

The Cleobury Clarion



SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

A LIME TREE PLEA

A friend from Worcestershire visited recently and sent a thank-you card with a message: "Driving home through Cleobury we were taken with the spectacular Christmas lights adorning the lime trees and the High Street. It puts our town to shame." That's true – the use of the lights to echo the pleached structure of the trees makes the town a very attractive place for shoppers and residents alike. Well done to all concerned.

I've written at length in these pages about the lime tree pleaching. It is managed by Cleobury Mortimer Horticultural Society, carried out by specialist local company Lewis Arborcare, and paid for by a partnership of Shropshire Council (who this year, once again, will contribute half of the cost as part of its local community support), Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council, and our Society and like-minded local residents.

It is always a struggle to get sufficient funding so this year the Society has visited all the local businesses to ask them to

consider making a donation to the cost. So far only one has pledged to make a donation, for which we are extremely grateful. We know financial times are hard, but the trees make such a significant difference to the ambience, appearance and uniqueness of the town, as well as providing an excellent and unusual scaffold for its Christmas lights, that we had hoped businesses would want to help support a feature that enhances the environment so successfully.

Hopefully, local businesses will get in touch when they resurface after the festivities. Fingers crossed.

Flo Hadley



Our lime trees - old friends.

JANUARY 2016

PARISH COUNCIL VICTORIOUS IN TRIBUNAL HEARING

The judge's decision in the tribunal hearing of Mr Leigh's action against the Parish Council in the matter of access to the Hall has been published. He found in favour of the Council and awarded costs to them.

We understand from a Parish Council source that Mr Leigh had fourteen days to appeal the decision and that he did so, with the Parish Council responding to that appeal. We have not heard the judge's decision on that matter.

The Clarion tried to contact Mr Leigh, who declined to speak to us. We asked Mrs Leigh for a response to the decision and were told "No comment." We further asked if Mr Leigh would be appealing the decision and again were told "No comment."

So the final decision has still to be heard. We hope to hear the result as soon as the matter is clear and will publish the final result as soon as it is known.

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The Cleobury Clarion Local Information Page January 2016 - Volume Thirteen - Edition Ten

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Or Out in Cleobury Country at: Heath Farm Meats, **Bagginswood**; Clee Hill Post Office; Cleobury North Village Store; The Sun and Slipper at **Mamble**; **Hopton Bank** Service Station; **Ludlow Library**; **Mawley Oak** Garage; The Colliers Arms Farmers Market Shop, **Rock**; The Fighting Cocks, **Stottesdon**; The Duck Inn, **Chorley**; The Live and Let Live, **Neen Sollars**; The Eagle and Serpent, **Kinlet**; Parker Motors, **Ditton Priors**.

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

THE DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE IS JANUARY 24th

Clarion Contacts - Useful Local Telephone Numbers and Emails

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

CLEOBURY COUNTRY CENTRE - 01299 272300 In Love Lane. Open 9.00 to 5.00, Mon to Fri.

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

CLEOBURY CARERS - Wendy Duley CM 270562

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

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

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

CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES: Dorothy McBride 07761 976610

CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS: Ingrid Purslow CM 270314

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL - 0345 678 9000

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

VOLUNTARY CAR SCHEME - 01299 270209 bookings via the Medical Centre

WASTE DISPOSAL - 0345 678 9007. The contractor is Veolia

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For more information contact:

Nicholas Hughes on 01562 822295 or Wendy Beaumont on 01299 822033

The Cleobury Clarion. January 2016



*Another musical talent in Town,
the Ludford Duo.
See Page 11.*



*John Swift, fitting in TV filming
with baking bread on Clee Hill.
See Page 19.*



*Jane Key, helping Nock
Deighton to local success.
See Page 55.*

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE SHOE BOXES

For the benefit of newcomers to the community, we should explain that in late autumn the ever-keen Jenny Vanderhook gathers a huge pile of shoeboxes together. With a band of helpers she dresses the boxes in colourful paper and then fills them with gifts for under privileged children, to be sent to some foreign country. This is her report on the 2015 effort:

'We did it! Thanks to all the help I've received this year, we sent 1182 shoe boxes to Kyrgyzstan. As I write this they will be in a container, travelling by train across Europe, taking three months to reach Kyrgyzstan. Having been there twice, I know the boxes will be received with great joy.

A lot of the children will never have received a present before, if you can imagine that. The look on their faces reduced me to tears several times. The grandmas were so overjoyed, I remember one following me out of the hall where the boxes were being given out. Just patting me on the arm and saying "Thank you" - probably the only words of English she knew - all the way in the snow to where our minibus was waiting.

It's not just the toys which are received with such amazement ("All of this for me?"). A pair of mittens, a woolly hat, toothbrush and paste, soap, all such joy! I've seen it again and again and it was an honour to be there at such a special moment, I can tell you. Long may it last.

I shall be doing it all again this year. I do hope you will join me in whatever way you can. Thank you, everyone, from the children of Kyrgyzstan.'

Jenny Vanderhook

THE CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Well, that got the local brains well and truly into gear and working. Even though last month's Clarion was late on the streets, the first reply came in from Fiona Phillips the same evening, with just one answer wrong. Julie Bishop posted hers through the letter box, but again there was one wrong answer. The first correct response came via email at 6.45 on December 2nd. Fay Vass sent it over on behalf of her mum, Diane, from up on the Hill. Congratulations to Diane, a big thank you to all who had a go and another to Pat Smith, whose sketches and sense of humour made the whole thing

up in the first place and gave it to the Clarion.

The correct answers to the first in this series were:

- 1: Foxglove
- 2: Viola
- 3: Wild Thyme
- 4: Dog Rose;
- 5: Harebell
- 6: Shepherd's Purse
- 7: Dandelion
- 8: Lady's Slipper
- 9: Tiger Lily;
- 10: Crane's Bill;
- 11: Cowslip.

Now turn to Page 51 and see how you get on with this month's version. But don't wait too long, as there are some keen minds anxious to get their entries in first. Good luck!

THE LACON LOTTERY

Winner of the Lacon Lottery in November was Jenny Vanderhook, whose £10 ticket won her the £70 prize. In a big hearted gesture, she spent the money on gifts to help fill the shoeboxes that are sent to help impoverished children abroad.

SILLY BITS

"I'm going to retire and live off my savings. What I'll do on the second day, I've no idea."

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB TAKES OFF

The revised management at the Sports and Social Club have been making impressive progress. They've started Open Mic Nights, working with Melissa Romeo as an active contact to get a good line-up for the November 26th starter; the next one is on the 28th of January.

