

The Cleobury Clarion

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JULY 2020

THE PLAN FOR OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

I know this comes on top of the worries and upset of corona virus and the effects of lockdown that has put jobs at risk. But the world has not come to an end for this community and we have to be looking ahead and thinking of the future. Particularly in the way it will affect the lives of our children and grandchildren - the people who are the future.

On Page 25 is an invitation from the Town Council to look at their revised Neighbourhood Plan and have your say on it. It represents a lot of time and effort put in by people who think enough of this place to want to see it keep on getting better for we who live here.

So it deserves careful reading before giving your view and you can get the plan online or order a printed hard copy if that's what suits you best. This careful process is a credit to our council and we should all give careful thought before writing or speaking to them. JR

WRITING TALENT EMERGING AND RETURNING

The Clarion is fortunate in the number of contributors who sit down and write or type a story every month. It does make the editor's job a lot easier, knowing that I can rely upon them to fill several pages offering you the reader everything from a rural education to some aggravation.

Linda Iles has been an informed presence since these pages were first printed, Philip Dunne agreed to compose a non-political Letter from Westminster and Steve Todd's acerbic view of erring local services has kept them on their toes. Mary Bland has come back after the loss of her husband to offer her sideways look at life, while Janet Dickinson remembers the town she knew long ago and Marian Rees tells tales of rural life that few of us knew about. And then there's the aptly titled Mrs Grumpy.

I have a huge debt of gratitude to them all. JR

BIG RAINBOW

You couldn't expect the team of sewers who put the wonderful cascade of poppies that decorated the parish church on Remembrance Sunday to be sitting around and doing nothing during the lockdown. They have far too much energy bubbling away and wanted to do something positive. And at 12.00 noon on Saturday the 4th, outside the Market Hall, they'll be showing off their latest piece of work.

It's the rainbow symbol that we've seen all around the country, signalling thanks and gratitude to the support and medical workers who have given us so much in recent months.

This is one very big rainbow, three metres wide and two high. That's 9'10" x 6'7" for those who prefer the old English measure and it will be filling the Hall's front window for weeks to remind us all of the debt we owe all the key workers. A big "Thank you" to all the sewers involved.

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The Cleobury Clarion, July 2020

Volume Sixteen - Edition Four



*Burst water main Wednesday,
traffic flowing Friday.
In Praise Of Page 7*



*Caron from Capulet Care had a
busy day in town.
See Page 11*



*Another blot on our rural
roadscape, on the B4201.
See Page 39*

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IN PRAISE OF.....1

Allow me to be the latest to praise..the work/customer service and diligence of Andy Taylor of Bumperscuff.

My new unsullied Renault Kadjar in metallic red.suffered a minor but deep stone chip on the bonnet. Getting my priorities at this time a tad mixed I fretted about this blemish on my new pride and joy.

I contacted Andy, who came, looked and did the old trades person's hissing of teeth when he saw the colour.

"Extremely difficult colour to match unless you respray completely." As you may imagine, my face fell.

However he said "Let me get some technical stuff from the vehicle plate and take an in depth look at the paint and I will be in touch." And he was: "Can't promise this will work completely" he said."But I have mixed something that I feel will be acceptable. Not perfect but not a respray."

So, true to his word he has been, spent half a morning on it. As he said, not perfect but most acceptable. And for this he has charged me nix, nada, nothing!

"A learning experience,' he said. A perfectionist and a gent I say.
BobWestwood

CLOWS TOP GARDENING CLUB

Still no definite dates yet when meetings will be resuming. Rest assured we will let you know when we are allowed to meet up again.

But for now, keep gardening, Stay Safe and continue supporting each other.

Garden Notes - Jobs to Do This Month

Pinch off the growing tips of runner beans when they reach the top of their poles

Prune wisteria by reducing the long tendrils back to five buds

Take off side shoots from cordon tomatoes and pick ripe fruit daily

Divide and replant congested groupings of bearded irises

Give sweet peas a high potash liquid feed once a fortnight

Remove any old foliage and mulch around fruited strawberry plants

Trim and reshape hedges such as hawthorn, beech and hornbeam

Take semi-ripe cuttings from shrubs such as hydrangeas, cistus and viburnum

Water inside the greenhouse to keep the atmosphere humid

Keep picking cutting-garden flowers to encourage blooms.

Pauline Bowen

Full credit to Pauline Bowen and the Clows Top Club for sustaining the interest in gardening with these detailed notes on work to do, whatever the restrictions on your movement. Excellent thinking. JR

THE NIGHTINGALE NURSING FUND

On behalf of the trustees of the Nightingale Nursing Fund can I express our grateful thanks to the team at Capulet Care for raising £825.00 for the fund. We look forward to meeting them when Clebury Hills care home opens in the future.

The Annual General Meeting of the fund will be held when it is safe to do so. The trustees have had a remote meeting and agreed the accounts so that they can go on the Charity Commissioners web site.

Watch this space for a meeting date when all will be welcome.

Rosemary Abbiss

Chair of the Fund Committee

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IN PRAISE OF.....2



3.00 o'clock Friday, May 29th and the traffic is flowing into Cleobury once more.

Matt Sheehan's message on Facebook was timed at 9.44pm on Wednesday May 27th:

"Road just collapsed outside fire station in Cleobury. Road now closed please avoid. Looks like burst water main."

I didn't go down to see what the damage was like on Thursday, as my lovely 750 Honda was booked in for an MoT and when it passed I got it taxed via the DVLA internet link and set off for my first ride for more than a year. Frankly, I was so happy that I forgot all about the road closure by the fire station until I rode into town and had to do a U-turn. Round through Bayton, along that very narrow, hilly and bumpy road to reach home.

Time to think about the road closure and its effect. It would certainly affect the Fire and Rescue crew turning out if there was a heath fire in the dry weather and deliveries of all sorts would be hit. The word was that a crew would work on the burst water main overnight and the road would be open again on Friday evening,

As I walked up Love Lane on Friday for my constitutional, a full size truck pulled into the coach park by the Sports and Social Club, with a big load for the installation of new Astro Turf at the school. Typical of a professional trucker to get the message of the closure and find an alternative route.

In the afternoon I took my camera down to the scene of the problem to find a barrier around the repaired road and traffic able to pass through by just taking turns and being sensible. When a 40 foot truck drove through and headed west, it was crystal clear that the problem was nearly solved. On Saturday morning all was well.

We can be critical of the state of local roads, but this could have been big problem if action had not been swift and effective. Our thanks to those who sorted the whole matter so well: Matt Sheehan tells us that Severn Trent dealt with the burst main and its repair, the Fire and Rescue Service set up the barrier and stopped traffic and the Highways Department dealt with the diversion. Thank you all. JR.

OPEN GARDEN



The National Garden Scheme gardens across England have started to open again and Chris

and Jo Bargman at Upper Marshes, Catherton Common are delighted to be able to open their garden on Sunday July 5th to support the NGS charities.

Currently, due to the Covid-19 virus there are strict guidelines. Tickets have to be pre-booked in advance via the NGS website at ngs.org.uk. We regret that, at the moment, this is the only way we can safely manage visitor numbers.

Upper Marshes is a Commoner's stone cottage with a three acre small holding. The garden has been developed to complement its unique location on the edge of Catherton Common with herbaceous borders, vegetable plot and herb garden. There is a short walk down to a spring-fed wildlife pond and plenty of seats to stop and take in the tranquility.

The National Garden Scheme raises millions of pounds for caring and nursing charities including Macmillan, Marie Curie, Hospices UK and Parkinson's UK.

Refreshments will not be available but you are welcome to picnic in our meadow. We will have some plants for sale. Toilet facilities will be available.

