

The Cleobury Clarion



SERVING CLEOBURY COUNTRY

July 2018

OUR SILENT SOLDIERS



Council chair Debbie Brown with one of the town's Silent Soldiers, flanked by Town Clerk and Royal British Legion treasurer Matt Sheehan (left) and Legion chair Ron Breakwell
See Page 11 for more details.

DEVOTION TO DUTY

On Page 37 you'll find Steve Todd's usual spot for his acid wit to be exercised as he reports 'On The Buses'. What no one will realise is the effort that was put into attending the Public Enquiry into the service offered by Diamond and then getting home and typing up an informative report and filing it

by 8.30 on the same evening. By 9.00 it was on the page, but with Steve's usual impeccable work that was no problem.

Really great job, Steve. Thank you. JR

FAREWELL BOWKETTS

It was a shock when the High Street heard that Bowkett's Food Emporium would be closing. A local company with a good name, they'd moved into what used to be John Cope's Church Street shop initially, then on up into 44 High Street with a major refitting.

People welcomed their arrival, glad to have a proper butcher's shop on the main street again, and the place always looked busy. But we understand that the staff were told on Wednesday that the place would close on Saturday.

The reason for the closure given to several local people was the problem recruiting a fully trained butcher. You do have to wonder that such an established and reputable firm would have that problem, but a conversation with Clare and

Clive Gittins at Heath Farm Meats confirms that is the case.

It seems that the craft of real butchering is hard to find, the move towards supermarkets making the different cutting to suit pre-pack presentation is now the norm.

Bowkett's products are still available on the main street at Carrot Tops. Of course the excellent Heath Farm Meats are still going strong, with the next generation of the family now on the payroll.

TOWN COUNCIL REPORTS

Cleobury Mortimer Town Council have agreed to submit a monthly report to the public via the Clarion's pages. You will find the first one on Page 61.

We are happy to co-operate in this latest move forward for a council who are doing some great work for the community.

It will be written by Town Clerk Matt Sheehan, who I am sure will grow into the role, just as he has as Parish and then Town Clerk. I look forward to another partnership that will serve the community. JR

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The Cleobury Clarion, July 2018

Volume Thirteen - Edition Four



Neen Sollars Church Fete.
See Page 25.



Very few Englishmen have been awarded the French Legion d'Honneur. Geoff Barratt has.
Page 45.



Restoring the editor's pride and joy at a price that didn't hurt.
In Business: Bumperscuff.
See Page 57.

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SO MUCH TO SEE AND DO...

July is looking like a very busy month social month, with a range of interesting events to tempt you.

The month will kick off in an energetic way, with the Cleobury Running Club's first 10 kilometre race, starting from the Sports Field at 11.00. With such an enthusiastic club and runners from other associations mixing in, this promises to be quite an event. Expect the Sports and Social Club to be open to provide essential recovery kits of the liquid kind to both runners and supporters.

On Friday the 6th, Stottesdon's Summer Fete opens its gates at 5.30, with a load of entertainment and family fun. There's a big school influence on this event and it shows in the happy young faces you see there.

At Cleobury Golf Club, at 7.30 on Friday the 13th: Dr Mark Baldwin talks about World War Two Codebreakers at Bletchley Park followed by The Story of the Enigma, the German coded message device that British Intelligence defeated and helped to shorten World War Two by some years.

If you haven't heard Dr Baldwin speak on these subjects, this is a chance you really should not miss. He has travelled much of the globe giving these talks and is always precise, interesting and very informative. Highly recommended.

Tickets are £7.00 each and available from the Golf Club on CM 271112.

On the same day The King's Arms has a Cider and Sausage

Festival, starting at 1.30 and going on 'til late. Live music with a DJ hosting, big range of both ciders and sausages. There's also a special drawing competition for children, with a sweetie feast to win, the idea being that the youngsters are kept occupied while the senior members of the family get serious over sausages. It is a well established fact that you cannot get serious over cider - you just get more and more happy.

Chelmarsh Village Fete is also on Saturday the 14th and has an impressive line-up of attractions to fill the time from 2.00 opening to 5.30 closing.

Donkey rides, coconut shy, pig roast, cakes, plants, white elephant stall, tombolas and games of skill. Add in a brass band, Morris dancers, a clown and a juggler, plus home made teas in the hall and it's a great family day out. Free parking and clear signposting are promised.

It's in School Lane, Chelmarsh, near Bridgnorth and admission is just £2.00 for adults while children under 16 get in free. Visit the website www.chelmarshvillagehall.co.uk or call Geoff Price on 01746 862104.

In the evening of the 14th, Yardbird Arts have a Rock and Blues Night at Clows Top Victory Hall. It features the excellent Remi Harris as lead guitar with Dave Small on vocals, Darren Beale on bass and Shane Dixon on drums. That should get your feet tapping, even if you're not into head banging.

Tickets £12.00 a head from Dani Harris on 01584 881564

and there will be a bar and refreshments available. Doors open at 7.00, music from 8.00.

Bayton hosts a Traditional Afternoon Tea in the Village Hall on the 14th, from 2.30 to 4.30. £10.00 a ticket includes a glass of prosecco or alcohol-free elderflower plus music by the West Mercia Police Band.

The wonderful restoration of the Parish Church will be celebrated on the 14th and 15th with a chance to view many historic features. Such as the hatchments from the Shakenhurst estate, the Norman font and the medieval tiles found on the floor of the church. Admission is free, open 10.00 to 5.00 Saturday and 11.00 to 4.00 Sunday.

On Wednesday the 17th the Knowle Sports Association will be opening their renowned sale of household goods, starting at 6.00pm and due to close at 7.30. But with their reputation for great value, we suspect it will go on a bit later than that. This is a new venture, in addition to the Saturday events; well worth a visit.

Sunday the 22nd is Ludlow Rotary Club Dog Day at Stokesay, just off the A49. It has built a very good name in just a few years and raised lots of money for charities. Gates open to the public at 10.00 and there's an amazing array of sideshows to keep all the family amused.

And that same day the Sports and Social Club in Love Lane has a round of Cleobury's Got Talent to select acts to go forward for the final event at Clubfest in August, again at the Sports and Social Club.



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The big news for CMMS is that their application to be registered as a charity has been accepted. Cleobury Mortimer Men's Shed is the title of Registered Charity Number 1178085. As chairman Pete Blackburn put it: "A critical milestone achieved."

Latest news is the purchase and siting of a mobile home unit at the Tenbury Road site. This will be the base for the building of the real shed when all the official consents, plans, finance and materials are settled. Somewhere to work, take shelter when the weather's bad and just sit and make a cup of tea.



It was bought from Ditton Mill site and is in a very sound state, a credit to its occupants and the

site management. There had been others offered in the past, inspected and rejected. One of the first matters to establish is the power supply for those cuppas.

The lease for the site at Newhouse Farm is under discussion and as the project steadily grows, the matter of funding the building becomes more urgent. Expect appeals for sponsorship and grants to be landing in postboxes very soon. It's impressive the progress that can be made when you have a group of enthusiastic people who can work together.

CLEOBURY PATIENTS' VOICE

We covered in a recent issue the subject of missed appointments at the Medical Centre. If the centre have your mobile details they will confirm your appointment details to you. Please register the mobile details if you have not already done so.

The NHS opened the consultation on Future Fit on May 30th and it remains open for 14 weeks. This essentially concerns Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals and the roles they will take in the future. Please visit nhsfuturefit.org and fill in the questionnaire. These

are our facilities and we all have to make sure we have our say .

The Town Council and CPV intend to work together with the new Cleobury Hills nursing home to make Cleobury a Dementia Friendly town. If you are interested in signing up for training in this important initiative, please let us know via our website, our dedicated telephone number at 01299 407224 or the Facebook page.

A friend needed treatment recently following a gardening accident and found Ludlow Hospital services closed. Kidderminster Minor Injuries sorted the problem promptly. This was a busy Saturday but clear information on waiting time was displayed. This was news to me but the Unit is open 24 hours.

Paul French

COUNCIL SURGERY

County Councillors Madge Shingleton and Gwilym Butler will be holding a surgery in the Market Hall on Saturday August 4th from 9.00 to 11.00am. No appointment is needed for this opportunity to discuss any problem with our representatives at the county's highest level.

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THE CREATIVE WRITING GROUP

A modest gathering for our June meeting, with some busy writers on other business and not able to attend. But the chat and laughter was as good as ever before we decided that the words to be used for this month's offering are discipline, disillusionment and faith, in a context that suggests an emergency.

We meet at 6.30 in the library on the 9th to see what fertile imaginations can produce from that thin harvest.

NEEN SAVAGE W.I.