It's a chance for local talent to show the public what they can do. Melissa and her band opened the evening, followed by Jessica Prentice, whose deep voice does not match her looks. She's one to watch out for - you can see a future for her.



Jessica Prentice - great voice.

A variety of acts followed, including a strong saxophone set from Tom Ward, making an immediate impact with 'Take Five.' Then a group of lads took a long time to set up mikes for what turned out to be the stand-out turn of the evening, The opening chords of Guns N Roses' "Sweet Child of Mine" stopped idle chatter and no-one could be heard above Finally 4 and their rendition of a rock classic. Great sounds.



Finally 4 were in great form.

The club was busy and buzzing. If this is the standard of Open Mic Nights, get along on the 28th and enjoy.

Soon after Open Mic, the club hosted a fund raising Fashion Show on December 3rd organised by Pat Williams for The Hereford Haven. It almost didn't happen, when the van

bringing all the clothes broke down, but Pete Williams insisted that they rent another and keep the date, late or not. And to start the evening Darren Reynolds of Lacon Childe School announced that the pupils had decided to raise money for the same cause and handed over a cheque for £1475. Amazing stuff!



Some of the girls were naturals. Modelling duties were handled by mums and girls, with commentary by the clothing man; some good bargains were on offer as the wine flowed and deals done. The raffle was a good one, with £540 raised, so more than £2000 on the evening. Another success for the club, too, as they made their mark as a good venue for any event.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

NEW MUSICAL TALENT IN TOWN



Where else could Claire Carter have photographed them but in front of Ludlow's Ludford Bridge?

"We were looking to move out of Birmingham ahead of when we retired. We had a look at Ludlow, but the journey over Cle Hill through the winter sounded a bit too much, so we tried Market Drayton and Newport. Then these new houses in Cleobury Mortimer came up and we liked the specification and the look of the place. Decided to have a weekend at the KA and got involved in the Parish Walk. That was it, the people were so friendly and we do enjoy

walking." Ian and Janet Ludford moved here last May.

They're commuting to Brum until Ian officially retires from his position as a cellist with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in July and Janet's work as a freelance cello player and teacher means she is entirely flexible and able to fit into their next musical venture: The Ludford Duo. Two professional cellists with long experience and a broadminded approach to music, willing to provide music from classics like the Trumpet Voluntary or Pachelbel's Canon through Viennese waltzes, opera, film music, pop music from the 60s to the present day. One of the appeals of such a range from two accomplished musicians is their ability to provide whatever suits the moment, from a background to the conversations while the guests dine, through to the dancing in the evening. And never at such a volume that you have to shout to be heard, surely a blessing when friends and family want to talk.

You can learn more about them at their website: www.ludfordduo.co.uk. Two more talents to add to the appeal of the town.

MILK BOTTLE TOPS - FROM WASTE TO WHEELCHAIRS

Les Hall explains:

People often ask me what happens to the milk bottle tops that they save for me. Where do they go?

They are taken to Highley, to a lady who also collects them, and when a sufficient amount has been gathered they are taken to Kidderminster, where they are sorted and weighed. When the collected tops total enough to finance it, a wheelchair is given to whoever needs one. So far, two have been donated, so do please keep on collecting them.

Les Hall

ROCK PATHFINDERS

The January walks with this very active group of walkers are:

Thursday 7th. 10.30 start from Wyre Forest Visitor Centre at Callow Hill. DY14 9XQ on your satnav or OS Reference 751740.

Thursday 21st. 10.30 start from The Tap House, Station Road, Hartlebury. DY11 7YJ or OS 850707.

Details from Alan on 01299 400304 or their website is www.rockpathfinders.webspave.virginmedia.com



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Training Courses Upcoming:

- Emergency 1st Aid at Work : 27th Jan 2016, 9am - 4pm
- Food Hygiene Level 2: 10th Feb 2016 , 9am - 4 pm
- Fire Marshall: 22nd Feb 2016, 9am-1pm
- Emergency 1st Aid at Work: 16th Mar 2016 9am-4pm

Business Networking this month:

Wednesday 20th January 2016

For more information on training courses at The Cleobury Centre please contact us on the tel or email above.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

CLOWS TOP

GARDENING CLUB

January – New Year, New Start.

Start making plans for the year ahead, making notes about changes to your garden on the plants and layout to improve its look. If you are lucky enough to have workable ground you can still plant bare root roses, trees, fruit bushes and hedges.

It's time to harvest your winter vegetables. If you've over-indulged with them during the Christmas season, use your vegetables to make wonderfully thick warm soups.

When the weather allows, prune deciduous trees, shrubs and fruit trees. It must be done before the first signs of spring.

In the colder spells don't forget our garden birds. Food is in short supply at this time of year and they need our feeding stations to survive the cold.

Garden Tools are often taken for granted. Now is the time to get them cleaned, sharpened and oiled ready for use in the spring. 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.

Our first meeting of the year will be on Wednesday 27th January and the speaker for the evening will be Jo Roche with a talk on Abberley Clock Tower.

Pauline Bowen

CLEOBURY W.I.

This has been a very successful year for Cleobury W I, and for the national Women's Institute, celebrating their Centenary, Cleobury Mortimer W I was founded in 1922.

Gill Clarke represented us at the Buckingham Palace garden party and Judy Sant at the Royal Albert Hall for the Centenary AGM with Queen Elizabeth.

We ended by donning our sequins for a delicious Christmas meal at the Kings Arms with members and guests sharing presents from Santa's Sack. Our next meeting is on January 12th in the Market Hall, to find out about the WI courses at Denman College and decide which topical resolution should go forward to the 2016 AGM. Visitors are very welcome to come along and discover what the WI is about apart from jam and Jerusalem. It certainly is the

largest voice for rural (and all) UK women in the 21st century with over 212,000 members .

We meet in the Market Hall, 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of each month so anyone who would like to join our small and friendly WI, check out our Facebook page or get in touch with me on CM 270983 or email judysant10@gmail.com

Judy Sant

THE FESTIVE SHOP AT THE COCKS

This annual fund raiser for Severn Hospice was another success, making £500.50 on the night, plus a £100 donation and a £50 one from organiser Diane Newsham's husband. Diane is also full of praise for new Fighting Cocks licensees Bre and Mark, who made everyone feel welcome.

It's a great idea, making local Christmas shopping easier, giving this area's craftspeople and food suppliers a handy boost to business and keeping all those thirsty customers happy with some of Mr Hobson's fine brews.

SILLY BIT

"I don't want to get too technical, but according to my chemist's handbook, alcohol is a solution."