Jo Bargman

CARERS' WEEK

Philip Dunne MP reminds us June 8th to 14th was Carers' Week and commented: "Unpaid carers have been providing crucial support to friends and family members during the Covid-19 pandemic and it is important that their efforts are recognised and applauded. I know there have been wonderful examples in South Shropshire of selfless voluntary work and caring during the lockdown."

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IN PRAISE OF.....3

Long term residents may recall the Inspired Wines that once occupied space at what was known as West End Garage. Run by Tim and Sue Cowin, it grew from the tiny shop that is now Cleobury Carpets to a much bigger place and certainly had some very happy and faithful customers. Myself included.

When Tim and Sue decided to move to France, they sold out to the Jukes family, whose grocery store and off-licence in Ombersley was well known and respected. Ian Jukes runs that side of the business and has carried on the Inspired Wines habit of offering a case of assorted reds or whites at a price the customer sets, and the case of twelve arrives with an extra bottle on top.

Ian has travelled all over the globe establishing contacts and always comes up with something new. I've just ordered another case, to keep the family cellar topped up. Not a real cellar, it's just a collection of terra cotta land drains that can fit whatever space you've got.

Great value, delivered to your door and always a variety to tickle your taste buds. And I've never had a bad bottle in quite a

lot of years. Jukes Wines of Worcester are on 01299 890113 and you'll find them very easy to deal with.

Jim Reynolds

THE SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

Our community has faced difficult and challenging times since the Coronavirus lockdown started on 23rd March. However, at the time of writing, the Government is easing restrictions and considering the re-opening of cafes and pubs with outside spaces for customers.

This of course comes with the challenges of making the environment as safe as possible for families and friends to meet up, whilst adhering strictly to the guidelines imposed by the government to allow continued opening. The Directors of the Social Club have met to discuss thoughts and ideas as to how these challenges can be met but await the Government's final announcement of a date and guidance to re-open.

We look forward to the possibility of welcoming you back soon, however we would remind you that whilst all establishments have a duty of care to their customers to ensure

they socially distance, it is also the individual's responsibility to ensure they adhere to the rules that protect our health and lives.

Take care and stay safe

Glenys Turpin

THE CURRENT SITUATION

What we all need in these worrying times is a reason to smile or laugh. Just the odd giggle can brighten the day and make people smile more.

Like John Redfern walking his dog one Thursday morning and passing the Turpins' house as Glenys was putting out the bins for collection. "It comes to something when the highlight of the week is putting the bin out," remarked Redfern.

He's quite a character, is John Redfern, with many a good tale to tell from his days running the Redfern Hotel on Lower Street. We must sit and get some notes from him - that should guarantee a smile on the day you read it.

WISE BIT

"It don't matter where you come from, it's where you're going that counts."

Ella Fitzgerald, quoted on the BBC TV's recent documentary of her life story.



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Arts Alive and Flicks In The Sticks are suspending all shows until the start of the next season in August. All being well, the programme will resume with 'Green Book', which was originally due to be shown in March

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CAPULET CARE GENEROSITY

Caron Rogers arrived in Cleobury on June 1st with a lot of goodwill to hand out and a trying journey. Finding her way into town after a radio warning that the main road at the Fire Station was still closed was the problem, especially when she arrived to find the road wasn't closed. I'd been out delivering copies of the Clarion and come back by the same route - the road was open.

Nothing put Caron off her duty as she smiled winningly and handed over a cheque for £825 to Rosemary Abbiss and Jill Shorter, chair and treasurer of the Nightingale Nursing Fund.



From left: Jill Shorter, Caron Rogers and Rosemary Abbiss, with big smiles

Caron explained that the money was raised at Capulet Care's first Care Awards and Fund Raising event last September. They did very well and the total was divided between their three care homes. That's Woodford House, where the Head of Nursing will be joining the last Race Across Europe to raise funds for the Armed Forces, for Project Give at Perton Manor, helping to educate girls in Gambia about personal hygiene and care and the Nightingale Nursing Fund here in Cleobury.

"I met this lovely lady at one of the Cleobury wellbeing events a couple of years ago," Caron explained. "The work this charity does amazed us all."

To remind you, Capulet Care is the company behind the new Cleobury Hills nursing home nearing completion on the Ludlow Road. No official opening date known yet, but it's an event to look forward to and the home will be employing quite a lot of people.

And what did Rosemary, chair of the Nightingale Nursing Fund, think of the presentation? "This will all go to help us care for local people," she smiled. "It really is very generous and will do a lot of good for people who need support."

But Caron wasn't finished. "Have you got time to take a photo at the school?" she asked. Of course I had and as she got her car turned around, it was a pleasant walk through the churchyard and up Viols Walk to the primary school, where Carmel Mayfield was waiting.



Primary School head Carmel Mayfield with Caron.

This time it was a cheque for £500 that changed hands, again the product of the Capulet Care fund raising, helping one of the communities where they work.

Did you realise that the school remained open through all the lockdown period? Only closing three days for Bank Holidays and looking after the children of key workers the rest of the time. There were more pupils on this first day back, but not many. It's still a threat, this virus. JR

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ICE CREAM SUCCESS

The NHS Ice Cream the Perkins family, Molly, Jan and Andy, are producing in their kitchen has been a runaway success. The £2.50 a time cartons had raised £1137.50 when we enquired on June 12th and the plan is to continue producing as long as there's a demand.

They promise new flavours and now 25 percent of the takings will be donated to local charities. Just a reminder that you can buy it from Heath Farm Meats, Cleobury Cafe, Katerfresh and now the Colliers Arms Shop at Rock.

Learn more about them and their great success story on Facebook at localcharitiesnightingaleicecream.

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It's finished in an easy-on-the-eye mottled grey moquette and is made from materials that are fire resistant. Sadly the lady for whom it was bought has passed away and her daughter does not have room in her home for it. It is on offer for one thousand pounds or a near offer; it looks brand new.

Mrs Sue Dolphin on 01584 890583 can tell you more and would be glad to see it go to a good home.



THE BANDROOM

On Thursday evenings some of us have been regularly playing to neighbours or even the dairy cows! Repertoire varying from Over the Rainbow, We'll Meet Again, You'll Never Walk Alone and also playing the Last Post on VE Day.

Facebook has provided some entertainment by bands putting performances together via Zoom or suchlike, just look up Cory Band or Black Dyke for starters. It is something that CMCB haven't attempted yet, we need to get our technical team onto it, might even appear on the Cleobury Community page sometime soon.

We have enjoyed Tuesday quizzes via Zoom, organised by various band members; at least we get social contact that way.

When will rehearsals start again? The Parish hall is fairly large but not sure with social distancing if it will be possible to keep control of a 25 piece brass band spread around the room. It could very well be that the next pieces that we play collectively are those of the Christmas variety.

Katie Griffiths

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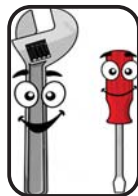
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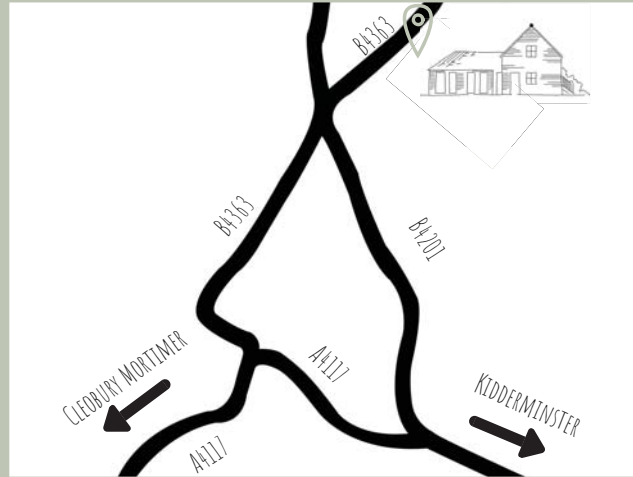
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CLEOBURY MEMORIES

Looking back at old times, we seemed to have some lovely characters in the 30s and 40s. There was Watty Link the drover, about five feet tall, he always wore brown boots and gaiters. He would drive a herd of cattle as far as Tenbury Wells, to the livestock market. As he walked behind them he would stop to chat, always lifting his cap and scratching his head. We children used to wonder if he had some 'livestock' under that cap.