In June the National Federation of WIs held its AGM in Cardiff and it was the turn of Neen Savage to send a delegate to represent the views of Cleobury Mortimer, Kinlet and Neen Savage. The WI has a strong campaigning tradition and each year discusses and debates a selection of resolutions proposed by grass roots members to decide what to campaign for in the coming year. This year there was only one resolution – 'Mental Health Matters' and it was very telling that the Executive Committee were unable to find anyone to speak against the motion so it

was carried almost unanimously. This is something we can all contribute to by talking openly about any issues we have and supporting those in our community that may be struggling without judging them.

We had a creative meeting in June, making photo cards under the expert tuition of Maddy Madden. Several members also enjoyed the hospitality of Jenny and Andy Vanderhook when they visited their wildlife garden. Our next meeting is on July 11th, a visit to Pams Pools, a permaculture and wildlife smallholding near Bridgnorth. More information: Sandra Dodd on 01299 271563.

We are holding a Cheese and Wine Party on Friday, August 17th from 7.00 at the home of Jayne and Gareth Leach. Tickets £10 each from the Committee or the Severn Hospice Shop. Proceeds shared between Neen Savage WI and the Cleobury Mortimer Stroke Support Group. *Catherine Evans*

DODDINGTON CHURCH EVENTS

St John's has a new project. Titterstone Clee is rich with industrial heritage and stories, and the church was built for the

workers on the hill. We want to honour the past by displaying information on the heritage of the church and people who have lived on the hill for 1000's of years. We need to repair the iron windows, a significant feature of the church and want to improve access, add a toilet, small kitchen and a hearing loop.

All of this means fundraising. The community has been very supportive of the church in the past. We already have grants from Big Lottery Fund and Ironmongers' Trust, and are applying for more. We will let you know more about fundraising in the coming months.

If you have any questions or comments call me on 01584 318036.

Our next event is a Strawberry Tea on Saturday July 14th at 2.30pm, in Doddington Village Hall. *Celia Gibb*

SILLY BIT

"Why do I have to press 'One' for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?"

Report from an airport ticket agent: "I had a Congresswoman ask for an aisle seat so her hair wouldn't get messed up by draughts being near the window."



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THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Good news for local walkers:

For a number of years, walkers have been confused as to their right to walk the driveway accessing The Glen Caravan Park. A public inquiry was held in April and the Planning Inspector has confirmed (subject to appeal) the legal order brought by Shropshire Council for the surfaced driveway from Catherton Road to become a public footpath to where it meets the footpath to Workhouse Bank.

Please respect the residents' privacy when walking through the caravan park by staying on the public footpaths. Excessive dog fouling has been reported along the drive, so please keep your dogs on a lead and clear up after them

The Planning Inspector also confirmed the legal order to extend this path to the bridge before Cleanly Seat. However, the original path line was obstructed some years ago and is subject to negotiation between Shropshire Council and the Caravan Park

Summer clearance work is the priority for our work parties and in June, we cleared "Jacob's Ladder". Disappointingly, no

local users of the path turned out to help. It took six of us an hour to clear it, but it should now remain usable through the summer. We also did quite a lot of clearance in Neen Sollars, It's a pity that we have been unable to find a Neen Sollars resident who is prepared to help keep their footpaths clear. There is no guarantee we will always be able to do it and without our efforts each year, many of those paths would be very quickly lost.

The next Parish Walk is on Sunday July 1st when we will be walking a circuit that includes the Golf Course. Meet outside St Mary's Church at 10.00.

Graham Simpson

SILENT SOLDIERS

Councillor Paul French explains the purpose of these figures:

Clebury Mortimer WW1 Group has purchased three Silent Soldiers to ensure there is a tangible reminder during the latter half of the anniversary of Armistice (1918) of the service given by so many.

The group is composed of Town Council and British Legion members and the soldiers are the latest step in marking this important year that

the group has initiated. The Council funded two and the Legion one.

The term "Silent Soldiers" references those who did not return but also picks up accounts of those who saw soldiers returning, alone or in groups. Often it was noted that they were very quiet, perhaps only concerned with making it to those waiting for them.

Travel was provided but not door to door, so "returnees" were a common feature on roads and bridleways. Two of the Soldiers will take their places on the main route in and out of town. The third will move around during the year, so keep looking.

Please just take a few moments to reflect and be grateful when you see one.

If you wish to recruit one you can do so at jrobey@britishlegion.org.uk

Paul French

EARLY NOTICE

The Spice Empire will be having a Special Curry Night on September 29th, with an Eat All You Can Buffet, live music, dancing and £6.00 for every ticket sold goes to the Paediatric Department at Kidderminster and Worcester Hospital. CM 270419 to book your place.



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CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

July and the garden should now be looking its best. The borders are full of colour, and scents such as roses and sweet peas fill the air and the vegetable garden is producing fine crops. Long summer evenings can be enjoyed to the full, relaxing and entertaining friends.

However, there's always something to be done. Make sure you keep feeding hanging baskets. Dead head roses, sweet peas, bedding plants and perennials to keep them blooming. Take cuttings from your favourite tender plants for over wintering indoors. Cuttings can also still be taken from shrubs and herbaceous perennials.

If you need some fresh ideas or advice for your garden, then why not join us at one of our monthly meetings. The next one will be on July 25th, when the speaker for the evening will be Darren Rudge on 'Teabags, Bra & Tights'.

Pauline Bowen

ROCK PATHFINDERS

The July walks will both be starting at 10.30. On the 5th we gather at the memorial Car Park in Clun, SY7 8LE or SO

Reference 302811. Bring a packed lunch, please.

On the 19th we gather at The Running Horse, Long Bank, Bewdley, DY12 2QP SO ref 763744.

More information from Alan on 01299 400304.

THE SOROPTIMISTS

The talk by Sue Beeson on 'Riding for the Disabled' at our May Speaker meeting was very informative. Our next Business Meeting will be on July 5th at 7.30pm in Baxter Church Rooms, Kidderminster. This month is going to be a time of great excitement. On July 18th our club will be 70 years young.

Instead of our usual speaker meeting we will be celebrating with a formal lunch at Spring Grove House. A number of local representatives and from other SI clubs including the Federation President are expected to attend, plus guests from our German friendship club in Heidelberg.

There are no official meetings in August.

Elke Jury

AN URGENT APPEAL

I wonder if you could please find space for a small announcement? We recently held a wedding at home in

Kinlet and one of the guests lost a brooch inherited from her mother. We have narrowed it down to where it might have been lost - and one place might be Cleobury Mortimer. So....

LOST with a Reward: On Saturday May 19th in Cleobury Mortimer, a ladies' diamond bow brooch. Size approx 1 1/2 inches wide with a bar fitting on the reverse.

If found, please telephone 01299 841420. Thank you.

John Harrop

CONGRATULATIONS

To Una Widdett, who in June took the Institute of Advanced Motorists' 'Driving In Town' Module. It's a test of driving competence and part of the IAM Roadsmart series.

She was clearly a little nervous before the test, but came through with flying colours and was awarded the Institute's certificate. Una is no longer a teenager and to keep on top of driving standards as the years pass is no easy matter. And to add to the satisfaction of being acknowledged as capable, amongst the signatures on her certificate is that of the President of the Institute - Nigel Mansell, ex world champion and one of Britain's motoring heroes.



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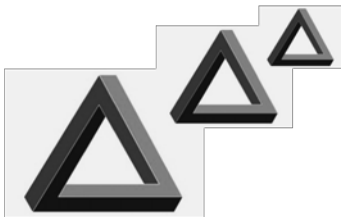
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THE CLEOBURY FESTIVAL - WHAT A DAY THAT WAS!

After last year's mildly wet and very windy event, this time the weather gods smiled and it was a sunny setting for the town's second festival. And the place really buzzed.

The five hours of opening weren't really enough to let you see it all in detail. My apologies to those in the Parish Hall and the Scout Hut that I didn't make it, despite a prompt start and being there until 4.00.



The first call was Lacon Child School, where 'Lacon Lightning', their entry for the Bishops Castle downhill race on July 8th was on show. It's far from finished, but confident noises were being made that drivers Isaac Taylor and Deiner Boston would be there, even if the car was waiting for its second back wheel.

The main chassis was built in school, the welding on the roll cage was done by Mike Shaftesbury and it's sponsored by EVSCO and Meccano Parts, bless them. Good luck to them all.

On the Sports Field the Fire and Rescue display naturally drew crowds, as any nine litre Scania 320 would. First Officer Andy Davies explained that it carries more water than most - 600 gallons of it - as they operate in some remote areas where there may not be a supply. We'll talk to them more in a later edition - a great bunch of guys.



Young William Smythe gets to try the nine-man crew cabin.

Nearby was the Rescue Service, West Mercia based and staffed entirely by volunteers. There are the people who help in floods and do a lot of work finding more aged citizens who wander

off and get lost. Local knowledge like theirs is a great help to the police in a search. We'll try to find out more and tell you all about them.