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The Clarion Jobs Page

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Maintenance / Grounds Person £8.00 per hour Cleobury Mortimer Parish Council, CM	15 hours per week November—March 22.5 hours per week April—October Salary; NJC Spinal Column 12 £15.523 pro rata. Applicants should have goo maintenance and ground working skills.	For an application form and full job description contact: Mr M. Sheehan, Parish Clerk 01299 271154 matthew.sheehan@cleobury.org.uk Return complete applications to The Parish Council Office no later than Noon Friday 15th January 2016, marked for the attention of the Personnel Committee.



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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

OH DEAR, ANOTHER SCAM

Our thanks to Dr Mark Baldwin for bringing this message from the Sussex Police to our attention:

A member of the public took a phone call from a courier company, saying they had a parcel to deliver that needed a signature and would someone be there in about an hour to sign for it. A uniformed delivery man arrived with a basket of flowers and bottle of wine, explaining that as the gift included alcohol he needed a signature and that there was a £3.50 charge for verification that the goods had been left with an adult. Settlement should be made by credit card, to keep a legal record of the transaction.

Payment was made by swiping a card on a small machine, with the PIN number added to make payment possible and the customer was given a copy of the transaction. It all sounds perfectly normal, but within a week the victim had £4,000 drawn on their card at various cash points. That little machine gave the fake courier all the information he needed to produce a copy of

the card, complete with the vital PIN to draw out money in the way any card holder would. The Police confirmed that this scam had been used on other people in the area.

Just be warned and please don't think this crime will be confined to the south of the country. And there are other such scams in operation: I had an email in December telling me I had an income tax rebate due and could they have my bank details so that the payment could be made. Coming soon after a letter from HMRC telling me I owed them money - my accountant says I don't - the idea of a rebate did seem too good to be true. It was; I may be old, but I'm not that stupid. JR

HOPTON WAFERS CAROL SERVICE

Church Warden Marilyn Wood reports a full church for the service on December 8th, followed by a reception with mulled wine and mince pies, plus a well supported raffle. Thanks to all who supported and attended.

FLICKS IN THE STICKS IS BACK

This popular Saturday night entertainment returns to the

Parish Hall at 7.30 on the 23rd, with a showing of 'Suffragette', which title tells you what this production starring Carey Mulligan, Anne-Marie Duff, Helena Bonham-Carter and Meryl Streep as Emily Pankhurst is all about.

GOOD LUCK, DAVID



Happy man, David Pain.

David Pain has done a great job for the Golf Club in recent years, getting news out on both social media and old fashioned stuff like the Clarion. But he's also a very keen player, and has had an offer to turn pro if he can get his handicap down a shade lower. No surprise that he's going for it and hopes to be joining the ranks of full time players when he completes a very testing course. We wish him the very best of luck and hope he'll be back playing his favourite course soon.

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John Swift in the Clee Hill bakery that produces some of the best bread you'll ever taste.

BBC2 TV has a new series starting on January 5th - The Victorian Baker. The production company scoured the British baking industry to get six people representing a range of skills and experience, and one of them is John Swift from Clee Hill. Few people have such a strong family background in the business as he does.

The Swifts started in the baking business when John's great, great, great aunt Harriet started to sell bread back in 1863. That was in Wheaton Aston in Staffordshire and the business stayed there until 1978, when John's dad Richard moved into a single shop on the corner of the Tenbury road in Clee Hill village. Today the business has grown to two shops on that site and three more in Craven Arms, Tenbury Wells and Ludlow. All supplied from the Clee Hill bakery, where John has worked full time since he left school. The art of baking is in his blood and it shows when he talks, quoting his dad and granddad, telling

about ancient knowledge that is still applied and the long, hard hours bakers worked in the 1800s.

His wife Jayne put his name forward when a BBC TV enquiry came in, and after a chat and a screen test he was chosen. It's been a hard year dividing his time between running the business and filming at a variety of locations. Starting at Sackwell Farm in Peterborough, where there's an ancient wood fired oven that they had to learn to use: "It was a nightmare, the temperature was all over the place," he remembers with a wry smile.

The filming moved on to the Black Country Museum, where they had to bake the bread in the night as the museum is open to the public in the day. The drive for authenticity meant working as his ancestors did and he was the only one willing to tackle the job of mixing and kneading a whole 285 pounds (that's 130kg in modern measuring) sack of flour. "I thought 'My family used to do this'" he explained, "So I said I'd do it." No one else volunteered for the task, which took him two hours, working in the heat from the nearby oven.

Then the bread was baked and bakers were sent out with a pony and trap to sell the loaves around the local streets. You think television must be a glamorous life? Not when the producer wants true reality and insists on doing the job as it was done 100 or more years ago.

John's knowledge of history comes out when he talks about those old times. "Bakers in urban areas would work 120 hours a week and they were not allowed by law to go on strike,

because they were producing the basic food for the country. If they did, they lost their job and were put in the workhouse while their families had to fend for themselves." Hard times.

The final filming venue was Dunn's Bakery in London, which dates from 1901 and used gas fired ovens and electrically driven kneading machines. "We baked Kaisers there, and I've seen the same thing made today in Munich," he smiles.

This is a working man with his feet firmly on the ground and no dreams of stardom. "I did tell the BBC one thing, that I'd be happy to do a programme about the War Time Baker," he explains. "I'd like to tell about my granddad Charles's work producing bread in Mombasa. He went through Hell, with old Rommel dropping bombs and still baking." Proud roots coming out there.

I suggested earlier that baking's in his blood and it shows in his work today: "On an average I work about 88 hours a week, but when I'm doing the markets I can hit 106 hours - I don't like that!" Running a place that produces up to 700,000 pieces of baked goods in a year he has to love the job. "There's still a magic to bread" he says. "Sometimes you'll produce a big batch, all to the same recipe, and you don't know why one tray is better than the others." He works with a set of 200 year old scales to get the mixtures right and the process through to baking would have a time and motion expert screaming. But he knows that is an ancient craft not to be hurried if you want the best. JR



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The Severn Edge Vets Pets Page

Smallholder? Prevent sudden deaths in your flock

By Dr Adam Reeves BVSc MRCVS

Sudden deaths in your flock can be devastating, especially when it hits your healthiest and strongest animals. With lambing season just around the corner we wanted to share an effective preventative healthcare tip to help you ensure the safety of your flock in the months to come.

As we can all appreciate, diseases and infections are emotionless; life-threatening ailments can take hold incredibly fast with catastrophic results. Last year I received a call from a very distraught smallholder, "I found three dead lambs this morning. I would understand it if they were runty things, but these were three good lambs".

That same week another farmer rang up to say, "I lost two fattening cattle over the weekend. There's a strange bubbling under the skin".