Blind George delivered newspapers to outlying farms and cottages. You could hear him coming, his stick tapping on the road. We always wondered how he knew where he was, as some of his walk would take him across fields away from the road.

Gypsy Lock came around gathering rabbit skins, selling shoe laces, pegs and lots of other bits. Rabbit was the cheapest meat you could find, lots of poor families relied on it. In later years he had a three bedroom house built. It was said he paid cash for it, so he made a nice bit of money from rabbit skins. Mr Brown was a farmer, who would sit in his armchair by the fire in the black lead grate and spit; it would sizzle on the bars. We children thought he was clever to hit a bar, and Mum would threaten us with a tanning if she saw us spit. He had a black and white sheep dog; when fetching the cattle in he would order it to "get by" and as soon as it started running he would shout "Come here, you - -." Poor dog didn't know whether to come or go.

During the war an Italian prisoner of war came to work on the farm, his name was Franko. Mrs Rippard lived in a cottage on the edge of the farmland and one day she was chopping wood when over the wall leapt Franko and snatched the axe off her. She was frightened, but Franko proceeded to chop all the logs through, then handed the axe back. He said "No job for a woman," and jumped back over the wall. What a lovely thing to do.

Mr Waldron, a farmer, was blind. Every day he would walk down the lane and across the fields to get cattle in for milking. There was always a bull with the cows and Mr Waldron would lift us children onto the bull's back, he would then walk with his hand on the bull's rear and we would ride it back to the farm. No Health and Safety then!

Oily Bill came around in his lorry once a fortnight. He sold buckets, kettles, pots and pans as he rattled on his way. There was no electricity in the country then, so he brought oil and paraffin too. He would lighten the darkness!

Mr Reynolds always kept a pig and every day he went to the pub at lunchtime. One day while he was away some naughty boys got a pot of tar from a roadworks nearby and painted the pig black. He was so angry, the language was dreadful and ever after he was known as 'Tarpig Reynolds.'

Hubert Breakwell lived in a tiny cottage on the roadside, his gates and hedges topped with barbed wire so no-one could get in. Everyone called to him as he passed and he would come out

to chat. He told some lovely old tales: one day some naughty boys put a board on top of his chimney and minutes later out came poor Hubert, coughing and spluttering. The smoke had filled his living room.

Our local policeman was Mr Jack Reynolds, always known as Slim Reynolds. Two youths were fighting in the local dance hall and someone sent for Slim, who said; "Here, hold my jacket. I can't fight in uniform." He grabbed the two lads, banged them together, bundled them out the door and promised what he would do if they didn't get off home. Away they ran and Slim said "I'll have my jacket back ." A better solution than we have now! A clip around the ears worked wonders.

One old lady used to say "I wash up as far as possible and downs far as possible. Poor old possible never gets washed." I remember asking Mum which bit was possible. Her husband used to patch his own trousers while still wearing them; put his knee up on something while putting a patch on the knee. When he stood up the patches were standing out - always a source of amusement.

Albert Sutton was a bus driver and when driving up a hill he would rock back and forth as if helping it along. Children sitting behind would mimic him by rocking too. He never got angry and if something went wrong he would say "Oh jam and plaster." I remember him as a quiet, gentle caring man.

I hope I haven't bored you with my looking back.

Janet Dickinson

Janet, you are never boring! JR



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Stepping Out! Who's Walking, When and Where.

Stepping Out into the Shropshire Countryside. Some sound advice from a man with a lot of experience:

The kit one needs when taking a walk along our local footpaths isn't to be compared to an Alpine mountain climb, but it does make sense to pay some attention to what you wear and what you need to have with you for your comfort and safety.

Firstly, do ensure you have the means to find your way and a simple first aid kit – remember that your mobile phone may not get a signal once away from the town.

Secondly, pay attention to the weather forecast for the day, but err on the side of caution as our climate means that we often experience rain on a "sunny" day for instance. That means that the top layer must be a waterproof. Shorts are fine if you don't mind getting wet in long grass or brushing past nettles and brambles. Jeans, on the other hand, once wet will stay wet and cold. Some people, however, choose never to wear shorts to avoid the risk of picking up a tick. Clothing when walking should follow the layer principle -several light and

breathable layers give you the option to add or shed a layer -meaning of course that you need a rucksack to take the clothes as well as map, food, plenty of drink, sunscreen and the first aid kit.

Thirdly, and important not to forget is the right headgear – for sun protection in summer and to keep you warm and dry for most of the rest of the year!

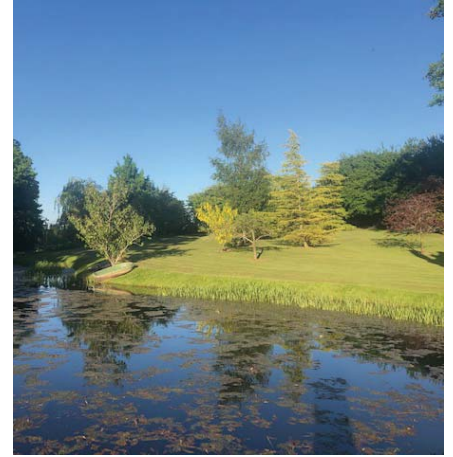
Lastly and probably the most important item of clothing is footwear. You see people walking in the flimsiest of shoes even with heels, but they are taking a serious risk as there are plenty of hazards underfoot awaiting the unprepared. Most walks will involve getting up and down steep banks, often with either loose soil or slippery mud and so a boot or shoe that has a good sole grip and supports the ankle is essential. It's not necessary to have full mountain ready boots, more important is that they fit well and are comfortable. Why not add a walking pole that will help steady you on those slopes? -It can also be used to brush undergrowth aside.

Enjoy our local walks and perhaps go further afield to the

Shropshire Hills or beyond with your walking gear.

Graham Simpson

WALKERS WELCOME



A lovely setting in which to take a rest and relax a while.

The Poyner family house and gardens just outside Hopton Wafers is a lovely spot, on the footpath from the village to Cleobury. And where a dam has produced a peaceful lake is a seat, with a sign inviting walkers to sit a while and rest.

Nigel and Nicky the "head gardener" were very happy to find two walkers had left a note on the bench, thanking them for making walkers welcome. As Nigel put it: "Lovely feedback from a well organised walker with a Post It note." A very fine feature in these strange times.

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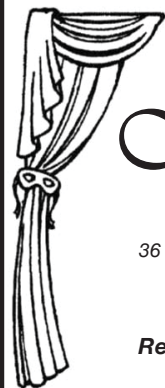
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MORE STEPPING OUT! THE FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

Footpath work done by volunteers may be on hold, but significant improvements have been made in Neen Sollars with more to come. The Parish Council are carrying out a project to make footpaths easier to use by replacing stiles with gates where possible or installing dog gates otherwise.