Another volunteer-run service is the First Responders, whose Liz Vanegas was on duty while another volunteer was at Mawley Oak Farm. Another example of good people working for nothing and buying their own equipment. Like the safety helmets and reflective jackets they wear at a road traffic accident scene - paid for out of their own pockets or funds raised from the public. You do wonder why.

Forest Dog Rescue ran the Dog Show, with lots of hopeful entries. A nice touch was Matt and Caz Sheehan's lurcher Rosa winning Best Looking Bitch. As she was a rescue dog from Far Forest, that seemed only right.



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MORE OF THE TOWN FESTIVAL

Before heading for the town centre, I had to watch Lacon Childe's adaption of the Robin Stevens play 'A Noble Murder' by students Lorna Stanley and Hattie Coleman. The idea was that the audience watched both intrigue and interviews and then tried to work out who was guilty of the foul deed.



Dirty deeds afoot in this leafy glade.

In the Market Hall a wide range of local businesses and hobbies were on display, one of the most colourful the glassware from In The Glass Room.



Fiona and Rachel's work from In The Glass Room.

These two local ladies got the business started with help from the Town Council. It's really good to see investment of this community's money producing such a positive outcome. We will be visiting their studio in Burwarton to tell you more about their work.



A few metres away, Myfanwy Baldwin was patiently bringing a cane seated chair back to useful life. She is still in demand, even though the days of picking up an old chair for very little money are long gone. These ancient crafts have survived centuries and continue to preserve old furniture, thanks to skills like Mrs Baldwin's.

Outside the Market Hall you could hardly move for the crowd drawn by music and the display by the young Zennor's Dance and Musical Theatre academy as they moved so gracefully, drawing big applause for their precision.

This part of the town had been a draw all day, with the Dance Spectacular the obvious favourite. You could forgive the volume of the music as it made part of a very appealing show that pleased all ages.



You couldn't see the dancers in front of the church for the crowd.

Late in a busy day I made it to Mawley Town Farm, where their Open Day added to the show.

The sausages of Mawley Beef had all sold out and the band had finished playing, but the big news of the day was the birth of a calf to Ruth, one of the milking herd. The little one was lying quietly in the hay, watched over by the mother. Smiles all round.



Back down to the town display to help pack up. A lovely touch was to be offered a packed lunch, one of the batch prepared and supplied to the show free by the Cleobury Co-operative. A very kind gesture



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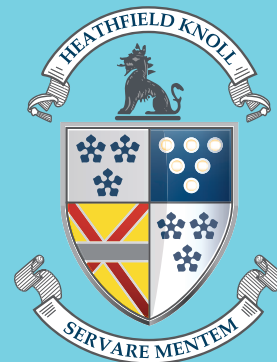
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Heart disease in dogs

Heart disease (congestive heart failure) is a common cause of coughing in older dogs. It is the inability for the heart to provide adequate circulation of blood to meet the body's needs. Occasionally it is seen in younger dogs because of a congenital disease present at birth. There are two main causes in older dogs. In smaller dogs, it is usually caused by changes to the valves separating two of the heart chambers (mitral valve disease). The valves separating the chambers no longer work to form a tight seal, and blood can flow backwards into the heart. In bigger dogs it is usually caused by the heart muscle becoming weak and thinner. The heart fails to pump efficiently, circulation is reduced, and the heart becomes enlarged.

Other signs that can be seen with heart failure are intolerance to exercise, difficulty breathing or an increased rate of breathing, weight loss, loss of appetite, increase in abdominal size (due to fluid build-up), and occasionally fainting.

Examination by a vet can give clues as to heart disease being the cause of the signs, such as a heart murmur being heard, an abnormal heart rate, or crackles (fluid) heard on the lungs. It is important not to worry though, a dog with just a heart murmur detected is not necessarily in heart failure, it may remain unaffected for many years.

Further tests can be performed to confirm that heart disease is the cause of the signs. These may include taking an x-ray of the chest to assess heart size and shape, and to see if there is excess fluid build-up in the lungs. An ultrasound scan of the heart can also be done to assess the internal structures, including the valves and size of the chambers, as well as thickness of the heart muscle walls and strength of contractions. Occasionally an ECG is done to assess heart rate and rhythm abnormalities.

Large and giant breed dogs are predisposed to a disease called occult dilated cardiomyopathy. This is where the heart dilates slowly, but the clinical symptoms are negligible in the early stages. As the disease progresses the dog is at risk of having sudden heart failure. Ultrasound is increasingly being used to assess healthy large dogs annually to catch the disease in the early stages as it has been shown in this specific instance early treatment (before clinical signs sometimes) can greatly extend quality of life.

Medication can be very successful in controlling the clinical signs of heart disease, helping the heart to work, removing fluid from the lungs and slowing down progression of the disease. Diuretics are often used to remove excess fluid from the lungs or abdomen. Medicines are used to increase the strength of the contraction of heart muscle, increasing the amount of blood pumped. They are also used to widen the blood vessels, reducing the work the heart has to do and help to pump blood around the body. Studies have shown these medicines improve quality and longevity of life of dogs with heart disease.



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MARY EVANS

The passing of Mary Evans of Curdale Farm on May 24th at the age of 91 saw the end of a life that had witnessed immense change in the area. She was the matriarch of one of the most prominent local farming families.

Born at Burcott Farm near Bridgnorth in 1926, she moved on to Baveney, where it was a three mile walk to school every day. In 1941 the family moved to Stottesdon, where Mary would help with milking the cows before catching the bus to Bridgnorth Grammar School. The farming habit of working hard was ingrained early.

She trained as a nurse, firstly at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, moving on to Coventry and then Manchester as a midwife before settling at Wolverhampton. On a weekend visit home in 1951 she met Richard Evans at a whist drive and after a whirlwind courtship they were married in April 1951.

They had seven children: Jane, Susan, John, Michael, Robert, Stephen and Clive, who recall how precisely Mary could slice a cake to give seven equal shares. When she saw the first swallow of spring arrive, the door of the cellar was opened to allow the

birds to nest. And when the apple trees began to shed their crop, she insisted the children eat the windfalls to prevent waste.

She was a keen gardener, with a large plot to maintain. In her later years, her 79th birthday present was a new rotavator to make the job less demanding. In her kitchen you could find ducklings in boxes. or new born lambs warming by the Rayburn before Mary bottle fed them.

When Richard died in 1992 she naturally led the family, working late at harvest time and feeding those who'd come in from the fields. She was later persuaded to take holidays abroad and enjoyed discovering France, Spain and Canada. She was a regular church goer and an inveterate fan of Scrabble, playing her last game just two days before the end.

Her final weeks saw her gently cared for at home by a Diamond Life team, amongst whom Wendy in particular earned high praise from the family. She was then moved from Curdale to Kinlet and the nursing home, where life slipped away

A very special lady, quiet and modest in her manner, leaves a large gap in this community. The sympathies of all who knew her will go out to the family.

My thanks to Stephen Evans for allowing use of his eulogy to provide the background for this obituary. JR.

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Lesson: Support your local businesses. Everyone wins and your community will flourish.

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Phil Westwood

SILLY BITS

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"I child-proofed my house, but they still get in"

"Drugs lead nowhere, but it's the scenic route."



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**NEEN SOLLARS
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A gentle touch of Old England, something to savour as sunshine blessed the day and a good crowd made their way down a narrow lane to Tetstill in June. There they parked in an orderly fashion and walked up to the walled garden of the generous Bloomer family, who welcome the fete every summer.



When you're testing your angling skills at the Hook a Duck stall, it doesn't help if a curious dog decides to drink the pool.

The first game that looked as if it might be within my scope was Buttons, where an egg timer counts down the seconds while you try to pick out pairs of matching buttons. Sophie's was

the merciless eye that told me my time was up with a dismal score. Shuffle buttons, try again and even worse. Doh!



Aim to get the golf balls near the bullseye and see who gets the highest score. It was bound to draw the competitive types.

The golfers who couldn't conquer this novel concept tried complaining about the course, but the hump in the middle stayed in place. John Humphries and Peter Luff were tied on 16 points each for the bottle of wine when I left. Don't ask how much they spent in vain pursuit of a clear win. After all, the day was raising funds for the Parish Church.

A bottle tombola tempted a little investment, with no more success than the last attempt. Is someone telling me something?


The climax of the day was the assortment of competitions for a wide miscellany of dogs. They were a good tempered bunch, running around the garden with excitement and only the occasional bark. Star of the day was Neville Weaver's 'Mister Incredible', winner of the Best Trick in a close finish.



Neville Weaver with 'Mister Incredible', a dog willing to do some impressive tricks for a biscuit.