Both sets of deaths were caused by a family of bacteria called Clostridia. You might not have heard of this bacterium before, but perhaps you have heard of Tetanus? Clostridia bacteria are the culprit behind Tetanus and a whole host of other fatal diseases, including Pulpy Kidney, Blackleg, Struck, Lamb Dysentery and Braxy.

Infections are very difficult to catch, as there is usually no prior sign of illness - often the first a smallholder or farmer will discover a problem is when they go out to the field and find a dead animal.

So where does this nasty bacteria come from? Clostridia generally live in the soil

and can survive as spores for years. When ingested they rapidly multiply within the animal, releasing toxins that can lead to death within hours. With such a fast moving infection it's not uncommon for up to 30% of a group to die. Most cases occur when animals are out at pasture, but can occasionally occur in housed animals as well.

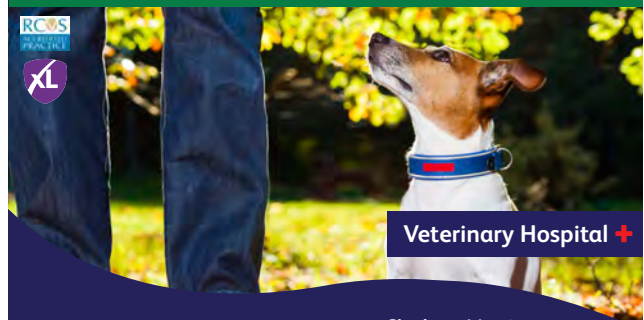
Unfortunately we come across cases of Clostridia infection far too often. I say "too often" because death can be easily preventable thanks to a number of very effective vaccines available. It's important to note that it's not just sheep and cattle that can contract Clostridial diseases. Goats, alpacas and llamas are also susceptible and I would highly recommend vaccinating them against these diseases.

Although the vaccination protocol can be a little confusing at first, it's worth the effort to protect your stock. Your local vet will always be happy to give you advice on what is most appropriate for your animals.

Adam Reeves

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Happening on High Street

THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE



Good old Santa was there on time, to open proceedings.

The happy atmosphere at the Christmas Fayre on December 5th got the festive season off to a good start. Lots of families filled the Parish Church as children had a chance to meet Santa and let him know what they'd like him to bring on Christmas Eve night. Busy stalls, happy sounds and next door the Parish Council had booked the Market Hall to hand out mince pies and coffees to add to the occasion.

At 4.00 o'clock the Christmas lights were switched on and didn't they look great. Extra lights added to the friendly

atmosphere along the High Street, and this year they were plugged into adaptors on the street lights, to make the job of installing them easier. And as the new ones are all LED, the bill will be a little easier to pay. Congratulations to all who were involved.

AND THE DOWNSIDE

Sadly there will always be one or two negative individuals who try to spoil the party. Was the Christmas Fayre the right place to highlight a problem that the staff at Mawley Hall face, as this sign alleges? Surely it would be better for the people concerned to offer them advice, direct support or even a job? To publicise their plight and offer a bucket for contributions just added to their embarrassment.



This sign was on the Church Street pavement, then appeared in Mumford's store window.

Far worse was the sign questioning one of the finest gestures of humanitarian concern the town produces, seen in the same window:



Jenny Vanderhook, the driving force behind the annual Shoebox Collection, was very upset at such intrusion. Read her report on Page 7 to realise what good she does for others. And when she won £70 on the Lacon Lottery, not a penny of that was spent on herself, it all went to buy gifts to help fill those boxes. That is a true expression of the Christian faith, giving to those who have no means to help themselves. To be subjected to inferred criticism in this way is an act of high hypocrisy.

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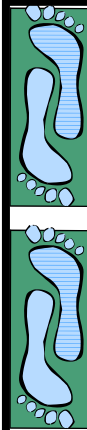
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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

In September the Parish Council decided to refurbish the existing lights, to add to the display and lift the community spirit. As well as this the permanent infrastructure was improved and brought up to current standards. Despite a very tight time scale this was achieved in time for the switch-on on December 5th.

We would like to offer our thanks to all volunteers including those arranged through Andy Goold from C.R.U.V.O. (Cricket, Rugby, Volleyball), Fountain Runners, Alan Guest for collecting the tree and for all their help in putting up the lights. Special thanks also to Bill White Nurseries and Hobsons Brewery for the donation of the Christmas Trees and CMK Electrical our contractor for installations.

The Parish Council wished to celebrate the festive season with the community and were pleased to offer free refreshments in the Market Hall on Saturday 5th December as well as giving chocolates and sweets for the children after the grand switch on of the lights from the Memorial Gardens.

Customer Services - phone services will be closed until January 4th and will fully reopen from 8.00am to 6.00

pm. General enquiries: 0345 678 9000

The Parish Council office will also be closed until January 4th.

THE BIG CONVERSATION

The County Council is asking people to join in the Big Conversation to have your say on where cuts in spending should be applied as more cash is lopped off the amount coming into their coffers from Whitehall. You can pick up a form from there library if you prefer writing; it comes with a prepaid envelope. Or you can go online to www.shropshire.gov.uk/bigconversation and type in your replies to the questions.

In fact, it's not so much a conversation as a box ticking exercise. A conversation is where people can exchange views, each listening to the other and explaining where any point is not clear. Don't expect that facility, on paper or keyboard.

The Green Party are very critical of the idea, pointing out that a council has a statutory duty to provide some basic services and that's not open to debate. "It is irresponsible to invite comments on things that the Council must provide by statute," they claim. It's a fair point to make, so there may be a spat coming our way.

CPV AGM

Cleobury Patients' Voice will be holding its Annual General Meeting at the Medical Centre in Vaughan Road on Monday, January 11th, starting at 6.30pm.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Dave and Mary Clark, who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary in November. They chose the Golf Club for the family party and are full of praise for the quality of both food and service there.

They decided not to have gifts, and instead asked for donations to be given to local charities of their choice. With an impressive total of £250 they decided to give half each to the Kidderminster Prostate Cancer Support Group and Midland Air Ambulance. And they would like to say a public 'Thank You' to the family, and that includes the grandchildren, who decorated the hall so effectively.

WE HAVE A POUND SHOP

It's due to open early this month, in Talbot Square, where Wade Davies has his carpet shop. He's finding it easier to run the business without that cost, so partner Bev, who runs the tanning unit, is getting stock in and will be opening the doors on a new venture very soon. We wish her well.

