury!"

My grand daughters had grown since last year, Sophie learning to play the piano and three year old Holly now in the nursery class at the same school. Sophie's almost five and has homework every day.

Travel around the area is easy with an MTR card that you swipe as you board a bus, train or ferry boat. Iain doesn't want a car, explaining how much a parking space can cost. The record so far is 600,000 dollars for a space, not a garage.

The beer is good, both local and imported. A boys' night out took us to the busy Kowloon Taproom, where you can eat if you want to, basic stuff eaten at a crowded table. On to Ned Kelly's, even more crowded as a trad jazz band with droll comper kept us amused.

I left well recovered and ready to get on with this issue. The British Airways Airbus 380 very quiet and delivering me to Heathrow at just after five in the morning. Glad to be back. JR

LACON CHILDE'S

O.A.P. PARTY

The School does this every Christmas, inviting all OAPs to join them for lunch and some entertainment. The food is prepared by the students, with Mrs Cella Riley overseeing them. It was interesting to look at and good to eat.



Aislinn Keegan built a tower of biscuits.

On stage Ben Willis and Adam Wilson hosted the event, with Louise Preston showing her ballet and Tegan Williams singing sweetly once the mic was switched on. That was a bit unfair for a 15 year old, facing a hall full of curious people.

Raffle, bingo, lots of smiles and we all went home happy.

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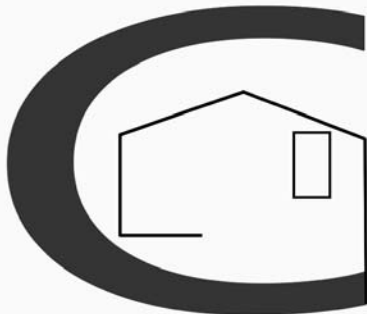
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February 2019 Clarion Report

The main immediate item to report is the new pedestrian crossing that is going to be put in from 11th February, which will affect us all in some way with the road closures that will need to happen. We are very concerned at the disruption and the way it will affect businesses and the Medical Centre and are trying to get someone from Shropshire Council to come and talk to us. Hopefully by the time you read this it will have happened.

The Town Council are committed to get some of the projects done this year and we are getting quotes for the three in the Skate Park. A wildflower meadow, A bike trail and a large dog training area, which we hope to get done for the summer. We could use some help in design of bike trail and putting it together from possible users with their parents. The wildflower meadow is a good start and we may create more if successful. The Dog training area will allow all dog owners a safe place to train and let their dogs run, and we may have a scheme to book it privately and are working on that. I know these things take time and a few volunteers have helped with consultations and getting quotes, which help the volunteer councillors get everything together. It doesn't happen on its own and we are lucky to have dedicated working councillors and volunteers but could always use more.

We are also going through quotes and looking at re vamping the Love Lane play area, which we have to secure funding for the project to move forward.

Something else that we are doing, is working with the Primary School and funding a lollipop person, as we are all concerned for the children's safety. A much needed and welcomed step forward.

Please remember that we all are lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the country and to keep it like that takes a lot of work from dedicated people, and with more cuts coming our way we have to take up the slack. We have a continual battle to get things done and we will continue to do so.

We have met the new Police Inspector and Sergeant for our area and raised our concerns for more patrols in our Town and parish and will continue to do so.

As the first town to have Smartwater we have been asked to take part in a video for the West Mercia police and two members of the public will be working with us on this. Cleobury Mortimer is a name that is used a lot now.

Don't forget to put 29th June in your diary for the Cleobury Festival, which we have already started working on it with some volunteers, but could always use more.

If you would like to join any local volunteer groups and do not know how or where, please contact us at the Town Council office on 01299 271154 or email matthew.sheehan@cleobury.org.uk.

Next Council meeting is on Monday 4th February, 7pm at the Cleobury Country Centre.

Cleobury Mortimer Town Council



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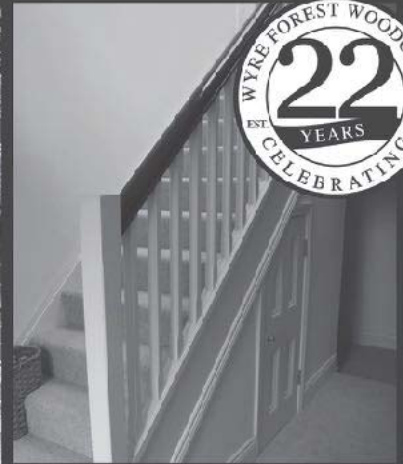
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Community Contacts for Clarion Readers