Last autumn, we helped the Parish Council replace the first two stiles with gates. At the time of writing a further four gates have been installed using a contractor to do the work we would normally do. Pictures of these can be found on our facebook page. Another two are planned and may be in place by the time you read this. More will follow when we can get more gates from Shropshire Council. Like everything else, supply is disrupted by the current crisis.

Last December, Shropshire Council closed Upper Forge bridge because the concrete support on the Mawley side seemed to be crumbling. A closure order lasts for six months so has expired. No work has been done to repair the

bridge, but it is now open for use.

Our popular walk leaflets have been available in printed form for some years. We would like to move with the times by getting them available on a smart phone. To do this, it needs someone to walk the route with instructions and an app on their phone. Also to take some photos. If anyone would be interested in doing that please get in touch. Footpaths.cmfa@gmail.com

Susan Sharp

BEWDLEY FESTIVAL

The Festival launched its new website on June 18th, with a feature of videos showcasing its history. A big breakthrough as the premier local arts event recalls its past and at the same time announces that it has been forced to cancel this year's happening in the face of doubts about it not being possible to accommodate the big audiences it needs to pay its way.

The organisers cannot be sure a safe presentation would be possible. The new dates for your diary are October 8th to 18th 2021.

There was a star event line-up, with the wonderful Fairport Convention folk group celebrating their 50th

anniversary then a galaxy of stars before Rich Hall was due to close the show with his blend of off-beat humour and rock music. If they can get that selection back next year, we're in for a treat.

The Festival committee are working on the idea of creating on-line programmes to fill what will be a big void. We wish them well and hope they'll be back on top form next year.

SWIFT WATCH

Our visiting Swifts will only be with us for another four weeks before they return to Africa. Numbers of breeding pairs are down a bit at about 11 pairs compared with 14 or more for the last few years. However, with this year's fledglings and a few immature swifts from last year, there could be at least 30 leaving at the end of the month to fly thousands of miles to the Congo. Let's hope the majority return to us in 2021.

It may only be human perception, but it has been an odd swift and bird watching year with humans confined by the virus and apparently influencing change in many animals' behaviour. Some PhD thesis will no doubt tell us what has been happening and what we can do to perpetuate some of the good things coming from less human activity. *Kit Smith*



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THE FOOD BANK

Debbie Brown, chair of our Town Council was surprised to hear when talking to the Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance last October that there were families from Cleobury using food banks in neighbouring towns. Why not have our own bank here, in easy reach?

She put a proposal to the council, who agreed to back the idea. There was an office vacant in the Market Hall; that was taken over and storage cupboards purchased, courtesy of the council. They worked with local support groups, plus the two churches and schools and launched the idea with an announcement on Facebook.

Responsible for the running of the bank is a committee comprising Debbie, Town Clerk Matt Sheehan, Rector Ashley Buck and Angela Flowers of the Roman Catholic church. The bank is open from 9.30 to 11.30 every Friday in the Market Hall, where volunteers help put together boxes of non perishable food and household goods for anyone who calls in. From the beginning, it was agreed that there would be no conditions attached to the help. As Debbie Brown puts it: "We

don't want people to feel they can't put food on the table. We offer open access and we'll give support in the short or long term." Because they are often dealing with families, the range stocked includes pet foods and personal and cleaning goods.

As you would expect, once the place was open donations began to come in. The Lodge of Freemasons made a generous cash contribution, as did a number of individuals along with the Knit and Natter Group and Tyrrell's Crisps made a big tasty donation through one of their staff who lives in the area. In normal times there are donation boxes in both schools, both churches, the Severn Hospice shop, the library and the Market Hall itself. Not all of those are open right now, but they are all used when it's possible. Good old Mawley Milk, one of the most generous companies in the area, supply free milk every week. When the Pioneer Centre had to close, they passed on all the food in their fridges.

Debbie has arranged a swap with Worcester Street Kitchen, who cook meals every weekend for people living on the street, and can use up perishable food if it's in date. They also swap

non perishables that they've been given.

Matt Sheehan tells us that the bank is supporting five or six families and with individuals on the list it comes to close on 30 people whose lives are made bearable because of this voluntary group. And there are a lot of volunteers helping, there to talk and advise callers if they need help as well as sort out the vital box of food and household goods to help them

"Food poverty amongst the older people is a hidden problem," Debbie Brown says. And part of the service on offer is delivery to older people outside the town who have no personal transport. The number of people using the bank is growing, but there are still some in need who are shy about coming forward. There's a gentleness and patience about this place that does put the shy callers at their ease. No bossing about, no asking unnecessary questions, just a strong desire to help those who have hit hard times and need a little help.

Debbie and Matt deserve all credit for getting the idea working and making it so easy for support to be given to those who need. If you need help, their number is 07483 112290.b



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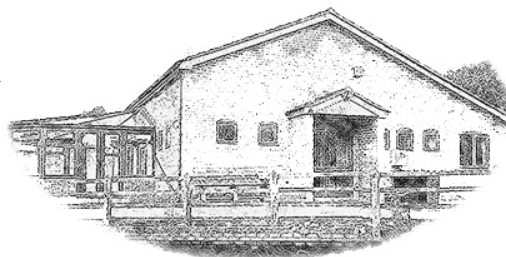
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HAVE YOUR SAY ON PLANNING POLICIES FOR CLEOBURY MORTIMER

The Town Council have prepared a draft of the Cleobury Mortimer Neighbourhood Development Plan. You may have responded to our earlier draft in 2018 but we have made significant changes and therefore are consulting you again.

We would like to know what you think of the policies and proposals and welcome your feedback.

Visit our website www.cleobury.org.uk (Neighbourhood Plan) to download the neighbourhood plan and the survey. If you require a paper copy of any of the documents, please phone 01299 271154 and we will arrange for a copy to be delivered to you.

You can either make your comments on paper, or ideally you can submit them online when you look at the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Responses can be sent to NDP Survey, Cleobury Country Centre, Love Lane, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8PE

The consultation is open between Monday 15th June and Monday 3rd August 2020.

*Jon Bodenham
Town Councillor*

PLASTIC FREE JULY?

The Cleobury Mortimer Plastics Reduction Group is appealing to our community to embrace Plastic Free July.

This is a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution, so we can have cleaner streets, oceans, and beautiful communities. Will you be part of Plastic Free July by choosing to refuse single-use plastics? Visit <https://www.plasticfreejuly.org/> for ideas and inspiration.

You making a small change, will collectively make a massive difference to our communities. You can choose to refuse single-use plastics in July and beyond..Best of all, being part of Plastic Free July will help you to find great alternatives that can become new habits forever.

For example, plastic bin liners have a devastating impact on the environment, but with a bit of forward thinking you can help change that. Some great alternatives to plastic bin liners and bags, including:

Lining the bin with a few sheets of newspaper

Using certified compostable bin liner bag

Using the bin as a 'naked bin', and simply washing it out as needed

The impact of making this change can be enormous. Plastic bags break up into micro pieces that make their way into both the natural and human food chains. Plastic mistaken for food can be ingested by both wild and domestic animals and can be fatal.

With the lockdown measures being gradually lifted, many

will be looking to take a day out. Think about taking a plastic free picnic with you, ensuring you remember the reusable cutlery.

If you wish to become involved or have ideas regarding single use plastics, please contact neil.tysall@cleobury.org.uk.

Neil Tysall

NO COMMENT



I have been in this situation more often than I care to admit. Editor.

MEN'S BREAST CANCER

Did you know men can develop breast cancer? It's rare - about 350 men diagnosed each year - but it does exist. I was made aware of it during Men's Health Week in June, when Breast Cancer Haven described one patient finding a lump on his chest and being diagnosed with the disease.