Another Page of Clarion Smalls

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Letter from Westminster - Philip Dunne MP

I hope all readers have enjoyed a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. After an exceptionally busy year in 2015, including a General Election, I look forward to continuing my work for the Ludlow Constituency in 2016. Residents I know agree that Shropshire is one of the most beautiful counties in England. Not for nought is over half the Ludlow Constituency designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

It is vital we protect our environment for the future. Rolling hills and woodland areas across the Ludlow Constituency have been maintained for years, and we owe it to future generations to preserve our countryside.

I am pleased the Government's National Planning Policy Framework recognises the importance of AONBs within the planning system. In South Shropshire, we have seen this importance respected in the Planning Inspector's comments on Shropshire Council's SAMDev planning document, which has helped to protect the AONB from further encroachment.

The National Planning Policy Framework also states that permission should be refused for development that would result in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland and aged trees. This is important for preserving woodlands which, with 11 million trees planted during the last Parliament, are expanding at the fastest rate since the 14th Century. The Government's ambition is for another 11 million trees to be planted.

For all the public debate around the Paris conference on climate change last month, we are making significant strides in tackling the UK's

contribution. Since 1990, UK emissions have fallen by around 38%. Electricity generation from renewable sources has trebled since 2010. In the Ludlow Constituency, it is pleasing to see more schemes making use of the power of our rivers, which offer sustainable clean energy.

Europe's first Green Investment Bank has been established in Britain to lever billions of pounds of investment in green projects and technologies, and the Energy Act will give investors the certainty they need to stimulate decades of investment. The Act is opening up the electricity market to incentivise a record £110 billion of private sector investment in new clean power generation, putting Britain firmly on track to meet our 2050 target to reduce emissions by 80 per cent.

Britain is playing its part on the world stage in combatting climate change. We were recently rated as the top G8 country in the Climate Change Performance Index 2015, and the UK will be one of the first developed countries to take coal out of the equation, with the recent announcement that all coal-fired power stations where carbon emissions aren't being captured and stored will be closed by 2025. The Government will build a new, clean energy infrastructure that is fit for the 21st century, based around gas, nuclear and renewables.

These combined measures of protecting and investing in our countryside and taking a global lead on climate change, will I hope protect Britain's valuable ecology, and ensure Shropshire remains typical of England's green and pleasant land, without resorting to proliferation of wind farms.

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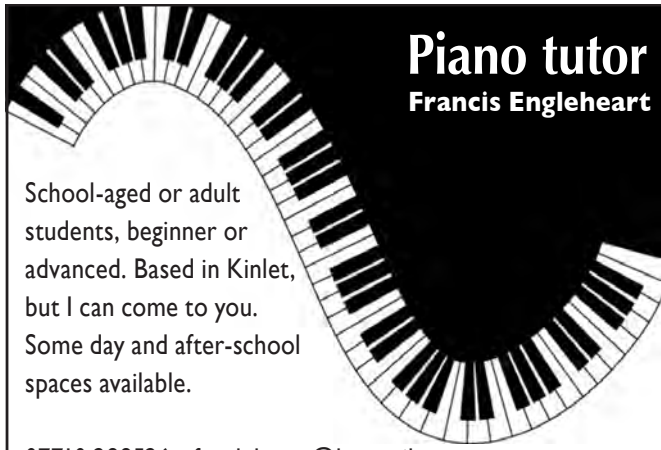
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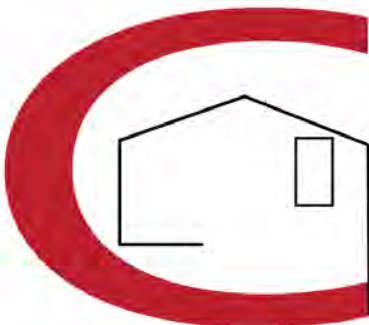
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The January Clarion Social Calendar - Part One

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Fri 1st	2.00pm	The Parish Walk starts at the Parish Church and ends with food at the KA.		
Mon 4th		Road closure starts of the B4363 from Railway Cottages to the junction with B4201. Due to stay closed until the 17th January. Diversions signposted.		
Tue 5th		First episode of The Victorian Baker on BBC2 Television. NO starting time advised but it will be worth watching to catch John Swift in action.		
Thu 7th		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30am	Rock Pathfinders walk out from the Wyre Forest Visitor Centre to take in the countryside.	Alan	01299 400304
Mon 11th	6.30pm	Annual General Meeting of Cleobury Patients' Voice, at the Medical Centre		
Tue 12th	7.00pm	Public Meeting about the future of health provisions in Shropshire. At the Severn Centre in Highley, with representatives of various health bodies.		
	7.30pm	Cleobury WI meet at the Market Hall to hear "All you need to know about Denman College"	Judy Sant	01299 270983
Wed 13th	7.30pm	Neen Savage WI member' meeting in the Village Hall.	Angela Flowers	01299 270318
	8.00pm	Cleobury branch of the British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street.	David Taylor	01299 270793

There will be an auction and fund raising evening at the Sports and Social Club at 7.00pm on Saturday January 2nd for young Jack Edwards' family. Jack has had treatment for leukaemia and has to go back for further treatment and a course of chemotherapy. All money raised will go to his family to support them.

A Reminder

There will not be a Knowle Sports Cub sale of household goods this month, but the usual crew and their amazing bargains will be back in action in February. It's on the first Saturday of the month, starting at 8.00am and the venue is clearly marked on the Clee Hill to Tenbury Wells road.



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The January Social Calendar Continued

Date	Time	Details	Contact	Telephone
Thu 14th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
Thu 21st		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		
	10.30am	Rock Path Finders meet at The Tap House, Station Road, Hartlebury for another outing.	Alan	01299 400304
Sat 23rd	7.30pm	Flicks in the Sticks is back at the Parish Hall, featuring 'Suffragette' Great value.	SEE PAGE 17	
Wed 27th	7.30pm	Clows Top Gardening Club meet at the Victorya Hall to hear Jo Roach talk about Abberley Clock Tower. SEE PAGE 13	Marion Wilson	01299 270475
Thu 28th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS & RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY		
	7.00PM	Open Mic Night at the Sports and Social Club, Love Lane. Free Entry. Local talent, variety of music, some of it very loud.		
Looking forward to February				
Thu 3rd		GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY		

A BIG 'THANK YOU'

To all the Clarion correspondents whose words inform and amuse you through the year. Especially for this January issue, when the editor wrote to them all asking for their reports by a much earlier date - it was December 14th for this issue - because Linda the Printer takes a holiday over Christmas and we had to get the whole thing put together and sent to her in good time to be printed before there was any sign of Santa and his crew coming down the chimney. Asking that of busy people during the run up to one of the busiest times of the year you might rightly think was downright unreasonable, but with few exceptions that's what they did and the result is another issue out on the streets on New Year's Day. Unless your local distributor is taking a well earned rest, in which case it will be there waiting for you on the 2nd. I hope you have a good New Year, blessed with good health and peace.