A lovely, friendly way to spend a summer afternoon, with lots of smiles and £2709 made for the Parish church funds. And when I dropped my Honda, winner Neville Weaver helped pick it up. Top man. JR

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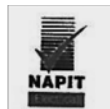
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Following an announcement by the Department for Health before Easter of a huge commitment to improve acute healthcare in Shropshire – at £312m the largest capital investment in healthcare in the county ever – the formal consultation into Future Fit is well underway. The public are able to have their say on how acute healthcare should be delivered in the county for years to come.

Shropshire and Telford CCGs and Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust have organised a number of drop in events where the public can learn more about the two options on the table, so they can input their views.

There are two such events in South Shropshire this month, on 4th July at the Bishop Mascall Centre in Ludlow, 3.30pm-7.30pm, and Bridgnorth Leisure Centre on 25th July, 3.30pm-7.30pm – as well as smaller pop-up sessions. So it is worth checking the Future Fit website <https://nhsfuturefit.org> to find out when your nearest event may be. The website also contains a great deal of information about the Future Fit process as a whole, so I encourage readers to take a look.

I was extremely concerned to hear last month reports of activists, purporting to be NHS campaigners, seeking to undermine the consultation process by disrupting public events and intimidating people who turn up to learn more. I condemn unequivocally attempts to intimidate those who seek to engage in the public consultation process, whether online or at public events. SaTH reviewed their security procedures, so I hope future events will not be interrupted. It appears some are also overtly

using the consultation process for political purposes. It has been disheartening but not surprising to see some whose politics mean they cannot bring themselves to welcome this huge sum of funding. But some have even gone further, criticising NHS staff.

This cannot stand unchallenged, as NHS staff and clinicians have put years of work into the Future Fit process - it has been clinician led from the start. Clinicians' motives are clearly what is best for patients – they would not recommend a course of action that would jeopardise patient safety. SaTH also had to take the remarkable step of making a public announcement to counter misleading reports of staff comments.

So I am keen to encourage readers from across South Shropshire to have a rational look at what is proposed, to read the informative consultation documents for themselves.

My own view is that Option 1, with major trauma treated at Shrewsbury, and planned care focussed at Telford, is the best way to cover the whole population of Shropshire for the future, as well as those from mid-Wales who rely on these services. It is the option supported by clinicians.

But there are local residents who will have genuine grounds to support the other option, which would see trauma at Telford and planned care at Shrewsbury. So it is important to contribute to the consultation. This will help to ensure the final decision considers the views of South Shropshire residents.

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8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th-8.30am Said Eucharist & 9.45am Parish Eucharist.

Events/Activities:

Coffee & Chat- 3rd July - Hosted this month by Nigel & Ina Hodgson, all welcome from 10.30am at 12 Dippers Bank.

Songs of Praise at Mawley Town Farm- 8th July - 6.30pm with guest speaker Rev. Paul Nash. All are welcome.

Mothers Union Lunch- 19th July -Meet the Alpacas with Diane Payne. Please contact Gabrielle 270510 for more information.

Christian Aid collection- A huge thank you to everyone who helped. Cleobury Benefice raised £1640.46.

St John the Baptist Parish Church, Kinlet.

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St Mary's Parish Church, Neen Savage.

Services: 1st-6.30pm Evensong, 8th-No service, 15th-6.30pm Evensong, 22nd-9.00am Eucharist, 29th-6.30pm Evensong.

St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Hopton Wafers.

Services: 1st-10.00am Eucharist, 8th-10.00am Eucharist, 15th-10.00am Family Service, 22nd- 10.00am Eucharist, 29th-10.00am Eucharist.

Saint John the Baptist Parish Church, Doddington

Services: 1st-No service, 8th-11.00am Eucharist, 15th-No service, 22nd-3.00pm Evening Prayer, 29th-No service.

Events/Activities: 14th July-Strawberry Teas, 2.30pm Doddington Village Hall, contact Celia Gibb for more information. All welcome.

All Saints Parish Church, Neen Sollars

Services: 1st-No service, 8th-11.00am Eucharist, 15th-No service, 22nd-11.00am Family Service, 29th-No service.

St George's Parish Church, Milson

Services: 1st-6.30pm Evensong, 8th-No service, 15th-11.00am Eucharist, 22nd-No service, 29th-No service

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THE READING GROUP

'The Tenderness of Wolves' by Stef Penney, a novel set in 19th century Canada during winter. Difficult to know where to start, there were so many different views put forward.

First the title was criticised as not being very appropriate, the back cover suffered the same fate. Following on, some of us found it a gripping story and very atmospheric, whilst several were less impressed and didn't care for it. Too many characters and too long, mentioned.

Other comments were; descriptive and cleverly written, conditions of early settlers vividly portrayed, didn't hold my attention, iffy, different. It won the Costa Book of the Year prize in 2006, but even so would not be recommended by all our members.

For this month we have tales from Scotland, Peter Hill's memoirs as a young lighthouse keeper. 'Stargazing', the book for our meeting on July 16th at Cleobury Library.

Deana Kimber 01299 271754

**FROM RUSSIA,
WITHOUT LOVE**

The attempted murder of double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in Salisbury, and

subsequent events turned heads all over the world. Prime Minister Theresa May took immediate action and it appears the relationship between Britain and Russia will revert to 'Cold War' status.

Eleven-years ago, ex-KGB agent Alexander Litvinenko was killed after lethal Polonium P210 was dropped into a teapot at the Millennium Hotel in London's Mayfair. The Russian took three sips from his tea cup and suffered an horrific death days later in hospital as haunting photos were circulated by the world's media.

A London based Irishman, Derek Conlon, resident pianist at the hotel that week, drank from the same cup and was also poisoned by one of the most lethal chemicals the earth has seen. The singer-songwriter had to spend six-months secluded in his apartment away from the world, before being told to carry on with life, though he was warned he was a high risk for a number of cancers and other fatal diseases.

At the first opportunity, the talented musician took a job in Barbados. He went on to spend a decade performing onboard top cruise ships, many of which sailed out of Baltimore. His

often comical life on ship and offshore helped his fight against the depression brought on by an incident no one could have been prepared for.

The book is available on Amazon for £4.99 plus postage and there are kindle versions on iBooks, Smashwords and other sites at just £2.22.

**THE GIANT, THE WITCH
AND THE RAINBOW**

New book, new author. Phil Marsh is an ex Cleobury resident whose walks over the hills have inspired a tale of many strange local characters. Like Shiara the Witch, Braddock the Giant and a Dragon called Ddraig Dwr. The tale is of Shiara's brave fight to reform both Dragon and Giant with her magic power and make them friends of the village of Cleobury Mortimer. No hiding behind false names here, the Giant's way of dealing with Clows Top and Witley Court spares no blushes.

A fanciful tale, using much imagination and sometimes strange punctuation, it will hold your attention. Available from Amazon at £7.00 for the paperback version and £3.50 for the Kindle. Recommended. JR

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The July Clarion Social Calendar

Part One

Sun 1 st	10.00	CMFA gather at the Parish Church for a scenic walk out. All welcome		
	6.00	Open Mic Night at the KA. Acoustic only		
Wed 4 th	10.00	Hearing Aid Drop-In Clinic, St Mary's Place, Love Lane		
	10.00	Walking for health starts at the Sports Centre, Love lane		
	3.30	Meeting about Future Fit and hospital facilities. Bishop Mascall Centre, Ludlow. PAGE 27		
	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall.	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 5 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED		
	10.30	Rock Pathfinders meet on Memorial car park in Clun. PAGE 13		
Sat 7 th	08.00	Sale of Household Goods at Knowle Sports Ground, Clee Hill		
	10.30	Charity Coffee Morning, Clows Top Victory hall. Run by Pensax Church		
Mon 9 th	6.30	Creative Writing Group, the Library. PAGE 9	Jim Reynolds	01299 270642
Wed 11 th	10.00	CoCo Coffee Morning at the Market Hall. Coffee and cake for £1.50!		
	8.00	Royal British Legion meet at The Bell Inn, Lower Street.	David Taylor	01299 270793
		Neen Savage W.I. visit Pam's Pool small holding. PAGE 9	Sandra Dodd	01299 271563
Thurs 12 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED		
Fri 13 th	7.30	Dr. Mark Baldwin talks at Cleobury Golf Club. Really good stuff! PAGE 5		
Sat 14 th		Coach outing to Southport	Mrs Gregory	01584 891464
	1.30	Cider and Sausage Festival at the King's Arms, with live music. PAGE 5		
	2.00	Chelmarsh Village Fete in the village hall. PAGE 5		
	2.30	Afternoon Tea in Bayton Village Hall with music and prosecco. PAGE 5		
	2.30	Strawberry Tea at Doddington Village Hall, in aid of the church. PAGE 9		
	8.00	Rock n'Blues Night at The Victory Hall, Clows Top. PAGE 5		
Sat/Sun 14/15 th		Bayton's restored church open to all, lovely place. PAGE 5		
Sun 15 th		FIFA World Cup Final. Lots of special deal at pubs and clubs to enjoy the big one!		
Mon 16 th	7.30	The Reading Group meet in the Library, Love Lane. PAGE 31		
Wed 18 th	10.00	Walking for Health		
	6.00	Knowle Sports Association have an evening opening. Great bargains. PAGE 5		
	7.30	Whist Drive, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Thurs 19 th		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED		

The Doddington Friendship Club, who meet at 2.00 in that fine Village Hall on alternate Tuesdays, write to tell us about their busy 2018 programme.