The patient admitted in their video that it had an impact on his mental health as well as the physical side. But his message came down to the same one you hear for anybody - if you find a lump, get it checked out, because early diagnosis gives you the best chance of recovery. Breast Cancer Haven are on 0300 012 0112. *JR*

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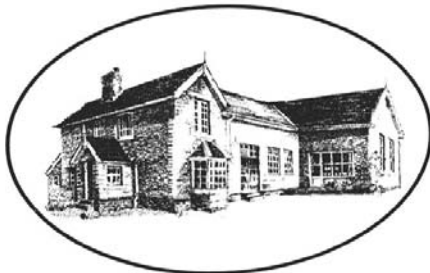
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Mrs Grumpy

Is it only me that finds Country and Western music maudlin and depressing? 'You picked a fine time to leave me Luciiiiile' or 'Ruuubeeee, don't take your love to town' etc. If so, perhaps excessive listening to this genre is why the Good Ol' Boys (and Gals) spend so much of their time shooting each other. If you think this comment is unfair, remember that the lyrics of the latter include a threat to kill the wayward Ruby if she doesn't mend her ways... Also consider 'Coward of the County' where our hero has to resolve his interpersonal relationship issues by beating up a whole family rather than sorting it out over a pint in the local like a civilised person.

As they say in my native Yorkshire 'You don't get owt for nowt' meaning you don't get something for nothing and I wonder whether this applies to vegan diets. Given the large tracts of currently fallow land, rain forest, etc being cleared for the growing of quinoa and other vegetable products and the resultant release of carbon, is it the case that vegans are not saving the planet, just messing it up differently? Anyway, I'm sure there are easier ways of acquiring a vitamin B12 deficiency. Surely the main problem is not so much what we are eating as how many of us there are doing it.

I see there is a campaign to cease using the term 'Mistress' when referring to a female lover of a married man. The term has been defined as 'something between a mister and a mattress' which is hardly flattering. Sir James Goldsmith also famously pronounced 'When you marry your mistress, you create a vacancy' which is not really 21st Century either. Why not just use the old word 'chum' which is flexible enough to be interpreted in any number of ways for either sex and for any type of relationship.

My friend the Dragon Lady is most upset by those flouting the various travel and distancing guidelines. Like me, she is a woman of a certain age who is considered vulnerable and feels that any driver found making an

unnecessary journey should be tasered and have their car crushed. However, in a rare moment of generosity, she did say that the passengers could be allowed to get out first. Mind you, she still hasn't changed her approach to dog fouling and littering where she continues to demand summary execution for offenders. Given the industrial quantities of poo which somehow escapes the eagle eyes of dog owners and continues to decorate the streets of Cleobury, there should be a fair few candidates for the hangman's noose around here. And no, taking your dog to a field doesn't absolve you of the responsibility of cleaning up after it. Apparently, if cows eat dog poo, it can give them an infection which makes them abort their unborn calves and become infertile, so don't give our struggling farmers any more grief by sabotaging their livelihood because you can't be bothered to act responsibly.

More concerns about the burgeoning number of pets. Apparently, feeding pets human grade food increases the emissions they create substantially and this sector is now responsible for some 25% of emissions from meat production. So, apart from being totally unnecessary, the only people gaining from this are the pet food manufacturers who peddle this stuff to gullible owners.

Am I alone in not having much of a clue about Government policy on the Covid pandemic? What worries me is that our elected leaders seem to be just as confused. At the daily updates, a constant stream of hapless Ministers attempt to explain why it has all gone so horribly wrong. From what I can see, they have been selected for their posts based on their adherence to the 'Party Line' rather than any actual ability. If this is the best we can do, I fear that Private Fraser was right. And the Boris (aka the Scarlet Pimpernel) is rarely seen. He might think he is Winston Churchill reincarnated, but he's probably the only one who does at present. You are supposed to be the leader for Heaven's sake.

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July 2020

Rector's Letter

Churches across England are opening their doors. The past three months have been unprecedented in history. As a baptized Christian, quite apart from being a parish priest, I am part of an institution which was brought into being in the early years of the Roman Empire. As a member of the Diocese of Hereford my branch of it is older than England. And across this astonishing arc of time there has been no period in history where our doors have been closed in this way. Of course the church has undergone periods of persecution and there are still large parts of the world where this persecution is going on, but for churches to be closed by a democratic government is an extraordinarily strange state of affairs.

But strange times make for strange events. Most of us did not expect to live through a global pandemic, and as a species this is the first time we have experienced one which we can understand scientifically. During the Spanish 'Flu epidemic, although many of the trappings of modern medicine existed, no one knew what a virus was, let alone being in a position to track its progress across the world. This time, although we have no vaccine, although we as yet are only reaching towards medicines that can cure, we know how to protect ourselves as best as we can, and that included closing places of worship.

But although our churches have been closed, our hearts have not been. In Cleobury Benefice we have been focusing on the twin themes of prayer and care. Prayer is the task of exploring our relationship with God, it is the act of placing ourselves and our concerns before him. Care is the task of constantly bearing others in mind, and in the days of lockdown it has been informed by our understanding that the corona virus not only targets the weakest parts of our bodies, it targets the weakest parts of our society as well, and the moral worth of the whole of our society is judged by how we as a community care for our most vulnerable members.

The doors of our churches are opening again. In the long history of the Christian Church there have been moments of significant change. The abolition of slavery was one such, spearheaded by Christians, yet opposed by every single Anglican bishop in the House of Lords. As the church opens up it will not be unchanged by the drama which has happened, it will be a church shaken but renewed, and eager to serve, to lead in the community in prayer and care for everyone.

God bless,

Ashley.

The Church Office open Tuesday & Thursday from 9.00am-2.00pm
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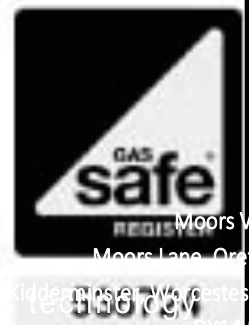
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Green Recovery from COVID19

Last month, the shocking impact of COVID19 on our economy was laid bare, with statistics showing the UK's GDP fell 20.4% in April – the largest monthly fall on record. This unsurprisingly coincided with a significant rise in people in South Shropshire claiming benefits to get by.

Every job lost is a tragedy, which is why it has been so critical for the government to put in place one of the most comprehensive packages of economic support anywhere in the world. In South Shropshire, figures up to the end of May show 9,500 jobs have been secured through the furlough scheme, and a further 4,400 people claimed for the Self Employment Income Support Scheme. This equates to over £12m of support for jobs here in South Shropshire alone.

On top of this, across the county over £71m has been paid out to local businesses through the grant funding schemes, with further discretionary funding being allocated to some of those businesses that have fallen through the cracks.

So there has been significant intervention from the government so far, which has been crucial to sustaining jobs here in Shropshire. But the Chancellor will soon be outlining what further measures he will take to help the economy to bounce back from the effects of this wretched pandemic.

In anticipation, last month I joined colleagues from the Conservative Environment Network parliamentary caucus to write to the Prime Minister in support of a green economic recovery from COVID19, ahead of a further announcement expected from the Chancellor of the Exchequer this month. Our letter urged the Government to back

the British green industries of the future and low-carbon infrastructure projects, such as electric vehicle manufacturing, renewable energy projects, and home energy efficiency retrofits, to bring jobs to all corners of the country while also putting the UK on track to meeting its world-leading net zero emissions target.