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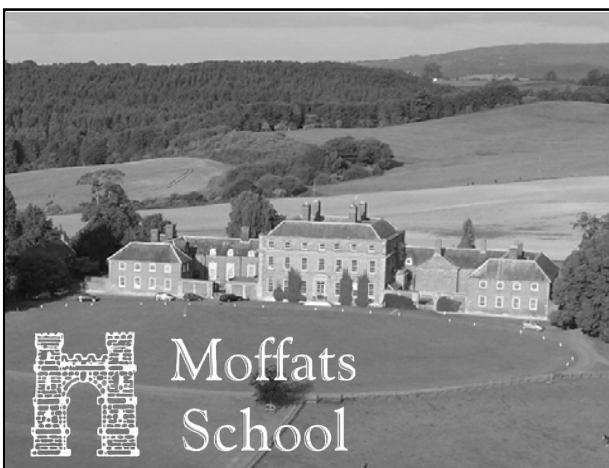
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Clarion Coppers with CPSO Nick Morris



Since the previous update of crimes and up to December 9th we have had three thefts from vehicles. The first was a theft of power tools from a van parked in Ronhill Crescent between November 28th and November 30th. Cash, keys, spectacles and invoices were stolen from a van parked in College Close overnight on December 2nd/3rd. The third was a theft of power tools after a van parked in Tenbury Road, Clee Hill was broken into by having a lock forced between December 4th and 6th. These crimes are included in the recent spate of thefts from vehicles in a wider area surrounding ours. The advice we offer is for owners to try and avoid leaving tools and other valuables in their vehicles, but obviously it can be unrealistic for a large collection of tools to be removed each time the vehicle is left unattended. So looking at security measures is the next best option. There are companies such as JNE and Solon Security from where suitable alarms can be obtained which may inhibit thieves. Signage displayed warning of any security is also important. Cleobury residents should put their free 'Smartwater' to good use

by marking their tools, etc. and ensuring that the warning sticker is prominently displayed.

Over the Christmas period there have been several arrests of drink/drug drivers. This initiative is being carried on into the New Year and beyond, so anyone considering risking their own and others' lives by foolishly driving after consuming too much alcohol, or after taking illegal drugs (which is a stupid thing to do anyway) would do well to remember that there may be police just down the road who may be conducting random tests or waiting for them after someone has reported them. Some drivers have found this out to their detriment!

As always we ask that residents continue being vigilant and reporting anything which seems suspicious to police by phoning 101. Try to avoid being victims of crime by taking reasonable precautions which will help our area to remain a low crime area.

Your 'Safer Neighbourhood Team' wish all residents a very Happy 2016.

Nick Morris



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On the Buses - Steve Todd reports

Another varied month. The curse of Diamond struck again in November when another of their buses combusted outside a school in Redditch. This is the fourth occasion that I am aware of in the last few months. A group has now been set up there to campaign for a better service. There have also been complaints about the bus service in the Bewdley equivalent of the 'Clarion' (although they have four buses to our one, largely at our expense). There have been no reports of any great delays or cancellations apart from traffic jams on the back streets of Bewdley due to the number of Diamond buses circulating there whilst picking nobody up. Perhaps, like Wolverhampton, they should introduce new bus lanes which have proved unpopular there although this is not a problem that is likely to affect Cleobury as first you have to have buses.

It appears that the stream of complaints about the 2L might be starting to have an effect as the Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee at Worcestershire Council is taking an interest in Diamond's performance. His Council have just had a meeting with Diamond to air complaints about the service and Diamond have apologised and promised to do better. Sounds familiar? I'm

sure this has nothing to do with the fact that the contract is coming up for renewal.... There is no mention of any Shropshire Council involvement as apparently they knew nothing about the meeting until after the event. This does seem strange as they are the major funder of the 2L route. On a higher level, I see that the the Tory leader of Shropshire Council has suddenly resigned, apparently due to a 'conflict of interest'. This is covered in more detail in the latest edition of 'Private Eye' (No. 1407, page 16, should you be interested). Perhaps his successor will prove more effective.

The times on the Cleobury bus stops have finally been changed after the usual two month delay although the Ludlow Leisure Centre still shows the bus calling there. This accidentally proved correct the other day as a new driver on the return trip missed the turning into New Road and headed towards the bypass and Shrewsbury. Luckily Liz Bishop was on board and managed to navigate him back on to the correct route via the Leisure Centre. On the other hand, there has been at least one good deed. One morning, an elderly gentleman was waiting for the bus on the seat at the Clee Hill stop when he

fell asleep (possibly because the bus was late?) . However, the driver spotting he was a regular passenger, stopped the bus, got off and woke him up to prevent him missing his ride. Well done that man!.

The Department of Transport came off badly in The Chancellor's Autumn Statement with the largest percentage of cuts of any Department (37%) although it is not clear whether this will affect transport subsidies as these normally come via Local Authorities. However, spending on the Arts has increased so you may be able to enjoy more of these if only you can get there. I gather that Madge Shingleton has managed to secure a promise that similar funding for the 2L will be available next year so thank you Madge. Shropshire Council are planning to increase Council Tax by 4% every year for the next few years but they say this will merely enable them to keep essential services running, not make improvements.

As this is the first column of 2016, I hope you all had a happy Christmas and will have a good New Year. When you did your letter to Santa, I hope you didn't forget to ask him for a proper bus service. If you mentioned a Cowboy Outfit you might have got the Diamond Bus Company....

Steve Todd

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Linda Iles

January In The Wyre Forest



I don't keep a regular personal diary but my infrequent writings often surprise me with forgotten details, travels and traumas. It can be the same with notes about the natural events around us. So, dipping into the Discovery Centre's nature diary I was reminded that we had snow in the Januarys of 2010, 2012 and 2013 but January 2011 gave some respite from the very heavy snows of December 2010 when, you may remember, spectacular satellite photos showed all of Great Britain completely white. When we moved to Bewdley from Sheffield in 1986 I was surprised at the number of hoar frosts in the area, but how much snow do we have? The Meteorological Office website shows me that, from 1981 to 2010, there were 10 to 20 days in an average year when snow fell and the same number when snow was lying. To put this in context, the Cairngorms had an average of 72.6 days of snow or sleet falling. I also learnt the following:

On 2nd June 1975 snow showers forced the abandonment of several cricket matches across the country. (And I remember snow falling in Cambridge during the May Bumps, which are rowing races in June!)