Here are the July extracts:

10th. John Turrell talks about 'Children's Games and Nursery Rhymes'.

It will also be the day to renew half yearly subscriptions at a modest £10.00

Then on the 24th, Rosemary Winall will tell about her 'Canal Adventure.'

We will try to keep readers informed about the Club programme through the year.



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Thurs 19th	10.30	Rock pathfinders gather in the car park at the running Horse, Bewdley. PAGE 13		
Fri 20 th	8.00	Bingo Night, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Sat 21 st	9.30-12.30	Cleobury Country Farmers Market, in St Mary's Church. Local produce for local people!		
		Cleobury's Got Talent show, Sports & Social Club, Love Lane		
Tues 24 th	2.00	Stroke Support Group meet at the Sports & Social Club, Love Lane		
Wed 25 th	10.00	Coco Coffee Morning at the Market Hall, good social occasion!		
	3.30	NHS Future fit meeting, Bridgnorth Leisure Centre. PAGE 27		
	7.30	Clows Top Garden Club, Victory Hall. PAGE 13	Marion Wilson	01299 27-475
Thurs 26 th		BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED		
Fri 27 th	8.00	Bingo Night, Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	01584 890874
Mon 30 th	7.30	The Nearly Dead Poets' Society, The Library	Jim Reynolds	01299 270642
		AND LOOKING AHEAD TO AUGUST.....		
Wed 1 st	7.30	Whist Drive at Doddington Village Hall	Sonia Pearsall	1584 890874
Thurs 2 nd		GREEN GARDEN WASTE WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED		
Sat 4 th	9.00	County Councillor's Surgery, Market Hall. No appointment necessary. PAGE 7		

LATE ADDITION TO THE SOCIAL CALENDAR

This one came in just after we'd sent the lists of dates off to the Cleobury Country Centre, where people far more competent than the editor put a list of dates in the usual framework.

Friday 27th 8.00 Swift watch and count, meeting in the Market Hall and moving out to get a clearer view of our visitors. SEE PAGE 53.

CLEOBURY MORTIMER RUNNING CLUB

This remarkably successful club will be running its first 10 kilometre race on Sunday, July 1st. It will be based at the Sports and Fitness Centre and the Sports and Social Club, with the start naturally out on the Sports Field. With the current popularity of running, you can expect a lot of lean and purposeful people to be out there testing their fitness.

Great event for the club, great for the town if they draw people here to discover what a great place it is and probably good for the Sports and Social Club as both runners and supporters will be thirsty.

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THE BENEFITS OF MASSAGE

April Boardman writes:

When I qualified in the 1990's as a massage therapist, I was almost fearful of touching clients, afraid that I would hurt them, worried about working too deeply and put off from accepting some clients due to the long list of contraindications we students were given. Completing any course is just the first step, it takes time to build competence and experience.

Here are two examples of how an experienced massage therapist can help people with chronic conditions:

When John contacted me he said he needed help because of his chronic arthritis, but sadly every massage therapist he had contacted was afraid to treat him. I decided to see him, I thought if I cannot provide massage perhaps I can offer him Reiki instead. After consultation it was apparent that John was suffering a lot of discomfort and muscular tension, due to his condition and that he really wanted to try massage. At first John could not even lie flat on the couch and I had to prop him up with pillows to make him as comfortable as possible.

Over the first few weeks I gained his trust, and gradually was able to work deeper into the soft tissues, taking care over his arthritic joints and checking with him all the time to make sure the pressure was okay. John's dedication to seeking something to help him manage his arthritis in addition to his conventional treatment and his trust in me, enabled us together to increase his overall well being and to manage his pain. He always stands straighter and moves more freely after massage. I have some arthritis myself and I too have a regular massage because I know how much it helps to ease my discomfort.

Massage also benefits clients with Multiple Sclerosis, I have three female clients with MS, all in different stages of the illness. When Mary first came to me we thought her problem was musculo-skeletal issues, but as time went on I noticed her symptoms were very similar to one of my other clients with MS. I encouraged her to see her GP and ask to be referred for further investigation, as until then they were suggesting her symptoms of tingling and numbness in her legs were due to an old back injury.

She was eventually diagnosed with Rapid Onset MS. Treatments have to be adapted, dependent upon how the person with MS is feeling. Sometimes the massage needs to be lighter as they can be hypersensitive to touch and can experience spasms in the muscles, and I often provide Massage and Reiki Healing, to provide a holistic and relaxing treatment. As Mary's mobility deteriorated I brought the couch down stairs for her and if and when the time comes that she can no longer get to me, I will visit her at home.

The relationship between client and therapist is important and I like to think that there is always something we can do to make things a little better for people.

(Names of clients have been changed)

April Boardman

SILLY BITS

- 1. Police in Los Angeles had good luck with a robbery suspect who couldn't control himself in a lineup. When detectives asked each man to repeat the words "Give me all the money or I'll shoot", the man shouted "That's not what I said"!**
- 2. A man spoke frantically into the phone: "My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart." "Is this her first child?" the doctor asked. "No, this is her husband," the man shouted.**



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The long awaited Public Enquiry into the Diamond operation was finally held on 21st June. Madge Shingleton and I attended, as well as two representatives from Shropshire Council, the room being packed, with standing room only. The Chairman opened by saying that it was not proper for the public to speak while the meeting was in session but he would speak to individuals during breaks (which we both took advantage of). Two Diamond Directors were in attendance but most of the talking was done by their legal representative who was very sharp and had obviously studied the case in depth. The DVSA produced details of a survey which indicated that Diamond's average failure to run on time was 21% compared with a legal target of 5%. After detailed explanations were given prior to the meeting, this was reduced to 11% overall. Interestingly, the rate for services from the Kiddy depot was 15%. Much time (over an hour!) was then taken up with the reasons for individual services being late or not running which will be considered by the Commissioner when he makes his decision.

Discussion then moved to maintenance. DVSA do spot checks on vehicles and of 166 Diamond buses examined, 37 or 22% were issued with prohibitions and removed from service until repaired. These mostly involved fuel and oil leaks and loose wheels. The Commissioner noted that Diamond servicing records indicated that more problems showed up during their annual pre MoT check than at other times. Was this because other checks were not thorough enough? No, replied Diamond. This was because the pre MoT check included cosmetic items not otherwise covered. Explanations were also given for the other cases although the Commissioner did not appear totally convinced. He expressed concern about the level of fuel and oil leaks but was told these tended to be worse on older vehicles.

He then turned to the incidence of vehicle fires. Why so many? Diamond's reply was that this was not unusual as even National Express buses had suffered two instances recently. (This may be the


case but how many buses have they got?). I spoke to one of the Shropshire Council staff and he said they deal with 26 bus companies and can't recall a single fire on any of their vehicles so draw your own conclusions... Diamond's explanation was that the first two fires were caused by the same fault (an overheating alternator) so they had changed these on all vehicles of that type. The Far Forest fire was the same type of vehicle but the cause could not be established as there was nothing left to examine!. The Bloxwich episode was a different type of vehicle and caused by an electrical problem. They claimed that these incidents could happen to anyone but the Commissioner looked a little skeptical although he said nothing.

The Diamond representative then gave a long and detailed closing speech in which he accepted that things were not perfect but that the company was working hard to improve. Since taking over the Kiddy depot in 2013, they had reduced the average age of the buses from 14 to 8.2 years and were planning to introduce even newer vehicles. In addition, all the newer vehicles from the companies they had taken over had been allocated to the Kiddy depot. He also said that the 95% 'on time' target was unfair in the light of increasing congestion and should be reviewed (clearly believing that attack is the best form of defence...) He finished by saying that although the Commissioner had the power to revoke the company's licence, this would mean no buses as no-one else would take on the routes.

The Commissioner then summed up, saying that similar things had been said at the last Public Enquiry in 2016. He had heard the arguments put forward but never in his 8 years as a Commissioner had he received so many complaints about a single company or had such a high attendance at an Enquiry. He stated that he would consider all the points made to him and would publish his decision within 28 days. All in all, this had taken over 4 hours with just a 10 minute comfort break but it must have been fairly interesting as I stayed awake throughout. *ST*

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PLASTIC: NOT SO FANTASTIC

News from the Plastic Reduction Group in Cleobury Mortimer.