CEMETERY ADMINISTRATOR	Theresa Ray	07703 965 064	theresa.25016@hotmail.co.uk
CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE		01299 272300	In Love Lane, 9 to 5 Mon to Fri.
CITIZENS ADVICE		08444 991100	Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00
CLEOBURY CARERS	Wendy Duley	01299 270562	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 Weds
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 5 Monday to Friday and 10 to 12 Saturday
LOCAL POLICE	Constable Anne O'Leary		ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Iain Smith	01299 271809	
CRIMESTOPPERS		0800 555 111	Free Police contact. Talk in confidence, to report any crime.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE		0800 783 1359	Women's Aid, 24 Hour support:
HOME FROM HOSPITAL		01584 878046	Help over the first weeks back home from Age UK
MARKET HALL	Ali Sheffield	07752 542 853	markethall@cleobury.org.uk
MEDICAL CENTRE		01299 270209	Out of surgery hours, use the Shrop Doc Service.
SHROP DOC		0333 222 6655	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	Rosemary Abbiss	01746 718451	
TOWN COUNCIL	Clerk Matthew Sheehan	01299 271154	Cleobury Country Centre 9 to 2 pm, weekdays. www.cleobury.org.uk. Council meets in the Centre 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.
VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME		01299 666119	for bookings
WASTE DISPOSAL		0345 678 9007	The contractor is Veolia
WATER SUPPLY EMERGENCIES	Severn Trent	0800 783 4444	

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Copies are also available from the Parish Churches in: Cleobury Mortimer, Bayton, Doddington, Hopton Wafers, Milson, Neen Savage and Neen Sollars.

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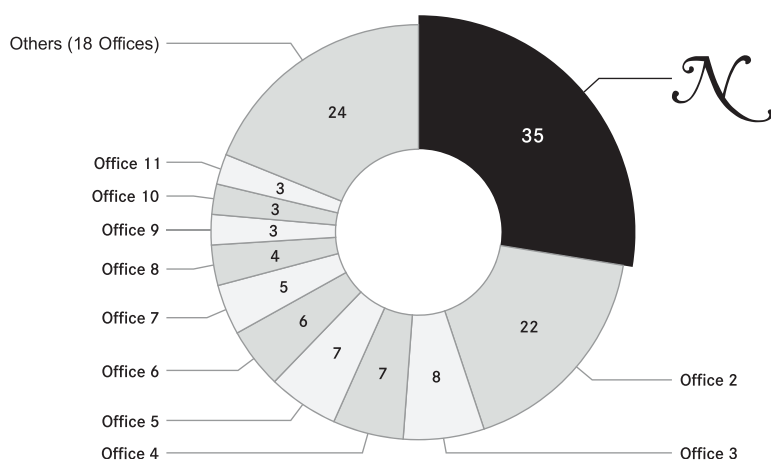
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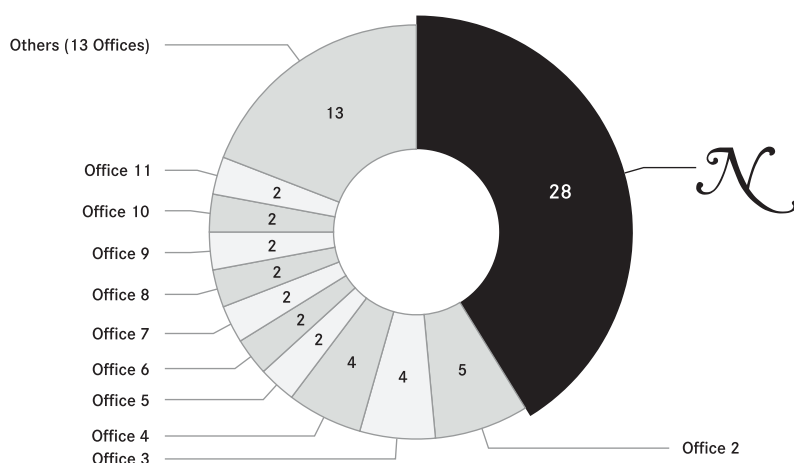


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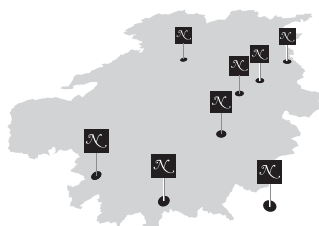


THE INFORMATION IS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING FILTERS:
Property types: detached houses, semi-detached houses, terraced houses, unspecified houses, flats, bungalows and retirement properties
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