The snowiest winter of the twentieth century in the United Kingdom was 1947. Between 22 January and 17 March snow fell every day somewhere in the country.

On the other hand, if the weather is mild we could see some activity more reminiscent of spring. Last January jackdaws were seen passing sticks to each other – presumably a courtship offering of nest material. Greater spotted woodpeckers were drumming too to advertise their presence, saying in effect, 'This is my patch!'



This area is visited in winter by continental flocks of fieldfares, bramblings, redwings, redpolls, and siskins (the handsome little bird shown in the photo). The forest provides important food sources for them: holly and hawthorn berries (haws) for fieldfares and redwings, beech nuts for bramblings, alder cones for siskins. The plantations of conifers in the forest offer shelter and seeds from pine and spruce, if any are left by squirrels and other rodents. All of these may be seen in arable fields and in gardens if the right food is there, so keep topping up the peanut and seed feeders and putting out fat balls.

Linda Iles

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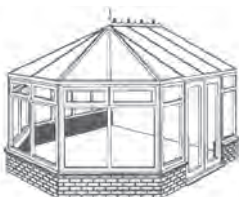
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The Methodist Church Art Exhibition



Transformation as church becomes art gallery.

This weekend of art on show in the Methodist Church in Church Street is becoming a notable addition to the social calendar. It's a chance for local talent, much of it kept hidden away through the year, to be put on show and in some cases to surprise visitors as they realise that a neighbour they thought they knew well has an ability they were unaware of.

The modest Simon Prentice is the organising power, who uses his good connection

with artists in the area to fill the church with a range of pictures. The display is a model of simple efficiency, the chairs formed in long rows, each with a framed work propped up on the seat. When the exhibition ends, the chairs are simply turned around, ready for the next service.

The artists sometimes sell pictures, which encourages their support, and it's amusing to pick out local features or quirky roadside features they have captured. Glyn Barratt's ageing Land Rover is part of the Hopton Wafers landscape, it seems; it appeared in two lots of work. Glyn being an archaeologist, perhaps he's hoping it will be unearthed and heralded as a rare find in the years to come?

The Reverend James Eaton-Challinor, who has an oversight of the Methodist churches in the area, looked in and was clearly impressed

by the high standard of work and the quiet efficiency of the way the event was run.

Amongst the artists whose talents we particularly admired were Jennifer Chance, Shirley Bonas and Heather Scapelhorne. A very pleasant discovery was the landscape by Derek Garbett, one of those self-effacing, quiet men who say little and do a lot. And Stroma Lennox, active in the organisation and publicity for the event, had some impressive drawings on display. An excellent event - try to get there next year.



Stroma Lennox - active in the running and an artist too.

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Clarion Clippings - The Local News

LACON CHILDE WORK IN THE MARKET HALL

It was only in the Market Hall front window for a week, but this idea from one of the Lacon Childe classes deserved more time and maybe better access to study what had been done.

Master David Branch explained: "Year Seven pupils have been working on a 3D sculpture of images we link to our school, inspired by the work of artist Michael Craig Martin.

It has been constructed from card and tape, which then had a layer of Modroc applied over the card to give it both strength and an even surface. Then it was finished with a coat of acrylic paint, taking on the essence of Michael Craig Martin's work.

To create the individual components of the structure, pupils had to work as a team where each was responsible for different parts of the design, such as assembling their object, Modrocking or painting.

The project has been a success, with pupils enjoying working this way and they are quite excited displaying it to the community."

The pupils descended on the Market Hall and built up the display in the window, with a

range of photographs of the work in progress on a neighbouring display board to show all the processes.



Full credit to the school and pupils for putting on the show and to the Market Hall for making the space available to show it off.

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU

This brief note came in, with a request that it be published anonymously. As it reflects the strong charitable feeling that exists in the community, here it is:

"I hear that generosity abounds in Cleobury during the festive season. The Cleobury Christmas Fairy has been posting

envelopes into the homes of those in need in Cleobury and one recipient wants to say "thank you so much" as it will make Christmas much happier for their children."

RICHARD WILLIAMS

In November last year, Richard Williams succumbed to the brain tumour that had so affected his life for months. No man could have been braver than Richard, whose strong faith buoyed him up and saw him describe to a Faith in the Pub evening just how difficult life had been for him and his family as he travelled to Coventry for treatment. Through all this, he retained his good humour and was willing to talk about the problem and how he dealt with.

And let us not forget the remarkable support he had from Esther, who was his chauffeuse, carer and guide through long months of illness. The fate they knew he faced seemed to draw them both together, protecting the children with the strength of a remarkable love and Christian faith.

Now he has gone and our sympathies go to all his family, who know that they and this community have lost a very fine and brave man.



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On The Market - Andiamo Caffè

Michael and Lisa Clarke don't actually have a cafe, but they do have the most eye-catching mini mobile coffee unit to come out of Italy. It's a 50cc Ape trike with the back converted to provide a coffee making facility. Their trading is all done at events like fairs, weddings, farmers' markets music festivals and even an air show. If you like the flavour of Italian coffee, they bring it to a place near you.

Andiamo have been in business since April last year and have been well pleased with the reception they've had. They had a target of events to attend in their first year, and had passed that by December. They were hoping to get into a farmers' market and now grace three of them - Cleobury Mortimer, Craven Arms and the Bewdley Produce Fair.

Lisa is partly Italian, so it was natural that they sold snacks and treats from that part of the world. And when she developed a gluten intolerance, they discovered another demand waiting to be met. They now cook gluten free cakes and biscuits at home and offer them along with a range of Italian pastas, plus crisps, crackers and bread. The reaction has been good and they see that as a good area for future growth.

The coffees all come from the Shropshire Coffee Company. "The chap who owns it is Italian and the style rings through the business," says Ian. Cleobury regulars will find an Italian touch quite a welcome change, as that country's excellent food habits haven't penetrated this particular part of Shropshire in any great depth yet.



Michael and Lisa with the Andiamo Cafe three-wheeled coffee machine.

Their presence in Cleobury is a real change from the normal and a slug of strong, hot coffee on a cold morning is very welcome. So when we've tried some of their other treats we'll let you know how good they are. If you have an event and want a novel catering outlet, they're on 07837 391 797.

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The solar panels decorate the roofs of the main building and our Reception classroom. They are now fully installed and switched on and our application was submitted to the National Grid with just weeks to spare before the tariffs will be reduced by 87%!

Of course, the financial side to this is all positive but we are keen to teach our children the importance of conserving energy and so to minimise our electricity usage where possible, we have appointed two "light monitors" who take their role very seriously and are very vigilant in conserving our energy.