In June's Clarion we started with our Plastic: Not So Fantastic Tip Number One:

Instead of buying plastic liquid soap containers for hand washing, try using a bar of soap instead.

It is good to know that our very own Magpie Hill Soap, from Hopton Wafers produce soap available for you to buy at the Cleobury Country Farmers' Market or online. You'll also be pleased to hear that they use eco friendly biodegradable cellophane wrap and compostable labels on the soap. *(Editor's Note: I use Magpie Hill soaps in my en suite - the only one I will allow in there. Really good stuff. JR)*

Plastic: Not So Fantastic Tip Number Two:

Buying a hot drink when you are out and about? Use your own reusable coffee cup instead of taking a plastic coated cardboard cup and plastic lid.

Using your own cup will get you 25p off a cup of coffee (or any other "handcrafted" drink) at

Costa. Elliott, manager at the Coop, is contacting Costa to see if they will extend this reduced rate to the Costa franchise in the Cleobury branch. Thanks for your help with this Elliott and we look forward to hearing what Costa say.

We would love to get your feedback on our Plastic: Not So Fantastic Tips and will promote other tips you send us. You can contact us by email at: Neil.tysall@cleobury.org.uk

THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

The Italian Night on April 20th raised £1000, which has been used to buy a super-duper karaoke/sound system for the Club. Everyone who attended agreed it was a fantastic night, made even more memorable by our MC, Justin Parker. Thanks once again to Cath Hinves and all our willing helpers for your support. Our next food theme event is a TexMex Night on 19th October; watch this space for more details.

The World Cup games continue into July, with hopefully England still playing a part! The Club will be showing all the games, culminating in the Final on 15th July. Gemma will

be running a drinks promotion for the duration of the playing time of the game, and for an hour before game start and an hour after game end.

The Cricket Club has a home game against Ross-on-Wye on 21st July. The All-Stars Junior Cricket coaching, run by Alison Dunn, is now in full swing on Monday evenings.

On Sunday, 22nd July, the Cleobury's Got Talent contest will take place to find the hidden talent amongst local young people.

July's meeting of the Stroke Support Group will take place on Tuesday, 24th, between 2.00 and 4.00. Please contact Katja Jones at the Medical Centre for more details.

Clubfest will take place on Saturday, August 18th. Bands are booked and various stalls will be in attendance, including the highly popular Mr Tee's Ice Cream. More details next month.

As usual, for more information or to make a Club booking, contact Club Steward, Gemma Canty on 01299 271448 or via our Facebook page.

Glenys Turpin



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House martin young awaiting another feeding visit from parents who work hard to keep them alive.

Charming photograph by Rosemary Winnall.

This will be the first year since we moved to Uncllys 14 years ago that there will be no House Martins or Swallows nesting here. I've done my best: there's a dustbin lid full of damp mud for their nest-building and the old nesting sites are still there. A few individuals have visited on sunny days, raising my hopes and lifting my spirits as they swoop around the barn and house. The Martins like the gable ends of the house, and have even inspected the remains of old nests there, but nothing has come of it. In the past Swallows have nested in the barn roof and the eaves of the Studio, preferring a more open aspect (as the estate agents might put it).

I wonder what's going on? 'Springwatch' and various websites have mentioned that these migrants have had a peculiar and sporadic arrival this year most probably caused by the long winter and storms. I hope

they are making up for lost time somewhere. I miss their busy comings and goings and the little faces of the nestlings looking out for their parents' returns with beaks full of flies. Did I say, 'Beaks full of flies'? That may be the answer to the mysterious absence of the swallow family, as insects just don't seem to be around in large numbers any more. When you come back from a car journey is the front of the car covered in squashed flies?

That would have been normal 30 years ago. I suspect this has something to do with the widespread use of insecticides in our gardens and, even more so, in the wider countryside. I see that Chris Packham has been talking to the media about an 'ecological apocalypse' creeping up on us in Britain. One of the trends he mentions is the decrease in insects such as moths and crane flies which come in at night through open windows in his home in the New Forest. I've noticed the same thing – something must surely be wrong if there are hardly any crane flies in the middle of a National Nature Reserve (and our children don't know what a 'Daddy long legs' is!).

However, I have heard a cuckoo several times this year (perhaps the same one each time), so the 'Silent Spring' isn't quite upon us yet. And there is always hope that something can be done to reverse the evident declines in nearly all of our wildlife: look at the Pearl Bordered Fritillary butterfly which is increasing in numbers thanks to positive efforts to increase its habitat along forest rides. The Red Kite too is being seen more and more in this locality, continuing its spread through England thanks to reintroductions from the small population in Wales which survived the persecution of less enlightened times.

Linda Iles

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STOTTESDON AND CHORLEY OPEN GARDENS

This weekend is always a treat, but pressure of work and a date with the Moto GP on BT meant I could not stay long. Sorry, all you gardeners in Chorley who should have been given a mention, but I really was busy.

Having paid for a very helpful and colourful guide, I marvelled at how much was squeezed into a very small space behind Moonbeam House. Then to Mrs Addison's Place, remembered from the last visit here.

My eye was caught by the serpentine twisting of what proved to be a nearly bare wisteria. In full blue bloom it



must be a stunning sight. The rest of the garden offered a busy variety of hidden niches and the most unlikely blending of old and new. In a few years the house will be 100 years old, occupied by only two families in its life.

Next door was The Old Fox and Hounds pub, long ago converted into a house with a large garden and plenty of room for the refreshments facility and even a loo. Wonderful. There were lots of plants being sold, then put aside for the visitor to pick after visiting the further displays.

A short walk down the road to take in Wade Muggleton's quite remarkable gardens, starting with an apple tree in the front one with seven different species of the fruit grafted on.

Wade is a great advocate of using what you've got, or can pick up for little or nothing. He proves his point with his own back garden, divided into small areas and nearly all featuring what looks like something special and turns out to be quite an ordinary object.

Like one old favourite in the walk around here. It looks very special, the words 'Posh Cloche' coming to mind. It is in fact an old shower unit, thrown into a skip and given a new lease of

life here. It seems to be thriving on an open air life



A posh cloche, with roll back glass? Not quite, it actually started life as a shower unit.

Up on the patio a flower display proved to be in an old bath, set in a brick surround to add stability and looking very good. An educational experience.

On the way back to the car park I stopped to vote for the best 'Garden Fit For A Gnome' plant pot competition. Several very attractive displays made it no easy task. And a visit by members of the Vintage Sports Car Club on a weekend rally included a 1929 Humber saloon in what looked suspiciously like its original paint; no fancy stuff there. My late mother in law rode a Humber motorcycle; nice to see the name lives on.



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Cleobury Clarion - Page 44 - July 2018

A WORLD WAR TWO HERO



Geoff Barratt with the Legion d'Honneur received from the President of France.

It was quite a surprise when Geoff Barratt opened a mysterious padded envelope to discover a letter from the French Ambassador to England and a very special medal.

The letter explained that he was one of the men chosen to be made a Chevalier of France's most prestigious military honour in gratitude for their bravery in freeing France from the grip of German invaders. The Legion was established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802.

He's modestly proud of the award, but doesn't talk of the dangers he faced, even though his memory and a notebook can sum up his service. "I volunteered when I was seventeen and a half, and hoped I'd get a posting near home like one of the local lads," he recalls. "But they sent me to Aberdeen instead!"

Eight weeks basic training completed, he was transferred to Catterick Camp, where he trained as a tank driver on a Churchill model, before moving on to Pickering as one of a squad of 30 men. That was enough to form a strike force with five man crews to their fleet of six, part of the Royal Armoured Corps.

They were moved on to Yeadon Airport, where they were issued with new Valentine tanks. It was an irony that Geoff's squad had a Valentine built in Croydon, while the next one along came from Smethwick - where he was born.

The squad were part of the invasion force on D-Day, landing on either Sword or King's Beach, but in the confusion Geoff could not be certain. He did know their target, the port of Caen.

"Caerne was a military hub," explains Geoff. "I only learned recently that my son's father-in-law was out in the English Channel with the Royal Navy, firing shells into Caen!"

The Allied forces advanced and Geoff saw Rouen and Rheims on his drive eastwards. Then their tank either went over a mine or was hit by an explosive shell and lost a track. No replacements were available in the urgent push and he found himself transferred to the Royal Army Service Corps. He was finally discharged at Dortmund in Germany in 1947. "Never got a scratch, never fired a bullet in anger," he says with a grin.

Years later he was asked what was the worst part of his service? "In 1982, when I went back to the cemeteries over there and thought of all those lads we lost." He was a tough survivor, but never lost decent human feelings.

His award of the Legion d'Honneur was celebrated by his fellow residents of Doddington Heights on June 22nd, when a lunch in his honour was held in the Village Hall. How right that such service should be recognised.