This in part reflects the work being undertaken by the Environmental Audit Committee, which I continue to Chair virtually while shielding. The Committee has recently taken evidence on the ability for the UK to raise its ambition for offshore wind even further - we already have the largest offshore wind sector in the world, and our geography and technical know-how puts us in a prime position to bring prosperity and jobs to areas across the country. We have also been pressing the government to make good its manifesto commitment to improve the energy efficiency of existing homes, which will be critical in meeting net zero by 2050, and could deliver many jobs at the same time.

The UK has had the fastest per capita falls in greenhouse gas emissions and the fastest per capita economic growth rate in the G7 since 1990, so we know that we do not have to choose between a strong economy and a healthy environment. The evidence from the last economic crisis shows green investments returned the most economic benefits. As we rebuild from this crisis, we should build back better, in a way that boosts our economy whilst delivering our commitment to leave our environment in a better state for future generations.

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MORE B.T. BOTHERS

Steve Todd either has a nose for problems or simply attracts the things. Does this mean that when lockdown is finally ended, he might not be allowed out to upset bureaucracy? They would probably miss him.

Regular readers may recall the problems I had with reporting a fault to BT some time back. As they have installed a new boss with potential earnings of £8 million a year, have things improved? Read on and find out...

A (different) friend was having problems with her phone and asked if I could report it as a fault. So I rang the advertised number and a recorded message immediately told me that 'All calls are now answered in the UK or Ireland'. That sounded promising and my call was answered pretty quickly which was even better. However, when the voice on the other end immediately told me that he was based in Stockport this started to worry me a little as his accent didn't sound like anyone I have ever met from Stockport (and I lived near there for some years). In fact, it sounded like he came from a long way east of Stockport and I mean a loooooong way east. His English was not good (although no doubt better than my Hindi) so it dawned on me that this could be the start of another BT based adventure.

Still, nothing ventured, so I attempted to explain the situation which was an experience similar to walking through mud up to the knees. I was asked who I was and for my telephone number which was fair enough and then it got more surreal: BT man: 'What is your date of birth?'. Me: 'Why do you want that?'. Him: 'It's not compulsory'. Me: 'Then you can't have it'. Him: 'What is your E Mail address?'. Me: 'Is that compulsory?'. Him: 'No'. Me: 'then you can't have that either'. At this point, he changed tack and asked for the number of the faulty line which I gave him. Then he wanted to know the full name, address and postcode of the account holder which I had to hand following the previous saga. He came back to say that the name I had given was not that of

the account holder so, as she shares the house with her daughter's family, I told him it might be in the daughter's name. It was and you could hear a light come on in his head. 'If you hold, I'll have the line checked'. There was then a delay of about two minutes during which I could hear a number of his colleagues in the background taking calls (which I suspect he should have blanked). This was very interesting as none of them sounded remotely as if they came from Stockport.

He then came back to say that there was a fault on the line and that it had already been reported. This looked like we were getting somewhere until....I asked when an engineer would be attending. He replied that this wouldn't happen until the account holder contacted them in person and (as far as I could make out) undertook to pay any costs if the fault turned out to be something that was not a BT liability. I asked why this could not come from me and he replied that EU data protection rules prevented this. I then asked if my friend could give the undertaking but he declined, insisting that EU.....etc. In fact he latched on to this line (perhaps it was writ large on his crib sheet) and must have repeated this mantra about 20 times in an increasingly desperate tone. By this point, he wasn't the only one becoming increasingly desperate. Eventually, I got fed up, rang off and advised my friend what was needed. About 10 days later I rang to find that the call had been made and an engineer had been and fixed it.

Mulling this experience over, I think there could be several possible explanations:

BT have secretly infiltrated a (not very) crack team of Indian call handlers into suburban Stockport or....

This team is based in the other Stockport of which we were previously unaware but which may (or may not)

be situated somewhere in the foothills of the Hindu Kush or...

BT are just taking the mickey. You choose.

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The July Social Calendar

Thu 2nd GARDEN WASTE GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY

Sat 4th 12.00 noon. Special Launch of the Community Rainbow outside the Market Hall on Church Street. And the pubs are open to celebrate the occasion.

Sun 5th National Garden Scheme Open Garden Day at Chris and Jo Bargman's home, Upper Marshes on Catherton Common. You must pre-book on ngs.org.uk. More details on Page 7.

Thu 9th BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY

Thu 16th GARDEN WASTE GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY

Thu 23rd BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY

Thu 30th GARDEN WASTE GREEN WHEELIE BINS EMPTIED TODAY

AND LOOKING FORWARD TO AUGUST.....

Thu 6th BLACK WHEELIE BINS AND RECYCLE BOXES EMPTIED TODAY

We look forward to the time when the Social Calendar spreads across two pages once again.

Can we remind organisers that we are happy to include details of your event, but as the normal Calendar is prepared quite separately from the Clarion office, we do need details by the 22nd at the latest, preferably earlier if you want to be sure of a mention.

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Cleobury Clarion - Page 35 - July 2020



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A TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA

Marian Rees does get around...

In 2016 I was invited to go with a family to South Africa. Very recently I came across the notebook in which I wrote about the trip.

The vastness of the country is almost too much to comprehend. We travelled a few hundred miles, but on my world atlas only about three inches east of Cape Town and then one inch north! The roads were well kept, occasionally with traffic lights where men were working on them.

The first week we spent in Cape Town at a place called The Waterfront, created by Alfred, Queen Victoria's son. We stayed in a self catering apartment alongside waterways, clean and sparkling, bordered by pretty flowers with memorable bird songs at dawn and dusk.

There was a carnival atmosphere at The Waterfront, with groups singing in the streets or playing in groups and hoping you would buy their CDs. There were great eating places there, shops, craft shops and the like. There was the large Watershed, with folks selling their crafts. One stall had goods made entirely of used, dried tea bags - sounds dull but they were amazing.

Dominating the scene is the majestic Table Mountain. We went up by lift on a 'sunset trip' and, as you can imagine, found wonderful views and then the setting. If the weather was misty the mountain was described as "having its tablecloth on" and tourists couldn't go up.

From the Waterfront boats were constantly leaving for Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela

was imprisoned for 23 years. Robben was named after the seal, which is Robbie in Dutch. The island was a leprosy colony once, which closed in 1939. Their church is called the Church of the Good Shepherd and there are the graves of 1500 lepers on the island. The island is now a World Heritage site; in the past it was a maximum security prison, with never any escapees. All the prisoners were black and all 400 guards were white - there were schools and churches for the families.

All the tourists have guides, who were ex prisoners. You are allowed to step into the cell where Mandela had to exist. For six hours a day all prisoners had to work in a nearby limestone quarry. There was just one cave there, which was their lecture hall, tool store and toilet. The glare of the sun on the quarry walls damaged their eyes; the prisoners wore sandals and khaki clothes in the hottest of summers and the coldest of winters.

The prisoners were divided into groups according to their breeding and fed more if they were of higher status, i.e. less black, and they also had a slightly thicker mat to sleep on. Food for thought in the current 'Black Lives Matter' climate. Mandela left a legacy - he persuaded the guards to allow them to create a vegetable and flower garden. There is a large photograph of him and fellow gardeners, all standing with gardening tools in their hands. The last person left the island in 1991, not that long ago. On a lighter note, you can get married on Robben Island on February 14th, but divorce after that is not allowed.

We enjoyed two more trips from Cape Town, one to the Botanic Gardens. The shrubs and flowers were glorious, especially protea flowers, yellow or orange. We also got to Bird Land and saw 3,000 amazing birds, all well cared for.

We heard that Desmond Tutu often conducted the early morning service at Cape Town Cathedral. My sister-in-law and I went to the service, which was most welcoming, but Desmond Tutu was unwell and didn't come. During chat-time afterwards we talked to a lady whose brother is the vicar at several churches in Shropshire, including Acton Scott. Apparently when Desmond Tutu is at the cathedral he never refuses to have his photo taken with visitors after the service. He was described as frail and overworked, so I wonder how his health is now, four years later.