As well as conserving energy we are keen to teach our children the importance of re-using, re-cycling and pre-cycling. Earlier this term we had a visit from Natasha Branston from Educating Kids Outdoors, who spent the day at school working with our KS2 pupils. The sessions focussed on the theme of reducing as well as recycling and re-using. Children looked at a range of materials, both those that biodegrade and those that go to landfill, reversible and irreversible changes, poor and good waste management and its impact on our environment, composting and life processes and overall good citizenship. Each session began with a short visual presentation but most of the work/play was outdoors and touched on almost every area of the curriculum. I am happy to report that this was a thoroughly enjoyable day, and a great way to engage children in such an important issue.

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THE CLARION NEW YEAR QUIZ

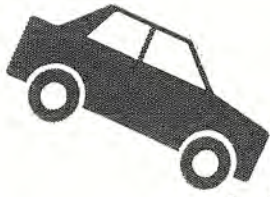
Here's another puzzler to test both your knowledge and sense of humour at the same time, with more clever little cartoons from Pat Smith. Work out the names of the operas and send your answers to the editor on a sheet of paper, with the numbers and your answers, plus your name and contact number. The first correct answer to arrive will earn the winner a ten pound note, delivered personally to your door or wherever you care to meet. You can use email, post or deliver by hand, whichever suits you best. Good luck!

CONTACT ADDRESSES:

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The Clarion New Year Grand Opera Quiz.

See page 54 for details on how to enter



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2.



3.



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5.



6.



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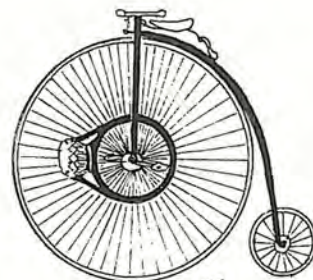
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The Farming Page - Jenny Everingham's View From The Farmhouse

Here we are, at the end of another year. Inevitably, everyone will have had some highs and some lows. For us, the low point must have been having our first ever TB reactor and having to go through all the routine procedure of movement restrictions and extra testing, only to find there was no evidence of infection after the poor animal was dead. The thought has occurred to me that maybe there is a potential for natural immunity which would throw up a false positive test result? In which case, should we be breeding from this gene pool? Maybe one of our veterinary friends will tell me if I'm up a gum tree. Our farming high spot has got to be the fantastic hay harvest - brilliant!

All our complaints about inclement weather pale into insignificance in the face of disasters like the flooding of the Somerset Levels, where action is at last being taken in the hope of preventing a repeat. Time will tell. Now our TV screens are full of the results of unprecedented rainfall in

Cumbria and the North West, where homes are under water and yet again the agricultural community, along with their more urban neighbours, have to cope with a massive clear-up, loss of property, loss of income and, most upsetting of all, loss of livestock. Farmers are a hardy bunch and will come back from adversity time after time for love of the job - the open air life, being grounded in the landscape, often a sense of history, a love of nature and their livestock. So a heartfelt thanks to all those who have rallied round to help and support.

I hope you all enjoyed your festive feasting, bought British as much as you could, and said a little 'Thank you' to the farmers over your turkey and sprouts. I would like to wish them all a happy, healthy and PROSPEROUS New Year. But maybe that's a pig I just saw fly overhead?

Keep smiling, chaps!

Jenny Everingham



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In Business: Nock Deighton



Jane Key - her family roots in Cleobury go back a long way.

Nock Deighton have been on the High Street since October 2014, when they took over the vacant premises that had been Farlow Estates. You realised that these are serious professionals when they hired Chris Hector for two weeks to strip, make good and paint the front of the place. It had been looking drab; now it sparkles.

More recently, the right-hand window has featured eight properties, all of them sold. As a way of telling the public they can do the job, it has few equals. And manager Jane Key bubbles with enthusiasm: "It's the best month I've had in my twelve years in the business. I've got a great team behind me at the Kidderminster office."

This is a staunchly Shropshire company, with six offices in the county and only recently two branches beyond that boundary. When they took over the Cleobury office, they'd done their homework and knew what a good reputation Jane has, so naturally asked her to stay on. She was actually looking to

work fewer hours, to spend more time with her grandchildren, but the company showed how flexible they can be by making her Residential Sales Manager working a nominal 20 hours a week. Nobody as keen on their job as Jane works to the book, they want to do the whole thing well. But she can hand the administration work over to the team of three full-time staff at Kidderminster and not spend late hours in the office.

She calls to see customers, values the property for sellers and shows buyers around. And she covers the local area, as far north as Highley and west to Cle Hill and Farlow. As those eight sold properties in the window confirm, she can get results. "I do a better job for not doing so many hours," she explains. The result is a relaxed, friendly local person who's not looking at her watch and trying to get on to the next call; the sort of person people like.

The company's flexible approach carries over into Jane's work. "In the summer, if people can't break away from their working day, I'll call at 7.30 in the morning or at 6.00 in the evening, so that it doesn't intrude in their work hours."

Working for Nock Deighton has given Jane the opportunity to show her ability, and she's full of praise for the company's way of developing the talents it employs. "There's lots of training through the year; in 15 months I reckon I've been on three or more courses. They are really good, because you learn from one another and pick up ideas and tips." Such an exchange of knowledge is invaluable in a service industry

like this, where the company's trading slogan is 'Integrity and Service since 1831' and the staff at training courses talk, listen and learn.

Jane used to work at Lacon Child school, to fit in with her children's school hours, then moved on: "I wanted to get into the grown up world, so did an evening computer class with Rosemary Thompson. I loved it. I got a part time job in an estate agent's and within three years I was the manager."

Nock Deighton's reputation fits well with her local standing, and the back-up makes the whole job run smoothly as well as covering a wide range of services. "We can help with any aspect of the business," she says. "We'll hold the customer's hand, from the first time buyer through to retired people who want to downsize." The company's great strength in depth is that they cover all aspects with their own trained staff, and don't have to call in an outsider to help. 185 successful years in business is quite a track record to offer customers.

Jane's Cleobury team includes Erica and Coral, who both have local connections, so they understand a customer's needs. "It's such an interesting job when you can be advising on the sale of a mansion and a terraced cottage on the same day," says Jane. "And people do talk more easily in their own homes when we call."

There's a great deal more than that smart shopfront to this newcomer to the High Street. It's a company smart enough to believe in local people and big enough to offer skilled advice on any property matter.

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Bayton



Pump Cottage

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Charming four bedroom property.

Energy rating D.

£325,000

15 Mortimer Terrace

Cleobury Mortimer



Spacious, six bedroom family home.

Energy rating E.

£235,000

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