ANOTHER JOB OPPORTUNITY - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

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The Battle of Hamel 1918

The Germans launched the Spring Offensive in late March and pushed the Allies back until they were checked early in April. The Allies then started a series of small scale advances which proved successful. It was decided that a vital objective was Le Hamel on the Somme. There were two main reasons: the Germans had forced a bulge in the front line exposing the Allies to fire from both sides and observation of their rear areas, secondly high ground in the village allowed the Germans this observation. If the village was taken the Allies would be clear to advance and take Amiens, which was key to further advance.

This battle saw many innovative aspects of war on the Western Front which were largely due to the commander Lieutenant General John Monash, Australian Army. Le Hamel was the first battle fought by the Australian Corps in which an Australian general was in command. Monash had been an engineer in civilian life which is probably why he was able to take on board technical innovation and use it to have a real effect on battlefield mobility which had been lost for nearly four years.

Every aspect was planned down to the last detail to ensure that all sections were used as a cohesive whole. Tanks and infantry, artillery, aircraft and signals all worked together. Aspects of Monash's plan had been used before but never all of them at the same time. Le Hamel was a small operation but came to be recognised as a pivotal point in the application of resource during the Great War.

A casual observer would have been surprised at the high number of tanks involved in the action; they supported the infantry and overcame machine gun nests and strong points. At one point it was reported that when the advance was slowed by machine gun fire from both sides an Australian sergeant noticed a tank apparently with time on its hands. Here the account gets very surreal... there were no field phones in a tank so there was no one to one contact and the tank crew had restricted vision. The sergeant went over to it and pulled the bell handle at the back yes that's correct **"pulled the bell handle at the back"**, once the

door was opened the crew were alerted and the machine gun post was dealt with.

For the first time on a battlefield tanks were also used to bring up supplies behind advancing infantry. As we have noted before this was usually done by support battalions and some units used this method during the battle.

The Colonel of the 13th Battalion on reaching the position where the forward dump was to be established was surprised to find a large quantity of stores already there. He asked a soldier to explain and was rewarded with the information that "Our tank bought it up, sir.". One tank in a number of trips had delivered a wide range of supplies ranging from barbed wire to ammunition and grenades.

It was recorded that "Never had supplies reached the front with the swiftness with which they were delivered that day." One Battalion Commander remarked "In this achievement lay the outstanding lesson of the battle."

Planes were also used as never before, twelve carrying ammunition dropped loads by parachute, in total some 111000 rounds of ammunition. During this operation support was provided by British planes engaging German ground forces. The battle also saw spotter planes marking the rate of enemy advance, sending messages by rocket (not a major success) increased use of radio and utilisation of carrier pigeons. Under three hours after the attack started signallers had phone lines through to the front.

Hamel is often referred to as "The text book victory." Within two hours all objectives were met and 1400 German prisoners taken. This was in most part due to Monash, his very precise planning and confidence to use combinations of different resources in ways never previously considered. We can only conjecture upon this and wonder if things would have been different earlier had similar application been applied to battles.

Monash was not typical material for a battlefield commander but he seems to have worked some sort of magic at Hamel.

Paul French



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SALLY'S NEW CAREER



Sally Burns (right) with Jo Apperley of Red Hare, whose salon she'll be using for private consultations.

Sally Burns knows how to treat people with care - she worked as a midwife in the NHS for 35 years. And when she retired from that service she looked around for another way of helping others.

She found it in the developing aesthetics field, where people can get a lift from a new look that takes away the signs of age and tiredness. Sally is a qualified aesthetic practitioner for muscle relaxants, fillers and specialist skin care advice, so that she can cater for both men and women who want to give their looks a new lift.

Looking for a High Street location where she could give

private consultations and treatment, she talked to Red Hare proprietor Jo Apperley. She was already a customer there and the two recognised the high standards of the other.

As Red Hare Salon is not open on Mondays, Sally will be using their treatment room on that day and can give complete privacy. "I know Sally well, she's a good professional and I'm very happy to have her sharing space with me," said Jo.

Sally will be working from home for the rest of the week, or travelling out to clients' own homes if that is more convenient for them.

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CLEOBURY'S SWIFTS

Kit Smith reports on our high flying summer residents:

It had not been a good start to this year's swifts in Cleobury. We might have expected over twenty birds to arrive from Africa on the first of May. Due to storms, wind, rain and hail over Africa and France, only seven swifts had arrived with us by

May 8th. However, these resilient and adaptive birds have redeemed themselves and although late, twenty two were counted in the sky by mid June.

It will continue to be a difficult year for them, because by arriving late they may well have to remain with us until mid August to rear their fledglings and feed up before returning to Africa. Let us hope the weather is good with sufficient food of high flying insects.

They are using some of their old nesting sites but also using new ones in the Market Hall eaves. So far newly matured swifts have not used the eight swift boxes the Youth Group put up on the church, although they have shown some interest in them.

There will be a Swift Watch meeting in the Market Hall on Friday 27th July. All are welcome. We will attempt to count them in the air and to assess how good or bad a season they will have had. We can also look at how our Swallows and House Martins numbers are holding up. They also were late in arrival, and probably will only manage one or perhaps two broods instead of the more usual two or three.

Kit Smith 01299272679

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THE BREAKFAST CLUB

The Breakfast Club met at the Cleobury Café on June 12th to hear Jill Sharp talk about work as a physiotherapist, something which quite a few club members have experienced in person.

At Kidderminster Hospital, she became aware of some of the medical problems people face, which gave her the determination to help them. A Levels at night school opened the way to a degree in Physiotherapy from Wolverhampton University. She then worked for the NHS for 35 years. Now she provides a physiotherapy service on Cleobury's High Street.

She provides an in-depth assessment of patients' problems, which enables her to identify appropriate treatment. In addition to standard manipulative and massage treatments, Jill's extra qualifications allow her to offer acupuncture and the Emmett technique. We often assume that physio is only useful for musculo and skeletal problems; it actually has a wider application, encompassing things like respiratory problems, and post-operative recovery. The most common problems she has to tackle are associated with the lower back, and tendinitis in various parts of the body.

In the UK, generally people are not mindful enough of the needs of their bodies, whereas in countries like Sweden, people take greater care. Jill outlined a few things we should keep in mind, particularly as we age, for age both reduces our abilities and also slows down our recovery. We should try to

maintain good posture. We need good core muscles – lower abdomen, front and back – to create a sturdy foundation for the rest of the body. Good sound sleep is a help, and we should avoid unbalanced loads (don't always carry a heavy bag on the same shoulder), and repetitive activity for too long. Tight clothing can create problems for the muscles and tendons.

Jill gave us a good overview of her work, while encouraging us to look after our bodies in such a way that we will be less likely to end up as her patients. Her underlying philosophy of wanting to help people lead better lives came through clearly.

The Breakfast Club next meets on July 10 at the Talbot Hotel (note new venue) to hear Jon Bodenham talk about the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Plan. Those wishing to attend should contact Angela Drennan (270636) to book places. *Mark Baldwin*

STOTTESDON W.I.

On midsummer day I sat in a wild flower meadow bordering Cramer Gutter amongst Common Spotted Orchids. It is a delight to enjoy these flowers, now far from 'common', in their natural surroundings, and it is to this end that our speaker, Dr Wison Wall, devotes his energies. A director of Bewdley Orchids he is a leading light in the propagation of almost every species of our native varieties, collecting seed and germinating each plant in ideal conditions with symbiotic fungi, over a period of several years. Many of the resulting specimens are returned to a natural environment, Dr Wall's ultimate goal being the recreation of our

disappearing wild flower habitats.

He campaigns against picking the flowers (thus preventing their seed pollination by night flying moths) and uprooting orchids, which kills by damaging deep root systems: these illegal practices are in large part responsible for the current decline of the species. This was an erudite and fascinating talk; a visit to the Bewdley Orchids website will provide more information and a catalogue of his plants for sale, to help us all create our own small patch of wild flower meadow.

On 15th August we are at Farlow Village Hall for our own Show. *Marian Wootton*

ON CATHERTON

A lot of people just see Catherton Common Nature Reserve as a wasteland grazed by sheep. In fact the most valuable parts for wildlife are its wetland areas here and there across the site. Wherever there is a spring, a stream or an old bell pit you can find water. Where that water flows onto a flatter area or soils with impeded drainage wet flushes, marshy grassland and bogs develop.

I was exploring the wet flush between Upper Marshes and Cramer Gutter, following work we have done over the last few years to remove trees and scrub that were starting to strangle the wet flush. Now is a special time to see some of the amazing insects that populate this habitat.