We went to District Six Museum in Cape Town, which used to be a Methodist church. District Six was a desirable area to live, by the sea. All the black people who lived there, 60,000 of them, were evicted to allow white people to take over the area. They were allowed to take just one suitcase and moved to slums. Memorabilia on display were contents of their suit cases, letters and photos; all terribly sad. A plaque on the outside wall of the museum reads: 'Father Forgive' - all who pass by remember with shame.

Written on a blackboard in a cafe were these words: "Back in my day we played outside, not on line. Parents called your name, not your cell phone and if you didn't eat what mum cooked then you went without."

To be continued. *Marian*

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A POEM FOR COVID-19

The day out would be truly grand
Even with close contact banned
We couldn't all flock to the sea
But have a picnic under a tree

It was an elegant repast
That could barely be surpassed
The best pottery knives and forks
And strawberries replete with stalks

We sat a full two metres apart
Wishing though with all our heart
That we would dare to hug and kiss
The things we did now really miss

This was the first time we had met
Since freedom had been under threat
Indeed it was our debut date
Post the call to self isolate

Emotion therefore filled the air
We laughed and played and did not care
Passing the cake we crossed the line
The taste of touch was quite sublime

The sun went down we lingered on
Aware that we would soon be gone
How could being alone work now
We weren't in the market to that allow

Absence makes the heart grow fonder
Is there a grain of truth to ponder
Maybe it's something we will glean
From our life with Covid 19
Russell and Mazella

THE GRIM REAPER WRITES AGAIN

Dear 'Black Lives Matter' organisers.

Thanks for your support with the recent demonstrations. You are right, black lives do matter although some reactionary souls might consider your crowded events were thoughtless and selfish whatever the justice of the cause. Given the fact that the virus seems to be more dangerous to BAME communities, I'll look forward to the extra business you will have created. This could not have come at a better time for me as I was worried that work had started to tail off and had just lashed out on a speedboat for Charon because he wasn't coping with the queues. Please pass on my thanks to friends at Rentamob for their sterling work in Bristol and elsewhere.

Any way, must rush as things look to be picking up. Thanks once again for all your help and keep up the good work.
The Grim Reaper.

POTHOLE OF THE MONTH



This month's pothole pin-up may have been dealt with by now, as the markings on the road surface indicate future action. It's on the B4201 between Mick Burke's garage and the entrance to the Pioneer Centre and was part of a long thread of very poor surface.

With the number of holes reducing, we had considered ending this monthly exposure, but developing faults on other roads look like keeping our camera busy. Please take care.

MEMORIALS

72 years after it was liberated, Auschwitz concentration camp still stands. Because the Jewish community wanted it to be a reminder that we should not let Nazism rise again. Let's not pull down historic statues.

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This is a great time of year for a dusk walk. It was always a popular event in the days when I was part of the team at the Forestry Commission's Discovery Centre and two evening walks were organised to satisfy demand. I was reminded of this recently when I headed out of doors after 10 o'clock one evening to check whether I'd shut the greenhouse door and the deer-proof gates into the garden – an essential operation to prevent the destruction of my gardening efforts by our largest wild herbivores!

On that occasion my attention was caught unavoidably by the loud and strange noises coming from the nearby oaks. My best guess was that they were made by an owl, probably a young Tawny Owl. The source of the sounds started to move away from the house up the edge of the field and, as I followed, a second individual started to answer the first. They moved away into the trees of Lord's Yard Coppice, still staying in touch vocally. The species has a range of old names with many variations on 'hoolet' and 'ullet' but I particularly like the Shropshire name 'gilly hooter'.

Then my torch picked up the reflection from the eyes of a Fallow doe which had been grazing in the field but which set off with a relaxed springing run when I continued towards it. It jumped the fence with ease and I went to check that our one and only orchid (a Common Spotted) hadn't contributed to its supper.



Having checked the gates I returned to the house and paused to watch the bats circling the eaves, hunting their flying insect prey by echolocation. As well as the tiny Pipistrelles (Common or Soprano – I didn't have a detector with me so couldn't distinguish them by the frequency of their squeaks) there were larger bats: probably Long-eared Bats as shown in the photo. Their ears are almost as long as their bodies and are curled back or tucked under their wings when they are at rest. I've learnt from wildlifetrusts.org that 'as well as hunting airborne insects, brown long-eared bats also fly slowly through foliage, picking insects directly from leaves; they eat large prey on perches, rather than in flight'. Anyway, we're very pleased that they make their homes in our house, barns and old trees.

I stepped back into the brightly-lit house and left the nocturnal goings-on of the garden and woods – a mysterious world which we hardly ever appreciate or acknowledge.

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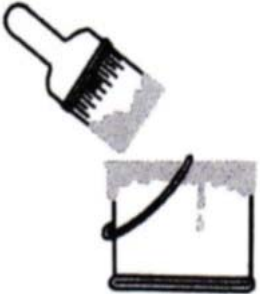
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Cleobury Community Hub

Thanks to the incredible efforts of many volunteers and young people, Cleobury Community Hub opened in September 2019. St Mary's Youth Project has converted the Methodist Church into a café style environment open to everyone in the community. Our hope is to work alongside the Neighbourhood Plan to create a space for people of all ages from our fantastic community to meet and spend time together.

St Mary's Youth Project is founded in a Christian ethos, but all are welcome regardless of faith or belief.

News and Events

Whilst St Mary's Youth Project has continued to operate, albeit in a very different format, since lockdown began, we have missed seeing our community face to face. With restrictions regularly changing we have tried to be prepared for re-opening in a safe manner, and at the right time.

The time has come... on **Tuesday 7th July**, Cleobury Community Hub will re-open with our takeaway menu! Barista coffees, muffins and new to the menu... **Milkshakes!**

We will be open from **11am – 3pm on Tuesdays and Fridays.**

Obviously things will be quite different, but our drinks and volunteers remain the same, AMAZING!!

Please adhere to social distancing, and if there is space in one of our specially designed (marked out with paint) "Chatter Boxes", then you can safely enjoy your drinks with other households outside the CCH.

We cannot wait to see you, talk with you and serve you excellent coffee (and other drinks) that we know you have missed.

PLUS... Mawley Milk refill station is back. This is now self-service but the price and the milk remains the same.

See you on the 7th July.

Mark and the Team

Climbing Club Exercise Hangout - Zoom every Monday 6pm-6:30pm (contact 07828 116810)

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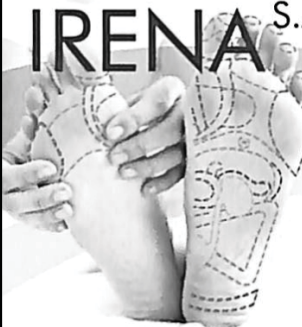
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Memories Are Made Of This..

Whilst out walking, I got talking to a couple who had delayed their walk in order to hear the end of the Archers. We discussed the longevity of this programme. The lady told me that she had only ever missed three months of the serial and this was because she was born three months after the first episode. We both remembered Mrs Dale's Diary.