In particular Small Pearl Bordered Fritillary butterfly (a bright orange one) and Keeled skimmer dragonfly (powder blue abdomen). Both insects are very rare with Catherton being the only site in the West Midlands for Keeled Skimmer. *Clive Dean*



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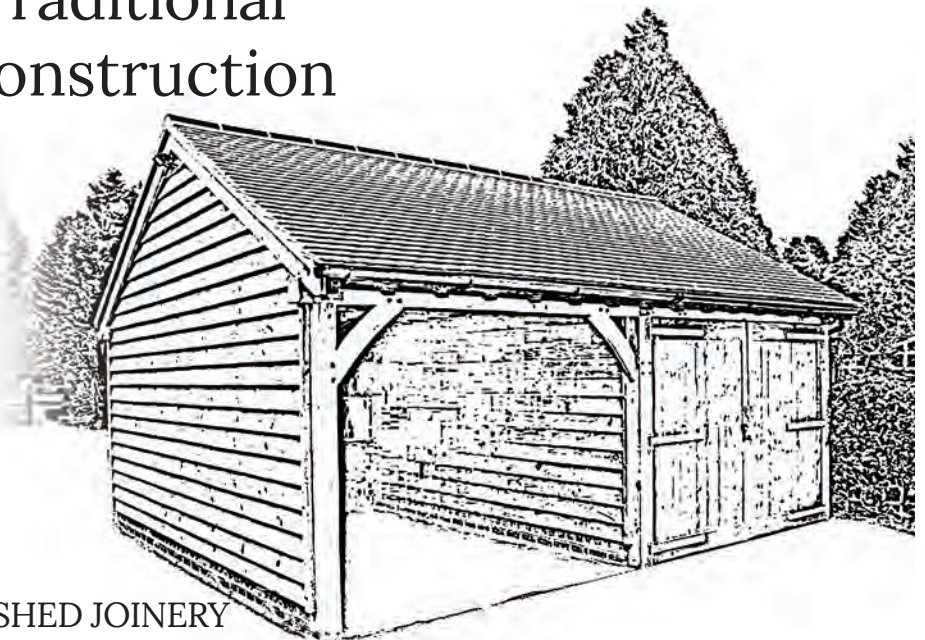
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We've all been there. The car or van you've saved up for, or taken on a loan to buy, suffers a scratch that spoils the smart look you were so proud of. If you've agreed to stand the first part of any repair cost to keep the price of insurance down a bit, you think twice about making a claim.

That's when Andy Taylor can make you feel a lot better without hurting your wallet too much. I had a blemish on the flank of my BMW, a car that did look very smart when I bought it. Until I scraped a roadside sign when reversing. Doh!



Before. Evidence of clumsiness that spoiled my car's looks.

I called the man and he came to look and offer a sympathetic tut-tut. Yes he could sort that and there was no need to take the car away; it could stay on the front drive and be given surgery. 10.00 on Wednesday morning OK? It certainly was.

He arrived on time, unloaded an array of equipment from his VW van and asked for his power unit to be plugged in. With a large mat to kneel on, he was soon laying on two lots of body filler to get the right base. When that was dry, a neat little grinder began to restore the shape.

He's been doing this work for ten and a half years, after selling up his optician's business and doing something he enjoys and is passionate about. It shows in his relaxed, friendly manner and the careful way he restores the contours of a damaged wing.

"The second job I did after my training was on an Aston Martin DB9," he recalls. "No pressure there." His customer was happy and he's repaired thousands of cars since.



Andy, handling with care.

"Nice day to work outside, Andy, but what do you do if it's raining?" we asked. "I have a large gazebo I can work under. It's fine so long as the rain isn't coming in sideways."

This flexibility is one of the secrets of his business success. His workplace on your front drive is a lot more sensibly priced than having a workshop.

The filling and shaping finally done to his satisfaction - it took a few hours before he was happy - it was painting time. So did he want the car paint code? "No thanks, I'll use this," he said as a large plastic camera was pressed against the car wing and a laptop gave him the formula for mixing the paint to the correct shade. Three or four careful coats followed by the gloss top coat and the drying process checked until he was happy. £120 plus VAT made good sense. Bless the man.



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TUESDAY 24TH JULY

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LAST 16

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GROUP 1H V 2G

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FRIDAY 6TH JULY 7PM

SATURDAY 7TH JULY 3PM & 7PM

SEMI - FINALS.

TUESDAY 10TH JULY 7PM

WEDNESDAY 11TH JULY 7PM

THIRD-PLACE PLAY-OFF

SATURDAY 14TH JULY 3PM

FINAL

SUNDAY 15TH JULY 4PM

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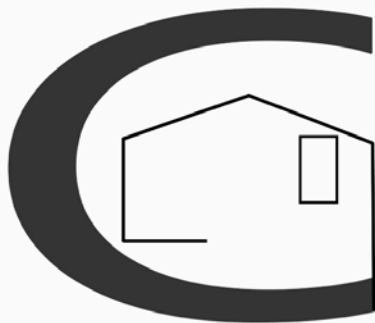


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Welcome to the Town Council's first monthly report of what is happening in and around our parish. We are lucky to have our volunteer councillors that give up their time and efforts to do their best for our community, making sure it is looked after. In these days of cuts and issues with Shropshire Council, more developments and new challenges, we have to work ever harder to keep services.

We recently gained Quality status for our work with the community, only the second council in Shropshire to get this, engaging with and supporting all community groups to keep us moving forward in very challenging times.

We have many community led groups and projects to ensure it is what you want and one such group is the Crime Reduction Group, supported by the Town Council and Police.

One current project is the CCTV installation, which is now in place and gradually coming on line, to add retrospective assistance to Police and Insurance companies, which was prompted due to the closing of the Police station and lack of Police presence and issues we were having to put up with. The system was funded through Grant application with the bulk coming from the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, so we can now look to deter Crime as much as solve it, as the Smartwater initiative was also taken on to do.

This month we have helped with one serious assault, three reports of anti-social behaviour, one insurance incident, theft from vehicles and we will be giving regular updates how it is helping our community and any outcomes I am made aware of. We have also received a thank you from the Police recently for the information obtained, praising our system to help solve crimes, as well as thanks from the public.

Another initiative from the Crime Group are the traffic calming gates as you enter Cleobury, to try and reduce the speed of vehicles entering the town, which has had success in other towns. Parking and disabled parking is another current item being looked at.

We have many voluntary community groups that we work with: for re vamping the play area, adult gym equipment, BMX track, dog training area, WW1 group (notice the new WW1 benches), festival group and the combined sports group with football, rugby and cricket clubs coming together to help improve our facilities. Please contact the Town Clerk if you would like to help any of these.

The groups come up with ideas, ways to fund and then ask for the Town Council's support, so it is what the community want. With Shropshire Council and the cutbacks putting more on local councils and especially Cleobury being at the bottom of the County, we continue to fight for services that we already pay for.

We are very interactive within the community either through our Website, which is full of information, or our very popular Facebook page, where we keep everyone up to date.

Our Council meetings are usually on the first Monday of the month, 7.00pm at Cleobury Country Centre, to look at issues and challenges which are listed on our Agenda, after which the agreed minutes are posted on our website, which helps keep you up to date.

Matt Sheehan

Town Clerk

Contact Matt in office hours on 01299 2 7 1 1 5 4 , o r e m a i l matthew.sheehan@cleobury.org.uk

CLEOBURY MORTIMER PARISH HALL

Flicks will recommence in September. Details will appear in the August Clarion

Regular groups meet in the hall and welcome new members, such as:

The Friendship Club meet each Tuesday 2pm until 4pm

Sit and be Fit exercises for Male and Female

on Wednesdays 11am to midday

Pilates Class Wednesdays 12-30 until 1-30pm

Bridge for fun on Thursdays 1-45 until 4-30pm

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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
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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.

Missed your Clarion? Cleobury Mortimer Library keeps the current month's copy on file and all back issues are available to read as pdfs from www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE IS JULY 22nd

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Residential Sales

Some startling figures have just been released by the charity Crisis, which show there is an estimated 3.91 million shortfall in homes across England. The research also says 340,000 new homes need to be built across England every year until 2031 to meet future demand – compared to the current Government target of 250,000 a year. There are, of course, debates about the effect building new homes will have on the housing market, and the affordability of any new homes is a key factor as well. But it is clear from our experience here in Cleobury Mortimer that the demand for property is out there – we have lots of people on our books just waiting for the right house to come along!



Erica Hinwood
MARLA MNAEA
Office Manager



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Lettings

A recent study found that consent to keep a pet was the fourth most important fact for tenants looking for a rented property. By not allowing tenants' furry family members then you could risk narrowing your selection of potential tenants. First, you need to check that pets are allowed for your property. For example, if you are renting a leasehold flat, there may be a covenant in your lease forbidding pets, so check this first. It is also important to consider the type of pet your prospective tenant wishes to keep and whether it will be suitable for your property. If you decide to allow tenants with pets to rent your property we would always suggest taking a higher damages deposit, along with an addition of a 'pets clause' to the tenancy agreement, to make sure your investment is protected!



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