This got me thinking about my relationship with the radio. My earliest memory is of "Listening with Mother" with its gentle enquiry full of promise: "Are you sitting comfortably? Then I'll begin..". My family would tune in to the BBC Light Programme to enjoy the various delights of Jimmy Clitheroe, The Billy Cotton Band Show, Round the Horne, Hancock's Half Hour, The Goons. Sunday evening was given over to music from Palm Court Hotel and Sing Something Simple. Our mother never missed Gardeners' Question Time. As teenagers we listened illicitly to the offshore stations Radio Caroline and Radio Luxembourg with our Trannies (small, lightweight, portable radios- for the benefit of any younger readers) pressed to our ears. I have ironed to Poetry Please, fallen asleep to Book At Bedtime, eased long motorway journeys with Any Questions, Any Answers and the Afternoon Play. I have even been known as Chair to request that colleagues in meetings frame their inputs without "hesitation, repetition, or deviation".

As youngsters we listened with anticipation to the Top 20 to see if our favourite single had made the number one slot. We enjoyed not only a golden era of radio but also a golden era of music. We played The Beatles over and over again on a mono record player. I saw them live in Birmingham. I say saw because it was virtually impossible to hear them with everyone screaming. This began a love of live concerts. There would be many years of such treats.

Now, as a senior citizen, recalling one experience particularly amuses me. This was a King Crimson performance in Manchester. The music was so loud that my rib cage was jumping to the rhythm of the bass. Such magnitude of decibel would never be permitted today in the court of the crimson king on health and safety grounds.

We became obsessed about the best tackle through which to reproduce recorded music. As students we congregated in the flat of a guy who owned a state of the art stereo system. During the Easter break when we all went home his door was smashed in and the prized possession stolen.

His parents replaced it and paid for a solid door. Gaining entrance then became like getting into a maximum security prison while we listened to keys being turned and bolts being drawn. When the robbers returned, they didn't bother with the door. They came through the wall from next door with a sledgehammer. Liverpool was an interesting place.

When my husband and I began our first jobs we were given an emergency tax code. Six months later we received a rebate. We were supposed to be saving to buy a house but I managed to persuade him to blow this windfall on a Bang and Olufsen turntable. The stylus was pricey so the vinyl was carefully cleaned with a special cloth before play and always returned to its sleeve. There was earnest discussion with like minded friends about the calibre of "woofers and tweeters" (speakers).

Today, without moving from their seat, my grandsons can command a small pillar that sits unobtrusively on a piece of furniture to play any track from any musician's album. And for all our faffing in the past and our absorption with purity, this modest pillar sounds just fine. Still don't think you can beat head banging at a Quo concert!

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July 2020 Clarion Report

Yet another month with lockdown and everyone keeping safe, but now things are changing weekly and sometimes daily. The Town council continues to follow guidelines and take appropriate action when needed to help bring a little normality back to our daily lives.

The Play area has still a few items to complete to make it safe, which we have not been able to do but as companies start to return to work, we will need to get them done to open safely.

The Oak tree has been identified by Shropshire council for a couple of bows that are at risk of falling in high winds and need to be attended to, which we are trying to get special permission for as it is out of season to cut.

We also have some levelling to do in areas, an old picnic bench to be relocated and a piece of equipment missing handles that are a safety issue but on order. Please be patient with us and hopefully when this comes out some or most of it may be done.

The Manor house is another issue we are working with our Unitary councillor Madge Shingleton and Shropshire Council to get this moving. This has been an eyesore for too long and frustrates us as much as anyone.

We have kept up our pressure to do something about the dangerous corner at Newbridge, which has seen another bad accident. We now have it from Shropshire Council that a slow down bend, flashing warning sign will be sited by the end of July and to look at calming measures to be put in place, road markings, verge modifications etc. We are also pushing for the 30MPH to be extended to Castle Toot.

You should have received information on the Neighbourhood plan and asking for your comments. Please take time to look at it and submit comments as we have been told by Government that we must supply around 140 new houses and 1 hectare of employment land to meet local need up to 2038. It is so important that we get this done and into Law, so developers must consult us for any proposed development in the Cleobury area before any plans are even looked at. It runs until the 3rd August 2020. You can see all the documents and complete the consultation by going to the Town Council Website www.cleobury.org.uk or can request a hard copy of the draft plan by ringing 01299 271154

After 15 weeks of supporting the community, the Cleobury Mortimer response to Covid-19 will come to an end on July 4th. Since the end of March those shielding or socially vulnerable have been able to request support with food and prescription deliveries or receive a regular phone contact. This has been made possible through collaboration between local Council, Compassionate Communities the Church, and the Medical Practice and through the immense goodwill and commitment of 5 coordinators and over 150 volunteers. On behalf of all of us in the community, our heartfelt thanks go out to you!

The support number of 07483112290 belonging to Town Clerk Matt Sheehan, will from July 4th return to being the Town Council work number. The number can still be used during working hours for any real concerns.

We continue to chase other issues around the Town with Shropshire council and one we have been trying to get sorted for the last few years is the cleaning of all drains from the top of Cleobury to the bottom all down the main street. We have been told this is being arranged now and they will notify me dates, and I will put out on Social media. We will also ask for your help to keep the areas around the drains clear to allow the tanker to get in. Cones will be put out.



M Sheehan Town Clerk
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CITIZENS ADVICE		08444 991100	Advisors on line 10.00 to 4.00
CLEOBURY CARERS	Janet Manley	01299 272841	
CLEOBURY COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITIES	Katja Ward	01299 270018	10.00 to 12.00 Weds
CLEOBURY MORTIMER LIBRARY		01299 272301	Open 9 to 7 Mon, 9 to 5 Tues/Fri and 10 to 1 Sat.
LOCAL POLICE	Constable Anne O'Leary		ann.oleary@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
CLEOBURY MORTIMER GUIDES	Dorothy McBride	07761 976610	
CLEOBURY MORTIMER SCOUTS	Lowri Hughes		cleoburybeavers@gmail.com
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		111	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, Mon to Fri. www.cleobury.org.uk. Council meets in the Centre on the first Monday of the month
POST OFFICE		01299 270211	In the Select and Save 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	Mandy Smith
WASTE DISPOSAL		0345 678 9007	The contractor is Veolia
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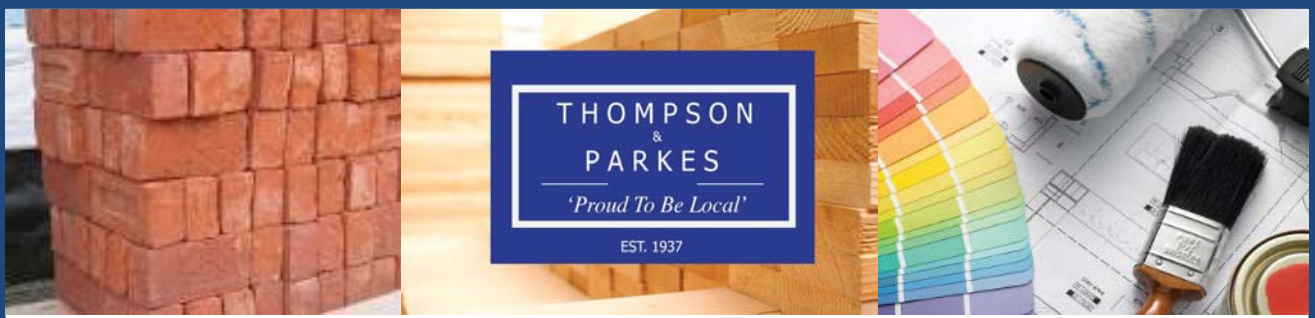
Editor and Advertising Sales: Jim Reynolds, 4 Childe Road, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire

DY14 8PA. Telephone: 01299 270642 Mobile: 07410 977 212

E-Mail: editor@cleoburyclarion.co.uk or uncle.jim@icloud.com

The Clarion On The Web: www.cleoburyclarion.co.uk

Printed by Badger Print and Design of Shifnal, 01952 730511



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